Local College Consulter Recognized Nationally – p. 2

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Cullman's Monday Newspaper

CULLMANSENSE

$0.50 Community Matters $0.50

Special Election Called–2

Deep Dish Pizza–10

Oden takes seat at PSC–2

Community Calendar–9







A Historical Marking

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Former Gov. Guy Hunt honored Sunday in hometown of Holly Pond

HOLLY POND – It was a beautiful afternoon Sunday just outside the Guy Hunt Library and Museum as the Holly Pond historical society gathered to unveil a historical marker to honor the late Alabama governor, and Holly Pond resident, Guy Hunt.

"It's something that doesn't happen often, but I'm glad it's happening in Holly Pond," said Holly Pond Mayor, Herman Nail. "This is something we can all be proud of."

Mayor Nail called Governor Guy Hunt an ambassador to Holly Pond, and thought the hard work put into getting a historical marker put in place for his memory was important.

"Dan and Brenda have worked diligently getting records and history collects," said Mayor Nail.

The Mayor introduced two of Guy Hunt's four children, Sherrie Williams and Keith Hunt, who thanked the crowd and the historical society for putting on such an event as well as gave a few kind words about their father.

"Dad would never talk bad about anyone," said Sherrie Williams on the former governor. "He was a humble man who would have been honored to know the town cares for him this much."

See Marking, Page 12



Former Gov. Guy Hunt's daughter Sherrie Williams looks on the newly dedicated marker in her father's honor following a brief ceremony outside the Guy Hunt Library and Museum in his hometown of Holly Pond on Sunday.

Photos by Noah Chandler

Area Athlete Spotlight : Lance Stanley

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

This installment of the Area Athlete Spotlight heads to Vinemont for the first time this year to profile Sophomore Lance Stanley. This is Stanley's first year on the varsity squad and he is making the most of it.

He is an excellent three point shooter and he can take the ball to the hoop as well. He is averaging 10.8 points a game but also spreads the ball around to his teammates. Stanley took time out of his first year learning the ropes on varsity to answer these questions or Spotlight.

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers a little about yourself?

Lance Stanley: My name is Lance Stanley. I am 16 years old and in the 10th grade at Vinemont High School. I have played basketball for 8 years.

JM: What sports do you play?

LS: I play two sports at Vinemont. Basketball and baseball.

JM: Which sport is your favorite? Why?

LS: Basketball is my favorite because I feel that I am better at that sport.

JM: Who got you into playing basketball?

LS: My dad got me into basketball.

JM: Who is your biggest influence on the court? Why?

LS: Lebron James is my biggest influence on the court because he is a proven winner, never backs down, and he is the leader of his team.

See Stanley, Page 11

Weekly Basketball Wrap-Up

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

This week saw six area teams, four boys and two girls, sitting in the top 10 of their classes and some great all around hoop action. Here is a rundown of the games.

Holly Pond vs. Good Hope
By: Josh McBrayer

Girls Varsity

In one of the most highly anticipated girls' match-ups of the year, the Lady Raiders of Good Hope (4-9) took to the road to take on the Holly Pond Lady Broncos (7-1). Both teams are regular fixtures and always in the mix of things in the Cullman County basketball scene. Coach Mike Oldacre from Good Hope and coach Scott Adams from Holly Pond always have their girls ready to play and this contest was no exception.

Both teams virtually mirrored each other on offense and defense with the only difference being a three-point bucket that was drilled by Darcie Wilson for the first points of the game. At the end of one, the score was 9-6 in favor of the Lady Raiders.

The Lady Broncos opened the second on a 13-3 run to turn a three point deficit into a seven point lead, thanks to some great outside shooting. This forced a Lady Raider time-out to try and stop the Holly Pond momentum. The break did not slow down the Lady Broncos as they finished the quarter on a 7-2 run to extend their lead to 13 and took a 27-14 score to the half.

The second half started just like the first, with a three-point basket by Wilson. Also, just like the first, the action was almost identical. Good Hope barley edged Holly Pond nine to eight and headed to the final stanza down 35-23.

See Basketball, Page 4

Realistic Simulations at Cullman Rotary Club p. 10

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In Brief

WSCC 20th Anniversary Open House Celebrated

By: Russell Moore

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College's Wellness Center employees hosted its 20th anniversary open house celebration on Friday, which included a photo slide show on the facility's history.

The Wallace State Wellness Center is a focal point on campus in 2012-13 as the college celebrates a Year of the Healthy Campus. Wallace State President Vicki Hawsey has encouraged employees to make health and fitness a priority. "Studies have long shown that healthy employees are more productive employees, so besides wanting our Wallace State family to be healthy because we care about each other's wellbeing, it also makes sense from a sound management perspective. Healthy employees miss fewer work days and set good examples for our students on a variety of levels," she said.

The Wellness Center has served Wallace State students and the community since its inception in 1992, when it opened in conjunction with Tom Drake Coliseum. The Wellness Center upgraded four years later, adding a 7,000 foot room full of weight training and cardio training and basketball and volleyball courts.

During the last 20 years, the multi-purpose facility has been the home of all Wallace State physical education courses and has provided students an opportunity to seek degrees in courses for personal benefit and enrichment, while striving to attain a lifestyle of physical fitness and wellness.

"When the Wellness Center opened in 1992, Dr. (James) Bailey wanted it to be a facility that students or citizens from the community could come in and utilize to stay well and stay fit. He wanted the senior adult community to utilize it and people from business and industry to have access to it. His goal was also to reach out to people with heart problems or chronic diseases and for them to come in and be as well as they could be with their heart condition or physical capabilities," said Cynthia Newman, director of the Wallace State Wellness Center.

Meanwhile, Wallace State athletics has benefitted from the facility. It's functioned as the practice location for the cheerleaders, has classrooms that serve as the study hall for the athletes, features additional courts to conduct practice, and has been essential in aiding teams when they host summer camps.

Along with the weight room and courts, the Wellness Center offers a Heart Link program to provide strategies to reduce the risk factors for heart disease and restore the health of those diagnosed with heart disease. The physical education courses offered in the building include weight training, general conditioning, aerobics, jogging/walking, scuba diving, and slimnastics along with health education and sports medicine classes.

All-in-all, the Wellness Center is synonymous with all aspects of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle.

"I have a few students that have been here for many years, and I guess the most rewarding part is seeing the fact that they got involved in the program and it's kept them healthy. I can see the reward that they reap from working out regularly and staying healthy. They stay out of the hospital and nursing home and prolong their life," Newman said. "Senior adults tell me if they had not been able to come to the Wellness Center and get help, they wouldn't be alive today. That is the rewarding part. It keeps them moving, keeps them living and keeps them out of the hospital."

On most weekday mornings the Wellness Center is filled with occupants working out, ranging from students to senior citizens from the community.

"When I became a student here, one of my goals was to get in shape by working out. The Wellness Center is such a nice place. I had seen pictures on the Internet, but when I got here it was much better than I imagined," said Wallace State sophomore Joshua Green, 26, who estimates he works out 10 hours a week on campus. "It's also a great outlet for me to come here and get away from studying and all other things that may stress me out."

Each semester, a large contingent of senior citizens gathers three times a week at the Wellness Center to exercise and socialize, assembling to participate in workouts and volleyball games.

"They are a core of the program and a lot like family. When we started 20 years ago we didn't really think about there being such a need for seniors to come in, but as more came to the facility they asked about the opportunities available. They were assertive about it and wanted an activity that they could join and work out together with. We formed a class and word spread in the community," Newman said. "It grew from four to six people and then it kept growing and growing, and now we have from 120 to 180 enrolled in the program each semester."

The senior citizens always have glowing confirmations regarding the significant role the Wellness Center plays in their lives.

"Six weeks ago I fell and hurt my hip badly and was sure I broke it. My son carried me to get an X-ray and the doctor said my bones were in good shape. My doctor asked how I was such in good shape and I told him because I've been attending the Wallace State Wellness Center since 1997, working out and playing volleyball three times a week. He told me to keep doing what I'm doing," said Wanda Carr of Holly Pond.

Added Gradon Chandler, 84: "I had a robotic heart procedure done because of a leak near my heart, but after a few check-ups my doctor said I had the arteries and heart of a 5 year old, and I take no prescription drugs. All I do now is check in with my family doctor once a year. My doctor said the reason I've been in such good condition is because I'm in this program right here at Wallace State. I've been all over the country, living in different states, and this is the best program I've ever been a part of."

"I just had a kidney removed and was in the hospital overnight, and the doctor asked how I was doing so well. I told him I exercise three times a week at Wallace State," said Casey Thomas, 82. "The activities we participate in here at the Wellness Center are some of the best things that have ever happened to me. I think it should be required that all old people have to exercise. There would be a lot less people in the nursing home."

Wallace State students gain access to the Wellness Center when they register for physical education classes.

Wellness Center registration fees for the general public are $80 per semester for those under 55. Senior citizens can sign up to use the facility for $34 per semester.

The Wellness Center is open Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 7-11 a.m.

For more information call 256-352-8346 or visit wallacestate.edu.

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Gov. Bentley Calls Special Election for House District 11

From the Desk of

Governor Bentley

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Tuesday announced the timeline for a special election to fill the vacant District 11 seat in the Alabama House of Representatives.

The District 11 seat was previously held by Representative Jeremy Oden, who Governor Bentley appointed to serve on the Alabama Public Service Commission.

District 11 covers portions of Cullman, Blount and Morgan Counties. According to the election timeline finalized Tuesday:

• A Special Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Or, in the event that a Special Primary Election is not necessary, because the major parties have only one candidate, the Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

• If necessary because of one candidate not receiving a majority of the votes in the Special Primary Election, a Special Primary Runoff Election will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

• If a Special Primary Runoff Election is not necessary because one candidate receives a majority of the votes in the Special Primary Election, the Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

• If a Special Primary Runoff Election is required, the Special General Election will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

"This election timeline was designed to have a representative in place for District 11 as soon as possible," Governor Bentley said. "The timeline gives candidates time to qualify, it allows voters time to learn about candidates, and it allows time for those who are unable to vote in-person to arrange to vote by absentee ballot."

Candidates qualifying with major political parties must do so by Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. The two major political parties are to certify their qualified candidates to the Secretary of State as soon as possible after the qualification deadline but by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21, 2012.

All third-party candidates, independent candidates, and/or minor party candidates seeking ballot access are advised that their deadline for filing the appropriate notification, petitions, or supporting paperwork with the Secretary of State is Friday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m.

Oden takes seat at PSC

By: Noah Chandler

noahchandler@cullmansense.com

MONTGOMERY – Eva resident and former State Representative Jeremy Oden took to his new role on the Public Safety Commission Tuesday with great reception from his fellow commissioners, family, friends, and many others in attendance during the newly shaped commission meeting.

"I'm a bit nervous to be perfectly honest," Oden said while preparing for the meeting. "I am not up to speed on most of the issues being discussed [today] so I'll be keeping quiet for the most part."

Oden spent 14 years serving the residents in his district, beginning in 1998. He was appointed to the PSC by Gov. Robert Bentley filling the seat left vacated by newly elected PSC President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh.

"It has been an honor to serve as a representative and I am honored to have the support of Gov. Bentley," he said.

"I will do my best to serve the commission to fullest of my abilities."

Cavanaugh said is eager to work with Oden. She said the mindset at the PSC has changed greatly, putting fiscal responsibility above all.

"I believe Jeremy will make a wonderful addition to the commission. He seems to understand the importance of being fiscally responsible," said Cavanaugh.

"We [commission] are making some changes and I believe Jeremy will be able to help us make these transitions."

One point of interest to Cavanaugh was the expense to Alabama taxpayers, which is directly connected to the amount of vehicles which were being used by the PSC.

Entering into his second week on the commission, Oden is looking forward to diving head first into the work.

"I just want to be brought up to speed so I can roll up my sleeves and get to work," he said. "I'm just ready to make my contribution."

For more on this story, including a short video of Oden's speech at his first PSC meeting, visit www.cullmansense.com.

The Teacher Supply Ribbon Cutting

By: Erika Mead

Chamber of Commerce Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting for The Teacher Supply on November 27th. The Teacher Supply is a store that provides teachers, parents, students, and the community a local place to buy quality educational teaching supplies, educational toys, and strong curriculum resources.

The owner, Leah Hoffpauir, has been a certified teacher for almost twelve years. Together with her husband Russell and two children, Caty and Isaac, they are anticipating great things for and from The Teacher Supply! More information, visit them at 812 9th Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055 or call them at 256-734-6029.

Local college consulter recognized nationally

Michael Howard

Contributor

CULLMAN – Cullman-based N2College Consulting has been notified this week of their inclusion on the Consideration List for the 2013 cycle of The Dell Foundation's "Approved College Readiness/College Access Programs" nationally.

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation sponsors the Dell Scholars Program annually, and all winners of the award must participate in a Dell Foundation Approved College Readiness/College Access Program in their community as an eligibility pre-requisite to being selected for the $20,000 award.

Companies & organizations on the 2012 Dell Readiness Program Foundation Approved Program List include Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math & Science, as well as other programs and educational entrepreneurship companies nationally representing for-profit, non-profit, public, and charter school network organizations in cities such as Philadelphia, Houston, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

N2College is a comprehensive college access & scholarship acquisition consulting company serving families of PreK-12th grade college-bound students in all (50) states since 2005, and offering the exclusive use of the N2C "$cholar$hip Jump$tart" series of PreK-12th grade Guided Preparation E-Programs that were developed by N2C President & Founder, Jill G. Howell,M.A.Ed., of Cullman.

The program has been in development since 1999.

No(ah)-It-All: : The End of the World...(da-da-dumb)

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

The end of the world is near! We only have two weeks left to live so what are we going to do? I mean with the Mayan calendar ending, the Samarian text pointing to space beings returning to earth to dominate the human race, and all the cataclysmic events occurring across the globe I just don't know how to spend my last two weeks.

Should I take that trip that's been pushed off for several years or perhaps I should stockpile firearms, ready-to-eat meals, and gallons upon gallons of sterilized water? Yeah, I'll bury a few retired school buses with each one serving a different function, and recruit a small militia to help fend off the bands of marauding scoundrels.

Okay, this nonsensical farce cannot continue on because these are not my beliefs. However, many friends from across the globe are clamoring, each trying to pinpoint the exact time, day, and method of our impending doom so they can be properly prepared for destruction.

While a believer in God, this guy does not believe in predictions, especially those interpreted by individuals who are simply assuming – or guessing – what these calendars, texts, or cave drawings mean.

As a youngster, the church our family attended often spent time discussing the end of the world, which in the Christian faith is the rise of the antichrist before the second coming of Christ.

This type of thought process was ingrained in the younger version of yours truly but as my mental ability grew with age, logic and reason began to take hold.

As with most precocious gents, I too questioned the faith which instead of being self-discovered was passed along like a family heirloom.

With a hard heart, a sense of wisdom, and anger for our family's current conundrum, I began to rage out against the God whom just a few weeks earlier was professed to be my only salvation.

I set out to disprove God, the Christian faith, and basically anything associated with that particular line of thinking.

No, not an atheist nor agnostic, but rather an angry hurt child acting out against the one source which – at the time with that thought process – was the source of all of my problems.

See, my world was ending way back when but everyone else was walking around as if life could not be any better.

My hatred for God quickly dissipated over a few months span as I was put to task multiple times by theologians who had much more to go on than blind hate.

Even though hate drove me, logic spoke louder, resulting in my throwing down of self in regards to the war against the Lord. The many discussions, debates, hateful bantering, and sessions with those true believers who sat peacefully, mercifully beside me while the rage was at its peak were in fact just several of the proving grounds in the development of faith.

Now, I understand some of this may make some of you uncomfortable. Some of you may elect to throw this down, curse my name, and not buy another copy but I ask why would you rage against an opinion?

See that's something I had to learn back then because I was raging against individuals' opinions.

From my best recollection someone's opinion has never damaged me in any detrimental way. The typical worst case scenario is the resulting opinion forces me to reevaluate the convictions which I claim are worth dying for. So how can that be bad?

While some may believe testing your convictions is not a wise thing to do, I believe it is the only way to build a strong foundation of faith, no matter your religion.

Oh yeah, we're getting deep now my friends because I'm one of those crazy people who believes a person has the right to freely choose any religion they feel comfortable with even if it conflicts with my beliefs.

Wow! That felt pretty good to put out there, so here is some more.

So what does this have to do with the end of the world? Well, most of my friends – a mixture of religious backgrounds – have been asking what my opinion is on this topic.

As flattering as it is to have so many ask questions in regard to the single biggest event in the history of earth the answer generally remains, "Your guess is as good as mine."

However, there are a few select individuals who share similar philosophies directly associated with this topic. We banter, argue, and speak as if we understand true logic but never stray from faith.

The reason for this is to explore all boundaries of our chosen faith in order to shore up the statements we hear so many causally toss around, statements such as "I'll die for God", simply because we want to be prepared.

So while many may be stockpiling weapon caches, food, cigarettes, or whatever idol fills the void, the few whom I know well will continue to test our faith so we can be prepared in our own way.

Remember everyone, it's not about the trip, it's about the destination!

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Micheal Bryant News/Sports michealbryant@ cullmansense.com	Noah Chandler Publisher noahchandler@ cullmansense.com	Lindsey Dossey Contributor health@ cullmansense.com
Annette Harris Columnist annetteharris@ cullmansense.com	Kristen Holmes Contributor education@ cullmansense.com	Dustin Isom Editor dustinisom@ cullmansense.com
Kassey Laney Advertising klaney@ cullmansense.com	Josh McBrayer Sports Editor joshmcbrayer@ cullmansense.com	Jessica Norrell Photographer jessicanorrell@ cullmansense.com
Subscriptions thecullmanpaper. com	News Tips & Comments 256-297-1TIP	Fax 256-261-2439
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CullmanSense is located at 101 1st Avenue Northeast Cullman, Alabama 35055
For past issues, e-mail cullmansense@cullmansense.com or call 256-297-1847

Obituaries must be sent from the funeral home either by e-mail or fax.
This online service is free, just request it from your funeral home of choice.

From the Mouth of Micheal – Communicate People!

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Last week Depot Park held its annual Christmas Tree Lighting. There were people crowding the area full of smiles as the Wallace State Show Choir, along with other singing groups from local churches, were there to grace them with their beautiful voices. Children ran along, laughing and playing, as they waited to get their picture taken with Santa. It was a joyous night.

Wait. What is that you say? It didn't happen? But I saw it on various Facebook pages and local websites advertising that it was going to start at 5:30 PM and run for an hour. Are you saying we were lied to? Surely you jest. I don't believe it. Why would people lie? Why, if an event of such magnitude was going to be cancelled, wouldn't someone let us know? Are you telling me that someone would be so lazy that they wouldn't let people, especially a news organization that is going to cover the event and give them free press, know that it is cancelled?

(Note: If you have the answers to any of these questions, please let me know. I know you don't write for a paper yourself, thus you can't print a rebuttal column, but I have an e-mail, feel free to use it).

See, I have many pet peeves, and I assure you if you read this publication on a weekly basis, you will hear about them, but one of those pet peeves is people who do not inform others on important matters. It happens all the time. For example, one time my mother was supposed to call a company for me. I had reminded her the night before and she ensured me that she knew, she had the number, and she would call first thing in the morning. So what happens when I call her the next afternoon? She kindly lets me know, as if it was not a big deal, that something came up and she had to go do it instead.

Now, I know what you are saying. "Micheal, if something important she had to do occurred, you can't possibly hold that against her," and to that I would say you were right, that is if it was important, but guess what this big catastrophic event was, this act of God that kept her from doing as she promised. Go on, guess. I'll give you a few moments. In fact I am humming the Jeopardy theme song right now so by the time I finish I will ask you what your answer is. Okay, I'm almost through humming. What is your answer? You don't know? Well here it is. Are you ready for it?

ONE OF HER FRIENDS ASKED HER TO GO TO LUNCH!

Yes, ladies and gentlemen. That was it. She could not call, or at least call me to let me know she wouldn't be able to, because of lunch. Again, before you say "yeah, but maybe she was starving." No, that was not the case. After my anger subsided I asked her, what she had for lunch (well not right away, later on in the conversation). Her answer: I didn't eat, I just went and talked. She went and talked? HEY MOM, YOU COULD HAVE STAYED AT HOME AND TALKED. THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO DO. TALK!

(Note: Before you e-mail me telling me I need to respect my mother and not yell at her, please be advised that I am not yelling. She has bad eyesight and rarely wears her glasses (another pet peeve for another column) so I am simply typing in caps because I love her enough and want her to read it. I LOVE YOU, MOM!

I use that personal life example to reiterate the point I am so eloquently trying to make. Please, if you tell someone of an event, or promise them you will do something, and something comes up that you cannot do it, take five seconds to let them know so they don't waste their time. It's that simple: communicate people. I mean, it's not like everyone else has nothing at all going on that they can just waste gas driving around the city to places that have nothing happening, because they do. Case in point: football was on that night.

Maybe that's what really ticks me off, it's not the fact that the event was cancelled it was the fact that it pulled me away from watching Thursday night football. Nope, I take that back. That was not it at all. It was the fact that people don't communicate. And this is just one example.

There are so many more that I could go into. Here's another one… no, I better not. Because if I do another one, then more will come to mind and you people would be having to hear every single one of them. Well not hear, read. Wait, you are reading this right. No, don't answer that. No, do answer that. Have some guts and tell me something.

And that is the end of my rant, but speaking of pet peeves, what are yours? You know what to do: (Warning: doing this for my mother. LOVE YOU, MOM!) E-MAIL ME IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING!

SPORTS

CullmanSense's Weekly Basketball Wrap-Up (Continued from Front)

The Lady Broncos and Lady Raiders, once again, played to almost even but the 21-5 lopsided quarter put up by Holly Pond was too much for Good Hope to overcome.

The Lady Broncos improved to 8-1 while the Lady Raiders fell to 4-10

Leading the Lady Broncos was Taylor Terry. She put up 16 points. Following her was Lexi Malone with 12.

The Lady Raiders were led by Kayla Tillman with 13. Darcie Wilson and Savannah Findley followed with six each.

Boys Varsity

Following an impressive performance by their female counterparts, the Holly Pond guys looked to do the same. They did exactly that, outscoring the Good Hope Raiders (1-8) 20-11 including a rim-rocking, one-handed duck by Austin Smith that excited the home crowd.

The Broncos extended their lead to 24 by outscoring the Raiders 19-4 in the second. The score stood at 39-15 at the half. Holly Pond held Good Hope scoreless in the third quarter, sealing a Broncos win.

Holly Pond improves to 6-2 while Good Hope drops to 1-9.

Leading the scoring onslaught for Holly Pond was Colby Adams with 13. Gunter Morris, and Austin Smith with 10 each.

Eli Marty and Zack Sloan were the leaders for Good Hope. They both had five.

Cullman vs. Brewer
By: Johnny Thornton

Boys Varsity

Getting balanced scoring by the starting lineup and some good production from the bench, the Cullman Bearcats toppled the Brewer Patriots 50-30 Tuesday night on the hardwood.

Cullman improved to 5-2 on the season with its second consecutive victory and swept the season series from its rival out of Morgan County.

The starting lineup of Lawson Schaffer, Houston Turner, Troy Forrest, Keaton Dean, and Lane Donaldson accounted for 33 points on the night.

Schaffer was the only double digit scorer for coach Bobby Meyer with 10 points but had plenty of assistance as Turner scored nine and Forrest accounted for eight on close range field goals.

Jason McAfee came off the bench to spark a 13-2 Cullman run in the second period that extended the lead to 25-7. He knocked down back-to-back shots from 3-point range with Cullman in control by the time game went to halftime, leading 28-13.

The Bearcats ran the advantage to over 20 points during the third stanza, carrying a 42-24 lead into the final eight minutes of play.

Cullman ran into scoring problems in the final period, not getting a shot to go down until 2:00 remained on the clock when Donaldson landed a trey from the top of the key. That pushed the lead from 14 points to a 17-point cushion at 46-29.

The Bearcat defense was solid for the second straight game. They held Brewer to single digit scoring in the first, second and fourth period. No one for the Patriots scored better than five points, a credit for tough defense displayed for 32 minutes by Cullman.

Supporting the 10 points by Schaffer, nine from Turner and eight by Forrest was McAfee with seven, Donaldson six, Auston Neal and Seth Swalve three and JW Shabel one.

Cullman opens up its schedule in 5A, Area 14 on Friday night when East Limestone pays a visit to the Bearcat campus.

Girls Varsity

Defending 5A state champion Brewer was off to an 8-0 lead after the opening 2:00 of the game. Cullman closed to 10-4 before it was a 15-8 Brewer advantage following the first period.

A 21-point second period sent the Lady Patriots to a 36-16 halftime lead. Brewer never slowed down the potent attack, putting 26 on the board in the third and increased the margin to 62-27.

The Lady Bearcats kept playing hard, winning the fourth quarter scoring by a margin of 15-8.

Baylee Johnson was tops for the Lady Bearcats with 15 points, Blair Nall scored eight, Morgan Smith had five, Emily Tucker, Oakleigh, White, and Skinner tossed in four apiece, Hayden Short three and Bell one.

Brewer is now 9-0 with last year's Final Four MVP, center Riley Northway, leading the Lady Patriots with 23 points. Point guard Reagan Harvel scored nine and forward Savanna Flack added eight.

St. Bernard vs. West End
By: Josh McBrayer

Girls Varsity

The St Bernard Lady Saints (4-3) played the West End Lady Patriots (2-4) to a stalemate through 16 minutes of action. The difference in the game was foul trouble. The post is a big part of the Lady Saints' offense but their go to girl inside, Kathrine Gamble got charged with some early fouls and took three to her with the locker room.

Around a minute into the third quarter Gamble fouled out and at the same time the press started to put pressure on the Lady Saints. This is where the West End Lady Patriots pulled away thanks to great shooting by Cleveland Mogan who finished the game with 25 and led West End to a 48-25 victory to improve to 3-4 on the year. The Lady Saints fall to 4-4. Alli Messic led St Bernard with five.

Boys Varsity

Midway through the first quarter of the match-up between the St Bernard Saints and the West End Patriots (4-2), neither team could get many shots to fall. West End changed this trend by applying full court pressure on the Saints and going on a 12-0 to finish the first quarter up 18-4.

West End continued to apply pressure on the Saints to create turnovers. The Patriots outscored the Saints 17-12 in the second to take a 33-17 lead to halftime.

West End came out of the locker room with five quick points before anyone in the stands could blink. The Saints answered back with four of their own. West End then finished the quarter on a 7-0 run to go up by 22 heading into the fourth and final quarter.

The press and penetrating dribble of West End continued to produce points in the fourth and the Patriots went on to win 57-27.

Leading the Patriots was Caleb Mays with 19. Following him was Levi Weens with 14.

Sean Moriarty led St Bernard with 10. JaDavin Rolen added seven.

Hanceville vs. Curry
By: Micheal Bryant

Girls Varsity

Hanceville got on the board first with a basket from Taylor Hollingsworth. The Lady Yellow Jackets then reeled off seven straight, getting three of those from Carissa Reeves, before the Lady Bulldogs got two from Karrah Johnson to cut the lead to four, but Corner would end the first quarter on a eleven to nothing run, getting eight from Reeves.

The Lady Bulldogs would get the first bucket of the second quarter as Johnson would knock down a three pointer. After a Corner free throw, Hanceville would get baskets from Hollingsworth and Mariah Twitty. The two teams would trade points to end the half.

The third period would start with each team trading baskets. Hanceville would once again start the scoring with a Johnson basket, but Andrea DeBord for the Lady Yellow Jackets would five in the quarter to help Corner keep their lead.

As with the first three, Hanceville would score first in the fourth this time a two pointer from Twitty, but the Yellow Jackets would go on a nine to nothing run getting five of those from Reeves before Brittani Armstrong of the purple and gold would knock down a jumper. Corner's Avery Wakefield would get the final four points of the game.

Karrah Johnson led the Lady Bulldogs with 10 points. Corner's Carissa Reeves led all lady scorers with 19.

Boys Varsity

In the final match of the night, it was a methodical half court battle, which took the Bulldogs out of their element. The purple and gold would start the game scoring the first seven points, getting four of those from Brontae Harris, but Blake Byrd of the Yellow Jackets would hit three straight three pointers to give Corner a 9-7 lead.

Matt Burns would hit the first shot of the second quarter to tie the game up, but Corner would get five straight points, three coming from Tyler Smith. The Bulldogs would respond though, getting the final six points of the half. Smith and Keith Twitty each hit a basket, while Harris knocked down two free throws.

Sheldon Lewis would quickly hit the first shot of the second half to extend his teams lead, but a three pointer by Zachary Pate and two from Byrd would take the lead back. The two teams would trade points until the Yellow Jackets would go on a five point run to in the quarter.

Hanceville would respond in the fourth as Dont'e Reese would hit back to back three pointers, before Corner would chip into the Bulldog lead with a Byrd free throw. Reese would hit two free throws for Hanceville, and then Corner would respond with a three from Pate. It was a two pointer from Reese that would give Hanceville a two point lead, but five straight points from Blake Byrd of the Yellow Jackets would give Corner a three point lead and the final score of the game.

Dont'e Reese led the Bulldogs with 13 points while Corner's Blake Byrd led all scorers with 21.

Holly Pond vs Cold Springs
By: Johnny Thorton

Girls Varsity

HOLLY POND – Center Caitlyn Hall was at her very best offensively Friday night for the Cold Springs Lady Eagles in a Cullman County showdown Friday night with the Holly Pond Lady Broncos.

Hall has ability to step away from the basket and knock down 15-foot range jump shots. Hall accounted for 10 field goals to anchor a hard fought 41-38 Cold Springs victory at Felton Easterwood Gymnasium.

The victory allowed the Lady Eagles to run their record in the county regular season standings to 6-1. Cold Springs handed Holly Pond its first loss in four county assignments and also sent them to defeat at home for the first time this season in four games.

Three weeks ago, Holly Pond won at Jesse George Gymnasium 52-41. That was the Lady Broncos' first game of the new season.

Cold Springs was ready for the rematch despite getting behind early in the game at 10-2. Held to one field goal in the first 5:00 of the game, Tammy West's Lady Eagles stayed in striking distance, trailing at the end of the quarter, 10-5.

Then it was time for Hall to go to work. She scored five times in the second period including a three-pointer with the Lady Eagles down by a single point at the break, 20-19.

It was a back and forth battle during the third period. Natasha Holcomb hit a shot as time ran out in the third to send coach Scott Adams' Lady Broncos back in front at 30-28.

Holly Pond stayed ahead until the game went inside the 2:00 mark. A three-pointer by Haley Freeman from the wing propelled Cold Springs to a 39-36 advantage. Holly Pond cut the margin to one when Meg Gambrill scored in the lane with 1:29 remaining. That made the score, Lady Eagles 39-38.

With 36 seconds left, guard Hayden West calmly sank a pair of free throws to boost the Cold Springs margin to 41-38.

Holly Pond had four opportunities to get off a 3-point shot in an attempt to tie and force overtime. But the Lady Broncos were unable to knock down the attempt and first place in the county regular season standings is now a tie with both teams beating the other on the road.

Hall had 10 field goals and finished with 23 points. She scored three field goals in the critical stage of the fourth period. Freeman finished with eight, Karlee Perdue and Chloe Harbison scored three, West and McKinley Davis added two.

Leading Holly Pond was Taylor Terry with 16, Holcomb and Gambrill added seven, Lexi Malone had five, and Lexi Lynn netted three.

Boys Varsity

The Broncos ended the game with a 12-0 run after the Eagles had narrowed a large deficit to 54-49 with 5:00 to play in the fourth stanza.

It came down to a stretch of the second period that was the difference in the outcome. Cold Springs was already without the services of senior guard Chayse Elliott who is recovering from a broken wrist he sustained in a recent game with Vinemont.

Freshman Tristan Chambers was charged with his third personal foul with 5:29 to go in the half and Cold Springs down by only two points. Coach Tim Burleson protested with the officials, claiming they charged the foul to the wrong player.

Burleson had no choice but to sit down his talented freshman with the Eagles getting outscored by the Broncos the rest of the half, 13-2 and trailing 33-22 at the break.

Not having Chambers was difficult because another key weapon to the Eagles' offense, guard Layne Rice, was held to one field goal in the first half.

However, the Eagles kept playing and playing, creating a quicker pace during the third, even with the Broncos running the advantage to 51-36 heading into the final eight minutes of play.

Chambers was back on the floor in the second half and led a comeback that got the Eagles within five at 54-49. Chambers knocked down a three-pointer and the Eagles sensed a comeback victory was there for the taking.

Mitch Morris' Broncos then regrouped as Colby Adams hit a shot with 2:00 to play to up the margin to 60-49. Less than 30 seconds later, free throws from Cody Jones created breathing room with the Broncos now ahead by the score of 62-49.

Holly Pond is now 3-1 in the county standings, avenging a 78-76 loss in Double OT to the Eagles Nov. 16 at Cold Springs. The Eagles dropped to 5-2 in the county standings.

Fairview currently leads the county stand-

Community Matters

CullmanSense's Weekly Basketball Wrap-Up (Continued)



ings at 3-0 while Hanceville is 1-0 in county competition.

Adams paced the winners with 16 points while Morris had 12, Austin Smith 11, Jacob Cahoon nine, Carter Hays six, Jones five, Vince Clingman three, and Ben Wilson two.

Chambers earned top scoring honors with 21 for the Eagles while Layne Rice and his brother Tyler Rice netted nine, Brandon Whaley and Mason Harris had two and Terry Campbell one.

Cullman vs. East Limestone
By: Josh McBrayer

CULLMAN- Following a thrilling Junior Varsity game that was sent into overtime by a last second three pointer that was drilled by East Limestone's David Hall but won in OT by Cullman, thanks to a three point "and one" play by Fletcher Reeling, the Varsity squads took to the floor. Here is a breakdown of the Varsity action

Girls Varsity

The #9 ranked East Limestone Lady Indians (9-1) rolled into Cullman to take on the Lady Bearcats (1-3). The Lady Bearcats did not look, or play, like they were intimidated by the impressive record of the Lady Indians. They outscored East Limestone 20-13 in the first quarter due in large part to Morgan Smith who had 10 and Baylee Johnson who added seven. The duo combined to hit three trifecta's in the first.

The shooting cooled off a bit for both teams in the second. The Lady Bearcats and the Lady Indians combined for just 16 points total, eight a side. This gave the Lady Bearcats the 28-21 advantage heading to halftime.

The third quarter started with both teams hitting open shots from the field. Cullman was able to add one more point on their lead before a Lady Indian time-out. Out of the time-out, East Limestone found their shot and were able to take a one point lead, 40-39, heading to the final quarter.

Cullman tied the game on a three point basket by Smith with 6:21 left in the game and eventually took a one point lead on a Johnson three and found themselves up 45-44 with just under four and a half minutes left to go in the highly contested ball game. East Limestone would knot the ballgame at 48 when Rachel Diamond buried both halves of a one and one before a Lady Indian time-out. After the lead changed hands several times up and down the court. The teams were dead even at 52 with 26 seconds left. It was at the 26 second mark where Johnson buried a three from the top of the key to give Cullman the 55-52 lead and win. With the huge upset, the Lady Bearcats improve to 2-3 while the #9 Lady Indians fall to 9-2.

The Lady Bearcats were led by Morgan Smith and Baylee Johnson with each with 22.

The leading scorers for the Lady Indians was Brennan Crabtree with 18 and Baliey Speer with 16.

Boys Varsity

The Cullman Bearcats (6-2) rode the hot shooting of Lawson Schaffer in the first quarter to a slim three point lead at the end of one. Schaffer had eight of the 11 Bearcat points.

East Limestone (6-4) chipped away at the lead of Cullman and tied the game at 14 halfway through the second thanks to six early points by Blake Tucker. After another trip down the floor, the Indians took a slim lead. The officials started to "let them play" and loosened up their whistles. This led to some "chippy" play and some "jawing," much to the chagrin of the Cullman fans. Easy Limestone built a five point lead with 1:40 left in the first half. Cullman tied the game at 21 with six seconds left but a tie is not what Schaffer was looking for. He took the ball the length of the floor an nailed a three point basket as the buzzer sounded and Cullman took a 24-21 lead to the locker room.

Nick Walsh came out and buried a three for the Indians to tie the game but Cullman answered with six straight points. Cullman extended the run to 11-4 before head coach Bobby Meyer called a time-out for an explanation on a very questionable call that cost his team three points in a close ballgame. East Limestone took the advantageous call and ran with it, shaving the Cullman lead to a mere two points headed to the final stanza of the close contest.

The fourth was full of back and forth action. The Indians were able to snatch the lead away from the Bearcats with 4:10 left on the clock, prompting a time-out by Cullman. East Limestone built the lead to three with just over two minutes left in the game. Houston Turner powered his way to the basket, pulling Cullman to within one with 1:32 left. Two free throws by Walsh pushed the lead back to three with 62 ticks on the clock. Back to back fouls sent Tristian Matthews to the line 13 seconds apart and he sank all for free throws to seal the 58-50 win for the Indians. The Bearcats drop to 6-3 while the Indians improve to 7-4.

Leading the Indians were Blake Tucker with 16 and Tristian Matthews wit 13.

The Bearcats were led in scoring by Lawson Schaffer with 20. He was followed by Lane Donaldson who buried three triples for nine points.

Vinemont vs. Curry
By Zeke McBrayer

Girls Varsity

Vinemont - The Lady Eagles got things started off Friday night, taking on the Curry Lady Yellowjackets. Savannah McAlpine started the night of with a bang, stripping a 3 early. The Lady Eagles took the lead and never looked back. The rest of the first period was a back and forth battle, with the Lady Eagles getting a short 6-0 run to extend the lead. The Eagles stayed ahead the rest of the half by utilizing short runs against the visiting Lady Yellowjackets. At the half the Lady Eagles led 28-15.

The second half saw the Lady Yellowjackets start to eat away at the lead. Two key 3s by Mary-Beth Scott and Makenzie Hicks saw the visitors pull within ten at the end of the 3rd. The fourth period saw the Lady Eagles only scoring from the free-throw line, but it was enough to pull out a 40-37 win over Curry.

Sydney Wallace ended the night with 12 points and the only Lady Eagle in double digits. McKenzie Newman added 9 for the Lady Eagles. Mary-Beth Scott led the Lady Yellowjackets with 18 points. All the other Lady Yellowjackets Chipped in with 5 or fewer points each.

Boys Varisty

The Vinemont varsity boys came in ready to earn their own win as they took on Curry. The Yellowjackets struck early, gaining a quick 6-0 lead on two 3 pointers. Sophomore Lance Stanley (featured on front page), not wanting to be left out, answered back with a beautiful 3 of his own. This was the first of many on the night, as Stanley would sink three more before the end of the period. The rest of the period saw the teams swapping back and forth, with the Eagles getting a late 9-0 run to give them a 27-22 lead. The second period went much the same, with neither team having a big run.

The second half was all Vinemont as they kept the Yellowjackets at bay. With short 2 score runs, the Eagles were able to extend the lead little by little for the rest of the half, ending the game with a 84-68 victory.

Lance Stanley led the Eagles in scoring with 25. Blake Jones chipped in 19, Garret Sipe had 12, and Duncan Hopper ended the night with 10. The Yellowjackets were led by Spencer Fikes who had 28, Wesley Key added 17, and Jaxon Aaron finished with 10.

Good Hope vs. West Point
By: Micheal Bryant

Girls Varsity

West Point got on the board first as Madison Rusk hit a pair of free throws, but the Lady Raiders answered back with a three pointer from Kayla Tillman. The Lady Warriors would then reeled off eight straight points including six from Kari Williams. Then it was free throw time. Good Hope's Savannah Fendley hit a pair, then Rusk follow up with a pair of her own for West Point. Good Hope would hit three more free throws, including two from Fendely. West Point would respond back with six straight points, getting three each from Rachel Persall and Courtney Walker. Good Hope would get the last point from a Fendley free throw.

The Lady Warriors would start the second quarter off with a Williams three, but another free throw from Fendley and a jumper from Katelyn Bishop would answer back for Good Hope. West Point would then go one another eight point run getting six from Persall, and Bishop would answer with another jumper. The Lady Warriors would hit three free throws and the Lady Raiders would respond with a Bishop two. The same process would repeat itself, only this time it was Darcie Wilson hitting the two. A free throw by Rusk and a three by Jamie Beasley would spark a run of free throws. Good Hopes Bishop would chip in two from the foul line and Rusk would add two of her own, before Wilson would hit another three. West Point's Taylor McManus would hit a free throw for the final shot of the half.

Madison Rusk would open the third period with a three pointer, before Good Hope's Bishop would get four straight. The two teams would trade baskets, and then it was back to the free throw line. The Lady Warrior's would get two from Alex Baggett and Good Hope's Kacy Thomas would get one followed by an old fashioned three point player from Wilson. Rusk would hit another layup and Good Hope would get another old fashioned three, this time from Thomas. Rusk would add a pair of free throws to her total . The Lady Raiders would hit the final shot, this time a two pointer from Tillman.

Good Hope would start the fourth quarter with eight straight points to cut into West Point's lead, before Rusk got another two free throws. The two teams would exchange shots to end the quarter, and the Raiders were never able to get the lead lower than seven. Katelyn Bishop had 14 for Good Hope while Madison Rusk led all lady scorers with 20.

Boys Varsity

Good Hope would strike first with an Alex Cofer layup, but the West Point Warriors would hit sixteen straight points, getting eight from Wesley Smith and four from Nick Nuss. Alex Cofer would respond with another layup, but the Warriors would get the last seven points of the quarter, getting five from Tristan Dubberly.

West Point's Smith and Josh Looney would open the second quarter with a bucket a piece, and Alex Cofer would hit a pair of free throws. Smith would add another four points as the Warriors got off six straight, before Alex Cofer hit four for the Raiders. After another West Point bucket, Andy Cofer would join his brother on the score sheet getting four straight. West Point would end the half on a five to one run.

The Warriors came out hot in the second half as they got off six more points, with Smith adding four to his total. Alex Cofer would once again score for his team, but the Warriors would make six more. Alex Cofer would hit a layup and a free throw, but the Warriors would end the quarter on a 7-4 to run.

Up more than thirty to start the fourth, the running clock was in play for West Point, but that didn't stop them from scoring. Dubberly would get five points and Mason Voce would add a three pointer. Alex Cofer would hit five points, before the Warriors' Austin Ray would hit back to back to back free throws. The Raiders would get three more, and the Warriors would respond with a Ryder Jones' two. Mason Voce would dribble out the final twenty three seconds to end the game.

Good Hope's Alex Cofer led his team and all scorers with 20, and the Warriors' top scorer was Wesley Smith with 18 followed closely by Tristan Dubberly who had 17.

Here are the other scores from around the county:

12-3
Cold Springs Girls 60-Sulligent Girls 47
Cold Springs Boys 64-Sulligent Boys 62

12-4
Vinemont Girls 28-Danville Girls 38
Vinemont Boys 69-Danville Boys 44

Community Matters

Bulls, buckles and bruises

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – It's that time again; time for the Cullman County Agricultural Center to be filled with bulls, steers, cowboys, and cowgirls alike. It is time for the 14th Annual Cullman County Sheriff's Rodeo.

"This is pretty much THE fundraiser for us," said Cullman County Sheriff Mike Rainey. "This is the fundraiser where the money stays in house to use for our resource officers and things we may need in the department."

This has been an annual tradition since 1998 when it was first started by the Cullman County Sheriff's Department under the direction of former Sheriff Tyler Roden. In the 14 years the rodeo has been held in Cullman, it has been put on by the men and women riders of Lone Star Rodeo.

It is also a very profitable fundraiser for the Cullman County Sheriff's Department. There is very little unoccupied parking space in the gravel lot of the Agricultural Center and even less empty seating inside.

The inside of the Agricultural Center was jammed to the rafters full of rodeo fans, both young and old alike who were there to see the best rodeo action in the Southeast and they were not disappointed.

The men and women riders of Lone Star risk injury each and every time they ride but the adrenaline rush, roar of the fans, and love of what they do keep them coming back for more.

The Lone Star Rodeo Company was founded in 1949. They have been roping and riding ever sense.

"Unlike other sports, you 'pay to play' in this sport," said third generation rodeo performer Rachel Boyd.

She also happens to be the daughter of Preston Fowlkes, Jr. who runs the Lone Star Rodeo Company and the grand-daughter of Lone Star founder Preston Fowlkes, Sr.

"We are all involved and compete in the rodeo," said Boyd when asked if she rides. "Dad sent us to school and wanted us to go on and do 'bigger and better things' but we all love the rodeo and always came back," she said with a big smile.

Along with being the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Cullman County Sheriff's Department, it is also one of the biggest events in the touring year of Lone Star.

"This is the event when we crown our champions," said Boyd, "this is where we pay out the most prize money and award the buckles."

Each event, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing (women), break away roping (newer event for women), bronco riding, and bull riding pay out prize money up to $1,200.

The money is a big "chunk of change" but to borrow a line from the famous Garth Brooks song *Rodeo*, "it's the white in the knuckles, the gold in the buckles" that keep these athletes going.

"Football as their trophy. Buckles are our trophy we get to wear every day," Boyd said.

The rodeo helps the Cullman County Sheriff's Department but also helps the local Cullman economy. The Lone Star Rodeo draws riders from 13 different states.

This not only draws the riders but also their families for the two day event that creates a boom for the local economy. It is a wonderful annual event that can be enjoyed by all.

"It is just a good, clean, fun time for the whole family." said Sheriff Rainey.



Photos by Jessica Norrell

A Clarkson Christmas

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Historic bridge and park in the holiday spirit

CULLMAN – Clarkson Covered Bridge was first built in the year 1904 and is considered a true icon of America's rich past. The bridge, which stretches approximately two hundred and seventy feet over the Crooked Creek, was once a proud scenic sight for the community of Cullman, but in recent years the tourism has dropped off.

"It's one of Cullman County's most forgotten parks," said Brandy Overton, who is over customer service at Clarkson Covered Bridge.

Mrs. Overton was raised near the area and remembers spending time at the bridge.

Every weekend you could drive down county road 1043 and see families celebrating birthdays, enjoying a picnic, or just stopping by and exploring the area and its surroundings.

That has changed however, and the park is not what it was only fifteen or twenty years ago.

"This park has not been getting as much funding as the other parks," said Overton.

To try to raise money as well as raise awareness for the park, Brandy Overton has decided to hold events at the Clarkson Covered Bridge. This past weekend was the first annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair.

"We had Christmas Carolers earlier today, and Santa Claus who is still here," said Overton. "It was just a hopeful endeavor to try to raise money for the bridge."

Brandy says while this is the first crafts fair they've had at the park she does hope to make it an annual event. She also said this is the first event the park has had that she can recall.

Sadly the event was cut short due to the weather, and most of the vendors were gone before lunch time, but Mrs. Overton says they did experience a spark from the Arts and Crafts Fair and it was not all for nothing.

"It was fun and it was family oriented. Everyone was laughing, singing, and just having a really fun time," said Overton.

These fun and enjoyable times are what Brandy Overton is trying to bring back to the park as she would like to see it return to its glory days.

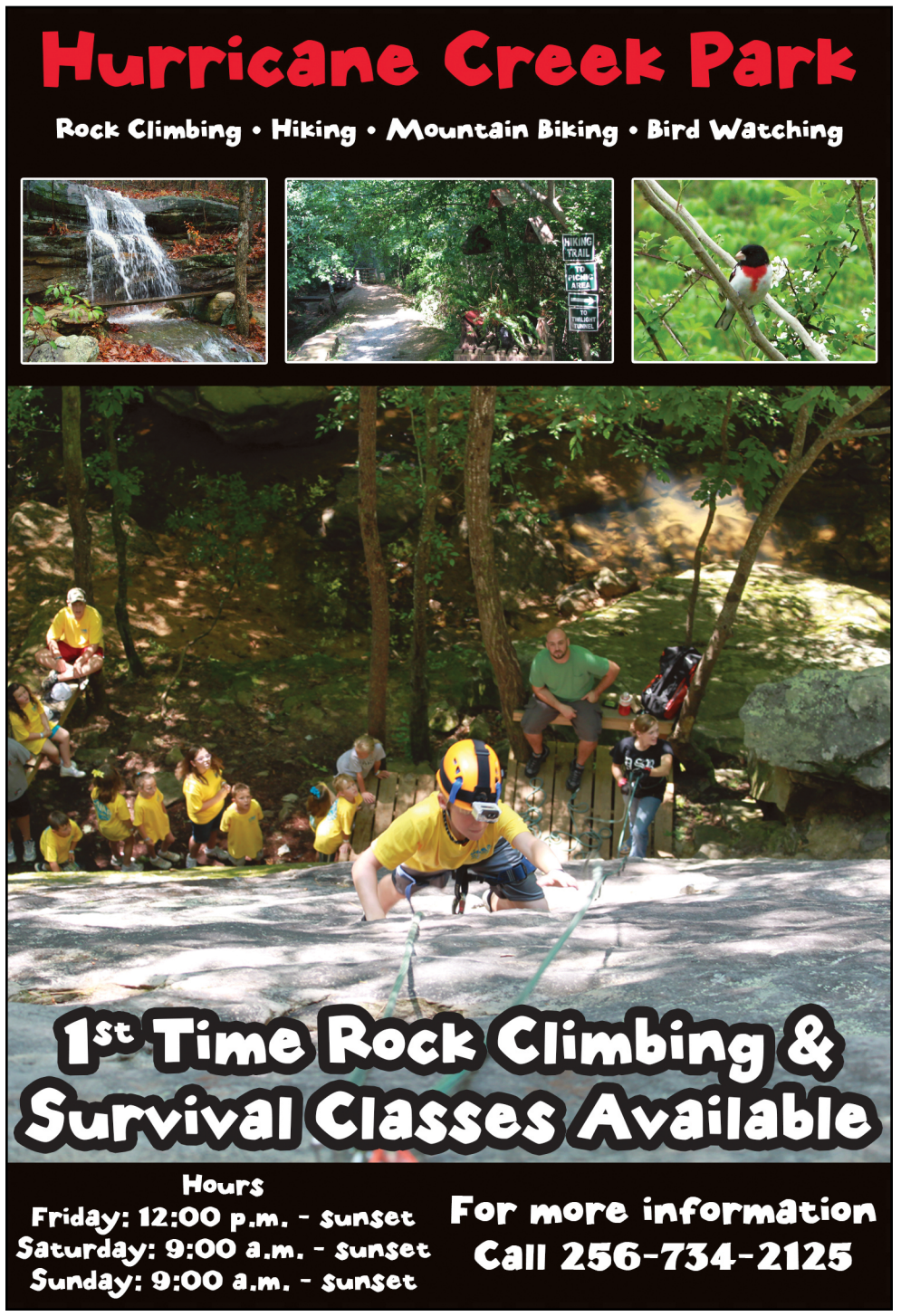
"I remember coming here with my family when I was younger but like I said, it's a forgotten park and I want to raise that awareness," she said.

If you would like to inquire on visiting the park or would just like some further information on how to donate money or get directions to it, you can contact the office at Clarkson Covered Bridge at 256-734-3369.

The park is open daily during daylight hours and admission is free.



Photos Courtesy Clarkson Covered Bridge Facebook Page



Hope Floats

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Good Hope Christmas Parade draws a crowd

GOOD HOPE – The spirit of Christmas was in the air Saturday afternoon at Good Hope High School as they held their first annual Christmas Parade. It was a spectacle to behold as scout troops, fire trucks, and floats made their way down the street tossing out candy to the spectators lining the sidewalks.

Also on hand to celebrate the festivities were a few important people in the community including Good Hope Mayor Corey Harbison who even after four years still smiles brightly when he is called by the title, a title he is pleased and proud to answer by.

"This is the first annual parade that we are having this year, and I feel like we have strong participation for it being the first year," said Mayor Harbison. "I think it's a good thing to help get people to come down here to Good Hope, and to get involved in the community."

While Mayor Harbison was credited among the members of the parade and the crowd as the brain child behind the event, he gives credit to another prestigious member of Good Hope.

"Council member Jerry Bartlett came up with the idea," said Mayor Harbison. "He's got it all together, he's organized it, and he's worked hard on this."

The parade featured service men, pageant queens, and one float with twenty three children from Good Hope Baptist Church.

"We were asked to do it," said Bess Beagle, who is the Children's Director at Good Hope Baptist Church. "We thought that being a part of the community that we wanted to be a shining light for Jesus in our community."

Mrs. Beagle said she also took part in the parade, because her children had a message they wanted to deliver.

"We want to let people know that Jesus is the reason for the season and that our kids know that Jesus is the reason for season," said Beagle. "This is our first parade and the children are really excited."

It was not just the children in the parade who were excited, as the children watching the parade were enthralled as they caught candy and begged the fire trucks to sound their horns.

"This is really great," said Erica Blake who was with her four year old son, David. "There are not many things to do in the community during (Christmas time) for children this age, and it is nice to see a community organize something that the whole family can enjoy."

Before the parade began, looking around at the floats and vehicles as they lined up, a proud grinned formed on the face of Mayor Harbison.

"I'm pleased (to be a part of it). This has been my hometown for twenty six years, well almost twenty seven now, and I'm glad we have something like this going on. I hope it can continue to grow and be a successful event."

Windsor Powder Coating & Sandblasting
10231 Hwy 31 South
Hanceville, AL 35077
E-mail: windsori@hiwaay.net
Chris Windsor
Kyle Windsor
Patrick Allred
Office: 256-737-9272
Cell: 256-338-2242















Photos by Jessica Norrell

Community Matters

LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2013 - 01
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09, AS AMENDED IN ORDINANCE 2013-01 TO PROVIDE FURTHER FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, PROVIDING LICENSING PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISHING PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATIONS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN AS FOLLOWS:

1. Sec. 4-33 Definitions. The definition for Brew Pub is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following definition: **Brew Pub:** Also known as a "microbrewery," means an eating and drinking establishment which includes the brewing of beer, ale, or malt beverage as an accessory use to a full-service restaurant that has been issued a food service certificate by the Cullman County Health Department. The amount of beverage produced on the premises cannot be less than 120 barrels or exceed 2,400 barrels in any calendar year. No more than 30 percent of the product brewed may be sold off-premises in either bottles or kegs. A loading and unloading area must then be provided for. A full-service restaurant as defined in Sec. 4-33 herein must occupy at least 51% of the gross floor area of the brew pub and restaurant combined.

2. Sec. 4-33 Definitions. The following definition for **Single Consumption Container** is hereby added: **Single Consumption Container:** A single consumption container is a container of beer of 16 ounces or less or a container of wine of 6 ounces or less.

3. Sec. 4-56 (7). Item #7 of this Section is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced by the following #7: 7. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any vendor to sell for off-premises consumption (i) alcoholic beverages in containers and packaging different from the container and packaging as purchased from the wholesaler, or (ii) beer, wine, or wine cooler dispersed in single consumption containers except in packaging and units as provided by the wholesaler, i.e., 4-pack, 6-pack, 12-pack, 18-pack case, etc., (iii) alcoholic beverages of less than case size not in a bag or box of opaque covering prior to the customer leaving the licensed building used for alcoholic beverage sales.

4. Conflicts 1. This Ordinance shall be deemed cumulative with and supplemental to any and all statutes of the State of Alabama regarding the subject matter hereof and to be subordinate to same and in no manner intended to supersede any such statues of the State of Alabama. Any provision hereof in conflict with any provision of any State statute shall be construed so as to be in harmony with the same where possible and otherwise to be subordinate to and superseded by the provisions of such State statute. 2. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are to the extent of such conflict repealed. 3. The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such ruling shall not affect any other paragraphs or sections since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

5. Effective Date This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption and publication according to law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013 - 02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN "COVERED ITEMS" FROM THE MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAX DURING FEBRUARY 22ND THROUGH FEBRUARY 24TH, AS AUTHORIZED BY ACT 2012-256, GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE STATE SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY LEGISLATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. In conformity with the provisions Act 2012-256 enacted by the Alabama Legislature during the 2012 Regular Session, providing for a State Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, the City of Cullman, Alabama, exempts "covered items" from municipal sales and use tax during the same period, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, February 22nd, 2013 and ending at twelve midnight on Sunday, February 24th, 2013.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be subject to all term, conditions, definitions, time periods, and rules as provided by Act 2012-256, except that the time period shall only be as specified in Section 1 above and not for all years thereafter.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this ordinance under the seal of the City of Cullman, Alabama, and to forward said certified copy to the Alabama Department of Revenue to be recorded and posted on the Department website.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013 - 03

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE LEVY OF

THE 7.5 MILL AD VALOREM SCHOOL TAX IN THE CITY OF CULLMAN

BE IT ORDAINED by the Cullman City Council (herein called "the Council"), the governing body of the City of Cullman (herein called "the City"), as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The Council hereby finds and declares that there is presently being levied in the City, pursuant to Amendment No. 56 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, and proceedings taken thereunder, a special school tax of 7.5 mills, the proceeds of which are used exclusively for general public school purposes (herein called the "Special School Tax"); that the proceeds of the Special School Tax are paid to the Cullman City Board of Education (herein called "the Board"); and that the Board proposes to issue its Special Tax School Warrants in the approximate principal amount of $19,000,000, Series 2012 and Series 2013 (herein called "the Warrants"), for the purpose of providing various capital improvements for the public school system operated by the Board (and refunding indebtedness heretofore incurred for such purpose), and to pledge, for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Warrants, the proceeds of the Special School Tax presently being paid to the Board.

Section 2. Pledge. The City hereby pledges, to the Board and to the registered owners of the Warrants, the Special School Tax and the proceeds therefrom and agrees that it shall continue to levy and provide for the collection and assessment of the Special School Tax and to pay the same over to the Board until the final retirement of the Warrants, now expected to occur on or before March 1, 2042.

This Week in History Dec. 10 - Dec. 16

December 10th
- 1817 – Mississippi admitted as 20th state
- 1915 – 1,000,000th model T Ford assembled
- 1966 – Israeli Shmuel Yosef Agnon wins Nobel Prize for literature
- 1991 – Howard Spira sentenced to 2 years in prison for trying to extort money from Yankees owner George Steinbrenner

December 11th
- 1620 – 103 Mayflower pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock
- 1919 – Boll weevil monument dedicated in Enterprise, Al.
- 1946 – Hank Williams begins to record on Sterling label
- 1978 – Six masked men bound 10 employees at Lufthansa cargo area at New York Kennedy Airport and made off with $5.8 M in cash and jewelry

December 12th
- 1791 – Bank of U.S. opens
- 1930 – Baseball changes rule, ball bounces into stands not a home run, now a double
- 1957 – Jerry Lee Lewis weds his cousin Myra Gale Brown, 13, while still married to his first wife Jane Mitcham
- 1997 – Florida releases Alex Arias, the last original Marlin

December 13th
- 1759 – First music store in America opens in Philadelphia
- 1903 – Italo Marcioni patents ice cream cone in New Jersey
- 1961 – Gideon Hausner in Jerusalem demands death penalty for Adolf Eichmann
- 1990 – President De Klerk of South Africa meets with Mandela to talk of end of apartheid

December 14th
- 1889 – American Academy of Political and Social Science organized in Philadelphia
- 1938 – Major leagues agrees on standard ball
- 1969 – Jackson Five made their 1st appearance on "Ed Sullivan Show"
- 2011 – Unemployment in the United Kingdom rises to 2.64 million people

December 15th
- 1593 – State of Holland grants patent on windmill with crankshaft
- 1891 – James Naismith invents basketball (Canada)
- 1952 – Christine Jorgenson is first person to undergo a sex-change operation
- 2011 – According to the U.S. Census, 1 in 2 people are considered low-income or poor

December 16th
- 1811 – 8.0 earthquake shakes New Madrid, Missouri
- 1915 – Albert Einstein publishes the General Theory of Relativity
- 1972 – Miami Dolphins become first undefeated NFL team (14-0-0)
- 1991 – U.N. reverses ruling that Zionism is racism by 111-25 (13 abstain) vote

We Value Your Feedback!
feedback@cullmansense.com
or 256-297-1847



Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, December 10th

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.

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!

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, December 11th

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.

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.

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!

Wednesday, December 12th

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!

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Adult Diabetes Support Group
If you are having trouble with adult diabetes, then come to the Adult Diabetes Support Group which meets at CRMC, POB ll, at 6 p.m. For more information please contact the CRMC Diabetes Care Center at 256-737-2025.

Friday, December 14th

Retiree & Senior Christmas Party
Mark your calendars for as all seniors are invited to attend the Retiree & Senior Christmas Party at Cullman Civic Center. Doors open at 9 a.m. and everyone is invited to take part in this fun event.

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!

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Saturday, December 15th

Living Christmas Tree
Cullman County Commission on Aging invites all seniors to come join in the trip to the Living Christmas Tree presentation today at Huntsville's First Baptist Church. Check with the senior center for more info by calling 256-734-1241.

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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 16th

Christmas Winter Wonder Light Show - Sportsmans Lake Park
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Monday, December 17th

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Bosom Buddies Support Group Meeting
Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer. The group will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 17 at 6 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058).

Looking Ahe

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.

Community Matters

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com

Tis the Season

I love Christmastime. There is something about this time of year that makes me feel nostalgic. I start thinking about how it was when I was a kid.

As a kid, after Halloween all a kid could think about was what was coming up. I never thought about the food, but just how I felt about the fact that Christmas was coming and everything that went with it.

As soon as the big Sears toy catalog came in the mail, my brother and I would scan that thing until the edges were frayed. We would circle everything and anything we were even remotely interested in and put our initials on it so there was no mistaking what we wanted.

There was no doubt for our parents as to what we wanted. Of course we got the speech every year about how not to expect a lot this year because we weren't "rich".

We had heard all that before and ended up with a "haul". I guess each kid's idea of getting a lot for Christmas is different. We were happy getting what we had asked for and knew the stuff that was ridiculous to ask for wouldn't happen. But we were okay with it because we had a good range of stuff. We were never disappointed.

I remember the stuff in the stocking was always fun, but there was always nuts and fruit in there that we never ate. I guess it was just "tradition" since we never ate it any other time of year.

We used the same "catalog tradition" with our kids and it was great. It was as fun for us as it was for them…and you knew what to buy.

But lets never forget the true meaning of Christmas. That was the reason for everything. My mom always got out the same nativity scene and put it on a table. I loved looking at it and placing all the pieces where I thought they should go. I remembered the Christmas story about how Mary and Joseph found a place in the stable where baby Jesus was born. I tried to imagine it as it really was and all the thoughts about the toys in the catalog and the candy and presents wasn't really so important. After all, that's why we celebrate.

Deep Dish Pizza

This is pretty impressive and so easy you won't believe it! Its as delicious as it looks. This makes 2 deep dish pizzas.



Ingredients:

- 1-box Pillsbury Hot Roll Mix
- 1 small chopped onion
- 1 bell pepper cut into strips
- Pepperoni, sausage, hamburger, etc.
- 2-8 oz. bags of shredded Mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 medium jar of Prego traditional sauce

Instructions:

1. Make the hot roll mix by the "pizza" directions on the side of the box.
2. When the dough is ready, make it into a loaf that is about a foot long.
3. Cut this loaf into 4 equal pieces. Take each piece and roll it into the size that will fit into a cake pan and come up the sides.
4. Place the dough into a cake pan, fitting it up on the sides. Fill the dough with half of your ingredients. You can put whatever you like in your pizza. *1 bag of cheese will be used on one pizza. Half of it goes on the bottom and the other half goes on the top.
5. After filling the bottom half of your pizza, roll out another piece of dough and place on the top of the pizza, sealing the edges. Decorate the top half with whatever toppings, sauce and cheese you like.
6. Repeat with the other dough and toppings.
7. Bake for 30 minutes at 375 degrees.
8. Let sit for about 5 minutes before cutting.

Realistic simulations at Cullman Rotary Club

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Rotary International was first started in Chicago in the year 1904. It spawned many "Clubs" throughout the United States, including one in Cullman.

"The Rotary Club has been in existence for seventy five years in Cullman County," said Billy Jackson, President of the Cullman Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club has many sections that they donate money to, including their biggest program which is Polio Plus, a program which tries to eliminate Polio throughout the world, and has been so successful that Polio only affects two main regions: Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"We have raised billions of dollars locally," said Jackson.

"We do a lot of things for the Margaret Jean Jones Center, the good Samaritan clinic for Child Haven. We just donated twenty five thousand and four hundred dollars to replace trees that were blown down during the tornado and we are going to donate another twenty five thousand next year. We donated six thousand last year and that should replace every tree that the city lost on public property."

The Rotary Club has weekly meetings every Thursday where they are provided lunch as well as a guest speaker that generally speaks on a local topic.

Last Thursday their main speaker was Glynda Hardin who has been a nursing instructor at Wallace State Community College for many years.

"We want to thank the Rotary Club for their support during our accreditation," said Hardin. "After two years of a lot of hard work we were successful."

She spoke on and demonstrated a program at Wallace that allows nursing students to be in and learn in many simulated environments.

"Students get hands on experience when learning in a safe controlled environment," said Hardin.

The simulations are made to be as realistic as possible in that they are in an actual hospital-like setting.

"Students are in the room alone, but are monitored on cameras," said Hardin. "After the scenario, the students are debriefed to learn and find out what they did right and wrong."

Hardin demonstrated Baby Hal which is an infant simulation students can interact with.

The "baby" can simulate many different scenarios such as having a lack of oxygen, so students can know how to handle those situations. Hardin says Wallace also has many adult simulators than can teach so much more, and some that are advanced enough to talk back to the student.

Speakers like Hardin and the work she is doing is just one of many different ways the Rotary Club is trying to help the community.

Jackson says they have many more lined up, including the chairman of the County Commission next week.

"One way (we get our speakers) is people come to us for help," said Jackson. "They give us information about what they are doing and what their charity is doing or what their board is doing, and they ask us for financial help."

Among the events include an auction once a year, which generally, happens in the spring and normally brings in about forty to forty five thousand dollars which the Rotary Club uses to support the community in different ways.

Last year they did a unity picnic that was held at Sportsman's Lake last year for the Hispanic community. This event included free food and brought out about three to four thousand people.

"We rented the park and everybody got to ride free and play games like putt-putt for free," said Jackson.

The Rotary Club is a co-ed club that is made up of mostly professionals. The fifty-eight members, who are generally nominated by a current member of the club, all fall under different categories that fit into certain professions.

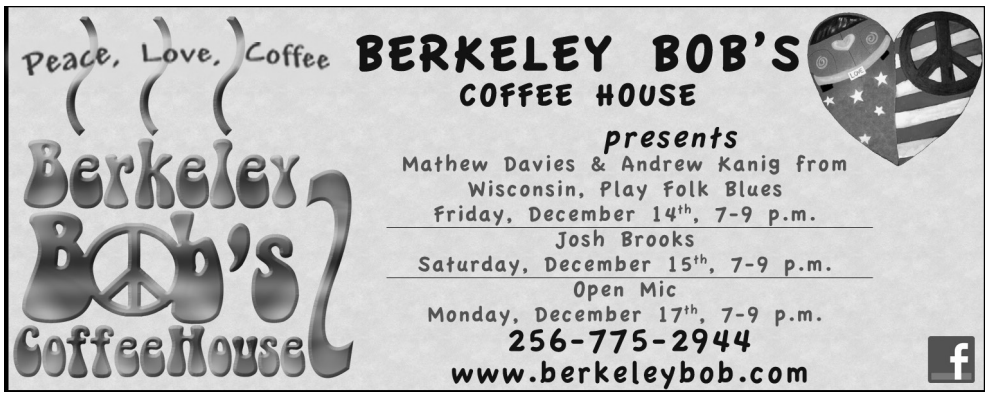
The process of selection happens when a person is nominated by a current member of the club. Someone will read the name off, and then people with give their opinion on it, after which the board decides to elect them or not.

If you are interested in joining the Rotary Club you may contact a member today.

Do You Know a Student That Should be Spotlighted?
News Tip?
Story Idea?
or Just Want to Voice your Opinion?

We Want To Know!

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voice@cullmansense.com





JUST FOR FUN

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

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Remember when you were a little child and you had a favorite toy you played with? For me it was "My Buddy", but we all had a special toy that we secretly wished would come alive. Well for a young John Bennett that favorite toy was a large teddy bear he received one Christmas that he named Ted.

The difference between John's wish and ours is that his came true, and now he has a teddy bear that talks, plays, and has the personality of an adorable cartoon character.

Fast forward about twenty years; Ted is now a slacker ex-celebrity who sits around the house all day and now has the personality of a crude Boston cab driver.

This puts a hindrance into John growing as a successful adult which his girlfriend Lori, despite being faithful to him, wants him to get out of. That becomes John's dilemma.

Who do you choose: your best friend who you have known since you were a child, even if he is a stuffed animal, or the most amazing girl you have ever met?

Of course I won't give away who he chooses, but the journey the movie takes to get to that conclusion is hilarious.

Now the movie isn't going to be for everyone, I'll admit that up front, because senses of humor are different for each individual, so keep that in mind while reading this review.

However, if your sense of humor is one that cannot stop laughing during an episode of *Family Guy*, then this movie is for you. Seth MacFarlane (creator of *Family Guy*, *American Dad*) is making his theatrical directorial debut, and also provides the voice of Ted.

Some critics have said Ted is nothing more than Peter Griffin in teddy bear form, and while you hear that voice come out occasionally, characteristically Ted is nothing like that character. But it's Mark Wahlberg (*Planet of the Apes*, *The Other Guys*) that makes the movie.

MacFarlane could have went with a comedic actor here, but instead chose a guy known for more serious roles, and that is what makes the comedy in Ted work so well.

This isn't a slapstick comedy, while there is some of that in this film; this is at its core, a real story about friendship, which you have to give MacFarlane credit for.

Audiences will actually find themselves not laughing when Ted finds himself in peril, but instead caring about what may or may not happen to him.

The film *Ted* is not the best comedy of the year in my opinion, that honor still goes to *21 Jump Street* (which I regret I was unable to review this year), but it's not far behind.

Ted has situational humor, physical humor, and pop culture humor, so even the most ardent haters of this film will have a couple of laughs.

I recommend giving *Ted* a rental when it hits your local Blockbuster tomorrow and giving it a watch: After the children are put to bed first of course.

Ted

Rated R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language and some drug use

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Seth MacFarlane, and Joel McHale

Premise Rating: **8**
Actor Rating: **9**
Director Rating: **7**
Execution Rating: **8**
Entertainment Rating: **9**
Overall Rating: **41/50**

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

By: Micheal Bryant
michealbryant@cullmansense.com

Kay and Arnold have been married for thirty one years, and to say their relationship has become stale would be an understatement. The couple no longer sleeps in the same bed, they don't talk much, and for their anniversary they got each other an upgraded cable package. Arnold is perfectly fine with this set-up. He has it engrained that this is what marriage after so long should be, but Kay is unhappy. While perusing a bookstore looking for relationship advice she stumbles upon a book by a Dr. Feld that promises he can get a marriage back into that new and exciting phase again. After researching, Kay finds that Dr. Feld gives week long therapy sessions to couples and she books one. Arnold reluctantly finds himself on a plane an unwilling participant.

Hope Springs is not a movie that will wow you. There are no breathtaking special effects, no big action scenes, or laugh out loud physical pranks. *Hope Springs* is a movie with character and a movie with heart. Having been a child whose parents are divorced I can relate to the type of relationship Kay and Arnold have.

One of my parents was willing to fight and do something to remedy it, but the other was unlike Arnold, and refused to go along with. It is Arnold going along with it, even though he has his doubts, which makes the movie special. Arnold isn't unhappy with his marriage; he has just become content with the situation.

Does his going resolve the marriage and give the film a happy ending? That isn't for me to spoil, but with the way the movie played out, I think it has a satisfying conclusion.

Hope Springs is helmed by two amazing actors in Meryl Streep (*The Devil Wears Prada*, *Music of the Heart*) and Tommy Lee Jones (*Men in Black III*, *No Country for Old Men*) are absolutely fantastic in their roles. Meryl Streep (who would probably be getting Oscar consideration if this film came out later in the year) plays Kay with a heartwarming fondness, vulnerable, yet willing to fight.

Tommy Lee Jones plays Arnold like a realistic man in his sixties. He's not angry at the world, but he doesn't exactly see rainbows and unicorns when he wakes up. He handles the world with a sarcastic sense of humor, and you can see, despite his faults, why Kay loves him.

Hope Springs being a non-tent pole film wasn't exactly breaking box office records despite its positive reviews and that is a shame. This is a fantastic little film that entertains not through giant robots or masked superheroes, but through its realism.

Hope Springs is definitely worth a rental and is out now on DVD and Blu-Ray.

Hope Springs

Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content involving sexuality

Starring: Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, Steve Carell, and Jean Smart

Premise: **6**
Acting: **10**
Directing: **8**
Execution: **9**
Entertainment: **9**
Overall: **42/50**

GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

How did the phone extend its education?

It went to call-ege.

Area Athlete Spotlight : Lance Stanley (Continued from Front)

JM: Who is your biggest influence off the court? Why?

LS: My dad is my biggest influence off the court because he supports me and pushes me to be the absolute best I can be.

JM: What is the ultimate goal you hope to accomplish while playing basketball at Vinemont?

LS: To be the best player I can be, help my team win a championship, and improve my skills so that I may have the opportunity to play at the next level.

There is a huge influx of young talent on the basketball court in Cullman County and Lance Stanley is one of those players.

He is always looking for the open teammate or open shot. He has become a big part of the Vinemont High School basketball team and he looks to be fixture throughout his high school career.

We urge you to make your way out to Vinemont to see Stanley and the Eagles play.

Their excellent ball movement and consistency of finding the open man makes for a fun experience. CullmanSense will be there. Will you?

Community Matters

A Historical Marking (Continued from Front)

Of course the event as well as the marker would not have been possible if it was not for the Holly Pond historical society and members Dan and Brenda Scott.

"I want to thank you all for coming out," said Dan Scott. "If you have any connection to the town of Holly Pond you know how important it is to us."

Dan Scott says the historical society came about after a small group of local residents got together in 2005 and they attended meetings for the Cullman Historical society.

"We thought the Holly Pond history was very important so we have formed the Holly Pond historical society, because we are family," said Dan Scott, "and like every family we have interesting characters among us, and it is these characters that make great stories to tell."

His wife, Brenda Scott, says after they formed the Holly Pond Historical Society in 2005, that they found there were a lot of stories that needed to be told.

"We tried to tell those stories," said Brenda Scott.

"I collected information about not only Holly Pond, but also my family as well and we found everyone in this town has a story," said Dan Scott.

After they stepped aside, it was time for the unveiling of the historical marker, and Robin Henderson stepped in to do the honors.

"Thank you for attending this unveiling," said Henderson.

The people in attendance then stepped forward to take a look at the marker and remember a great man's legacy as well as tell stories about the former Governor from Holly Pond.

"I'm glad they are not forgetting him," said Marjorie Bolzle, who attended the event with her husband.

If you would like to visit the historical marker for Governor Guy Hunt you can do so by visiting the Guy Hunt Library and Museum in Holly Pond, Alabama. The marker is located just outside the library.

The Historical Marker Reads:

Guy Hunt was born June 17, 1933, in Holly Pond, Alabama, to William Otto and Orene Holcomb Hunt. Guy grew up on the family farm. He graduated from Holly Pond High School in 1950 at the age of sixteen, salutatorian of his class. He married Helen Chambers, daughter of Homer Lee and Mattie Talley Chambers. They had four children. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he earned the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1958 he was ordained as a minister in the Primitive Baptist church. He served as Probate Judge of Cullman County from 1965 to 1977.

He served as state chairman of the Alabama Delegation to the Republican National Convention in 1976 and 1980. Guy was appointed as Alabama's State Director of Agricultural Stabilization and Conversation Service serving from 1981 until 1985. In 1986 he was elected as the first Republican Governor of the State of Alabama since Reconstruction. In his first year in office, he was named one of the nation's top governors by U.S. News and World Report. He was re-elected in 1990, but was removed from office in 1993 on charges that were later proved false. Hunt died on January 30, 2009, and was laid to rest alongside Helen in the cemetery of his beloved Mt. Vernon Primitive Baptist Church. He loved his hometown of Holly Pond.





Comics by St. Edo - st.edo@cullmansense.com

