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2nd Fridays finale featuring country stars, cornhole, carnival and more

There's only one way we know how to say so long to 2nd Fridays for 2018 — and that's in absolute style!

A world-renowned country music act, a high-stakes cornhole tournament and a carnival benefiting area non-profits all highlight the wealth of fun activities planned for this summer's sendoff on Sept. 14.

Already a big hit back home in Australia and ready to make the same waves in America, Dozzi will ensure the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill Restaurant Stage stays rockin' all evening. The sweet-singing sister trio has played alongside popular acts like Lady Antebellum and Big & Rich, and can regularly be found performing at a number of Nashville's hottest country music dives.

The inaugural Cullman Area 2nd Fridays "Fling It Like



CULLMAN AREA 2ND FRIDAYS

**FLING IT LIKE
YOU MEAN IT
CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT**

DEPOT PARK
FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

REGISTRATION — 5:00 PM
TOURNAMENT — 6:00 PM

1ST — \$500
2ND — \$200
3RD — \$100

\$20 PER PERSON
\$40 PER TEAM

SPONSORED BY:
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DOUBLE ELIMINATION
REGISTER AT
ALABAMACORNHOLE.COM
BY SEPT. 10

You Mean It" Cornhole Tournament will take over Depot Park for September. With winnings of \$500, \$200 and \$100 for the top-three teams, the double-elimination event is expected to draw competitors from all over the region. Registration will start at 5:00 p.m., and the tournament — sponsored by O.F. Richter & Sons — will get going at 6:00 p.m. Teams (\$40) and individuals (\$20) can register at alabamacornhole.com through Sept. 10.

Usually open to various recreational displays, the R.E. Garrison Trucking Show Lot will take on a whole new look for the year's finale. Chamber for Charities will present the "2nd Fridays Carnival" in this bustling area, allowing kids to purchase armbands for \$5 and play all the boardwalk-style games set up by area non-profit agencies. Proceeds will then be divided and donated to the participating non-profits.

Other activities sched-



**SEPT. 14
DQ STAGE**

uled for September's 2nd Fridays include:

- Fork in the Road on the Shirley Quattlebaum - State Farm Insurance Stage
- Cotton Bird on the Artist Alley Stage
- The ever-growing Branham Accessories - Line-X antique and classic car Cruise-In
- The R.E. Garrison Trucking Show Lot, with the Buffalo Wild Wings Kids Zone, the Cullman County Public Library Bookmobile and the U Do It Snow Kone Factory truck
- The James R. Smith Trucking Artist Alley, with artists, Chamber

member pop-up shops and music lining 1st Street NE

- Farm Y'all, sponsored by the Cullman County Industrial Development Authority and highlighted by a specially opened Festhalle Farmers Market
- A food demonstration, sponsored by American Proteins, Inc.
- Extended retail and dining hours at participating Cullman Warehouse District and Downtown Cullman stores
- Food trucks
- The Cullman County Conservation District's Agventure trailer

• And much, much more!

2nd Fridays is sponsored by Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and presented by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center and Cullman Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. and carry on in Downtown Cullman until 10 p.m. Admission is free, but don't forget your pocketbook to support area eateries, merchants, vendors, artists and farmers! Attendees are highly encouraged to bring their own chairs as well.

For updates each month, be sure to check out the event Facebook page: 2nd Fridays Cullman. For more information or to apply as a live musician, artist, pop-up shop vendor or food vendor, visit cullmanchamber.org/2ndFridays or contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1104, Cullman, AL 35056-1104 | 256-734-0454 | F: 256-531-9434 | info@cullmanchamber.org

www.cullmanchamber.org | www.visitcullman.org

Chamber starting, continuing pair of multi-part seminar series

Chamber starting, continuing pair of multi-part seminar series

Seminar season isn't slowing down any time soon at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center.

A two-part, same-day workshop made available through a partnership between the Chamber's Business Resource Center (BRC) and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System is slated for early this week. Both sessions are geared for small businesses of all kinds, including farming operations. Accountants are also highly encouraged to attend.

See below for details on each session. Both will be hosted on Tuesday, Sept. 4 in the Chamber's Walmart DC Room.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

• 8:30 - 11:40 AM
• Individuals: \$15 | Accountants (3.5 hours CPE): \$60

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made significant changes to the income tax liability of both individuals and businesses. Many of those changes will be discussed during this program. Foresters and professional logging managers are also eligible for continuing education credit.

To register, visit aces.edu/taxes or contact Cullman County Extension Coordinator Tony Glover at 256-737-9386.

Should I Be A Business Entity

• 1:00 - 4:00 PM
• Individuals: \$15 | Accountants (3.5 hours CPE): \$60

This session will include an introduction to the nine business entities available in Alabama and a comparison of how each affects various business aspects.

To register, visit www.aces.edu/business-entity, call 334-844-5100 or send a check to 301 O.D. Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5608. Make checks payable to Auburn University and specify the Cullman workshop.

For more information on the Sept. 4 sessions,

contact Glover at 256-737-9386 or gloveta@aces.edu.

Gourgeot's 3-Part Marketing Series Continuing in October

The Chamber's three-part seminar series titled "Who's Looking Out For Main Street America?" kicked off in August and will continue with Part II in late October. The series is presented by Dex Media's Matthew Gourgeot, an award-winning business advisor and marketing consultant working with small business owners. Gourgeot is a North Alabama native and graduate of

the University of North Alabama who majored in public relations and marketing.

See below for details on the remaining two parts of the series. All sessions will be hosted in the Chamber's Walmart DC Room.

Part II. The next frontier of small business websites

• Tuesday, Oct. 23 | 2:00 PM

Is your business as visible online as it can be? Find out what you're doing right and what you could be doing better to improve

your online presence and attract more customers. Today, opportunity doesn't knock. It clicks. Learn how to make your online presence work for you, not against you.

Part III. Small business guide to the Google universe

• Date and time TBD
While Google has many different products and services, the following are what truly make up Google's small business universe for marketers and small business owners:

Google My Business, Google Analytics, Google Search Console and Google Ads (formerly AdWords). These are all great tools to help you grow small business. In this session, you will learn how to use them and how they can benefit your business.

Registration is free for Chamber members or \$20 a session for future members. For more information or to register, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullman-chamber.org.




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Chamber officially seals 75th Anniversary time capsule in breezeway

There's a beautiful new brick fixture in the Chamber's already-pristine breezeway, and that's precisely where it's going to stay for the foreseeable future.

As part of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's 75th Anniversary celebration, a time capsule was officially sealed during June's annual Member Appreciation Cookout. The commemorative capsule, filled with items from community partners and other member businesses selected by random draw, will remain in the breezeway until the Chamber's 125th anniversary in 2068.

The Chamber's contributions included a flip phone with a video of current staff members talking directly to the Chamber employees who will be involved in opening the time capsule in 50 years, as well as letters and photographs documenting personal, professional, informational and area matters from the time the capsule was sealed.

The breezeway fixture wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of C H Harris, Inc. Owner Cliff Harris was heavily involved in the time capsule sealing ceremony, pouring and smoothing out the top layer while attendees watched on and listened to comments by Chamber President & CEO Leah

Bolin and 2018-19 Chamber Chair Susan Copeland, of Wallace State Community College.

The ceremony was punctuated by a picture in front of the time capsule featuring the current Chamber staff, the current Chamber chair and former Chamber chairs/presidents.

A copy of the Chamber's commemorative 75th Anniversary video was placed in the capsule.

Watch it at cullman-chamber.org/pages/Chamber-75th-anniversary-video

In addition to C H Harris, Inc., the Chamber would like to extend major thanks to Moss Service Funeral Home, Pugh Engineering Services and Leldon's Scrollsawing for their parts in the project.

One particular item placed in the time capsule was a copy of the Chamber's commemorative 75th Anniversary video that debuted at March's Annual Meeting & Gala. For those who may've missed it, the video — which was produced by Mass Local's Jordan Meggs and Justin Shubert and features appearances by Leah Bolin, Roy Drinkard, Peggy Smith, Kyle Willoughby, Shane Quick and Shawn Crider — can be viewed at cullmanchamber.org/pages/Chamber-75th-anniversary-video.



Front row: Rickey Kreps, Brittney Hudson (Chamber Director of Community Development), Sammie Danford, Melissa Cartee, Tommy Howard, Susan Copeland, Leah Bolin (Chamber President & CEO), Laurie Jones (Chamber Executive Assistant), Jackie Moore (Chamber Director of Finance & Administration) and Roger Steele (Chamber Director of Tourism). Back row: Ray Buchmann, Magan Bartlett (Chamber Director of Member Services), Rob Ketcham (Chamber Communications Manager), Jessup Moore (Chamber Analytics & Data Specialist), Wesley Smith (Chamber Director of Entrepreneurship & Education) and Brian Poole (Chamber Director of Business Development & Investor Relations). Copeland is currently serving her second term as Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Kreps, Danford, Cartee, Howard and Buchmann are all past Chamber Chairs.

TIME CAPSULE CONTRIBUTORS

**All Steak Restaurant
American Proteins, Inc.
Byars-Wright Insurance
City of Cullman
City of Good Hope
City of Hanceville
Cullman Area Chamber of
Commerce & Visitor Center
Cullman County Commission
Cullman County Economic
Development**

**Cullman Economic Development Agency
Cullman County Public Library System
Cullman County Museum
Cullman Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism
Cullman Regional
Cullman Regional Airport
Drinkard Development
Ed White Jewelers
Eva Bank**

**Mary Carter Store
Steele Orchard
Town of Baileyton
Town of Colony
Town of Fairview
Town of Garden City
Town of Holly Pond
Town of Vinemont
Wallace State Community College
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GROUP TOURS AVAILABLE | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Strategic plan for Cullman area tourism starting to come together

Without a doubt, tourism in Cullman County represents a major economic opportunity for the entire area.

One of the best indicators of this fact is the area lodging tax, which, according to Alabama Tourism Department reports, is expected to reach \$250,000 in the City of Cullman this year. While the city collected \$228,000 in 2017, it's obvious that more people are coming to the Cullman area to check out all we have to offer.

Most of the increase in visitors seen in recent years stems from the tremendous success of events like Rock the South, Oktoberfest, 2nd Fridays, Strawber-



ry Fest and Bloomin' Festival. The regional and even national exposure these events have garnered represent an unprecedented opportunity to develop tourism on a scale that was unimaginable only a few years ago.

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center,

through its Tourism department, is currently developing a strategic plan specifically designed to take advantage of this recent success by developing tourism opportunities already in place but that haven't been effectively utilized in the past. The goal is to ensure that tourism will continue to thrive

for the next decade and beyond.

For example, Smith Lake is by far our area's greatest tourism asset. Yet, we haven't effectively marketed this jewel as a recreation destination since its creation in the 1960s. By developing a coordinated plan using multiple marketing platforms, we aim to

increase tourism dollars flowing from this resource on a record level.

Other areas, such as religious tourism, agritourism and sports tourism, represent similar opportunities. The Chamber's forthcoming strategic plan will be designed to take advantage of all these existing resources with the goal of increasing visitors and the flow of tourism dollars throughout the year.

The Chamber is uniquely positioned to recognize that what is attractive to visitors can also be attractive to residents and potential investors, thus providing a quality of life and business development component to the overall strategy. Accordingly,

the tourism plan is being created to complement and enhance elements of the Chamber's existing "Converging for Success" strategic plan.

The goal is to make tourism an essential part of an overall plan designed to not only increase profit margins for local businesses, but to raise new tax revenues for our local governments, which can then be reinvested in our communities for a better quality of life for all citizens of Cullman County.

The future of Cullman area tourism is very bright – and the Chamber plans on working with its many community partners to take full advantage of every opportunity.

Quickly approaching Oktoberfest on tap for September Morning Blend

The Chamber's Morning BLEND

Find out what's happening in the Cullman area

Chamber staff welcomes members and visitors to the meeting room at Rumors Deli every month to discuss various topics.

Topic: Oktoberfest

Sept. 19 8-9AM

Rumors Deli, 601 4th St. SW, Cullman, AL

Presented by: **KARMA'S COFFEE HOUSE**

Sponsored by: **Joel C. Adams, DMD & R. Clyne Adams, DMD**

Come join the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center the morning of Wednesday, September 19 for delicious coffee and great discussion

Presenting Sponsor - Karma's Coffee House
Monthly Sponsor - Joel C. Adams, DMD / R. Clyne Adams, DMD

at our Morning Blend, held every third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at Rumors Deli

near the corner of Main Avenue and U.S. Highway 278. The Chamber staff welcomes members and visitors to attend this free event.

Terry Harbin will lead the discussion for September's topic: Oktoberfest. Harbin is a member of the Oktoberfest Board. This year's festival is set for October 3-6.

Coffee and snacks will be provided by Presenting Sponsor Karma's Coffee House. September's sponsors are Joel

C. Adams, DMD and R. Clyne Adams, DMD. For more information,

contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

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EPIC going baaaaack to Goat Island for College Football Tailgate

You can always expect college football season to be epic in Alabama.

It'll especially be so for the area's young professionals on Thursday, Sept. 27, when Goat Island Brewing hosts the EPIC College Football Tailgate for a second year in a row. This EPIC (Emerging Professionals Impacting Cullman) 3rd Quarter social will kick off at 6 p.m. and feature a fun evening full of food and drinks, tailgate games, karaoke, networking, and, of course, college football! All attendees are highly encouraged to sport their favorite college team's colors,

and prizes will be dished out to those displaying

To view EPIC's membership guidelines or to fill out an application, visit cullmanchamber.org/epic.

the most team spirit.

Admission is included for EPIC members. Cost for future members is \$20, which includes food and one small beverage.

EPIC is presented by Drinkard Development. The 3rd Quarter social sponsor is Willoughby Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. For more information or to register, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

Wear your team colors!

GOAT ISLAND BREWING

EPIC COLLEGE FOOTBALL TAILGATE
A Young Professionals Event

**Thursday, Sept. 27
6:00 PM**

**Food | Drinks | Karaoke
Tailgate Games | Prizes**

Contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 to register!

PRESENTING SPONSOR: DRINKARD DEVELOPMENT, LLC
HOSTED BY: EPIC
QUARTERLY SPONSOR: WILLOUGHBY Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

Chamber volunteers in full force for latest Total Resource Campaign (TRC)

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's latest Total Resource Campaign (TRC) is in full swing! Our volunteers and leadership have been hard at work contacting members to secure sponsorships for the upcoming year and to share the truth in this year's theme: "The Chamber Life is Right."

The TRC is a membership and sponsorship drive providing members the opportunity to market their business at cost! This year's

leadership consists of Chair, Kay Shabel (Urban Grace); Vice Chairs, Jimmy Hodges (Wallace State Community College), Wendy Crider (Cullman County Industrial Development Board) and Dusty Baker (Cullman County Commission on Aging); and Team Captains, Ashley Lackey (Alabama Technology Network), Stefani Nelson (State Farm – Shirley Quattlebaum) and Kathy Taylor (Wallace State).

This year's volunteers are Kim Arndt, Cullman Electric Cooperative; Bree

Bratton, Dental Arts; Jamie Blackmon, Wallace State; Jennifer Boike, Peoples Bank of Alabama; Jade Bradford, Trident Marina; John Davis, Anytime Fitness; Joseph Franey, Patrick Drake Associates; Joyce Fuller, Fuller Rentals; Jamie James, Cullman County Commission on Aging; Kimberly Johnson, A Plus Real Estate; Lindsay Knox, Quality Staffing Solution; Chasidy Lipsey, Peoples Bank; Tabitha Miller, Cullman Regional; Kim Self, White Willow; Jana Shelton, Cullman

County Revenue Office; Hillary Taylor, Comfort Care Hospice; Sharon Townson, Cullman County Public Library System; Lesia Van Gundy, Keller Williams Realty; Blinda Walker, American Proteins; Maggie Warren, Village Furniture & Gifts; and Beverly Wilkerson, Pilot Club of Cullman.

If you would like to become a member or sponsor a Chamber program or event, please contact Magan Bartlett at 256-734-0454 or mbartlett@cullmanchamber.org, or contact one of the volunteers listed above.

Ask for Jeff Harbison



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September Small Business of the Month

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Supporter -
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Hampton Inn - Cullman named August Small Business of the Month

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center would like to congratulate Hampton Inn - Cullman as August's Small Business of the Month, sponsored by Cullman Eye Specialists, P.C.

Hampton Inn - Cullman has 20 employees and has been open since 1998. Being in hospitality, Hampton Inn is in the "people business," so their business model has to adapt daily based on each individual guest. Patrons utilize the hotel for a variety of reasons, and it's imperative to General Manager Tabatha Smothers and her staff that they provide honest, unique and personal interactions at every turn.

By fostering a warm and hospitable spirit in all employees, Hampton Inn ensures that all guests are taken care of with the utmost care and urgency. To make that task easier, Smothers and Co. keep a particular Walt Disney quote in mind at all times — "Do what you



Supporter - Cullman Eye
Specialists, P.C.

Hampton Inn
6100 AL Highway 157
Cullman, AL 35058
256-739-4444

do so well that they want to see it again and bring their friends."

Hampton Inn is extremely plugged in with the Chamber, as well as the Cullman community. The hotel is an investor in the Chamber's "Converging for

Success" strategic plan, has a premium listing on the Visit Cullman AL mobile app and is the Tourism & Community Day Breakfast Sponsor for the Youth Leadership Cullman County program. Additionally, Smothers has served on the Chamber's general board of directors and has also been a member of the Chamber's tourism board and tourism hotel roundtable. As for community outreach, Hampton Inn is partnered with Curt's Closet and acts as a 24/7 drop off location for the local charity.

Hampton Inn recently

remodeled its lobby and rooms and is currently undergoing major renovations to several facets of the hotel.

Each month, a sponsoring business helps celebrate and acknowledge the Small Business of the Month winner. If you have a local business you would like to nominate for their outstanding service, please contact Brian Poole at bpoole@cullmanchamber.org. Monthly winners will be automatically nominated for Small Business of the Year, which is presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Gala.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

SEPT. 21ST
11:30 AM
ALL STEAK

SPEAKER: JOHN WESSEL
TECH VILLAGE DIRECTOR

PRESENTED BY:

PREMIER SPONSOR:

New Technology Village Director headlining September Community Luncheon

Many people around the community have heard of Cullman's new Technology Village, but most don't quite know what it actually is — or know anything about the man who runs it. Luckily for them, they can learn more about both at this month's Community Luncheon.

John Wessel will serve as guest speaker on Friday, Sept. 21 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. inside All Steak Restaurant's banquet room. Wessel was recently named Director of Technology Village Cullman, a tech-based entrepreneurial incubator formed through a partnership between the City of Cullman, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Vis-

Presenting
Sponsor - Shirley
Quattlebaum – State
Farm Insurance
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Cullman Regional

itor Center, Wallace State Community College and the University of Alabama. Wessel comes to Cullman after founding Huntsville's Piedmont Ray Associates, where he's been CEO since 2015.

Tickets are \$15 for Chamber members and \$20 for future members. Contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org to reserve your seat.

The Chamber's 2018 Community Luncheon programming is presented by Shirley Quattlebaum – State Farm Insurance. Cullman Regional is September's sponsor.

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HomTex to host 3rd Quarter Industry Tour

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's 3rd Quarter Industry Tour will be held at HomTex on Thursday, Sept. 27. The event is sponsored by AGCO | GSI and will start at 10 a.m., though participants are encouraged to arrive around 9:45 a.m.

Because of the nature of these

tours, open-toed shoes, loose jewelry and loose clothing are prohibited.

HomTex is located at 15295 AL Highway 157 between West Point and Battleground. The hometown and family-owned company is a major manufacturer of sheets and other textiles. In addition to its Cullman County headquarters, HomTex has production and

distribution facilities in North and South Carolina, as well as fully staffed offices in China and India.

Industry Tours are free to attend. Space is extremely limited, so registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullman-chamber.org.

INDUSTRY TOUR



September 27, 2018
Meet at HomTex | 9:45 AM
FREE | Registration Required
LIMITED SPACE!!
No jewelry or open-toe shoes

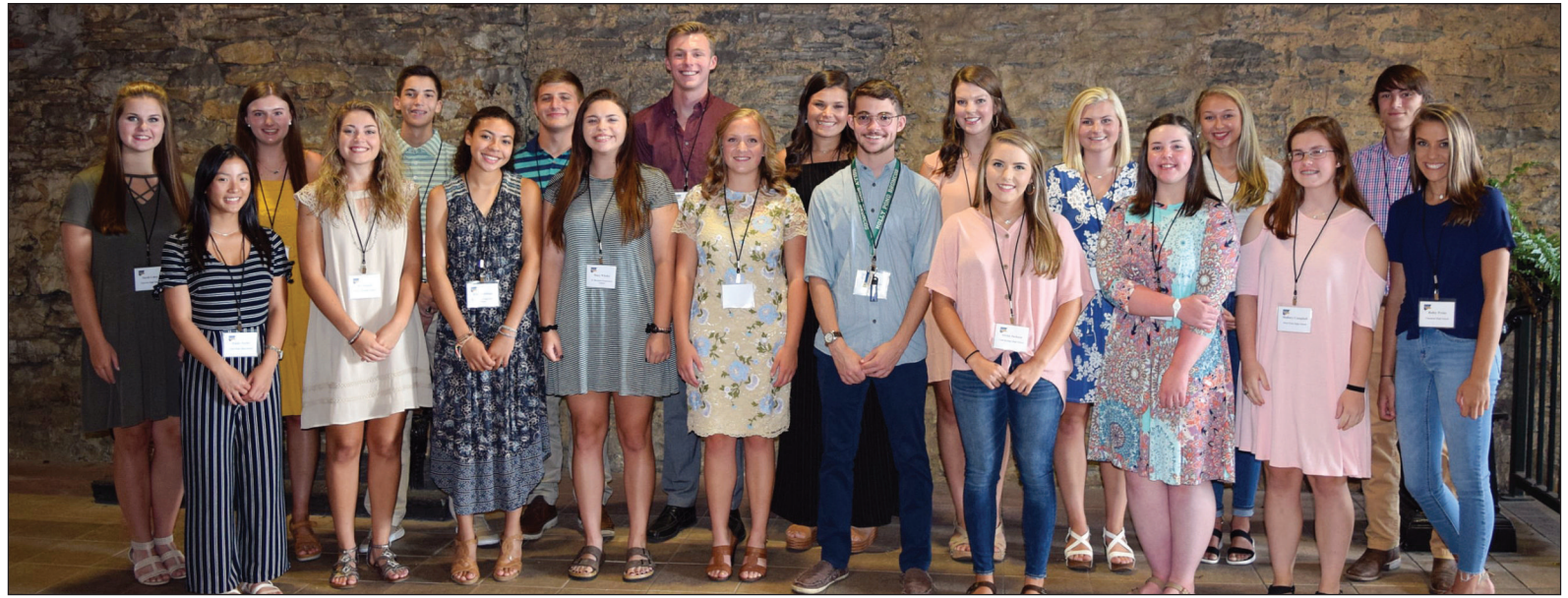
Thanks to our Industry Tour Sponsor:




Youth Leadership Cullman County kicks off 2018-19 class

Every year, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center's Youth Leadership Cullman County steering committee interviews and selects a limited number of incoming 11th grade students from each of the county's and city's high schools to participate in the longstanding program.

Twenty students officially kicked off this year's Youth Leadership experience with an icebreaking and informational social on August 13 at the Chamber. Speakers included Chamber Chair-Elect T.J. Franey (Cullman County Schools); Program Manager Wesley Smith (Chamber); and



committee members Wesley Moore (City of Cullman), Natalie Godwin (Wallace State Community College) and Micah Rice (Cold Springs Elementary).

Each month, students will experience a

specific portion of the Cullman community by attending sessions specific to Leadership, Education & Etiquette, Tourism & Community, Quality of Life, Public Safety, Local Government, Business & Indus-

try, Agriculture, and State Government.

The 2018-19 Youth Leadership class is pre-

sented by R.E. Garrison Trucking, Inc.

2018-19 YOUTH LEADERSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cold Springs High School Emi Harbison	Fairview High School Sarah Laney	Holly Pond High School Zackery Reynolds
Cold Springs High School Alyssa Jackson	Good Hope High School Cady Martin	St. Bernard Prep School Aria McMillan
Cullman High School Alexandria Barker	Good Hope High School Emily Taylor	St. Bernard Prep School Macy Whaley
Cullman High School Kinslee Borden	Hanceville High School Will Akin	Vinemont High School Emily Dyer
Cullman High School Lauren Grace Evans	Hanceville High School Kelly Pickett	Vinemont High School Bailey Preiss
Fairview High School Nic Bryant	Holly Pond High School Cooper Jones	West Point High School Mallory Campbell
	Holly Pond High School Elizabeth Miller	West Point High School Carson Partain

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