Cullman Falls Short, Hanceville & Holly Pond Basketball Tournaments – p. 4

Series 2, Issue 48 Monday, November 26, 2012

Cullman's Monday Newspaper

CULLMANSENSE

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CWAC Gets Facelift–12

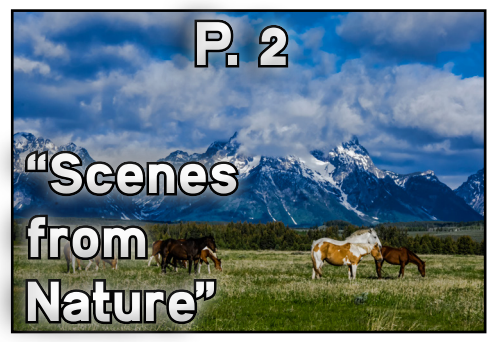
Help on the Road–2

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Climbing Rocks

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Hurricane Creek Park, which is located in Vinemont, Alabama, was originally started back in the early 1960s by William "Buddy" Rodgers. Rodgers used to be a World War II fighter pilot, and after his term of service ended, and he got out of the war, he came back to Hartselle, Alabama where he was originally from. Rodgers started doing work for the USGA, and one day he apparently was flying over the Cullman area when from the air he saw what he thought was a beautiful gorge.

At the time they were just building the highway through the area, and there was not any access except by foot. Once they got the highway finished through the area, he was able to get down pretty close, and he started routinely coming down and hiking through the area. He was able to talk to some local land owners, which there was about three, and after negotiation for about a year and a half, he was able to talk them into selling. Once that happened, it took him about five years to build the original three miles of the hiking trails, and he then opened it up to the public.

John Wesley McCrary, who is the current Manager for Hurricane Creek Park for the City of Cullman Parks and Recreation, knew William "Buddy" Rodgers for about twenty years.

"When I came here originally and met Buddy," said McCrary, "he would let us in free if

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Photo Contributed

WSCC Employees Recognized

By: Kristen Holmes
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College Industrial Electronics Instructor Joe Hendrix was named the Alabama Community College System Technical Faculty of the Year at the 2012 Chancellor's Awards Ceremony in Birmingham this week.

Hendrix, a full-time Wallace State faculty member since 1997, has helped to transform the Industrial Electronics Department into one of the best in the state and was instrumental in the development of an Automotive Manufacturing Technology degree at Wallace State.

"I'm honored to have been selected as the Technical Faculty of the Year for 2012," Hendrix said. "When I saw the other finalists for the award, I was certain that one of the many other well-deserving instructors' names would be called. I was very surprised," Hendrix said.

"At Wallace State, we all go above and beyond to ensure that the students we serve get the best they can from us. It just happened to be my turn to be recognized for what many of us continually do. I appreciate our students and the Wallace State family for giving me an opportunity to possibly make a difference in people's lives."

"We congratulate all our nominees for the 2012 class of Chancellor's Awards – Dr. Kathy Buckelew for Academic Faculty, Joe Hendrix for Technical Faculty, Sid Borden as Administrator, and Virginia White as Support Staff – for their outstanding contributions to our college, our

See Recognized, Page 7

A CHS Christmas Carol

By: Micheal Bryant
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With Thanksgiving over, Christmas is in the air. Cullman has been decorated, Christmas music plays on the radio, and this weekend Cullman High School will bring to the community their production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". While theater director Dillon Lee and Choral Director Josh Agnew normally collaborate on the spring musical, this year they decided to do something different from the usual straight play (a drama or comedy without music) put on before Christmas and join together Mr. Agnew's Christmas Concert with the production.

Dillon Lee says audiences can expect to see something not seen before.

"This is definitely different than other versions that you have seen," said Lee. "It isn't a musical, but it is full of live Christmas music. I adapted the script from Dickens' work, retaining the dialog and tradition of that classic tale, but with some of my own changes. Mr. Agnew and I have worked on weaving all of his choirs and traditional Christmas music. In some scenes, the CHS Chamber choir will actually be singing on stage in costume acting as extras. During some dramatic and intense scenes, the entire 60+ member choir will fill the stage along with our performers."

Mr. Lee says the play will retain all of the elements of the original story and audiences can be assured that the lighting and stage effects will enhance all of these elements.

"The Christmas Carol story is full of moments of great sorrow and joy as well as elements of the supernatural," said Lee. "Each Ghost has their own particular lighting theme and special effect or prop. Sets will be minimal as we are "travelling" through time and memory with

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Holly Pond Robotics Team to Compete at Auburn p. 3

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In Brief

Public Can Now Access Information on Healthcare-associated Infections in Alabama

By: Nadine Crawford
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Alabamians now have access to information on healthcare-associated infections as reported by the state's hospitals. The report, published by the Alabama Department of Public Health, provides hospital-specific infection data for several types of infections and can be found at www.adph.org/hai.

"The law requiring hospital infection reporting was passed in 2009 with cooperation from Alabama's hospitals, ADPH, and the state's legislature, most notably its sponsor, retired Sen. Bobby Denton," said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. "Since that time we have worked with our advisory council comprised of hospital executives, infection practitioners, physicians, business leaders, and other key stakeholders to develop a program that will provide good information to consumers and will allow providers to have comparisons for benchmarking. I am proud of the work and know it will be helpful in continuing to decrease the rate of healthcare-associated infections in our state."

Dr. Williamson added that the report should not take the place of discussions between patients and their physicians when choosing a hospital. "While this report is important and helpful, it should not be used as the sole factor in the selection of a hospital," Dr. Williamson stated.

"Our advisory council suggested we begin the infection reporting program with categories of infections reported from certain units in the hospital," said Dr. Williamson. "The categories included: surgical site infections of the colon and abdomen, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and central line-associated blood stream infections. We believe these provide a good base for our program and cover infections that are important to good patient care."

Keith Granger, CEO of Trinity Medical Center and chairman of the Alabama Hospital Association's Quality Task Force, expressed support for the legislation, stating that hospital leaders were pleased to have been a part of this important work and remain committed to a strong infection prevention program.

"Our first report is very positive," added Dr. Williamson. "When compared to the rest of the nation, Alabama's hospitals performed better than the national average on three of the four categories reported and similar to the national average on the other. We congratulate hospitals' infection practitioners for their diligence in combatting the spread of infection and providing a safe environment for patient care."

Granger added that hospital leaders understand that their work on infection prevention will never be done and emphasized that hospitals are on a continual journey to provide better care.

"Today, we're also launching a new website designed to provide healthcare consumers with information on how they can get more involved in their own care," said Granger. "The site is www.jointhehealthjourney.com and it provides links to this infection report, as well as other sources for Alabama-specific hospital data. It also has glossary of healthcare terminology, suggested information to discuss with your doctor, and many other helpful resources."

Centennial Cookbooks & Calendars on Sale Now

By: Barbara Ragsdale
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Centennial Cookbooks and Calendars which celebrate the heritage of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church are once again available for purchase. Both items had sold out, with 1,190 cookbooks sold in 3 months and all 600 of the 18 month calendars, but they have been re-ordered and will make great Christmas gifts for everyone.

There are only 150 cookbooks left of the new order and 50 calendars, so be sure to stop by the church's Family Life Center to obtain yours as soon as possible.

The cookbook, featuring 950 pages, 1,300 recipes, 20 pages of herbs and spices, and numerous household hints, are available for a $25.00 donation to the Church. The calendar, featuring many old pictures of the early life of Sacred Heart, is available for a $5.00 donation. For further information please contact the Church Office at 256-734-3730.

"Scenes from Nature" Exhibition at Burrow Museum

By: Kristen Holmes
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville is hosting the photography exhibition "Scenes from Nature" through the end of the year. The event is co-sponsored by the Wallace State Art Department.

Larry Clowdus, the photographer whose works are featured, hails from Blount County. He takes his subjects from flora and fauna as close as his backyard and as far away as the Grand Tetons. Bald eagles are frequently featured as are panoramic mountain scenes, and wildlife that only the most patient photographer could have captured on film. The exhibition features more than 70 breathtaking works. Admission is free.

The Evelyn Burrow Museum is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. except during the holidays. The "Scenes from Nature" exhibition is located on the first floor exhibition hall in The Ottis and Evelyn Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts and may be viewed during regular Museum hours or anytime the building is open.

For more information, contact The Burrow Museum at 256-352-8457, or visit burrowmuseum.org.



Photo by Larry Clowdus

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Upcoming Adult Diabetes Support Group

By: Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Have you been diagnosed with Adult Diabetes? If you would like to learn more about Adult Diabetes, join the Adult Diabetes Support Group at Cullman Regional Medical Center. This group is led by Certified Diabetes Educators, Lisa Ellard, CRNP, CDE and Kim Addison, RD, CDE who have been assisting diabetic patients for more than 20 years.

This group meets traditionally on the fourth Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted, at 6 p.m. in CRMC's Ave Maria Room in Professional Office Building 2, Community Education Center – 1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058. However, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the group will not meet in November and will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 6 at 6 p.m.

The CRMC Diabetes Care Center has been awarded Education Recognition by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) three times since opening in 2001. This recognition is the leading quality assurance mechanism for diabetes self-management education programs across the United States and programs with this distinction must include a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide state-of-the-art diabetes self-management education to participants.

For more information contact the CRMC Diabetes Care Center at (256) 737-2025. For a complete list of upcoming support groups and events at Cullman Regional Medical Center visit the online Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.

Upcoming Breastfeeding Support Group Meeting

By: Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — CRMC's Breastfeeding Support Group is designed for mothers and their babies, who are currently breastfeeding. The group offers a forum for asking questions and sharing success stories and will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 4 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in the Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room in Professional Office Building 2, Community Education Center (1912 Alabama Highway 157, POB II, Cullman, Alabama 35058).

For more information contact the CRMC Nursery at 256-737-2221. For a complete list of upcoming support groups and events at Cullman Regional Medical Center visit the online Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.



No(ah)-It-All: : Being sick is rough when you're alone

By: Noah Chandler

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There are many advantages to living alone. Whether it is the ability to stay up until 4 a.m. playing Call of Duty, microwaving chocolate chips then mixing in some Chex mix with the mush, to leaving a trail of clothing from the living room to the bathroom, the perks of single man living can be pretty sweet.

Of course there are drawbacks as well. Such as paying the entire rent, utilities, and food bills, or being the one who must clean-up after the above mentioned late night disaster, and as I recently rediscovered, being sick is probably the worst possible option.

Luckily, I have a caring mom who was willing to help care for me, despite being sick herself with a vicious sinus infection. She was sick for about three days before I fell ill. Instead of moaning and groaning about how sick she was, she instead took me to the urgent care, got the prescriptions filled, and whenever we ran out of ginger ale or Gatorade she was back at the store.

Many of you who know me past the 800 word weekly rundown know that out of 365 days, only 200 of them are considered good health days yearly. From ulcers, to stress, anxiety, multiple intestinal issues, migraines, and a bevy of other issues it is rare if you ever feel good on consecutive days.

Now some of you who don't know this about me, well there you go. I'm a regular genetic lottery winner when it comes to indehiscent immune system.

Now for the end of this editorial, well I am still beyond sick at this point so I am wrapping it up at 300 words. My apologies for the length, or lack thereof, but then again all you would receive past this point are incoherent ramblings of a dehydrated babbler.

So with that, I wish you all great week and if you get this nasty bug then I hope you have family around that will take care of you. Thank you again to my mom for caring for me.

Help on the Side of the Road

By: Robin Sandlin

Community Contributor

Sometimes it is difficult to find someone to help when you're in need, something Robin Sandlin knows all too well. While returning home on Saturday, Sandlin was all alone in her car as she drove home following a few brief errands.

On her way home she fell extremely ill, so much so that she had to pull off on the side of the road, and that's when a true good samaritan intervened, helping her not just get home but also comforting her while she waited on family. Below is her story concerning the man who helped salvage her day.

In her own words:

I was on my way home yesterday from town when I became ill. I kept thinking I could make it home but I knew I had to be safe. I found a place to pull over, and got sick. Immediately a man in his work van jumped out and asked if I needed assistance. He kept his distance until I said yes. He asked if I needed water, a blanket, or if I needed him to call someone.

He was out of water, but said I'll be right back and ran to the store. He brought back water, Sprite, and called Stan, my husband, to come get me. He found my glucose tablets for me and once Stan arrived he offered to help us get our vehicle home.

In the process I thought to ask his name and remembered he was the man that put the flooring down at our house. He refused any payment even for the drinks.

So, if you ever need someone to lay your flooring, that does a good job and trust worthy, that man is Shawn Givens. I didn't mention while he was gone to the store at least five others stopped at the stop sign, looked at me then kept going.

I know watching someone throw up isn't pleasant but it was cold, and I was alone and shaking, so thank you Shawn Givens. Thank you to my husband for taking care of me. Right now is the first time I have felt almost human.

Holly Pond Robotics Team to Compete at Auburn

By: Trinity Earwood

Senior at Holly Pond School

Holly Pond Robotics is a group of inspired young people who have come together for the purpose of designing a technological solution to a proposed engineering challenge using science, math, engineering, and technology.

We accomplish this by designing, constructing, and operating remote controlled robots in order to complete a challenge.

BEST Robotics, the organizer and sponsor of the robotics competition, provides our team with the challenge, the materials necessary to complete the challenge, and judge the competition.

Our BEST team number is 320. We achieved the top distinctions at the 2012 North Alabama BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) Robotics Competition held Oct. 26 at Wallace State Community College's Tom Drake Coliseum.

We won first place in the BEST Award, this was an honor bestowed upon the school which succeeded the most in all aspects–on the game floor during competition, through creative execution of a professional looking exhibit booth, and in the presentation given by the product's marketing team and student CEO's.

We also took home a plethora of trophies for BEST marketing presentation, team exhibit and interview, spirit and sportsmanship, t-shirt, project engineering notebook, and we were awarded "Team of Distinction", "Most Robust Robot", and "The Founders Award".

We are very excited about South's BEST Regional Robotics Championship at Auburn University held this weekend on December 1st and 2nd. Last year we were very fortunate to place 5th out of 55 teams that attended the competition. This year we are looking forward to hopefully placing 1st out of 56 teams that will be competing at this year's competition.

We wish Cullman Middle School, who placed 1st in the BEST game competition at Wallace, the best of luck, and we are very honored to be representing North Alabama schools with them at the South's BEST Regional Robotics Championship.





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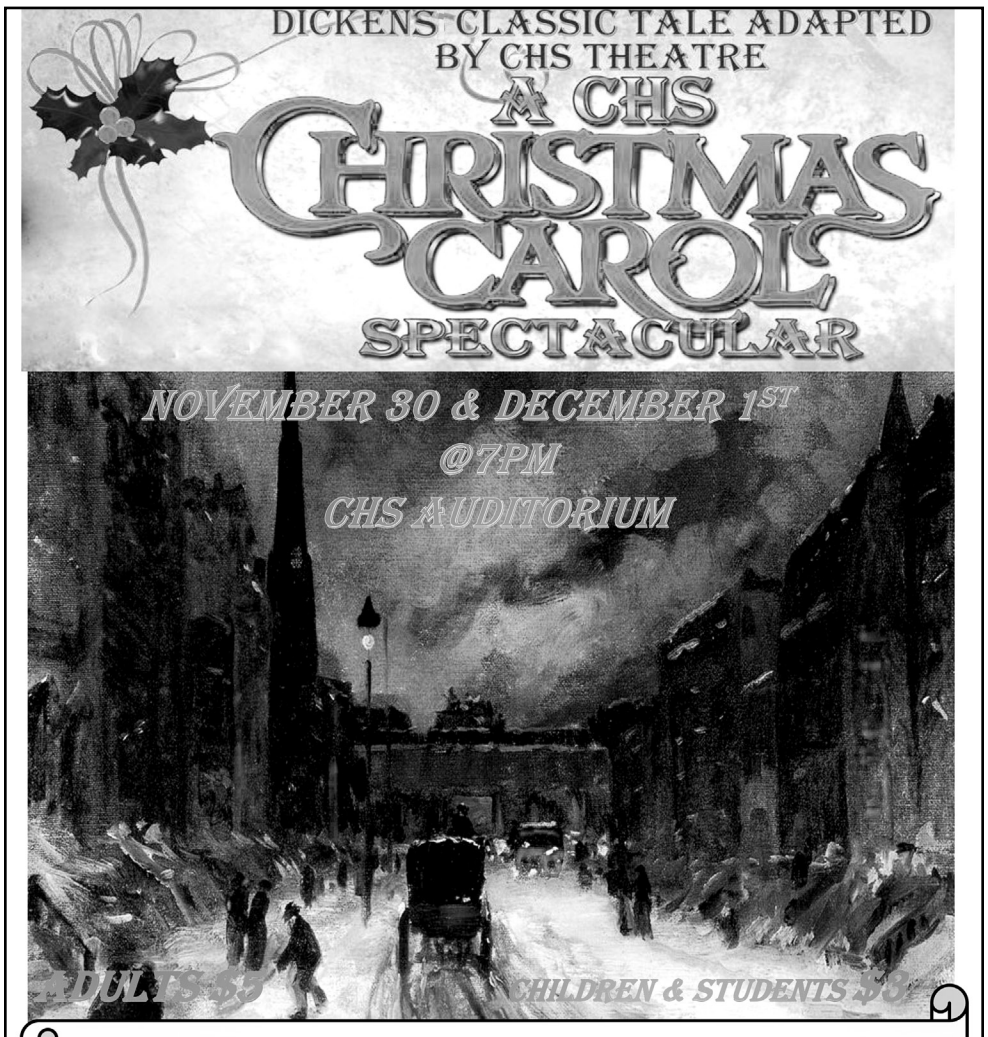
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SPORTS

Cullman Comes Up Just Short

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

MCALLA- Cullman made the hour plus drive to McAdory Friday night to take on the Yellow Jackets in the third round of the AHSAA 5A State playoffs. Cullman came in on a high after trouncing their longtime rivals, Walker, in round two but the Bearcats came up just short of round four and a rematch with Muscle Shoals, losing a very close game by the score of 29-22.

Cullman received the ball first in the game and, in true Cullman fashion, started to put together an impressive drive that looked like it was going to put them on the board first. The first Cullman play was a pass from Zac Crocker to Wesley Hendrix for 12 yards that was followed up two plays later with a 21-yard completion to Houston Turner.

However, after an eight yard run by Garrett Crider, a pass from Crocker that looked to be in front of the line of scrimmage (and therefore a forward pass) to Turner was broken up by the Yellow Jackets and was ruled a fumble by the referee; much to the dis-pleasure of the Cullman faithful who had made the trip.

Luckily for the Bearcats, McAdory was only able to move the ball for a net gain of five yards and was forced to punt the ball back to Cullman.

The Bearcats engineered a 14-play drive on their next possession that chewed up a ton of clock and resulted in a Garrett Crider three-yard touchdown run.

The score was set up in part to a 40-yard strike from Crocker to Hendrix and Crider bowling his way to a first down on 4th and 1. The PAT was blocked so the score stood at 6-0 Cullman.

McAdory, who had taken the ball into Cullman territory at the end of the first quarter, was bit by the turnover bug themselves when Trey Moon picked off Yellow Jacket QB Kyran Moore to halt the McAdory drive.

Cullman took the turnover and looked to score again, marching the ball down to the Yellow Jacket 44. Here, Crocker tried to find Turner again but his pass looked to be tipped and fell into the arms of waiting Yellow Jacket, Damien Whitfield, who returned the interception 85 yards for the score and put McAdory on the board. The PAT was successful and Cullman, in the blink of an eye, found themselves down 7-6.

The two squads traded possessions before Cullman put together another huge 10 play drive that saw Crider convert another 4th down to the tune of 19 yards and Crocker hit Turner for 32 more that set up a first and goal. Crider punched it in two plays later as well as the two-point conversion to put Cullman on top 14-7 heading to halftime.

The Yellow Jackets got the ball to start the second half and showed no signs of lying down and giving up. Moore quickly got his team across midfield. He dropped back for another pass but was flushed out of the pocket.

He began to scramble but still kept his eyes down field. He looked to be a couple yards past the line of scrimmage, though no flag was thrown, when he threw the ball and found a wide open Thaddaus Houser for the pitch and catch score that tied the game at 14-14 with just over 10 minutes left in the third.

Again each team traded punts before the next score took place. Cullman had the ball 2nd and 9 on their own 25 when Crocker's pass that was intended for Turner was tipped and intercepted for the second time by Whitfield who once again took it all the way in for the score.

After the 39-yard interception and PAT, Cullman trailed 21-14. The score remained the same for the rest of the third, but Cullman was driving heading to the fourth.

Before the drive Crocker could be heard on the sideline firing up his team with some words of encouragement. It worked as Cullman pulled to within one when Crocker found Turner for a 12 yard TD pass.

In a gutsy call by Cullman head coach Mark Britton, he opted to go for two and the lead. It paid off for his team when Crider took it in and Cullman regained the lead 22-21 with 9:55 to play.

McAdory started their next drive from the 45 and took full advantage of the great field position. After back to back runs on first and second down, the Yellow Jackets had the ball 1st and 10 at the Cullman 41.

Here Moore found tight end Jason Powell who made a leaping catch at the Cullman eight. Two plays later Moore would call his own number and sneak the ball in for the score. The two-point conversion was successful and McAdory went on top 29-22.

This was the final score as the Yellow Jackets took a knee, after a turnover on downs by the Bearcats, to end the game and move in the playoffs.

Cullman played a very good game and have nothing to hang their heads about. They had a fantastic season and even though this is not how the seniors wanted their last game to end, they should hold their heads high and know that they represented the great city of Cullman well.

30th Annual Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Over the Thanksgiving holidays there was a lot of turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie and, oh yeah, BASKETBALL!

CullmanSense was at EVERY game to bring our loyal readers full coverage of the tournaments that took place over the Thanksgiving holidays. So without further ado, here are the results from the 30th Annual Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament played at Tom Drake Coliseum on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

Cold Springs vs. Corner
By Johnny Thornton

HANCEVILLE - Cold Springs and Corner displayed instant offense during their first round assignments in the 30th Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament Tuesday at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum.

Cold Springs never trailed in gaining an early lead en route to a 73-36 win against Hayden. The Eagles are now 4-0 on the young season with their first victory against a school outside of Cullman County.

Cold Springs rode the scoring of Layne Rice from the perimeter. The junior knocked down four treys in the opening period to ignite Tim Burleson's squad to a 25-11 lead following the end of the period.

Senior guard Chayse Elliott, a UAH signee last week, got into offensive flow with seven second period points and the Eagles were able to extend the advantage to 45-24.

By halftime, the Eagles had scored nine times from long range.

The scoring slowed down just a bit for both sides in the second half. Cold Springs combined for 28 points in the second half with Hayden scoring just 12, three in the final quarter.

Rice finished a good performance with 22 points, hitting eight field goals, six from long range.

Elliott and Tristian Chambers tossed in 14, Josh Freeman delivered nine, Mason Harris had eight, Austin Moore, and Brandon Whaley contributed three.

For Hayden, 0-3 on the season, the Wildcats were led by Houston Launius with 13, Dustin White and McKenzie Faile six each.

Corner vs. St. Bernard
By Johnny Thornton

St. Bernard had one offensive star in JaDavian Roland who scored 24 points on 10 field goals.

But the undefeated Yellow Jackets had a team effort in which they led 23-5 after the first period, 37-13 at the half and carried a 60-24 lead into the fourth stanza.

The 2-0 team from Jefferson County was led by Blake Byrd with 14, Zac Pate 13, Austin Sanford 10, Tyler Smith nine and Austin Norris.

Jacob Grey got a field goal from the foul line as time ran out in the third period for the other player to score in this game for coach Wade Knight.

St. Bernard failed to hit a shot in the final quarter while getting two points from the line by Roland.

Mortimer Jordan vs. Good Hope
By Johnny Thornton

HANCEVILLE - It was their first game of the season. The Mortimer Jordan Blue Devils never showed any flaws of being mistake prone as they cruised by the Good Hope Raiders 56-23 in the Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament.

The visitors from Jefferson County jumped to a 17-3 lead after the opening 8:00 and held a commanding 34-11 lead when the teams went to the locker room at halftime.

It was 50-14 Mortimer Jordan following the third period with the game played under new AHSAA rules of a running clock in the final stanza due to the Blue Devils leading by at least 30 points.

Ben Hardiman and Seth Barnett paced a balanced scoring attack for the Devils in the opener with 10 points.

The Raiders fell to 0-4 on the season. No one got into double figures as Tyler Stryer scored six, Andrew Cofer five, Mason Johnson five, Zack Sloan three, Eli Marty three, and Jonathan Grigsby one.

Curry vs. Hanceville
By Johnny Thornton

It was a battle that the spectators were looking for following the first three games that were already decided by the time the fourth quarter began.

Curry and Hanceville swapped the lead on the scoreboard at Tom Drake Coliseum Tuesday night numerous times. This game went into overtime as Chris Smith knocked down a pair of free throws with 9.6 seconds to go and the Bulldogs survived the Yellow Jackets 72-70.

Playing on the Wallace State floor for the first time in just their third game of the season, the Bulldogs shook off a slow start in which they were behind. The Bulldogs were able to get balanced scoring from Brontae Harris, Chris Smith, and Dante Reese.

Hanceville was up 26-19 after the opening period. The Bulldogs gained a 41-31 lead at the break when Curry changed its defense in the second half that slowed down the attack mode of Daniel Wakefield's ball club.

The visitors from Walker County trailed 51-44 when the final period got under way.

A 13-5 run by the Yellow Jackets got them in striking distance at 57-56 with less than 4:00 remaining.

Curry had disrupted Hanceville's flow with the game going down to the wire. Curry stole a pass and went the length of the floor for a layup and its first lead since the first quarter by the score of 58-57.

Hanceville was six of six from the line down the stretch of the game while Curry was five of eight at the same sequence.

Seven lead changes developed in the final period. Austin Baker knocked down a short range jumper with 18.8 seconds left and the Bulldogs were back in front at 65-64.

It went into an extra four minutes and the Bulldogs pulled it out as the two continued to swap the lead on the scoreboard.

Hanceville is 3-0 on the season. The Bulldogs now face Mortimer Jordan in the semis at 7:30 p.m.

Bronte Harris had 27, Chris Smith 15, Keith Twitty 12, and Dante Reese eight.

Alex Odom and Wesley Key led the Jackets with 15 apiece.

Mortimer Jordan vs. Hanceville
By Johnny Thorton

HANCEVILLE – A fast start by Mortimer Jordan carried the Blue Devils to a 66-50 victory over Hanceville Wednesday night, handing the Bulldogs their first loss of the young season.

The triumph by the visitors from Jefferson County prevented an All-Cullman County championship game in the Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament for the third straight year.

Hanceville had won back-to-back tournament titles and began the season strong with a 3-0 record coming into the semifinal.

Mortimer Jordan's season started this week playing at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum.

The Blue Devils were ready to go in gaining an 8-0 lead two minutes after the tip before Hanceville got on the scoreboard.

By the time the first period ended Hanceville was down by the score of 25-11.

Coach Daniel Wakefield's Bulldogs were never able to slow down the Blue Devils. Mortimer Jordan was ahead 37-22 at halftime and entered the final period of play with a 51-36 advantage.

Early in the fourth, the Blue Devils built the margin to 21 points at 57-36. That was the largest lead of the contest. Every time in the game Hanceville tried to make a run, Mortimer Jordan answered.

Less than 4:00 to play, Brontae Harris nailed a trey to close the margin to 59-45. Seconds later, the Devils got an old-fashioned three-point play and held a 62-45 lead. The margin was safe enough for the Blue Devils to maintain the rest of the way.

This was the first time in several seasons that Hanceville was not playing for the title in its own holiday tournament.

Harris, Dante Reese and Smith each tossed in 12 to anchor the Hanceville scoring. Marshall Johnson and Matt Burns had five, Sheldon Lewis and Austin Baker tossed in two.

Mark Lewis was the leader for the Blue Devils with 16, Ben Hardiman added 12, Ryan Reche and Seth Barnett each scored 10.

Cold Springs vs. Corner
By Johnny Thornton

Down by eight in the first period, Cold Springs stayed patient in its game plan and finished the night on a 41-21 run to defeat Corner 55-46 in the semifinals of the 30th Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament.

Cold Springs is into the championship game of this holiday event for the third consecutive

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Community Matters

30th Annual Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament (Continued)

year.

The Eagles are 5-0 on the season, the best record among everyone that has tipped off the 2012-13 campaign.

Corner had a 22-14 lead as time ran out in the opening period, getting a field goal with time running out. Then Cold Springs started to make a run and trailed at halftime 32-28, outscoring the Yellow Jackets 14-10 in the second stanza.

A three-pointer from the baseline by Tristan Chambers with time expiring in the third sent the score even at 36-36.

Tim Burleson's Eagles moved in front in the early stages of the fourth period and was able to knock down free throws in crunch time to protect the advantage.

Chayse Elliott anchored the winners with 25, Chambers had seven, Layne Rice six, Brandon Whaley three, and Terry Campbell two.

Good Hope vs. Hayden
By Johnny Thornton

HANCEVILLE – Good Hope's first win of the season came in the 30th Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament at Wallace State Community College.

The Raiders overcame a 28-22 halftime deficit to knock off the Hayden Wildcats in the consolation bracket. The matchup featured schools looking to win for the first time on the season.

Good Hope answered the bell thanks to very good free throw shooting in the second half. After making just four of nine in the first half, the Raiders visited the line 22 times in the final two quarters, connecting on 17 attempts. Good Hope was very effective in the final period with 10 of 13, featuring four of four by point Eli Marty down in crunch time.

The Raiders jumped into the lead for the first time at 42-41 in the early moments of the fourth period, setting the stage for a very productive final period in which they outscored Hayden 19-12. Getting free throw production in the final period from Marty along with Chris Raper, Andrew Cofer, and Christian Sellers, the Raiders had more points at the line (10) than they did in field goals (4).

Marty saved his best for last, scoring nine of his 13 points in the final period to end a four-game losing streak and send the Raiders into the 5th place game Friday vs. Curry.

Andrew Cofer tossed in 17 to guide Michael Jones' Raiders with Marty adding 13, Alex Cofer 11, Zack Sloan nine, Raper four, and Tyler Stringer one.

Hayden got 20 points from center Duncan Parker and 11 by guard Houston Launius. The Wildcats dropped to 0-4 on the season.

Curry vs. St. Bernard
By Johnny Thornton

St. Bernard came out firing and led the Yellow Jackets 14-5 early. It was 19-17 Saints following the first period of play.

Then Curry went on a 14-7 second period run and grabbed a 31-26 lead at halftime. The Jackets extended the margin to 46-33 following the third period thanks to a 15-7 cushion.

St. Bernard never allowed Curry to move the lead past 15 in the final period as they kept battling throughout the contest.

JaDavian Roland was again on fire for Wade Knight's Saints, scoring 25 in this second round assignment.

He has 49 points through two games of the tournament so far.

Sean Moriarity added 11 and pulled down a game high 12 rebounds, Gavin Harris scored six and Dean Smith tossed in three.

Spencer Fikes was tops for Curry with 15, Jarrod Owens netted 13, and Wesley Key added 10.

Hanceville vs. Corner
By Grant Smith

After a close first quarter, the Hanceville Bulldogs ran past the Corner Yellow Jackets behind the shooting of Keith Twitty and the play of Brontae Harris and Chris Smith to build a double digit lead and never looked back to capture third place in their own Thanksgiving tournament by a final margin of 68-47.

Cold Springs vs. Mortimer Jordan
By Grant Smith

HANCEVILLE – The Cold Springs Eagles held off a furious rally by the Mortimer Jordan Blue Devils in the championship game of the 30th Annual Hanceville Thanksgiving tournament at Tom Drake Coliseum, to take home the top prize with a 62-57 victory.

The Eagles jumped out a 36-18 halftime lead, thanks in large part to the shooting of Chayse Elliott, Tristan Chambers, and Layne Rice. However, the Blue Devils opened the second half with a 14-8 run to cut into the Eagle and trailed 44-32 headed into the final quarter. Cold Springs got two big free throws from Brandon Whaley to hang on to the lead.

The first quarter saw the Eagles jump out to a 23-14 lead behind the play of Elliott, who netted 10 points in the quarter.

Cold Springs held the Blue Devils to four points in the second quarter, to pull out to a 36-18 lead.

Mortimer Jordan rallied in the third quarter getting points from point guard Mark Louis, who weaved his way to the basket to score.

The Eagles tried to pull away in the final quarter, however, the Blue Devils kept fighting and making things tough on Cold Springs.

Mortimer Jordan got three pointers from Ben Hardiman and Seth Barnett to keep the lead under ten points. Elliott provided the difference in the final quarter for the Eagles by netting 10 of his 23 points, with a four of six effort from the charity stripe.

Following Elliott in the scoring column was Chambers and Rice with 16 and 15 points each.

Mortimer Jordan was led by Louis, Hardiman and Barnett with 13 points each. Cold Springs will host Vinemont in regular season action on Monday.

There it is folks. Full coverage of the 30th Annual Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament brought to you courtside from the Tom Drake Coliseum in Hanceville by CullmanSense, your #1 source for local sports.

56th Annual Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The long-running Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament took place over the holiday, starting Thanksgiving night and concluding on Iron Bowl Saturday, a day most in the state of Alabama consider a holiday. There were some great match-ups, blowouts, and upsets so let's dive right in to the action.

Day One

By Johnny Thornton
Cullman 65, Fairview 59 (OT)

HOLLY POND- Both teams were playing for the second time on the season, coming into the matchup 1-0.

Cullman claimed a 12-11 lead following the first period with Fairview jumping in front at halftime 25-23.

The Bearcats went back in the lead at the end of the third period 41-38 and opened up a 10-point advantage midway through the final stanza.

Fairview answered with a run and tied the score in the closing seconds of regulation on a shot in the lane from guard Elijah Garrison. The score was 57-57 at the end of 32 minutes of play.

Lawson Schaffer gave the Bearcats the lead for good in the overtime with a three-point play and had support from his teammates to move to 2-0 on the season.

Schaffer paced the winning Bearcats with 13 points, Seth Swalve scored 12, Keaton Dean eight, Austin Neal seven, Lukas McNeal nine, Lee Mattox five, Austin Beck seven, and Richard Donaldson one.

For Greg Boatright's 1-1 Aggies, Garrison ripped the cords for 15, Peter Kessler and Andy Hendrix scored 11, Blake Parker 10, Luke Bailey eight, and Green one.

Vinemont 55, J.B. Pennington 46

Vinemont was down 21-7 to the visitors from Blountsville after the first stanza and made a game of it, closing the deficit to 30-23 at halftime.

The key to the Eagles was getting the ball in the post to Garrett Sipe who finished with 18 points. He hit four field goals in the second half as Vinemont outscored Pennington 18-5 in the third to take the lead at 41-35 and held on in the final period by a 14-11 margin, improving top 3-1 on the season.

Supporting the scoring for Todd Johnson's Eagles were Duncan Hopper with 12, Logan Wallace and Lance Stanley six, Jacob Smith, and Ty Jones four and Blake Jones three.

Taylor's 19 and Butts' 18 points anchored the attack for J.B. Pennington.

Holly Pond 57, Arab 54

In a see-saw battle with the Arabian Knights, Holly Pond was ahead 17-15 in the first period and 29-24 at intermission. Arab kept the game close, trailing 43-39 with one quarter left to play.

The Knights moved ahead in the fourth with the Broncos answering the challenge. Colby Adams scored on a field goal and hit a pair of free throws with less than a minute remaining to break a tie as the Broncos went on a 6-3 run to finish the game.

Arab had a chance to tie before time ran out, but missed a three-pointer from the right wing.

Gunter Morris had the hot hand for the Broncos, 2-1, with 18 points. Adams finished the game with 10 points for coach Mitch Morris who is trying to three-peat in his own tournament for the first time ever.

Cody Jones netted nine, Austin Smith scored eight, Jacob Cahoon six, Carter Hays three, and Vince Clingman finished with two.

For Arab, Logan Sulfridge and Ryne Rusk delivered 12 points apiece.

West Point 51, Locust Fork 46:

Locust Fork led the Warriors 15-10 after the first, 26-18 at the half and 34-25 following the third period before West Point went on a 26-12 spurt in the final 8:00 to come from behind and earn a ticket to the semifinal round.

Jordan McKenzie delivered 14 points to the victory as West Point ran its early season mark to 3-2. Wesley Smith tossed in 13, Tristan Dubberly hit nine, Josh Looney and Kris Keller scored five, and Ryder Jones three.

Leading Locust Fork was Dillion Burden with 14 and Clay Smith with 13.

Day Two

By Michael Bryant
Cullman vs. Vinemont

HOLLY POND- In the first semi-final of the night, the Cullman Bearcats took on the Vinemont Eagles. The two schools started off trading baskets, before Cullman's Lee Mattox and Lawson Schaffer each drained a three point to take the lead. Vinemont would answer with five straight points, from Logan Wallace and Jacob Smith, before Cullman's Lane Donaldson and Keaton Dean would get two apiece to end the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Bearcats would score two baskets to each one of Vinemont's. Cullman would start the quarter off with four straight points after a pair of free throws from Schaffer and a bucket from Dean. Vinemont would answer with a Blake Jones two, then Cullman's Schaffer and Auston Neal would score five straight. After a Vinemont basket, Cullman's Austin Beck would score back to back shots, and Vinemont's Duncan Harper would end the half with a last second three pointer.

Vinemont would attempt a comeback in the third quarter. After Cullman's Schaffer would make the first bucket, the Eagles' Lance Stanley would answer. Cullman would then go on a 11 to 3 run, but Vinemont would answer back again, going on a 11-0 run including four from Garrett Sipe.

However, it would be Cullman with the advantage in the fourth quarter as they would outscore Vinemont 18-12, getting six of those from Neal.

Arab vs. Locust Fork

Game two on the night would be much closer. Locust Fork's Geoffrey Bramblett would score the first four, before Arab's Skylar Graham would hit a long range jumper to give the Knights' their first points. Locust Fork would then go on a six to nothing run, getting four from Dillon Burton. After the two teams traded buckets, Arab would go on an eight to nothing run with Taylor Parker getting four of those.

After again trading buckets to start the second quarter, Locust Fork would get six straight, the final four coming from Kyle Hornbuckle. Arab's Easton Anderson would get two, but Locust fork would answer with five. Arab would then get five of their own, including a long range three pointer from Logan Sulfridge. Locust Fork would hit a pair of free throws and get a two from Anthony Quartapulla, before Arab's Ryne Rush would hit the final shot of the half.

The third quarter saw back and forth action as for every shot Arab made, Locust Fork would answer. Arab's Brandon England would lead the third quarter scoring with four, while his teammates Parker, Graham, and Ridge Watson would get two apiece. Locust Fork would get two apiece from Clay Smith, Hornbuckle, Burton, Bramblett, and Andrew Lewingham.

Then in the final period, the floodgates would open as each team would hit shot after shot. After trading buckets, Locust Fork would go on a 10-0 run, before Arabs' Sulfridge would hit a three and a free throw. The Hornets' Bramblett would hit two free throws to give the Hornets the lead for good as Arab would try to answer back, but Locust Fork's Smith would hit five straight free throws to stop the attempt.

Fairview vs. J.B. Pennington

Pennington would come out hot as Brandon Butts and Hunter Ganus would each nail a two

See Holly Pond, Page 6

Community Matters

Area Athlete Spotlight: Keegan Thompson

By: Josh McBrayer
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Hank Aaron, Matt Cain, George Foster, Monte Irvin, Willie Mays, and most recently Craig Kimbrel and Josh Rutledge. What do these names have in common? They are just a smattering of the over 300 baseball greats that have come out of the great state of Alabama [Source: baseball-almanac.com]. How many are from Cullman, one might ask? The answer to that question is: ONE.

The former Cullman High School stand-out Josh Rutledge made a name for himself at the University of Alabama and is now with the Colorado Rockies. But, if his early playing days are any indication, that will all change. Keegan Thompson is looking to forge his own path to the Major Leagues in much the same way Rutledge did.

Thompson is a superstar stand-out at Cullman High School, he has signed with an SEC school, Auburn, and it looks as if he will help the Tigers establish themselves in the highly competitive SEC. Thompson has a trophy case full of accolades including being named to the 5A Super State team, 5A First Team All-State (2011), All-State Honorable Mention (2010), Gatorade 5A Player of the Year (2011), oh yeah and TWO gold medals.

Thompson stands out on the diamond and in the classroom but is never too busy to help out a fellow teammate or talk to the media. Thompson, on the heels of his signing with Auburn and preparing for his senior season at Cullman High School, took the time out of his rare downtime, due to the Thanksgiving holidays, to talk to CullmanSense. Here is what the young phenom had to say.

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers a little bit about your time with the USA Team both as a player on the U-16 and then a year later on the U-18 squads.

Keegan Thompson: Playing for Team USA is an honor; first, as a member of the 16U National Team in Lagos de Moreno, Mexico, winning our 6th straight World Championship for the 16U division, and then as a member of the 18U National Team in Seoul, South Korea, winning our first World Championship since 1999. It was truly a life-changing experience.

JM: Cullman is one of the top baseball programs in the state. How has playing for coach Brent Patterson prepared you to play on a national level both with USA Baseball and as you prepare to suit up for the Auburn Tigers next year?

KT: Coach Patterson is a great coach and I believe the off-season workouts we go through will prepare me extremely well for Auburn next year. His help improved my skills on and off the field and he also helped shape my talents so that I could have these special opportunities: playing for the 16U and 18U National Teams and playing for Auburn next year.

JM: Still being a student in high school, what was it like when you first saw your own Topps Baseball card?

KT: It was amazing seeing my face on the front of a Topps baseball card. All of my friends and family thought it was really cool and would ask for one. I grew up seeing big leaguer's on the front of those cards and never thought I would have that chance, especially at only 16 years old.

JM: Have your classmates treated you any different since your time playing baseball all over the

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Photo Contributed

56th Annual Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament (Continued)

point bucket, but then the two teams would trade shots until Fairview would go on a six to nothing run, getting baskets from Chris Green, Tyler Yearwood, and Hunter Brewer.

That run would continue in the second quarter with Fairview's Elijah Garrison getting four straight points, before Pennington's Brandon Butts would stop the bleeding with a two pointer. The two teams would trade shots again, then the Aggies would go on a nine to nothing run including four from Luke Bailey. Pennington's Houston Self would make a shot, but the Aggies would get the final shot of the half from Garrison.

In the third period, Fairview continued to stay hot starting out with made shots from Bailey and Peter Kessler. Pennington would respond with two, but the Aggies' Bailey would get a free throw and a lay-up. The Aggies would then get six straight from Andy Hendrix. Pennington would hit the final shot of the quarter getting two points from Brandon Butts.

The fourth quarter was much closer, but Fairview's lead was already too much to overcome. The two teams would trade shots, with the Aggies' Yearwood getting four in the quarter, and Pennington's A.J. Irvin getting five.

West Point vs. Holly Pond

In a rematch of a regular season game played Tuesday night, in which Holly Pond got a hard fought victory, the Warriors were looking for some payback, and while they got it, it wasn't easy.

The teams traded two points to start the game, and then the Broncos would go on an 8-0 run getting a three points from Gunter Morris and Jacob Caloon, and two from Colby Adams. West Point's Jordan McKenzie would get two, but the Broncos would go on another run, this time scoring six straight, getting four of those from Adams.

The two teams would trade buckets again, before the Warriors would get four unanswered, as Kris Keller and Ryder Jones would split those. After trading baskets again, the Broncos would score four straight, with Adams getting two of them. The two teams would trade free throws to end the half.

At the start of the second half, West Point had work to do and they got it from Keller who scored the Warriors' first six points. After a pair of traded buckets, the Warriors' would go on a 8-0 run to erase the lead and get a three point lead, but a shot from Holly Pond's Ben Wilson would give a two point lead back to the home team going into the final period.

The Broncos would take the lead back on the first shot of the fourth quarter, but four straight points by West Point's Wesley Smith would extend the lead back to three. The two teams would trade buckets the rest of the way, and the Warriors would be able to hold onto their lead to end the game.

Day Three

By Josh McBrayer
Locust Fork vs. Fairview

The Fairview Aggies and Locust Fork Hornets had control of the floor in the first of the three match-ups on the day. The Aggies controlled the tip and got on the board first but turned the "rock" over eight times in the first quarter. This led to Locust Fork taking an early 11-6 lead.

Blake Parker of Fairview quickly closed the five point gap with two free throws and an easy bucket in the paint. Andy Hendrix followed with a three point bucket that gave Fairview a brief lead before Kyle Hornbuckle of the Hornets completed a three point play to give the lead right back to Locust Fork. 14-13. Fairview came right back with another three and helped Fairview push out to a seven point lead. Locust Fork, however, answered with back to back buckets by Dillan Burton and Andrew Lonigham pulled Locust Fork to within two right before the half.

Fairview came out of the locker room with the hot hand. The Aggies went on an 8-0 run to open up an 11 point lead before a Hornet time-out forced a stop in the action. Out of the time-out, the Hornets outscored the Aggies 4-2 and sensing a run, Holly Pond called a time-out of their own. Locust Fork dropped in another bucket that cut the Fairview lead to five heading to quarter number four.

Both teams traded baskets back and forth with Fairview gaining a slight advantage, 14-9, to extend their lead to 11 with 2:21 left in the game. Clay Smith willed his team back in the game with his inspired play, not to mention his 11 fourth quarter points, but it was not enough as Fairview weathered the onslaught and went on to win 51-43.

Fairview's leading scorers with 12 each was Andy Hendrix and Blake Parker. They were followed by Peter Kessler with 11 and Luke Bailey with 10.

Clay Smith led Locust Fork, and all scorers, with 15.

Vinemont vs. Holly Pond

The Eagles and the Broncos took the floor next in the third place game and it was raining, three's that is, as both teams were shooting the lights out from behind the arc. Holly Pond got the best of the shoot-out, hitting three tri-fectas and five two point buckets to jump out to a 21-9 first quarter lead.

Holly Pond started the second quarter scoring the first four points but Vinemont had an answer scoring the next eight before the Broncos would score again. The Broncos closed out the quarter scoring the last five due to a two point basket by Austin Smith and a late three pointer by Colby Adams, taking a 36-20 lead to the locker room.

The third quarter started just like the first with each team draining two three point baskets each. Vinemont got the best of the exchange this time, adding six points in the paint and a third three point basket to quickly cut the Holly Pond lead to seven prompting a Bronco time-out. Adams scored for Holly Pond right before the third ended but Vinemont shaved seven points of the halftime deficit and only trailed by nine heading to the final frame.

Holly Pond quickly re-established a double digit lead thanks to the three point shooting of Cody Jones and the inside play of Austin Smith. Holly Pond would turn 10 into 20 and take third place by a score of 64-42.

Leading the Broncos and all scorers with 21 was Austin Smith. Colby Adams followed with 18. Cody Jones also was in double figures with 10.

The lone Eagle with double figures was Sophomore Lance Stanley with 19.

Cullman vs. West Point [Championship]

The last game of the day was the Championship that pitted the Cullman Bearcats against the West Point Warriors.

After a slow start by both teams, each started to shoot the ball well and find their range from both inside and outside the three point arc. Cullman carried a slight four point lead, 14-10, into quarter number two.

Midway through the second, West Point and Cullman had only combined for three points. Defense tightened up with neither team willing to give an inch. Although points were at a premium in the second, Cullman made the most of their chances and outscored the Warriors 9-5 to end the quarter and push their lead to seven.

Fast and furious is how the third quarter started with the Warriors and Bearcats trading points back and forth. West Point caught fire out of an early third quarter time-out and took the lead on a steal with a little over a minute left in the quarter and on a late bucket by Ryder Jones, took a three point lead to the final stanza.

The fourth quarter was rough and tumble with a fair share of fouls called the entire quarter. West Point established a six point lead but Cullman kept it close with free throws and were within two points with less than two minutes left in the game.

Jones put in an easy bucket in the paint and Cullman's Lawson Schaffer responded by hitting one of two free throws before a time-out by Cullman head coach Bobby Meyer. Schaffer again got to the line but missed both from the charity stripe and West Point still clung to a three point lead with 27.1 seconds left in the championship game.

Wesley Smith of West Point was fouled driving to the bucket and hit one of two to push the lead to four. Schaffer headed to the line yet again and drained both shots to pull his team to within two with 13.3 seconds left to play.

In a must foul situation, Cullman put Smith on the line and he sank one to force a three point basket to tie. Cullman got a look at the bucket but the shot hit the front of the rim and fell short.

West Point held on and won 55-52 and claimed the 56th Annual Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament Championship.

West Point was led by Wesley Smith with 14. He was the lone Warrior in double figures.

Cullman was led by Lawson Schaeffer with 15.

There you have it, the full results from the 56th Annual Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament. We hope you have enjoyed the coverage our courtside reporters who work day in and day out to prove that CullmanSense is the #1 source for local sports.

WSCC Employees Recognized (Continued from Front)

students, and the Alabama Community College System," said Wallace State President Vicki Hawsey.

"We are especially proud of Joe Hendrix, who was recognized by Chancellor Mark Heinrich as the outstanding Technical Faculty of the Year, a well-deserved honor for an instructor who embodies our quest for excellence and our student-first philosophy."

The Chancellor's Awards began 25 years ago as a way to reward and encourage those who have exemplified outstanding performance, creativity and dedicated service to their college.

Hendrix is constantly investigating ways for his students to gain an upper hand in the workplace, focusing on the innovative techniques and modern methods they will need after graduation.

Since his arrival on campus, he has aided in the program adding 35 programmable logic controllers (PLC), nine industrial robots, and many other state-of-the-art devices to teach and train within the department.

Hendrix has also hosted Wallace State's Science Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camp the last six years for high school students, giving them an opportunity to see how technology is used in the global business environment.

Dr. Kathy Buckelew was this year's Academic Faculty of the Year nominee. Buckelew has been a part of Wallace State's English Department the last nine years and has been teaching for 23 years, including six years at the middle school level and eight years in high school.

At Wallace State she teaches English courses to both college and dual enrollment students. She also serves in a number of high profile roles on campus, including co-chairing Wallace State's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) committee, whose work will be an important element in the college's reaffirmation of accreditation.

This plan earned much acclaim during a presentation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Institute on High-Impact Practices and Student Success in Portland, Ore., in June. Buckelew is also a co-chair of the Arts in April committee, a member of the Scholars' Bowl committee, the College Improvement team, the e-Learning committee, and the Master Teacher Planning committee. She holds three degrees, including a doctorate, from the University of Alabama.

Borden, the Administrator of the Year nominee, has worked at Wallace State for 22 years. As director of auxiliary services, Borden oversees all operations at the bookstore and the men's and women's dormitories.

His department also handles all vending, concession sales, and transportation for employees, campus groups, and athletic teams. Among many other responsibilities, Borden, an Auburn graduate, has served as the director of tournament operations for the Alabama High School Athletic Association's (AHSAA) Northwest Regional Tournament, held at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum each February since its inception in 1994.

This event annually draws tens of thousands of visitors to campus. Borden's experience in crisis management assures logistics are taken care of weeks in advance, and anything unexpected is handled with the utmost efficiency.

Borden's leadership was essential in 2008 when more than 1200 evacuees from Louisiana found temporary refuge from Hurricane Gustav at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum and the Wellness Center.

White, an accounts receivable specialist in the Wallace State business office, is the Staff Member of the Year nominee.

White has been employed at Wallace State for more than 20 years and has served in multiple roles with the college, having also worked as a cashier and performing bank reconciliations and federal student financial aid reconciliations.

White has been an indispensable figure in helping Wallace State rebound from the April 2011 tornadoes, working extra hours on accounting for the extensive repairs necessary.

White aids the admissions and financial aid departments during crunch times and has been a pivotal figure in assisting the college during its transition to the Banner administrative software system.

White has been proactive in researching system needs, collaborating with different departments and attending hours of meetings each week to ensure a successful system conversion for the college.

Each of Wallace State's nominees was also a recipient of the Wallace State Education Achievement Award given annually to employees who consistently demonstrate exceptional job performance beyond routine expectations in areas such as personal integrity, dependability, willingness to work with others, punctuality, efficiency, classroom/workplace innovation, and creativity.

These winners participate in on-campus and off-campus activities beyond usual job expectations including professional development, fundraising, volunteerism, continuing education, and leadership.

Adrian Scott, Wallace State Visual Communications department chair and art instructor, earned second place in the Chancellor's Art Competition for his sculpture, "Data Bait Folk Phishing Lure."

Scott was also recognized by Chancellor Heinrich at the Awards Ceremony, and his work was exhibited at the event.

Several Wallace State employees made presentations during the annual Alabama Community College Association conference, a day and a half professional development meeting following the Chancellor's Awards.

Hendrix joined Ted Davis of the Alabama Community College System to present "CAR-CAM: Performing a Curriculum Gap Analysis—How & Why."

Their presentation explained how to perform a curriculum gap analysis to help ensure program content meets and exceeds industry standards.

Dr. Suhana Chikatla of Wallace State's Advanced Visualization Center and Dr. Theresa Ray-Connell, dental hygiene instructor, presented "Pedagogical ePortfolios 3.0: Coaching Learners to Build Online Portfolios."

They discussed the importance of building online portfolios, and featured benefits to both instructors and students.

Dr. J. Lance Boyd, Wallace State math instructor, presented "Step By Step Factoring of Trinomials," which provided hints for helping students overcome one of the most challenging concepts of Math 098 and Math 100.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu



Representing Wallace State at the 2012 Chancellor's Awards: Pictured L–R: Dr. Vicki Hawsey, Wallace State President; Administrator of the Year nominee Sid Borden, Auxiliary Director; Academic Faculty of the Year nominee Dr. Kathy Buckelew, English instructor; Technical Faculty of the Year Winner Joe Hendrix, industrial electronics instructor. Not pictured: Support Staff of the Year nominee Virginia White, accounts receivable specialist.



Adrian Scott is shown with his award-winning work, "Data Bait Folk Phishing Lure" from the Chancellor's Art Competition, along with his wife, Carrie, and children Blayne and Payton. Photos Contributed

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Community Matters

Area Athlete Spotlight: Keegan Thompson

world?

KT: Some of my classmates joke around asking for my autograph and say things like, "Oh he's going to be famous one day," but for the most part everyone treats me the same as they did before.

JM: We have heard you are receiving fan mail at school and requests for your autograph. How much mail do you think you receive, on average, in a week?

KT: Right now, the fan mail is coming in slow, but once my cards come out, I usually get 2-4 letters a week containing my baseball card for me to sign and asking me to write a short letter back to them.

JM: Is it weird for you when someone comes up and asks for your autograph?

KT: It used to be kinda weird because I always thought people were joking around, but I've gotten used to it and never turn down an autograph, especially for little kids.

JM: You have been named Gatorade Player of the Year, won two gold medals and have hosts of other individual awards to your name. With this being your senior year, what would it mean to you for Cullman to win the 5A State Baseball title?

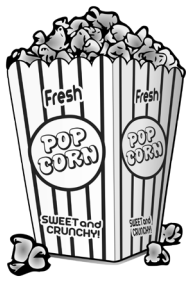
KT: It would mean a lot to go out with a bang and win a State Title. All these accolades are cool and it can't get much better than winning 2 gold medals, but winning a State Title with a group of guys I've grown up with... it's just different. It would be awesome to share that experience with my high school teammates and for them to know how amazing it feels.

As a local sports writer I have had the opportunity to be around Thompson and the Cullman baseball program a good bit. For all of the awards, accolades and attention Thompson gets, I do not think I have ever seen someone care so much about the good of his team and so little about his own stats. To Thompson, baseball seems to truly be a team sport and he had rather go 0-4 and see his team win than hit three home runs in a losing effort.

I urge anyone who is a fan of baseball to come out and see Thompson and the Cullman Bearcats this year. You will not be disappointed in the product the head coach Brent Patterson puts on the field and you just may get a glimpse of a future Major League Baseball star in the making.

Micheal at the Movies: *Rise of the Guardians*

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com



MICHEAL AT THE MOVIES

You voted Community of Cullman, and CullmanSense delivers. After a four week vote, where my inbox was flooded during that time, the movie you chose to have reviewed was *Rise of the Guardian* by almost 62% of the vote.

The Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, and the Sandman are all known for the joy that they bring to children, but together they are the Guardians: a group of holiday heroes that protect the innocence and happiness of children, because it is through the beliefs of the children that allow them to exist.

However, a threat arises that looks to stamp out that belief and focus it on fear: Pitch Black, aka the Boogeyman. He does this by turning dreams into nightmares, putting that fear into children and one by one their belief in the Guardians disappears. So they must recruit a new Guardian, one that brings joy to children, but doesn't have that problem: Jack Frost. It's not that children don't believe in Jack Frost, they just don't credit him for the numerous snow days and winter wonders that he gives to them, and unlike the Guardians, Jack has no memories of his former life.

Then he finds out that his memories can be found in the teeth that the Tooth Fairy collected, but the problem with that is that Pitch has stolen the teeth in an effort to make children forget the Tooth Fairy. So Jack becomes a reluctant hero and teams up with the Guardians to not only stop Pitch, but get his memories back.

The voice acting in this film is excellent and features a wide array of stars, which normally you only see in a Pixar film. Chris Pine (*Star Trek*, *This Means War*) plays Jack Frost and is proving to be a star on the rise. He plays Jack with a youth-like spirit, but you can tell that he has a hero inside of him that is waiting to be let out.

As with all great films, the supporting actors are all excellent in their roles. Hugh Jackman (*X-Men*, *Real Steel*), Alec Baldwin (Television's *30 Rock*, *Beetlejuice*), and Isla Fisher (*Rango*, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*) make up the other Guardians (well the ones that can talk), and Jude Law (*Sherlock Holmes*, *Cold Mountain*) plays the devious Pitch. Children will also love the silent Sandman as well as Santa's helpers (who aren't just elves) and will remind audiences of the minions in *Despicable Me*.

Rise of the Guardians, is based off a series of books, and while I have not read those, if they are anything close to this film then you may want to seek those out as well. As an avid movie-goer, this is the best animated film I have seen this year, which after *Wreck-it Ralph*, I did not know was possible. I highly recommend it and I hope it doesn't get lost in the "bigger" films of the holiday such as *Skyfall*, *The Hobbit*, or *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2*.

Rise of the Guardians

Rated PG for thematic elements and some mildly scary action

Starring: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Jude Law, and Alec Baldwin

Premise Rating: **10**
Execution Rating: **8**
Directing Rating: **10**
Acting Rating: **10**
Entertainment Rating: **8**
Overall: **46/50**

This Week in History Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

November 26th
- 1865 – "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll published in U.S.
- 1934 – German theologian Karl Barth surrenders to Nazis
- 1983 – Heathrow Airport, robbed of 6,800 gold bars worth $38.7 million
- 2008 – Mumbai terrorist attacks kill over 195 people over four days

November 27th
- 1910 – New York's Penn Station opens as world's largest train station
- 1947 – Joe DiMaggio wins his 3rd MVP, beating Ted Williams by 1 vote
- 1965 – 15,000 demonstrate against war in Vietnam in Washington, D.C.

November 28th
- 1871 – Ku Klux Klan trials began in Federal District Court in South Carolina
- 1932 – Groucho Marx performed on radio for first time
- 1968 – John Lennon is fined 150 pounds for unauthorized drug possession
- 1997 – Final episode of "Beavis and Butt-head," on MTV

November 29th
- 1775 – Sir James Jay invents invisible ink
- 1887 – U.S. receives rights to Pearl Harbor, on Oahu, Hawaii
- 1978 – U.N. observes "international day of solidarity with Palestinian people," boycotted by U.S. and about 20 other countries

November 30th
- 1630 – 16,000 inhabitants of Venice died this month of plague
- 1924 – First photo facsimile transmitted across Atlantic by radio from London to New York City
- 1954 - First meteorite known to strike a woman, Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, AL
- 2005 – First human face transplant is performed in France

December 1st
- 1868 – John D. Rockefeller begins anti oil war
- 1913 – Continuous moving assembly line introduced by Ford
- 1955 – Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to move to the back of bus
- 2009 – For the first time in 17 years, North Korea raises the value of its currency

December 2nd
- 1901 – Gillette patents first disposable razor
- 1908 – Pu Yi (Hsuan-T'ung) became China's Last Emperor at age 3
- 1961 – Fidel Castro declares he's a Marxist, and will lead Cuba to Communism
- 1991 – Muslim Shiites release American held in Lebanon hostage Joseph Cicippio



Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, November 26th

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Making Choices - BODYWORKS
A series of FREE sessions on healthy living will be offered. Sessions to include mindful eating to 'reading' a food. Teens to adults are welcome. There are morning classes from 10 until 11:30 a.m. and evening classes from 4 until 5:30 p.m. for your convenience. For further information please call Donna Shanklin at the County Extension Office at 256-737-9386. Classes are scheduled for each Monday at this time. Please attend first meeting or call to pre-register if you are interested in this program.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

GED Classes at Desperation Church
GED learning classes are held each Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Desperation Church. For additional information please contact Ed Oaks at 256-737-9564 or 256-735-6811. These classes are open to the public and everyone who wants to obtain their GED is welcome to participate.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes that are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information!

Tuesday, November 27th

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group for Caregivers Meeting
A new support group to help Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregivers is being organized by Westminster Assisted Living and Memory Care and Omega Hospice. This first meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at Westminster. Monthly meetings will take place each month on the second Tuesday. Additional information is available by calling Suzy Prymmer of Westminster Assisted Living and Memory Care at 256-255-0361.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Anyone interested in ideas for weight loss are invited to attend the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group as they meet each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at Benedictine Manor. Jeanne Latham (256-734-7146) or Ginger McMinn (256-739-3925) will share information concerning their meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend TOPS and receive encouragement from others who are interested in weight loss.

Country Dance at VFW Post 2214
Come join the Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 for their weekly Tuesday night country-dance and enjoy the music and fellowship!! Admission is $5.00 per person and concessions are available each dance night. Everyone is invited to this event.

Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting
An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

Knit 1, Read 2
The Knit 1, Read 2 group meets every Tuesday at the Cullman County Public Library, Main Branch, at 3 p.m. This group welcomes all newcomers.

Ladies' Auxiliary VFW Dance at Post 2214
The Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 invites the community to their weekly Tuesday night dances at the VFW Post building. The country line dance starts at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, with admission only $5.00 per person. Concessions are available and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

North Central Alabama Genealogical Society Meeting
Members of the North Central Alabama Genealogical Society meet every Tuesday in the basement of the Wallace State Community College Library for informal study and to help new researchers. The meeting is from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and those interested are invited to this free gathering. Come learn about your 'roots!' Call Von at 256-739-2843 for more information.

Wednesday, November 28th

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes, which are offered each Wednesday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information
!

Friday, November 30th

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to come to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment tonight!

Saturday, December 1st

Holly Pond 'Christmas Card in the Park'
'Christmas Card in the Park' will be on view the entire month of December as Holly Pond closes out their celebration of their 100th birthday! Come take a drive through and enjoy the signs of the season!

'Decorate for the Holidays' During Farm Kids Club Today
Those attending Farm Kids Club will get a lesson on 'Decorating for the Holidays'. This program is open to all children ages kindergarten and up, and they should be accompanied by an adult. The cost of this seminar is $5.00 per person and the session starts at 9 a.m. Sponsored by the North Alabama Agriplex Board and Peinhardt Living History Farm, everyone is welcome to come and take part in these special monthly events!! To pre-register and for additional information, please call 256-297-1044 or email Cullmanag@gmail.com.

Christmas Winter Wonder Light Show - Sportsmans Lake Park
The annual Christmas Winter Wonder Light Show will be lit up again this year at Sportsmans Lake Park from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. each night through December 23. Santa Claus will be available for visits and carriage rides are also on tap. Fee is $5.00 per car and $10.00 per bus. Come out and enjoy the sparkling light display and get into the holiday spirit right here in Cullman at Sportsmans Lake Park!

VFW Saturday Night Dance
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

Sunday, December 2nd

Christmas Winter Wonder Light Show - Sportsmans Lake Park
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Cullman's Christmas Tour of Homes
It's that time of year again! Christmas is just around the corner! Kick off this wonderful time of year by joining us at this year's Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by West Point First Baptist Church and Haiti's Eden. We have five wonderful homes available to tour and each will be decorated in their own spectacular Christmas style. Tickets are only $10.00 and all proceeds go to the mission projects being done by Haiti's Eden. Grab some friends and join us on Sunday, December 2nd from 12 noon until 5 p.m. for a great afternoon of Christmas fun!

Tickets are available at:

- All Steak Restaurant
- Candle Garden
- Campbell & Company Salon
- Carlton's Italian
- Ed Holcombe Pharmacy
- Fallalary
- From The Heart
- J Drake Salon
- Jan's Fitness Center
- Listerhill Credit Union
- Premier Bank
- Specialty Wellness
- Stonebridge Farms
- VY Nails
- Yates-Chance Christian Book Store

Monday, December 3rd

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Looking Ahead

Pilot Club Pecan Sale for Charity
Pilot members through November and December are selling Alabama Priester Pecans. This year's crop and fresh selections available include, pecan halves, pecan pieces, chocolate covered pecan halves, honey glazed pecan halves, and cinnamon-sugar pecan halves. $12 for 1-pound bag. For more information call Peggy Day, 256-734-6049. Proceeds will benefit local pilot club projects and activities focused on brain related disorders.

North Alabama Agriplex Upcoming Events
December 11 - Pruning, Care, and Maintenance - 6:00 - 8:00
January 5 - Farm Kid's Club: Terrariums - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
January 8 & 10 - Hand Quilting with Raydonna - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
For more information call 256- 297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com

My Love of Sports

I know. People don't understand. They never will. Either you are into sports or you aren't. I guess I put myself in the middle. How can I do that when I just said, "either you are into sports or you aren't?" Well, it's not that hard for me. I like watching baseball, golf is boring, basketball is not that fun to watch, soccer is confusing, and tennis is…um…different. Maybe I'm just not into football.

There are so many things I don't understand about the game. Let me give you my biggest for instance. The players line up, facing each other on the field, then a player hikes the ball to the quarterback. At least that's who I think he is.

Then, all of a sudden the guy with the ball runs right into the biggest pile of guys he can and gets tackled to the ground. What? I thought the idea was to get away from everyone and go make a touchdown…you know….run out in the open. That makes no sense to me.

If I had to pick a team to be for, I would say Alabama. Not just because they are winning a lot this year and won the National Championship last year, but as a kid I picked that team because I liked the colors. Ok. I guess that's the girl in me. So, after that I was for Alabama. And I figure I am living in Alabama, so there. Yes, I know that Auburn is also in Alabama.

Honest truth here…one day in the fall, and this happens to me yearly, I went to Wal-Mart. I was dreading fighting the crowd because I know how it is on a Saturday, but I went shopping for some necessities. I thought it was strange that there weren't many people in the store. It was very noticeable.

What was going on? I went from that store to another store and the same thing was happening. Empty. Another store later and I had decided either the world had ended leaving a few of us here, or something was going on that I had no clue about.

Finally, what saved me from being totally stupid, I had forgotten the one thing I needed that only Wal-Mart had and I had to go back. I went to electronics and BOOM!

There were so many people crowded around the TVs. It was crazy! All these people dressed in orange and blue and the others in crimson and white. Of course! It was the Alabama-Auburn game. What was I thinking?

My son-in-law thinks I'm crazy. He is a big Alabama fan. He even gets sports information feeds on his phone and keeps up with it regularly.

I asked him last night when the Alabama-Auburn game was and he said Saturday. He didn't understand how I didn't know that, much less that I had not really planned on watching it. I tried to explain to him that it was like how he didn't watch "chick flicks".

I went on to say, did he know the latest chick flicks and did he like or was he interested in them. He didn't see the comparison. I told him keeping up with football for me was like him keeping up with chick flicks. He just shook his head.

I have tried to like football. I've tried to be interested, but I just don't get the running into a pile of guys part where you get nowhere.

I told Wesley I already knew who would win just based on how the season has been going for each of them. I mean, I'm NOT stupid. After all, I do hear and see who wins and loses. It's not just him, it's all football people. They don't understand people like me and I don't understand people like them.

Will the Alabama-Auburn game be on TV at our house Saturday? Wesley has to work, but even so, yes. It will probably be on. After all, that is a big rivalry and even though I may not watch much of it, I would like to keep up periodically with who wins. Ralph is with me on this. Maybe that's why we get along so well.

We may be out shopping in this madness. Isn't that kind of the same thing as a guy running into a crowd of people and getting nowhere?

Cornbread Dressing

This is dressing, not stuffing. It's not dry and crumbly like stuffing. It's moist and delicious! Give it a try. It's my Granny's recipe with a little of my tweaking. It's more fun to make with friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 large pone of cornbread
- Bread ends, left over biscuits, day old bread, etc.
- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 bag of celery chopped
- 2 sticks of butter, divided
- 9 eggs (3 boiled, 6 raw)
- 2-3 cans of chicken broth
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste



Instructions:

1. Use one stick of butter to melt and sauté the onions and celery til they are tender.
2. Crumble all the bread in a huge bowl.
3. Put in the garlic, salt and pepper, cream soups and 6 raw eggs.
4. Stir, adding enough chicken broth to make it moist.
5. Dice the 3 boiled eggs and add to the dressing.
6. Melt the other stick of butter and add in with the dressing along with the sautéed onions and celery.
7. Continue adding the chicken broth until it is all moist and well mixed.
8. Spray a large baking dish and put the dressing in to cook.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes.

*You can add chicken to it if you want chicken and dressing.

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Masters of Motown

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - Sounds of the Temptations, the Supremes, and the Jackson 5 filled the auditorium at the Betty Leeth-Haynes Theater on the Wallace State campus last Monday night, as the Masters of Motown concert series came to the community of Cullman.

It was a night of singing and dancing as the theater, which was filled to capacity, got into the act on stage, as both young and old alike were on their feet swaying and clapping to the music.

It was a show brought to the community by the Cullman Community Concert Association, and was the second show in their annual show year calendar.

For nearly sixty five years, the Cullman Community Concert Association has been bringing shows such as the Masters of Motown for the people in the county to come out and enjoy.

"A lot of people still haven't heard of (the Cullman Community Concert Association)," said Kathy Scruggs, who serves as the Association's President. "Our mission is to bring good quality entertainment here to Cullman and I think we're succeeding in that mission."

The Cullman Community Concert Association usually puts on around five concerts and shows throughout their calendar season. People of Cullman and its surrounding areas can buy subscriptions, and one ticket will get a person into all five concerts for the year.

"The concerts are usually scattered out throughout the year from September to April or May the following year," said Scruggs. "Like I said, our board, who are all volunteers, we are all just trying to bring good entertainment to the community."

The Cullman Community Concert Association works with a company called Live Onstage, which is located in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Once a year, on a weekend, they have a big conference and there are people from all over the United States there doing the same things we are," said Scruggs, "and several of our board members will go to this conference for the weekend, and we will actually get to see little snippets of about thirty or forty acts, and from those acts, we have a bio written up on them, what the cost is, and everything, so from those thirty or forty acts we kind of sit down, we look at it, we narrow it down to what we think people in Cullman will enjoy, and we try hard to bring different types of entertainment throughout the year, so not all five concerts are the same. That's kind of how it starts. We see it all in Nashville, and those of us who went, come back and narrow it down, then we have a couple of board meetings so we can discuss it and watch some videos so the ones who didn't get to go to Nashville can see the video clips of what we saw, and that's how we choose our acts for the year."

The five acts are chosen, are then scheduled to perform for the people in the community of Cullman. While the shows are now held at Wallace, because they have grown too big to be held anywhere else, that was not always the case.

"I remember going to community concerts when I was a child," said Scruggs, "and I remember at first we went to community concerts at the Cullman High School auditorium, and I know we've had some at the civic center, (but) this is a great partnership here at Wallace. It's just a fantastic atmosphere. The auditorium is beautiful, and we have never had a performer complain about having to perform in here. So they love performing in here, and it's very comfortable because they redid it not too long ago, which including a massive redo of the auditorium, so it's really a great place."

Kathy Scruggs has made it her mission to promote the Association in any which way she can, and she encourages the people of Cullman to take part.

"We've been trying really hard to get the word out, and I just want them to know that there is unbelievable talent coming to Cullman," said Scruggs.

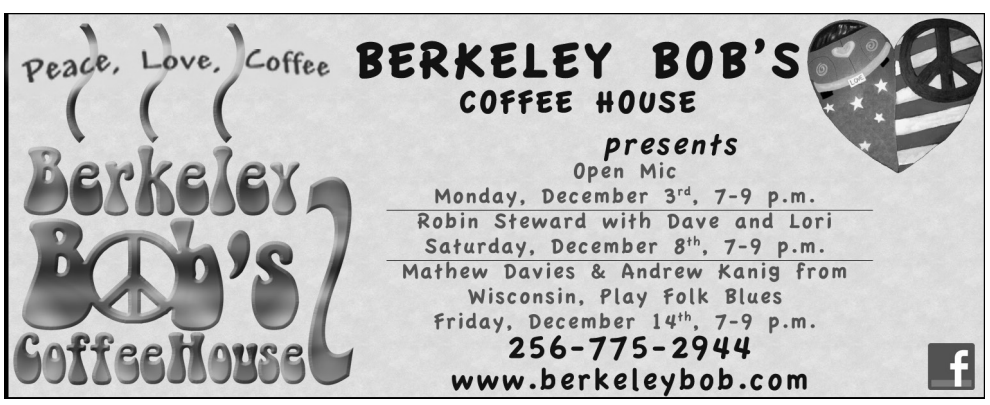
"It is absolutely fantastic, and I don't care what type of music you like, there is going to be something that a person will enjoy. We had some people here tonight that their main focus is classical music, but they loved the Motown sound tonight. They loved it, and we have had people who enjoy that, and country, and rock, and all different types of music, but we'll have something different come in like classical and they'll enjoy it as well, because the acts that we pick are not only great musicians and perform well, but they are very entertaining also. So you're not going to get bored at one of our concerts. Just come and give it a try. I don't know how many people came just tonight, but then they bought subscriptions before they left, because they want to see the rest of the concerts."

The next concert in the series will be held Tuesday, January 15th, 2012, where you can see the comedic styling of performer Robert Post.

If you would like to take part in this event, you can find information for it at the Association's website which is located at www.cullmancommunityconcertassociation.com.

There you can purchase a subscription that will cover the cost of the final performances in the series.

The website accepts all credit cards, or you can contact a board member if you would prefer to pay in check or with cash.



JUST FOR FUN

Micheal's View of the Blu (and DVD) – *Lawless*

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Lawless tells the story of brother moonshiners and is set in Franklin County, Virginia during the depression era. The brothers have a good set-up going as not only are they one of the top moonshiners in the county, but they seem to have a camaraderie with the local police, and this allows them to continue business without interference.

That is until one day a man from Chicago by the name of Mason Wardell shows up with the intentions of letting the moonshiners run their businesses as long as they pay a nominal fee. This doesn't set well with the older brother, Forrest, who refuses to pay up. Naturally this calls Wardell to want to set an example of the brothers.

That is the premise for the movie, *Lawless*, and while it doesn't sound promising, the way it unfolds on screen is amazing as it is one of those films that keep you glued to your seat, which is surprising, because while I love most genres as long as the film is good, films in this genre normally don't grab my fancy. However, *Lawless* does just that.

One reason for *Lawless*' near perfection is the cast. Shia LaBeouf (Transformers, Eagle Eye) continues to prove when he's actually got a script to work with he is serviceable as a leading man, here playing the shy and timid brother, but the one who steals the show is Tom Hardy (The Dark Knight Rises, This Means War) who plays Forrest. It's not surprising though, as Hardy tends to excel in everything he does whether playing a sarcastic forger in Inception or playing a hardened fighter in Warrior, he continues to show a wide range.

The supporting cast also adds a great amount to the film. Actors such as Guy Pearce (*The Hurt Locker*, *Bedtime Stories*), Mia Wosikowski (*Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland*, *The Kids Are All Right*), and Gary Oldman (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *The Fifth Element*) all bring their A game. How Gary Oldman, who is also brilliant in every film he's in, has yet to win an Oscar amazes me.

Lawless is a film that did not receive much fanfare when it was in theaters, but that is no excuse to miss out now. It is definitely one that is worth adding to your collection.

Lawless
Rated R for strong bloody violence, language, and some sexuality/nudity

Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy, Guy Pearce, and Gary Oldman

Premise Rating: **6**
Execution Rating: **10**
Directing Rating: **10**
Acting Rating: **10**
Entertainment Rating: **9**
Overall: **45/50**

Micheal's View of the Blu (and DVD) – *Step Up: Revolution*

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Two guys pull up to a stop on a road. All around them are similar cars filled with young people. They all start honking their horns, apparently as a signal, and then the next thing that happens is about a hundred people get out of their vehicles and perform a flash mob style dance, while all the young people watching are enthralled, and all the older people watching are shaking their head at these hooligans, because apparently old people aren't cool.

That is the very first scene in *Step Up: Revolution*. We learn that the dance was filmed and uploaded to YouTube because the first video to earn so many hits wins a cash prize. However, a movie like this can't exist without a greedy corporate type who wants to crush the young liberals' dream of succeeding, because that's how clichéd movies work.

If you couldn't tell from those opening two paragraphs, I am not a fan of this movie. The first *Step Up*, which launched the dance movie craze, worked since it was first, but it also worked because the movie about dancing had a goal that involved dancing such as a competition. However, now in its fourth installment of the series, instead of it being about young adults wanting to follow their dream, they have evolved into B-Movies at best.

As I said, the first *Step Up* was serviceable and that may have had to do with the actors. Channing Tatum (*21 Jump Street*, *Magic Mike*) and Jenna Dewan (*Take the Lead*, *The Grudge 2*) were two actors who weren't the best dancers, but they could act. *Step Up: Revolution* is just the opposite. Unfortunately for the film, Hollywood can mask bad dancing, but it cannot mask bad acting.

The only professional actor that readers may be familiar with is Peter Gallagher (*American Beauty*, *While You Were Sleeping*), but he seems as if he is just showing up for the paycheck instead of actually acting as if the role is important to him and this does not serve the movie well to have your biggest name not care, because audiences for the most part won't care.

However, there is probably a core group who love this sort of thing. Young, beautiful twenty-somethings, gyrating their hips as the hottest hip-hop artists play over the soundtrack, but casual movie renters can choose to skip this.

Step Up: Revolution
Rated PG-13 for some suggestive dancing and language

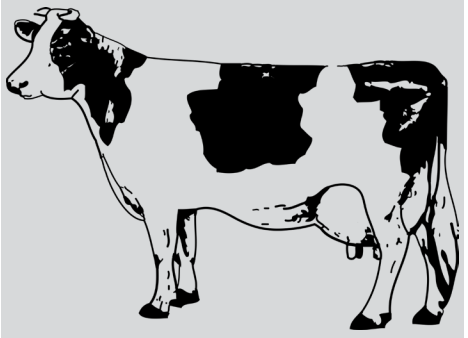
Starring: Peter Gallagher, Kathryn McCormick, Ryan Guzman, and Cleopatra Coleman

Premise Rating: **2**
Execution Rating: **5**
Directing Rating: **7**
Acting Rating: **3**
Entertainment Rating: **3**
Overall: **20/50**

GETTING CORNY

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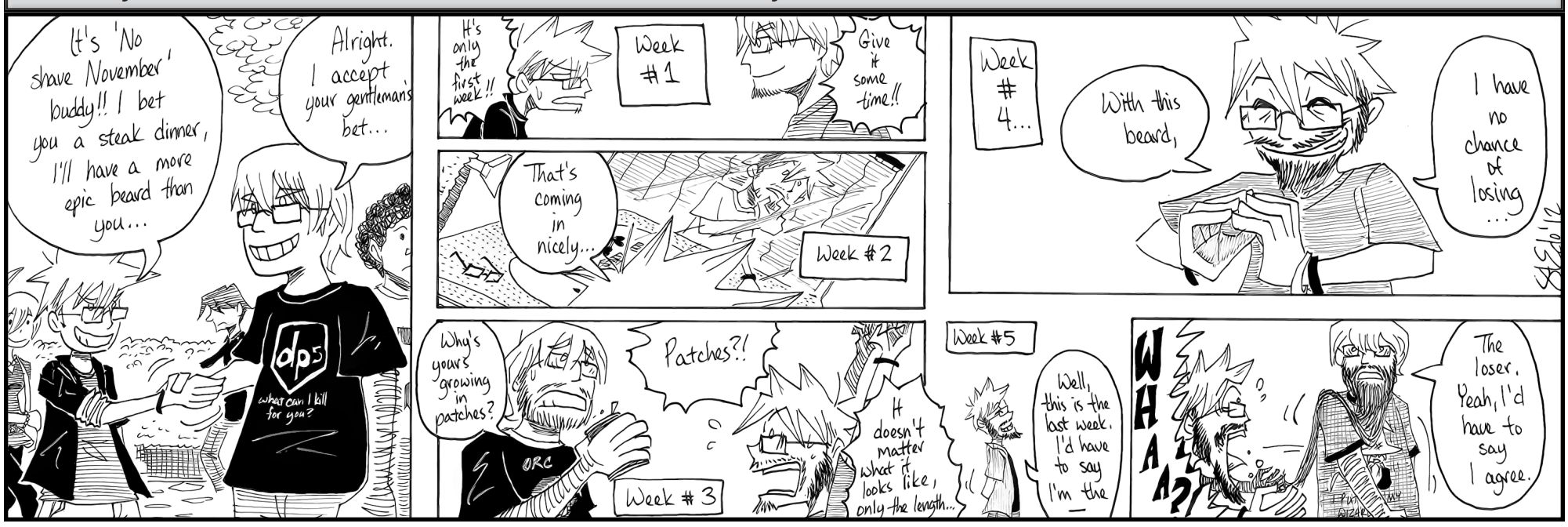
What does a monochrome image and a cow have in common?



Grays/Graze

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Community Matters

Climbing Rocks (Continued from Front)

we picked up garbage and did chores, and that's what a lot of people have come in and told me. Buddy put a lot of love and effort into building the park and there isn't a day that I work that I don't see that. I made him a promise I would do the same."

McCrary recalls that his love for rock climbing started about twenty years ago, when he moved to the area from Atlanta, Georgia.

"I had to get a job and I got a job at Werner's trading company in town and started managing the bicycle shop," said McCrary. "I realized right away how beautiful Alabama was, and I started caving with the Birmingham Grotto and to train for the caves we went to Palisades Park and I saw the rock climbers there. Naturally I wanted to do that and the first time I went I was hooked. I started vertical caving and rock climbing at the same time and for right at twenty years I did both. They say people that do the thrill sports do them just for the rush, but I found with rock climbing that if you learn all of the correct procedures, as it is a dangerous sport, and you are taught them by an instructor that teaches you all of the safe ways to do it, because there are things you don't see that could get you hurt or killed, it's a rush and thrill and an excellent way to get out and enjoy the outdoors. That's what got me hooked. About six years I worked managing the bike shop and rock climbing at Werner's and then started taking people with my own guide service to do rock climbing, backpacking, and some kayaking, and hiking out in the bank head, then it expanded to all of North Alabama. Then I left the bike shop and started working at High Adventure Outfitters which Charlie Buettner owned on the other side of town, and it started to snowball from there. John Hunt, from the park and rec program approached me about doing an outdoor rec program for them and once we found out Buddy was getting too far up in his years to operate, he decided he was going to pass it on to the state, and that is when Mister Hunt approached me about operating and running the place and I said yes."

The events seemed to snowball as they built and built leading McCrary to Hurricane Creek Park.

McCrary says in his time at the Park, he has grown a lot, because it has been quite the experience for him, and he not only runs the climbing part of the park, but also manages the Pro Shop located near the entrance where climbers can purchase the equipment they need, such as backpacks, ropes, and carabineers.

"Running a bike shop and then the outdoor store was on such a large scale," said McCrary, "but I have purposely made this pro shop small and compact, and we only sell what I know will sell, and it has done quite well. Being one of the only climbing and vertical caving shops in the area, we just cater to those two groups in North Alabama and it has worked pretty well for us."

The Park has seen a lot of success, as according to McCrary you can see various people ranging from church groups to scout groups that come to the Park every Saturday to go for a little climbing. McCrary says for climbers in the south, that the fall is probably the best time to go, but does admit that climbing in the south allows you to climb all year round.

"The worst time is probably the summer when it is wet, hot, and sweaty," said McCrary. "That would be the worst time for a climber, but climbers in the south are pretty resilient, we'll climb all the time. Because most people consider summer their vacation time, that is when they are looking for stuff to do and they are out and about. We want people to understand and know that even though it is ballgame time that (the fall) is the best time, because it's beautiful and there are no snakes or bugs, and you're not sweaty. When the rock is nice and dry that is the best time."

Besides rock climbing, the park also features a bike trail, as well as a Wilderness Survival course that McCrary personally teaches himself.

"We try to schedule (the survival course) on Sunday at one o'clock," said McCrary."That's thirty-five dollars a person and that reaches anyone that wants to learn basic wilderness survival skills. We can teach other things, but normally we don't teach about snow or dessert, it's just for what the average person in North Alabama would encounter. If you are the type person that likes to go hunting a lot, and you have children, I personally feel children should know basic survival skills because you will never know if when camping they won't get separated or lost, and they will be learning how to use a knife, and how to make shelter, so they have to be accompanied by an adult."

If you would like to come to Hurricane Creek Park, McCrary says it has courses, not just for the expert climbers, but also beginners.

"My first time rock climbing course is twenty-five dollars," said McCrary, "and we provide all of the equipment and ropes. We start out at a spot called the slab, which is the easiest climb we have. It is on a beginner level, and fear is the only thing that keeps you from going up. Once you do that you can keep progressing, and we have some very difficult climbs, but it's just up to you as to how far you want to go."

If you would like to set up a climbing appointment, you can contact McCrary at Hurricane Creek Park at 256-734-2125.

Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center Receives a Facelift

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center opened its doors on April 5th, 2009 and has been a tremendous success in the community.

"We have surpassed all goals and expectations as far as memberships go," said Cameron Everett, who is the Facility Director at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center. Everett believes the community of Cullman was the perfect location for the Facility to open its doors.

"I believe it's because of where Cullman is essentially located it draws more population than what Birmingham draws, or what Huntsville draws, being that we're in the middle of Huntsville and Birmingham because in a fifty mile radius we pull in one million people," said Everett. "That doesn't necessarily mean they all come to Cullman, but they are centrally located close enough to Cullman that they could come."

This past weekend, the Center closed its doors for the first time as they prepared new renovations for the Center. Everett said the Center chose to close the Facility for the weekend, as opposed to just closing one section at a time, because he was confident in his team to get the renovations done in the time allotted.

"Since we have been open for three and a half years, it was kind of time to make sure things are cleaned up, fixed, improved, and that sort of thing," said Everett. "We have had a very successful history and we have been very busy as out of the fourteen thousand plus population of Cullman over fifteen thousand are members at our center, so we get a lot of traffic and it's kind of time to do right by our members, improve some things, and make it clean."

When the doors open back up, the Center will feature such things as new televisions, a chalk wall for children to draw on, as well as completely redone floors and walls.

"Paint fades over the years on a lot on things such as railings, floors, and walls, and in fitness we do a lot of activities as far as bouncing medicine balls against the wall to doing certain squat activities and so we just had to do some repainting of the walls, well not really had to, but it's just time to do it and get it done," said Everett.

"We wanted to make sure we retiled our bathrooms, because that was planned to do, but we've just been so busy when we opened and we got so much activity, which is outstanding, but we just never got around to doing it because we weren't able to close down. We got a pool area that had to be cleaned, repainted, and new surfaces installed. Carpets need to be cleaned in the fitness area, because of all of the people working out in there. A lot of things like that."

With the renovations that are being done, the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center welcomes the people in the community who haven't had a chance to experience it to come check it out as there is something everyone can enjoy.

"In addition to catering to parties in our double room in our business center we have a conference room, and we have, in my mind we have, the best of the best basketball gymnasiums that anyone can offer which has a brand new surface to the floor as of this weekend and that will be nice," said Everett. "We have a state of the art fitness facility with several excellent instructors and trainers, as well as machinery that people can use. In addition to that, we have what is our crown jewel, which is our natatorium, which we have a spinning therapy pool with rain feature, and we have a fifteen person hot tub, and a competition pool with diving boards. All of that is open right now, and in the summer we add the water park feature outside of course, with another competition pool and water slides, and that sort of thing. We will be adding more to that hopefully in the future."

The Center will also feature new items in the activity center such as a big screen television and an Xbox 360 with a Kinect system.

In addition, the Center also hosts events such as the Monster Dash, and they have even more that they hope the community will come out and take part in.

"We have the Frosty 5k coming up and that will be our next biggest event," said Everett. "It's always been a popular event as far as I know, which I am new to the community, but just from what I heard, that's going to be our next big event coming up."

If you would like information on the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center you can contact them at 256-775-7946.

A CHS Christmas Carol (Continued from Front)

Scrooge and the Spirits of Christmas. We will also have live set changes, (as) while the audience enjoys the choir the scene behind them changes."

The students and their crew have been rehearsing for about six weeks with the actors practicing with Mr. Lee while Mr. Agnew has been rehearsing separately with all three of his choirs, which include the Chamber Choir, Girls' Choir, and the SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) Concert Choir, learning the dialogue, lyrics, and especially the dances.

"As you have probably gathered, there are multiple musical numbers, about fourteen live Christmas Carols," says Lee.

"There isn't choreography per se, not traditional dance numbers, but Mr. Agnew has worked very hard on staging and pageantry. During the show the choir will enter from unexpected areas, walk through the audience while singing and really bring the audience into the play."

If you have seen a recent play at Cullman, you may recognize some of the faces on stage, as they return to be a part of this grand production.

"Our Prince Charming from last years' Cinderella, Jackson Hogan, will play Scrooge," said Mr. Lee. "Jackson is a Senior but only became a member of the Fine Arts department last year. He is a tremendous talent. He has tirelessly worked on perfecting his unique accent for Scrooge. We'll often see him roaming the halls with his cane in character even when rehearsals are over. He also has a tremendous singing voice as a member of the Chamber choir and is one of the few CHS singers to make it to All State Choir. Unfortunately, Scrooge doesn't have a song to sing solo, but I bet the audience will hear his voice before the show is over."

"Julia Neal (Senior), Antonio Cipollari (Senior), and Clifford Emond (Senior) are all long time members of CHS Theatre and are features as our Ghosts. A newcomer to CHS Theatre, Peyton Wilhite (Junior) is playing the Ghost of Jacob Marley. His presence and voice on stage is literally haunting. The unique thing about this show is that it gives some of our less musical actors a chance to shine. Great actors like Jay Terry (Junior) and Dara Moss (Senior), who play Mr. and Mrs. Cratchit, are featured in "The Christmas Carol"; while our best singers Payton Palmer (Junior), Eli Hart (Senior), and Ale' Kilgo (Sophomore) get to be featured as actors and singers."

Of course, dealing with a large cast is not easy, and Mr. Lee knows this.

"Trying to organize all of our actors, choir members, technical effects, and props is not a job for one person, said Lee."

"This year we have strategically divided up the Stage Manager roles. Noah Carpenter (Junior) leads our shifting crew responsible for moving sets quickly and effectively. Nikki Clines (Junior) manages curtains as well as choirs and coordinating with Mr. Agnew on Music. Andrew Self (Senior) is our technical stage manager; he acts as my direct liaison backstage. Keillian Carpenter (Junior) is our prop manager as well as our lead Art Designer. He makes sure all of the sets looks as richly detailed as possible. Brett Bates (Senior) is our tech director and number one sound guy."

Together the sixty plus cast, the handful of stagehands, and the two directors will be bringing you one exciting musical extravaganza and they invite you, the community of Cullman, to come and be a part of it.

Showtimes for "A Christmas Carol" are Friday, November 30th and Friday, December, 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the door of the Cullman High School auditorium. Tickets are five dollars for adults and three dollars for children and students.

Mr. Lee also invites you to check out the CHS Drama Facebook page and look for a link to the CHS Drama Club Page to check out exclusives such as behind the scenes photos.