Leah Bolin named President of Chamber of Commerce-p.12

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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

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Beef: It Draws A Crowd

By: Noah Chandler
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CULLMAN – Several hundred men, women, and children converged on the Cullman Civic Center for the 2013 Cullman County Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Association annual meeting. The smell of tender, freshly grilled steak filled the venue, something noticed by all in attendance.

The evening serving as a meeting and membership drive marked the 60th anniversary for the Cullman Cattlemen's Association.

The celebrating wasn't finished there as the Cullman Cattlewomen's Association notched their 40th year carrying beef pride.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight to help raise awareness and build our memberships," said Cattlemen's Association President Steve Lake.

"We want to continue to raise our memberships, so tell you neighbors, encourage them to make that commitment."

Cattlewomen's Association President Allison Rice bestowed three scholarships to area students. Kylie Elrodd and Malory O'Brien, both from Holly Pond and Adam Scott of Fairview High School each received a scholarship from the association.

"This will help out a lot," said O'Brien.

The West Point graduate is currently studying Visual Communications at Wallace State.

"Once I'm finished at Wallace, I'll be trans-

See Beef, Page 12

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Falls to 7.1%; Cullman at 5.7%

By: Jennifer Ardis
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary December 2012 unemployment rate is 7.1%, down from November's rate of 7.5% and below December 2011's rate of 8.0%.

The December 2012 rate represents 152,638 unemployed persons, down from 162,169 the previous month and 174,443 in December 2011. The December 2012 rate is also below the national rate of 7.8%. "We are encouraged to see our unemployment rate drop once again," Governor Bentley said. "Over the past 12 months, we've seen the total number of unemployed persons drop by nearly 22,000. Still, we must remember that many people are looking for work. Job creation remains my number-one priority, and I will continue working every day to bring more jobs to Alabama."

Figures from the Alabama Department of Labor show annual gains in wage and salary employment were seen in the manufacturing sector (+7,600), the professional & business services sector (+4,500), the leisure & hospitality sector (+3,400), and the trade, transportation & utilities sector (+2,500).

"While the decrease in the number of unemployed persons is certainly welcomed, along with the other positive signs we've been seeing recently, we will continue to work to improve the employment picture in Alabama," Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees said.

See Unemployment, Page 12

Same places, familiar faces

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

It seems that three area teams are dropping anchor in the ASWA top 10 with no plans of leaving. Holly Pond's girls, Cold Springs' girls, and Holly Pond's boys all hold fast in the latest Alabama Sportswriters Association's basketball polls.

Cold Springs Lady Eagles (15-5) #5 Class 2A

The Lady Eagles have been on a tear as of late and it is getting them noticed. The outside shooting of Cold Springs is what drives the team to victory and they hope to rely on their hot hand from three-point land to carry them all the way to another state title.

Holly Pond Lady Broncos (19-4) #7 Class 3A

The Lady Broncos are not letting the absence (on the court) of Senior Lexi Malone slow them down. They just keep doing what they do best, winning. Head coach Scott Adams has his Lady Broncos sitting pretty as the #2 seed in the Cullman County Tournament. Holly Pond, no doubt, has eyes on winning the county and area titles, then making a trip down to the BJCC to play for a state title.

Holly Pond Broncos (18-4) #8 Class 3A

For the first time in his illustrious career, head coach Mitch Morris and his Holly Pond Broncos enter the Cullman County Tournament as the #1 seed. His Broncos have been dominant inside, out, and on both sides of the court.

Holly Pond is looking to make it an All-Bronco affair, sweeping the county, area, and state titles in 2012-13.

TOURNEY 2013 County Basketball Tournament Off to a Quick Start-p.5

OPINION Alabama Is On The Move, But Much Work Ahead-p.10

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

In Brief

Teen births in Alabama reach historic low rate in 2011

By: Ava Rozelle

Contributor

MONTGOMERY – From its peak in 1973, the percent of births to teens in Alabama has declined by 58 percent, and since 2000 there has been a 32 percent decline in teen births.

In 2011, Alabama's teenage birth rate fell to a historic low rate of 20.9 per 1,000 females ages 10 to 19--just 6,697 births to teen mothers, according to the Center for Health Statistics of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The percent of births to teens as a percent of all births is 11.3. Another record low was the percent of births to young teens, those less than age 18, which fell to just 3.5 percent of live births. The pregnancy rate is 29.6 per 1,000 females ages 10-19, which is a 25 percent decrease since 2002.

This drop in the teen pregnancy rate and teen birth rate is elebrated by many organizations and individuals involved in efforts to address the issue.

"There is not one approach that works for all young people, but a multipronged approach may be the answer," Ava Rozelle, director of the Health Department's Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Branch, said. "We credit this significant and positive decline to the teenagers themselves and the many initiatives and programs statewide that have had a positive impact on the teen, the family, and the community."

Jamie Keith, executive director of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, said, "We celebrate this important achievement and believe that when young people are provided opportunities to build their knowledge and skills about ways to avoid sexual risk-taking behavior they are less likely to engage in those behaviors. I encourage Alabama communities to invest in community and school-based programs that ensure young people have access to medically accurate and age-appropriate sexual health education programs. With this investment we will continue to see declines in the number of unintended pregnancies to Alabama teens."

Among the programs working to decrease unplanned teen pregnancy are the following:

- The Personal Responsibility Education Program, administered by ADPH, targets high-risk youth ages 13 to 19. The programs are delivered in community settings such as juvenile detention centers, group foster homes, after school programs, and with mentoring groups. This program utilizes evidence-based curriculum which has been proven effective in changing behaviors and reducing pregnancies in youth.
- The Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers (many of whom are teens) pregnant with their first child. Each mother served is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. The goals of the program, administered by the Gift of Life Program, include fewer subsequent pregnancies and increased intervals between pregnancies.
- The Abstinence Education Grant Program, also administered by ADPH, funds four community organizations to implement abstinence-based programs in middle schools in 22 counties. This program utilizes older teens to deliver programming related to developing resistance and decision making skills to young teens.
- In addition there are several other programs in the state that address the issue of teen pregnancy, including; Mobile County Health Department, Macon County Board of Education, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal PREP, Growing Our Own Youth, a project of The Gift of Life Foundation in Montgomery Public Schools, Sumter County Prevention Program, and the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, which provides statewide training and technical assistance, and administers an evidence-based research project in several Alabama community-based organizations.

For more information contact Jamie Keith, Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, (334) 265-8004, acptp.org, or Ava Rozelle, ADPH, (334) 206-3358, adph.org.

Be champions for your health by joining Scale Back Alabama 2013

By: Miriam Gaines

Alabama Department of Public Health

MONTGOMERY – While Alabama celebrated a national championship in football again this year, hospitals and the Alabama Department of Public Health assert the state is still closer to the one-yard line when it comes to being healthy.

"We need to cultivate some champions for healthy lifestyles," said Donald Jones, North Alabama hospital CEO and chairman of Scale Back Alabama, a 10-week, statewide weight-loss contest. "With more than 30 percent of our population considered to be obese, we've got some crucial workouts ahead of us, and we can't wait until the fourth quarter to get started."

Scale Back Alabama, now in its seventh year, kicked off the 2013 contest today with a news conference in Montgomery that featured a public service announcement that included Big Al and Aubie, the mascots from the University of Alabama and Auburn University. The "champions for your health" theme was further emphasized by Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer, who introduced Scale Back Alabama recess.

"It's not enough to simply lose weight," said Dr. Williamson. "Alabamians also need to start exercising - the goal is to get people in the habit of eating less and moving more."

Individuals that want to participate in Scale Back Alabama must form a team of four and then register and do their initial weigh in at an official Scale Back Alabama weigh-in site (found at www.scalebackalabama.com). The contest is free, and to be eligible, individuals must weigh in during the week of Jan. 19–25. During the contest, teams are encouraged to set weight-loss and exercise goals and are provided with weekly health tips.

Over the seven-year history of the contest, Alabamians have lost a total of more than 900,000 pounds. This year's contest is supported by a grassroots network of almost 500 local coordinators, with weigh-in sites in almost every county.

Scale Back Alabama is sponsored by the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health, with generous underwriting by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

WSCC to Offer Silk Dance Class

By: Kristen Holmes

WSCC Contributor

Aerial silk dancing is new art and new to our area. It is a fun, alternative fitness class designed to strengthen the upper body with core exercises with an inclusion of yoga, stretches, and dance for improved self-confidence and fun.

This class teaches the basics of all aerial skills. Using long lengths of fabric for various wraps, hangs, and drops, resulting in a breathtaking combination of strength and beauty.

Jessica Brakeen will instruct the class. She has a background in dance – ballet, ballroom, tap, and color guard. Recently she participated in Cullman's Dancing with our Stars Relay for Life fundraiser. She also teaches Ballroom Dancing with Wallace State's Community Education Program.

Classes will begin on Thursday, January 17th and run through February 7th from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Aerobics room in the Wellness Center. The class fee will be $40. To register, call Wallace State Community Education at (256)352-8172.

CHS Big Band Dance

By: Christopher Smith

Contributor

CULLMAN – The 17th Annual "Big Band Dance" featuring the Cullman High School Jazz Band will be held Friday, February 8, 2013 at the Cullman Civic Center.

Admission to the dance, which is scheduled from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., is $6.00 per person or $10.00 per couple. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door.

The jazz band will perform a variety of music for dancing with an emphasis on big band swing. Glenn Miller's "In the Mood", Woody Herman's "Woodchopper's Ball", and Duke Ellington's "Satin Doll" are just a sampling of the swinging selections that will be performed at the dance.

The band will also perform waltzes, Latin selections, and ballads.

As an added treat, instructors will present a free dance class for anyone interested 30 minutes prior to the start of the dance. Complimentary refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

Cullman Walkers "Join the Movement®" to Create a World Free of MS

By: Aquilla Stanback

Contributor

CULLMAN – The Alabama-Mississippi Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society is making plans for Walk MS in Cullman on Saturday, March 9, 2013. The walk takes place at Heritage Park, 1705 Lee Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Check-in opens at 8:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. The walk will go on rain or shine. Funds raised during the walk will help support programs and services for the more than 4,200 people living with MS in Alabama and fund research to find a cure for this chronic disease.

Cullman Walk MS will offer a 1, 2, or 3 mile route option for all participants. Walk MS is an event that gathers those in the community who care about MS, but it also supports research and helps people with MS move their lives forward. After the walk, the celebration will continue at Heritage Park with refreshments, awards, announcements, and entertainment.

Multiple Sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease.

For additional information, visit www.walkMS.org or contact the Alabama-Mississippi Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 800- FIGHT-MS.

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ADECA working with national law enforcement association to enhance grant programs

By: Mike Presley

Contributor

MONTGOMERY — The director of a national law enforcement group spent yesterday and today in Montgomery getting acquainted with the staff of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and discussing the department's law enforcement grant programs.

ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. thanked Cabell Cropper, executive director of the National Criminal Justice Association, for the service his organization provides and welcomed him to the state. The Washington, D.C.-based association offers support and technical assistance to state agencies that administer grant programs made available by the U.S. Department of Justice, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and the Victims of Crime Act program. This is the association's first visit to Alabama.

"Through our law enforcement grant programs, ADECA provides vital resources that help fight crime, prosecute offenders, and assist victims," Byard said. "We are delighted to have the opportunity to confer with Mr. Cropper about ways we can work with the association to strengthen the programs we administer on behalf of the people of Alabama." During the visit, Cropper met with staff members from ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division. In the 2012 fiscal year, the division administered 280 grants totaling $24.5 million to support local law enforcement officers, rehabilitate juvenile offenders, and assist crime victims. The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program funds drug and violent crime task forces across the state and helps police and sheriff's departments purchase needed equipment like patrol vehicles and communications gear. Victims of Crime Act grants help dozens of nonprofit agencies that provide free professional assistance to victims of child abuse and domestic violence.

While in Montgomery, Cropper also met with David Perry, Governor Bentley's Chief of Staff, and attended a meeting of the Ala. Criminal Justice Information Center. "The meetings with Jim Byard and ADECA staff and the Governor's Chief of Staff have provided a valuable perspective on the good work being done in Alabama," Cropper said. "I look forward to continuing the collaboration between the National Criminal Justice Association and ADECA." In addition to law enforcement and traffic safety, ADECA administers an array of programs supporting economic development, energy conservation, workforce development, water resource management, and recreation development.

Opinion

No(ah)-It All: Pop-up Killer

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Man, how I do really enjoy the internet. The wondrous sites that are just waiting to be clicked on, such as the southern hit PeopleOfWalmart.com, provide countless hours of relaxation, entertainment, and even frustration at times for users.

Wait…frustration?

Why would frustration be mixed in with something as blissful as relaxation? Well, some of my favorite sites are greedy little piglets, but not with their membership dues.

Instead the webmasters have opted to use the robo-marketing scheme of pop-up, pop-under, and hidden pop-ups to annoy just about everyone.

I mean who goes to a website to have multiple windows bursting onto the screen, carrying you to a bevy of locations you never wished to go?

Most of the time the pop-up, under, and hidden tabs are from less-than-reputable businesses, but the few who are legitimate will never see my business simply because of the annoying robo-marketing scheme.

Back when we started *CS* online the first decision made was to never implement any of these desperation tactics just to garner some tiny bit of revenue. Instead we opted to limiting our advertising space as to keep the website clean and easily navigable. I'm proud to say we've never used the irritating scheme and we never will.

But back to the other sites which have been good to this anti-cable, anti-satellite, internet only man. One of my favorites for watching live streaming news, movies or TV shows is Justin.tv. This wonderful site has it all…well with the exception of those irritating, useless pop-up ads.

Now don't get me wrong. I do enjoy good advertising, such as YouTube's sometimes mandatory commercial before a video, but if you're like me and you're tired of wasting bandwidth on garbage then follow these simple instructions to secure your computer or tablet from unwanted solicitation.

Instructions for the 5 most popular frequently used browsers:

Google Chrome

- Open the Google Chrome browser from your Windows desktop. Click the blue wrench-shaped icon in the upper right-hand corner of the browser.
- Choose "Options" from the menu that appears underneath the wrench icon. Click the "Under the Hood" label in the Google Chrome Options window.
- Click "Content settings..." underneath the "Privacy" heading. Click the "Pop-ups" tab.
- Left click the bubble next to the text that reads, "Do not allow any site to show pop-ups." Click "Close." Pop-under and pop-up ads will now be blocked in Chrome.

Mozilla Firefox

- Launch Mozilla Firefox from your computer's desktop or "Start" menu.
- Left click on the "Tools" button located on the menu bar towards the top of the Firefox window.
- Select "Options" from the drop-down menu that appears.
- Left click on the "Content" icon near the top of the window that opens.
- Click the empty box next to "Block Popup Windows" to place a check mark in it.
- Click "OK" at the bottom of the "Options" window.
- Restart Firefox by closing the browser and opening it back up. Pop-up and pop-under ads will now be blocked automatically.

Apple Safari

- Start the Safari browser from your computer's desktop.
- Click "Safari" in the left corner of the menu bar (next to the Apple icon).
- Move your cursor to highlight the "Block Pop-Up Windows" option in the menu. Click on "Block Pop-Up Windows" to place a check mark next to the text.
- Restart the Safari browser. Both pop-under and pop-up ads will now be blocked by Safari.

Microsoft Internet Explorer

- Open Internet Explorer from the Windows desktop. Click on the button labeled "Tools" underneath the address bar.
- Scroll over the "Pop-up Blocker" button to highlight it in the menu that appears. Left click "Turn on Pop-up Blocker" in the small menu that displays to the right.
- Click "Yes" when the prompt asking if you are sure that you would like to turn on the Internet Explorer Pop-up Blocker appears. Internet Explorer will now block pop-ups and pop-unders initiated by websites.

Opera

- Double click on the Opera icon on your desktop to open the browser. Single click on the "Tools" button located on the Opera menu bar.
- Select "Quick preferences" in the window that is opened.
- Choose "Block all pop-ups" from the list of available options.
- Click the "OK" button to save the pop-up blocker settings.
- Close any Opera windows that are open on your computer.
- Reopen Opera and the settings blocking pop-unders and pop-ups will take effect.

Information regarding blocking of pop-up and pop-under ads was published on e-how.com and was gathered by contributor Kefa Olang.

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SPORTS

CullmanSense's Weekly Basketball Wrap-Up

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The past week in Cullman was filled with a deluge of rain, a couple inches of snow, and some red-hot hoops action. As always, CullmanSense was on hand to bring you all of the action from around the county.

1-14-2013

Cullman vs. Arab
by: Josh McBrayer

Due to a leak in the roof of the high school gymnasium, the Bearcats and Lady Bearcats showcased their skills in the Cullman Middle School Gymnasium on a cold and soggy Monday night.

Cullman Lady Bearcats 50 vs. Arab Lady Knights 49

It was cold and dismal outside, but loud and electric inside at the Cullman Middle School Gym Monday night. Those who braved the weather were treated with a barn burner that was competitive to the final horn.

Shelby Beam's 11 point second quarter was the turning point in the game. She led the Lady Knights on a 20 point outburst in the quarter, allowing Arab to crawl out of a seven point first quarter hole and take a slim one point lead at the half.

The third belonged to Arab as well, outscoring Cullman 9-4 and taking a six point lead to the final quarter.

Arab opened the final eight minutes on a 4-0 run and looked to put the game on ice. However, Baylee Johnson had a little something to say about that.

She was a huge part of the comeback of Cullman in the fourth, scoring eight of the nine points on a 9-2 run getting the Lady Bearcats to within three. The rest was Morgan Smith. She drilled a three to tie the ball game at 47 with 36.5 on the clock.

Arab's Hannah Black responded with a lay-up giving the Lady Knights a two point lead. Smith then put the proverbial dagger in, draining a deep three, giving Cullman a 50-49 lead with 5.1 left to play. With fouls to give, the Lady Bearcats were able to kill the clock and win a thriller of a game.

Morgan "MoJo" Smith had 16 for the Lady 'Cats, none bigger than her final six. Baylee Johnson was also in double figures with 13.

Shelby Beam led all scorers with 18.She was followed by Mary Paige Hunt with 13.

Cullman Bearcats 64 vs. Arab Knights 51

Sophomore Lawson Schaffer was on fire for Cullman in the first quarter of Monday's game. He knocked the bottom out of three three-point baskets, along with two points from inside the arch and one from the free throw line, leading Cullman to an 18-8 advantage after one.

Arab had an answer for Schaffer in the form of Ryan Rush who scored 10 and got Arab to within six. With time winding down in the second, Schaffer drilled a very deep three, his fourth of the night, putting Cullman up nine at the break.

The Knights picked up right where they left off. Hot shooting led to an 8-0 run cutting the lead to one early in the third before Schaffer hit his fifth three of the night.

His three pushed the lead back to four and it stayed at four heading to the final stanza where Cullman blew the game open on the hot hand of Schaffer. Despite an 8-2 run by Arab, the Bearcats cruised to a 64-51 victory.

Leading all scorers was Lawson Schaffer with a career high 36 points, including seven threes.

Ryne rush led the way for Arab with his 15 and was followed closely by Logan Sulfridge with 14.

1-15-2013

Cullman vs. Mortimer Jordan
By: Josh McBrayer
Cullman Lady Bearcats 61 vs. Mortimer Jordan Lady Blue Devils 14

The Lady Bearcats controlled the game from the opening tip, winning their third game in four days by beating the visiting Mortimer Jordan Lady Blue Devils.

The first quarter set the tone for the entire contest. Cullman closed the first on a 10-0 run and carried the momentum over to the second. All total, they outscored Mortimer Jordan 32-6 in the first half.

Cullman continued the shooting onslaught in the second half, riding the hot hand of Baylee Johnson. She scored 13 of her game-high 25 in the third.

The Lady Bearcats cruised into the fourth with a commanding 41 point lead, leading to a running clock in the fourth and a 61-14 Cullman victory.

Aside from the 25 of Johnson, no other player from either team was in double figures.

Cullman Bearcats 76 vs. Mortimer Jordan Blue Devils 62

Cullman came out on fire and the boys game, just like the girls, looked like it was going to be a runaway. Connor Moon of Mortimer Jordan, however, had different plans.

He had 11 of the Blue Devils' first 15, helping erase the early seven point Cullman lead. It was then Cullman's turn to answer in the form of Lawson Schaffer.

He picked up where he left off Monday night, scoring 11 in the quarter, with nine coming from three-point land. His three-point shooting led to a nine point Cullman lead at the end of one. The spark from Schaffer was just what the Bearcats needed. They went on to outscore the Blue Devils 19-11 in the second and take a 14 point lead to the half.

The Blue Devils came out of the halftime break with renewed vigor, looking to cut into the Cullman lead, but the Bearcats matched them shot for shot in the third and fourth quarters. The teams traded baskets for the remainder of the third quarter.

Mortimer Jordan fought back in the fourth but could not get closer than nine points as the Bearcats rolled on to the 76-62 victory.

Cullman's leading scorer was Lawson Schaffer who scored 21 in the night following his career high 36. Houston Turner put in 14, two in the form of an emphatic dunk that put an exclamation point on the win. Troy Forrest also had a 14 point game.

Connor Moon with 16 points led the way for the Blue Devils. Mark Louis followed with 10.

St. Bernard vs. Meek
By: Johnny Thorton
St. Bernard Lady Saints 48 vs. Meek Lady Tigers 50

A great first half for the Lady Saints didn't continue in the final 16 minutes. St. Bernard held on to a 31-17 halftime lead with Michayla Brown and Aymee Chauvin combining for 20 points. Brown was scoring from near the basket while Chauvin hit three shots from long range.

Meek guard Haylee Ragsdale delivered a hot hand in the third period with 20 points, scoring six field goals, three treys, and five of six from the line to send the Lady Tigers into the lead at 42-37.

The Lady Saints had numerous chances to win the game in the fourth period but was two of 13 at the foul line. St. Bernard got the ball in the final seconds down by two, but turned it over when moving into front court. Ragsdale was able to run out the clock in leading her team with 30 points and a solid comeback victory.

Chauvin had 14 in a losing cause for the Lady Saints while Brown netted 13, Zoie Wilson 11, Zana Wilson six, and Katherine Gamble four.

St. Bernard had beaten Meek in November by the score of 39-38. Then the Lady Tigers were able to bounce back by coming back from 14 down at the half, stealing the victory at the Athletic Center.

St. Bernard Saints 48 vs. Meek Tigers 46

It's becoming a good habit for St. Bernard center John Gurtowski. For the second time in less than a week, Gurtowski is a hero for the Saints.

Gurtowski dropped in a shot as time ran out for the Saints to get by the Meek Tigers 48-46 in a hard fought Class 1A, Area 14 game Tuesday night at the Fazi-Richard Athletic Center.

Gurtowski had seven of his nine points in the final period, supporting the scoring of the Saints' deadly duo, Jadavian Roland and Sean Moriarty. The duo combined for only one point in the fourth, needing the contribution Gurtowski provided from the offensive side.

The Saints picked up their eighth win of the season against 11 losses. They move to 2-4 in the area standings.

They have area games remaining with Addison and Decatur Heritage as they try to climb to at least third place in the area with the area tournament right around the corner.

Leading 14-12 to start the second period, Wade Knight's Saints went on a 7-2 run and led by a score of 21-14. Then the Tigers came back thanks to three consecutive shots made by reserve guard Jermiah Banks.

His scoring allowed the Tigers to cut the margin to 26-25 at the half.

Moriarty tossed in three shots in the third despite picking up his fourth personal foul. But he had a challenge from Meek forward Seth Hayes who scored six of his 21 points in the third and the Tigers were still on the heels of the Saints, trailing 37-36.

St. Bernard moved ahead despite hitting just two of eight free throws in the final period. Meek was able to work the ball inside to Hayes who knocked down three shots and the battle was up for grabs with a minute to play and it tied at 46-46.

The Saints missed a shot then the Tigers had their chance with less than 20 seconds to go.

Gurtowksi got a rebound as the Saints brought the ball on to the offensive side. Dean Smith tried to win it with a three-pointer at the top of the circle, but missed.

There was Gurtowski to collect the rebound, getting in a position to toss in a short range jumper before the horn sounded. The officials called the field goal good in which the Saints went into a celebration.

Gurtowski had won the Addison game at home the previous week when he followed up a missed attempt with eight seconds to play.

Moriarty was the leader for the Saints with 18, Roland had 15, Gurtowski nine, Smith four, and Jacob Grey two.

The Saints had 21 points from Hayes, Jenton Hiller and Banks eight, and Ty Neal six.

St. Bernard gets a chance to go for its ninth win of the regular season Friday when Sumiton Christian visits the Athletic Center. The Eagles have won 16 of 20 games entering Tuesday night.



Community Matters

CullmanSense's Weekly Basketball Wrap-Up (Continued)

1-18-2013

Fairview vs. St. Clair County

By: Josh McBrayer

Fairview Lady Aggies 38 vs. St. Clair Lady Saints 30

According to Aesop's famous fable, The Tortoise and the Hare, 'slow and steady wins the race'. The Lady Aggies from Fairview took this to heart as they steadily and methodically controlled the match-up against the St. Clair Lady Saints Friday night.

The Lady Aggies trailed 2-0 following the first points of the game but back to back buckets gave Fairview the early lead. A lead they would never lose. Although the Lady Aggies could not put St. Clair away, they were never in any real danger.

After playing virtually even through the first three quarters, the Lady Aggies were finally able to put some breathing room between themselves and the Lady Saints. Fairview built an eight point lead, the largest of the night, on the shooting strength of Sara Harper who had five and Marlana Johnson who had four in the quarter. Eight points was enough to get the job done as the Lady Aggies went on to a 38-30 victory.

Julia Creel had nine in the Aggie victory. Sara Harper, Kennedy Tremble, and Marlana Johnson each had eight. Ally Raper hit a three and Kylee Banister had two free throws.

Moniqua Byers and Kyla Robinette had nine each, leading the way for the Lady Saints. Jessica Moore had seven, Brianna Clark four, and Nadiua Scroggins one.

Fairview Aggies 72 vs. St. Clair Saints 54

Following a span of four games in five days then close to a week off could easily throw any team off kilter, but the Fairview Aggies are not just any team.

Elijah Garrison and Luke Bailey set the tone early in the first quarter for the Aggies, scoring eight and six respectively. In quarter number two, it was Peter Kessler's time to shine. He had seven of the 16 Fairview second quarter points, leading to a 35-21 halftime lead.

The Aggies showed no sign of slowing down in the third, opening the quarter with a 10-4 run and pushing the lead to 21. Fairview went on to outscore St. Clair 23-11 in the quarter, thanks in part to an 11 point performance by Andy Hendrix.

St. Clair started the fourth on a 6-0 run before Elijah Garrison scored the next five. Smith, the head coach for the Saints was then called for a technical foul for an ill-advised comment to the official.

This swung the momentum back in the favor of Fairview who went on to win 72-54.

The Aggies were led by Elijah Garrison with 15. Luke Bailey and Peter Kessler each had 14. Andy Hendrix had 11, Blake Parker four, and Logan Allen two.

Josh Hardrick was the front runner for St. Clair with 18. Markett Clark was next with 13. Juan Motgomery 12, Matt Hicks six, Dalton Dayton two, Kendall Patton two, and Robert Watkins one.

Other Scores:

1-15-2013

Holly Pond Lady Broncos 52 vs. Pennington Lady Tigers 19

Holly Pond Broncos 76 vs. Pennington Tigers 36

Danville Lady Hawks 59 vs. Vinemont Lady Eagles 42

Danville Hawks 50 vs. Vinemont Eagles 60

1-18-2013

Hartselle Lady Tigers 40 vs. West Point Lady Warriors 35

Hartselle Tigers 44 vs. West Point Warriors 55

2013 County Basketball Tournament Off to a Quick Start

By: Johnny Thornton

Sports Correspondent

HANCEVILLE – With the first day of the 2013 Cullman County Basketball Tournament in the books, some teams are looking for answers while others seem to be catching fire. The Tom Drake Coliseum, located on the campus of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, is the site for this year's tournament, which is sure to see lots of excitement and great basketball.

Day 1

JV GIRLS:

West Point 5 12 10 7 - 34
Hanceville 3 2 2 7 - 14

WEST POINT: Daeshia Smith 9, Deanna Waldrep 7, Lexie Burdette 4, Tess Hembree 4, Jeri Beasley 4, Taylor Deese 5

HANCEVILLE: Braylah Anderton 5, Madyson Cummings 3, Alyssa Rossie 2, Kaylee Nait 2, Allyson Waldrop 2

Smith hit 3 of 5 FGS for West Point to go with 9 rebounds. Waldrep was 3 of 7 shooting with one basket from 3-point range. Beasley had one 3-point FG, a free throw, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, and 4 steals.

NEXT GAME: West Point vs. # 1 Cold Springs in semifinal Thursday 5:00 p.m.

JV BOYS:

Hanceville 8 3 11 10 - 32
West Point 21 9 20 10 - 60

WEST POINT: Will Wrenn 11, Zack Tilley 9, Levi Laney 9, Riley Voce 8, Trent Campbell 8, Bryant Farley 4, Derrick Sloan 5, Adam Stewart 4

HANCEVILLE: Xavier Malcom 8, Jose Orozco 7, Blake Purifoy 6, Issac Weissend 7, Jordan Peoples 2, Kyle Roberson 2

Wrenn was 4 of 6 from the floor, 3-4 in FTs, 5 rebounds, 1 assist; Laney hit 4 of 6 FGs, 1-1 FTs; Tilley 4-6 FGs, 3 rebounds; Farley 2-3 FGs, 5 rebounds, 7 assists.

NEXT GAME: West Point vs. # 2 Fairview in semifinal Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

JV GIRLS:

Vinemont 2 5 8 0 - 15
Holly Pond 21 10 12 20 - 63

HOLLY POND: Ruth Horton 15, Melissa Clingman 13, Meg Barksdale 7, Abby Gambrill 10, Adair Gillan 8, Taylor Tankersley 7, Taylor Oslin 3.

VINEMONT: Morgan Lawrence 9, Erin Chambers 6

Horton 6-12 FGs, 3-4 FTs, 6 rebounds, 2 assists; Clingman 6-11 FGs, 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Gillian 3-5 FGs, 1 rebound.

NEXT GAME: Holly Pond vs. # 3 Good Hope in semifinal Friday 5:00 p.m.

JV BOYS:

Holly Pond 9 19 14 12 - 54
Cold Springs 1 9 11 4 - 25

HOLLY POND: Matt Cahoon 17, Bailey Smith 7, Josh Horton 8, Drew Jones 9, Chase Allbright 5, Nathan Duke 2

COLD SPRINGS: Tyler Rice 8, Adam Carney 6, Devan Pace 6, Collin Day 4 .

Cahoon 8-12 FGs, 1 trey, 4 rebounds; Smith 3-4 FGs, Horton 3-6 FGs, 2-2 FTs, 1 rebound.

NEXT GAME: Holly Pond vs. # 1 Vinemont in semifinal Monday 5:00 p.m.

JV GIRLS:

Fairview 3 8 4 8 - 23
Good Hope 10 8 7 14 - 39

GOOD HOPE: Kaylee Maddox 16, Celest Whisenant 13, Sydney Phares 4, Caitlin Johnson 3, Celina Dillard 2, Savannah Mork 1

FAIRVIEW: Ashley Latham 6, Dalys Mullican 5, Hunter Cox 2, Aladie Howse 2, Harley Jo Gibbs 2, Kayla Aleman 2

Maddox 5-6 FGs, 6-7 FTs, 2 rebounds; Whisenant 4-10 FGs, 5-8 FTs, 7 rebounds.

NEXT GAME: Good Hope vs. # 2 Holly Pond in semifinal Friday 5:00 p.m.

JV BOYS:

Good Hope 0 7 6 12 - 25
Fairview 11 12 14 14 - 51

FAIRVIEW: Dylan Smith 14, Eric Murphree 7, Jaxon Smith 3, Chris Green 7, James Arnold 5, Matt Edge 2, Chance Hill 5, Devan Parker 4, Tyler Yearwood 4

GOOD HOPE: Tyler Elrod 8, Chase Speegle 3, Tyler Vanderburg 4, Kainan Smith 4, Eric Murphree 5. Smith was 6-7 FGs, 2-4 FTs, 6 rebounds, 2 assists.

NEXT GAME: Fairview vs. # 3 West Point in semifinal Tuesday 5:00 p.m.

Be sure to stay with CullmanSense.com for the best local sports coverage in the area.

Wesley Waters signs with Wallace

By: Josh McBrayer

joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

WEST POINT – Wallace State Community College is becoming a hotbed of baseball activity and Tuesday was no different. Wesley Waters, a stand-out power hitter and pitcher for the West Point Warriors, signed his letter of intent to play baseball for head coach Randy Puttman and the Wallace State Lions.

"It has been my dream to play baseball at Wallace since I was 10 years old," Waters told CullmanSense after signing his letter.

Sitting at a table draped with maroon in the West Point library, Waters donned the familiar navy blue hat with orange bill and WS logo of the Lions.

Flanked by his parents, Tammy and Terry Waters, and Wallace State assistant coach Adam Scott, Waters put pen to paper and made his dream come true.

Also on hand to witness the signing were West Point head coach Trai Meadows, pitching/assistant coach Steve Woodard, and West point principal Heith Yearwood.

Despite the nasty weather that had delayed school openings across the county, everyone was all smiles in the West Point Library, especially Meadows.

Since taking over the Warrior baseball program in 2012, Waters is the first Warrior signed to play college baseball, but judging by the product West Point puts on the field, it will not be the last.

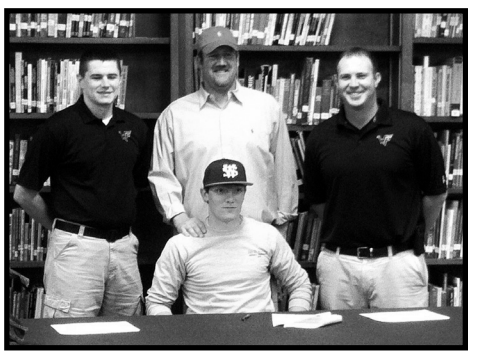


Photo contributed by Tammy Waters

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Community Matters

Rebecca Long crowned 2013 Miss Wallace State

Preliminary pageant for Miss America Organization helps provide millions of dollars in scholarship money to contestants throughout the United States

By: Kristen Holmes
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE — Rebecca Long of Hayden was crowned 2013 Miss Wallace State during the Miss Alabama preliminary pageant held Sunday at Wallace State in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre.

For her talent, Long performed a jazz dance routine to "What a Feeling." Her platform is Locks of Love.

Tahauny Cleghorn of Cullman finished first runner up in the competition and was named the talent winner on the strength of her vocal performance, "Not a Day Goes By." Katherine Anderson of Cullman finished second runner up. Long and Savannah Nichols of Cullman tied to win the fitness/swimsuit competition.

Miss Wallace State 2012 Sara Beth Drake and the recently crowned 2013 Miss North Alabama's Outstanding Teen Mikaylah Duggans served as mistresses of ceremonies.

The Miss Wallace State Pageant is a preliminary pageant for the Miss America Organization, which provides millions of dollars in scholarship money to contestants throughout the United States. As Miss Wallace State, Long will compete for the title of Miss Alabama in June 2013 at Samford University.

All Miss Wallace State contestants received a cash scholarship. Long will also receive a full tuition and fees scholarship to Wallace State.



Pictured L-R: Second Runner Up Katherine Anderson of Cullman; Miss Wallace State 2013 Rebecca Long of Hayden; First Runner Up Tahauny Cleghorn of Cullman; and Savannah Nichols of Cullman, who tied with Long as the fitness/swimsuit competition winner.



Miss Wallace State 2012 Sara Beth Drake crowns Miss Wallace State 2013 Rebecca Long.

Photos by Kristen Holmes

Tafazoli wins spelling bee

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – Olivia Tafazoli, a seventh grader, at St. Bernard Prep recently won the school spelling bee.

Olivia will compete with other students in Cullman County on January 28 at Fairview High School Auditorium. Pictured with Olivia are Ms. Martha Ann Warnke, Spelling Bee Coordinator, and Principal William Calvert. Cailin O'Donnell was runner-up.

Olivia is the daughter of Mark and Lori Tafazoli of Cullman.



CRMC to Host Blood Drive

By: Lindsey Dossey
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Cullman Regional Medical Center is hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday, January 21 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Donations will be accepted on the LifeSouth Community Blood Center Blood Donor Bus located at the Main Entrance of the hospital, at 1912 AL Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

Donors must be at least 17 years old, however, 16 year-olds may donate with written parental consent, weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated blood within the last 56 days. There is no upper age limit to donate blood.

For more information, visit lifesouth.org or call the local LifeSouth Donor Office at 256-736-1594.

Do something amazing.
Save a life today.
Please give blood.

Donate at CRMC
Monday, January 21
11am - 5pm

Donors must be 17 or older, (16-year-olds may donate with written parental consent) weigh 110 pounds or more and show I.D. All donors will receive a recognition item and a cholesterol screening.

For more information call (888) 795-2707 or visit www.lifesouth.org.

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Hanceville, AL 35077
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Chris Windsor
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Office: 256-737-9272
Cell: 256-338-2242

Community Matters

Whiteout causes havoc for some, provides entertainment for others

Stranded drivers given emergency shelter at Civic Center; Children enjoy snow day

By: Dustin Isom

dustinisom@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – As a midday winter storm pushed through Cullman Thursday, many residents were caught unprepared for the slick roads, blinding whiteout, and cold temperatures left behind.

Beginning at roughly 1 p.m. Thursday Twitter feeds, Facebook statuses, along with a host of other social media feeds, changed from the normal updates concerning choices of restaurants or newly styled hairdos. Instead the digital waves were filled with questions, concerns, and tips to help brave the weather, which had many residents reaching out to help others.

"We tried our best to keep up with the list of closings, whether it was business or school closings," said *CS* Publisher Noah Chandler. "I believe our small crew did an excellent job informing the public of the closures, which I must say is an improvement from the winter storm which struck in 2011."

This brief snow storm, lasting roughly six hours, left between 3-4 inches of snow behind. The impromptu day off had area school children hard at winter play.

Jessica Handley took the newly allotted spare time to take her two-year-old son Brayden Fox out for a bit of fun in the snow.

"This is his first real snow since he was just two months old, the last time we had any good snowfall," said Handley. "It's great to be able to see him having such a good time."

Once the snowfall ceased, the temperature slowly began to dip, making any melted or slushed snow into potentially dangerous black ice, as many drivers found out. Traffic was at a standstill on Interstate 65 southbound, as many drivers waited in excess of 10 hours to be rescued from the frozen roadway.

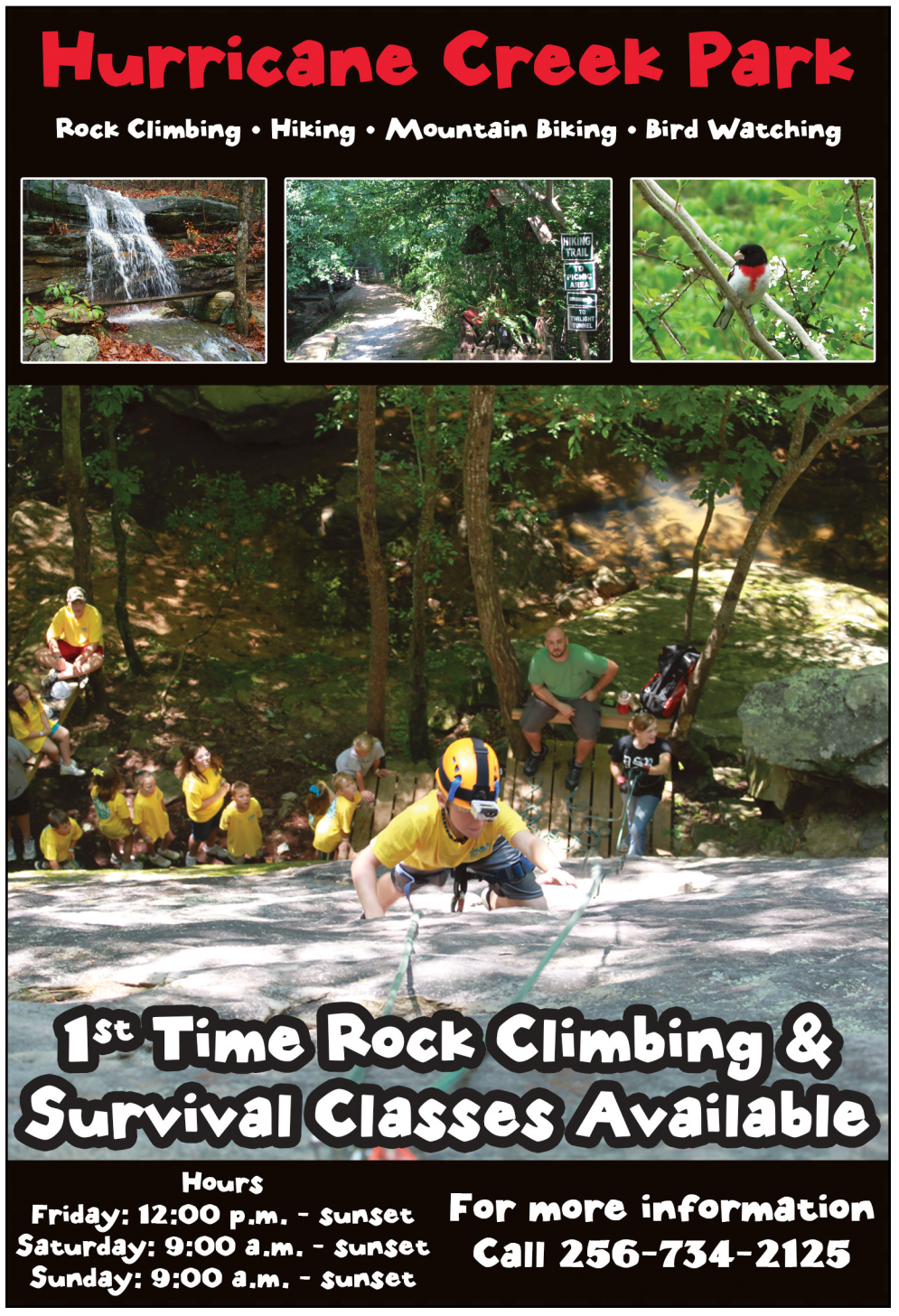
For those drivers who were not from Cullman County and stranded for the night, they were brought to the Cullman Civic Center to an emergency shelter, staged by the American Red Cross. Stranded motorists were provided with meals, facilities, and beds for the evening.

For interactive panoramas from the storm, along with a video and a photo gallery, visit CullmanSense.com, your leader in community news.



Photos by Jessica Norrell and Dustin Isom





Community Matters

Do you have an old photo?
E-mail us at **history@cullmansense.com.**

Governor Bentley Appoints Scott Donaldson to Alabama Court of Civil Appeals

By: Jennifer Ardis
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Tuesday announced the appointment of Tuscaloosa County Circuit Judge Scott Donaldson to the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

Donaldson's appointment fills the vacancy created by the November 6 election of Judge Tommy Bryan to the Alabama Supreme Court.

Judge Donaldson has served as a circuit judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit since 2003. Prior to serving as a circuit judge, he practiced law for over 18 years and was elected to serve on the Alabama State Bar Commission and the State Bar Disciplinary Commission. Donaldson is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and is an Alabama Commissioner on the National Uniform Law Commission. He has served as a faculty member at the National Judicial College and as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Alabama School of Law and the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration.

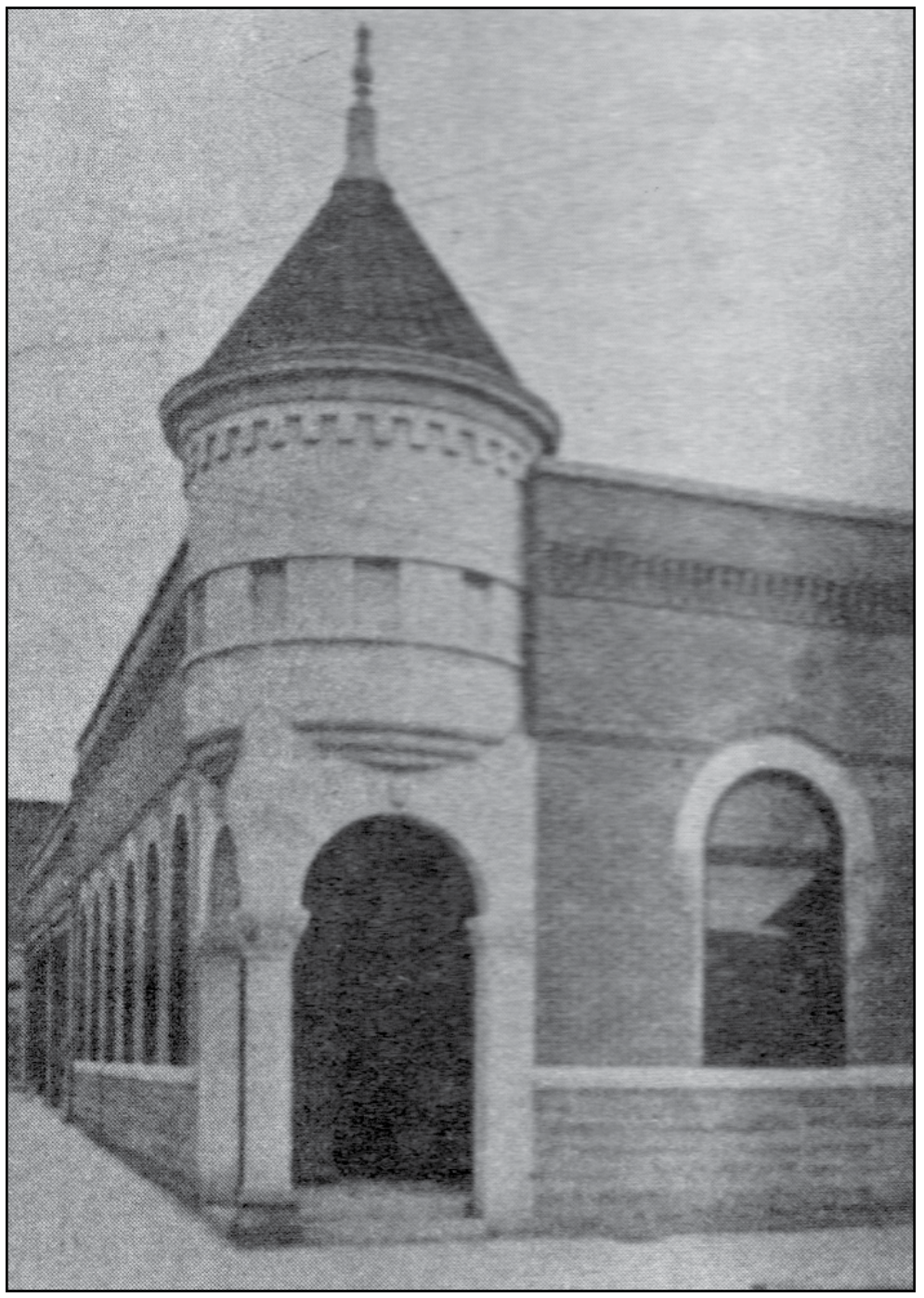
"I have personally known Judge Scott Donaldson for a number of years. He has dedicated his life to the legal profession," Governor Bentley said.

"He brings extensive experience and vast knowledge to this position. I appreciate his record of public service, and I know he will serve the people of Alabama well on the Court of Civil Appeals."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the state on the Court of Civil Appeals," Judge Donaldson said. "I appreciate Governor Bentley's confidence in me, and I pledge to honor that confidence by serving faithfully and with honor and integrity."

The appointment is effective immediately and creates a vacancy in the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Alabama. Governor Bentley will begin the process to appoint a new circuit judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Reflections of History



Leeth Bank – Founded 1904 Photo Contributed by Cullman County Museum

Vote Now!

Are you tired of reality TV?

Last Week's Poll:

Do you consider your diet to be healthy?

Yes - 14%
No - 86%

Cast your ballot at cullmansense.com/poll

Missoula Children's Theatre Presents
The Wizard of OZ

January 26th 2pm & 6pm
Cullman Civic Center
Students get in FREE with a paying adult





Children Ages K-12 Can
Audition

Audition at the Cullman Civic Center on Monday, January 21 from 2:00pm - 6:00pm
Participants will need to be willing to practice each day after school.
Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

This Week in History Jan. 21 - Jan. 27

January 21st
- 1813 – Pineapple introduced to Hawaii
- 1908 – New York City regulation makes it illegal for a woman to smoke in public
- 1977 – President Jimmy Carter pardons almost all Vietnam War draft evaders
- 2012 – Fears over bioterrorism cause top international virologists agree to halt work on a more virulent strain of H5N1 influenza virus

January 22nd
- 1951 – Fidel Castro ejected from a Winter League game after beaning batter
- 1973 – Roe vs. Wade: U.S. Supreme Court legalizes some abortions
- 2010 – Thousands of Venezuelan protesters demonstrate for and against President Hugo Chavez' policies surrounding energy shortages and currency revaluation

January 23rd
- 1870 – 173 Blackfoot – 140 women and children – killed in Montana by U.S. Army
- 1950 – Israeli Knesset resolves Jerusalem is capital of Israel
- 1983 – Russian radioactive satellite falls into Indian Ocean

January 24th
- 1899 – Rubber heel patented by Humphrey O'Sullivan
- 1935 – First canned beer, "Krueger Cream Ale," is sold by Kruger Brewing Co.
- 1964 – 24th Amendment to U.S. Constitution goes into effect and states voting rights could not be denied due to failure to pay taxes

January 25th
- 1870 – Soda fountain patented by Gustavus Dows
- 1940 – Nazi decrees establishment of Jewish ghetto in Lodz, Poland
- 1971 – Charles Manson and three women followers convicted of Tate-LaBianca murders

January 26th
- 1871 – U.S. income tax repealed
- 1939 – Filming begins on 'Gone With the Wind'
- 1960 – High-school basketball sensation Danny Heater scores 135 points
- 1992 – Americans with Disabilities Act goes into effect

January 27th
- 1888 – National Geographic Society organizes in Washington, D.C.
- 1967 – Treaty banning military use of nuclear weapons in space, signed
- 2010 – Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, unveils a new invention, a tablet PC called the iPad, at a press conference in San Francisco

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, January 21st

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.

'Senior Spirit'
'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship and fitness!

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, January 22nd

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission will meet at 10 a.m. in the Commission Room, first floor of the Courthouse. This is an open meeting and all interested persons are welcome to attend.

Cullman Civitan Club
Cullman Civitan Club members invite interested persons to attend their twice monthly meetings - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - at Daily's Restaurant beginning at 6 p.m. Dinner is followed by their business session. Civitan Club is one of the service organizations which helps promote Cullman and new members are wanted and welcomed to check out this group.

Genealogy meeting
There is a free Genealogy meeting each Tuesday in the library basement at Wallace State College. This workshop runs from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and is to help new researchers and for informal study. Please call Von for additional information at 256-739-2843.

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.

Wednesday, January 23rd

'Senior Spirit'
'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship and fitness!

'Divorce Care for Kids'
A 'Divorce Care for Kids' program to help youths from 6 to 12 years of age is available to help youths whose family is going through, or has gone through, divorce. This FREE program takes place each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at the Church. All workbooks and materials are included and presented to each attendee in class. Additional info is available by calling the Church at 256-737-0800 or check out Daystar Children's Ministry website at www.kidspowercompany.org.

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!

Thursday, January 24th

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Members of Cullman's Overeaters Anonymous will gather at 4:45 p.m. and they invite others interested to come check out their group. They meet weekly, both on Thursday evenings at 4:45 p.m. and/or on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. These meetings are conducted at the Carriage House of Grace Episcopal Church. Folks are invited to attend either one of the group meetings, depending on your free time.

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

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Friday, January 25th

'Senior Spirit'
'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship and fitness!

Refuge Church Rummage and Bake Sale
There will be a Rummage and Bake Sale at Refuge Church. Funds raised will benefit the Church's building fund. Patricia Chapman is contact person for this event at 256-796-7070. Come see what bargains are available and start your New Year off right with all the savings.

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

Saturday, January 26th

Refuge Church Rummage and Bake Sale
There will be a Rummage and Bake Sale at Refuge Church. Funds raised will benefit the Church's building fund. Patricia Chapman is contact person for this event at 256-796-7070. Come see what bargains are available and start your New Year off right with all the savings.

Hearts of Love - A Mission Possible Beauty Pageant
Hearts of Love - A Mission Possible Beauty Pageant hosted by Grace Community Church in Holly Pond. All proceeds go directly to our Brazil Mission Trip Fund. Entry Fees/Donations are all completely tax deductible. For forms and information contact Tammy at 256-338-3328 or email garyzluv7@aol.com.

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!

Monday, January 28th

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.

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'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship and fitness!

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!

Community Matters

The Fitness Chronicles of Norrell - Week 5

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

Sickness: Not the best workout plan

Last week I mentioned getting organized in the kitchen when completing grocery shopping; however, I have barely left the house due to sickness. I lost weight but unfortunately only because of lack of hydration and appetite. So I will post my results next week for a more accurate record of my progression.

One thing I did learn is that without taste and sense of smell, I would be very skinny, but unhappy. I apologize for the delay but I will be much more careful when going out as well as leave you with a few stay well and get well tips that I hope are helpful (and wish I had paid more attention to even though I rarely get sick).

Wash your hands

I am sure you hear this one all of the time but it is very important. Germs are everywhere and if you go out at all you come in contact with germs that can make you sick. Gas pump handles, door knobs/handles, desk or table tops… just think of how many people who don't wash their hands have touched public surfaces before you. Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer if available.

Get enough sleep

Getting plenty of sleep is one of your body's best defenses. It is your time to recover, particularly if you are already sick.

Don't drink alcohol

If you feel like you are starting to get sick it is best to avoid alcohol since it can weaken your immune system temporarily.

Stay hydrated and eat well

This is important even if you are already sick. Your body is working overtime to recover so try to drink plenty of fluids and if you are able to, eat healthy.

Colorful foods like bell peppers, leafy greens, and blueberries are high in antioxidants. Avoid only eating simple sugars and starches. I know I haven't felt like eating and drinking since I have been sick, but doing so will reduce your recovery time if you are able to. Chicken noodle soup and Miso soup helped me out big time!

Skip a workout if you are sick

Your body needs all its extra resources to fight off whatever virus or bacteria you've been exposed to, so save all the energy you've got. Giving your body a rest will give it time to recover from sickness rather than prolong it.

Take your vitamins

Taking a multi-vitamin daily is important because you can't always get all of the vitamins and nutrients from the foods you are eating, even if you have a healthy diet. Multi-vitamins can also give your immune system a much needed boost. I need to do better with this one! I didn't get sick once when I took vitamins daily!

I will be on a regular schedule next week and healthy (I hope) and ready to post my actual results then. I hope everyone is staying healthy!

In Her Own Words: Alabama Is On The Move, But Much Work Ahead

By: Lieutenant Gov. Kay Ivey
Contributor

When the Legislature reconvenes February 5, 2013, it will be my honor to preside over the Alabama Senate for the third time. The first two Legislative Sessions during my term have been historic.

Republicans gained control of the House and Senate for the first time in 136 years; lawmakers enacted a series of reforms to end the culture of corruption in Montgomery, control wasteful spending, and combat illegal immigration; legislators passed the Education Trust Fund Rolling Reserve Act to avoid proration of the state's education budget; and a new redistricting plan for Congressional, State School Board, and Legislative districts which will impact the state for the next ten years was adopted.

I had the honor of appointing eleven senators to the reapportionment committee responsible for completing that important task. Now we prepare for what is sure to be another historic Legislative Session in 2013.

Republicans remain the majority party in the Statehouse, and after the November 6, 2012 election, hold every constitutional office in the state.

Yet the make-up of the Senate is different than the last two years. Sen. Ben Brooks (R-District 35) left his seat to serve as a Mobile County Circuit Judge. Sen. Jerry Fielding (R-District 11) joined the Republican Caucus adding to the Republican majority.

And for the first time in Alabama's recorded history, a woman will serve as the Senate Minority Leader. I look forward to working closely with Sen. Vivian Figures (D-District 33) who is a proven leader.

In 2013, I am confident one of the first pieces of legislation that lawmakers will consider will outline how to repay the Alabama Trust Fund. Sen. Bryan Taylor (R-District 30) has already prefiled a bill proposing how to do that.

The passage of the amendment avoided cuts to vital services and put Alabama on sounder fiscal footing. Now we must work to develop long term solutions to Alabama's cash flow problems.

In the upcoming session, you will see a number of bills proposing efficiencies in government to streamline processes and reduce cost including consolidating numerous law enforcement and IT functions of state agencies. Combined, those measures could save more than $300 million per year.

Lawmakers are also looking at ways to reduce their own costs in the Legislative branch. I anticipate legislation being introduced that will reorganize the structure and management of the Alabama Legislature to complement the ongoing efforts to streamline state government.

I support efforts to reduce wasteful spending in the Statehouse. I will continue to run my office more efficiently than the previous administration.

Since taking office, I have reduced the Lieutenant Governor's budget by 30 percent. Controlling Medicaid spending will also be of utmost importance in 2013.

It is a vital program to our citizens, but it currently consumes a majority of the state's budget at $603 million.

With even more increased costs on the horizon, lawmakers are making it a priority to consider legislation implementing new healthcare delivery models that support quality patient care while providing choice and controlling rising cost.

It is an understatement to say the Legislature will face a number of challenging and important issues that impact every citizen in our state. Governor Bentley, your leaders in the Legislature, and I are committed to achieving fiscal security, growing our economies, and adding jobs in communities across the state, but we must remain vigilant. Alabama is on the move, but there is much work ahead.

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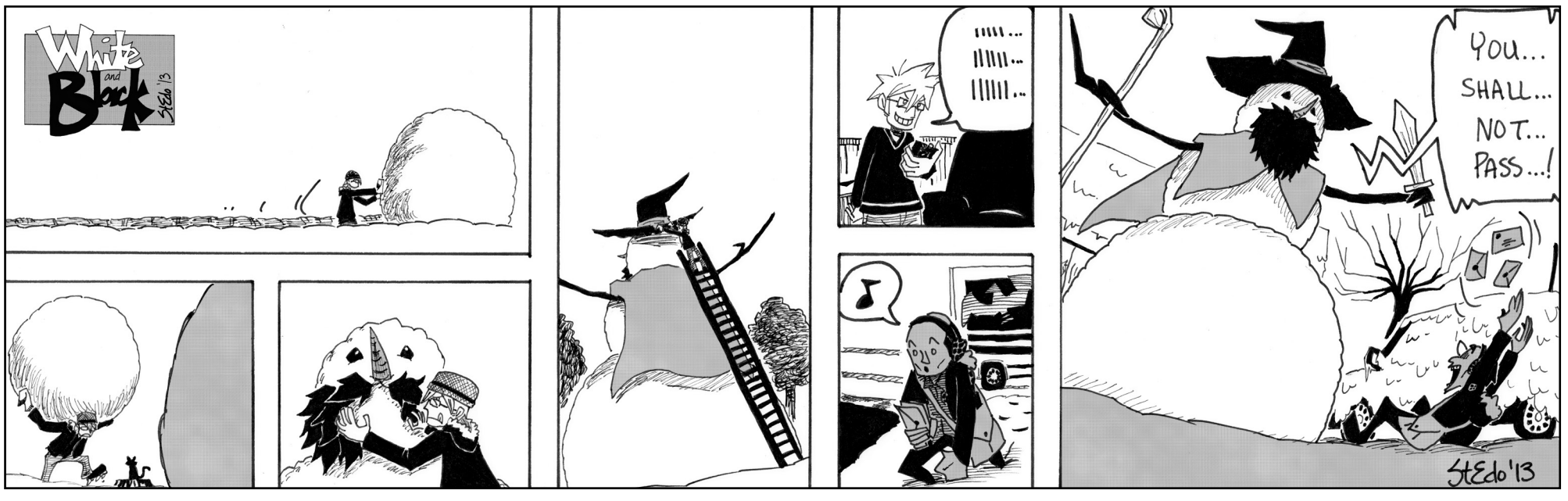
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WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....

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- **Missoula Children's Theater:** Auditions for the *Wizard of Oz* will be held Monday, January 21 for ages K-12 grade. The show will be performed at 2:00pm and 6:00pm & the public is encouraged to attend on Saturday, January 26. Actors will practice daily after school.
- **Miracle League Basketball Registration** Open January 1-January 30 at the Cullman Civic Center. Games will be played in February and March at Ingle Park. Price is $30 which include jersey. For more information call 256-739-9931.
- **Youth Baseball & Softball Registration** January 15-February 15 at the Cullman Civic Center. Cost is $75 and includes hat & jersey. Ages 4-16, boys & girls. For more information, call 256-739-9931.
- **Flag Football Registration**: January 15-February 15, $450 per team. Ages 15 & up may play. Register at Heritage park or call 256-739-9931 for details.
- **Archery Classes Beginning:** Spring archery classes will begin January 14 at the Cullman Civic Center. Classes will also meet at the Cullman Archery Park with instructor Anthony Parker. For more details, call 256-734-9157.
- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors.
- **Start Your New Year Right!** Memberships to the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center are available starting at just $35 a month. Call 256-775-7946 for details.

White & Black by St. Edo - st.edo@cullmansense.com



Community Matters

Movie Review: *Judge Dredd* (1995)

Presented by Blockbuster

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Keeping with the theme from last week, I will review an original movie then follow that up with Hollywood's attempt at a remake. On the docket this week is the comic book film *Judge Dredd*. Although the film was not a commercial success, it has developed somewhat of a cult following with a dedicated fan base.

The film is loosely based on a British comic book character, Judge Joseph Dredd, who is a "street judge" in the distant future. The street judges are police that have full authority to capture, arrest, sentence, and even execute criminals on the spot.

Dredd, who is played by Sylvester Stallone, is the most feared judge on the streets of Mega-City, a large industrial city that protects the people from the outlying Wastlands and is admired by each and every rookie class of judges.

The film starts out following a newly paroled computer hacker by the name of Furguson (Rob Schneider) who is just trying to survive in the dump of an apartment he is living in. Soon after Furguson arrives at his apartment, a "block war" breaks out and the judges, led by Hersey (Diane Lane) respond. The violence quickly escalates at which time Dredd arrives. He single-handedly takes out all of the thugs causing the disturbance and arrests Furguson for hiding in a city food robot, violating his parole. He sentences Furguson to five years prison.

During the block war a former judge turned murderer, Rico (Armand Assante), escapes from prison. He reclaims his old judge uniform and his Lawgiver, the weapon of a judge that only he can use. Rico then murders a reporter that has been critical of Dredd then framing Dredd for the murder.

Hersey represents Dredd at his trial but he is still found guilty due to DNA evidence. Each bullet fired from a Lawgiver is encoded with a DNA stamp and it is proven that Dredd's DNA stamp is the one on the bullet that killed the reporter.

The trial is conducted by the senior judges including Chief Judge Fargo (Max Von Sydow) who is like a father figure to Dredd. After Dredd is found guilty, Fargo steps down as Chief Judge but asks that Dredd's life be spared. The senior judges agree and Dredd is sentenced to life in prison while Fargo prepares to take the "long walk", the final act of a retiring judge. The retiring judge leaves Mega-City and goes into the "Cursed Lands" to bring "law to the lawless."

Meanwhile, Judge Griffin (Jurgen Pronchow) meets with Rico, telling him to create havoc and violence in Mega-City, proving that he had conspired with Rico to get rid of Dredd and Fargo so he could seize power of the council of senior judges.

As Dredd is being transported to Aspen Penal Colony to serve his sentence, he is seated beside Furguson who starts to make fun of Dredd and reveals to the other criminals the Judge Dredd is a prisoner. Just as a riot breaks out on the transport, it is shot down by the cannibalistic Angel gang who capture Dredd and Furguson.

After Griffin realizes the transport never reached Aspen, a group of judges are sent after Dredd. Jusr as Dredd fights off the Angel gang he and Ferguson are attacked by the group of judges sent to find Dredd. However, their lives are saved by none other than Judge Fargo who had been tracking the Angel gang. Fargo is mortally wounded in the fight and with his dying breath tells Dredd about the Janus project, a project that artificially created Dredd and his brother, Rico.

To see how the film ends, pay your local Blockbuster a visit and pick up a copy of *Judge Dredd*. You will be glad you did.

CullmanSense is Senior Bowl bound

By: Josh McBrayer
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MOBILE – For the second straight year, CullmanSense will be bringing our loyal readers coverage from the largest senior all-star game, the Senior Bowl, from the sidelines of Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, AL.

The Senior Bowl is THE premiere all-star event and a chance for senior college football players to showcase their talents one last time before the NLF combine and in front of a plethora of pro scouts and coaches.

Each year the staff in Mobile does a superb job of selecting the perfect mix of athletes to make the Senior Bowl not only great fun for the fans but a meaningful game for the players.

The talent that is at the Senior Bowl each and every year is second to none.

For anyone who follows football you will recognize names like Joe Namath, Walter Payton, Bo Jackson, and Brian Urlacher who are all members of the Senior Bowl Hall of Fame and that does not include names that have burst on the scene this year like Joe Adams for Carolina, Isaiah Pead for St. Louis and Russell Wilson for Seattle who were all on the Senior Bowl roster in 2012.

This year's North and South squads have been named and looks to be one of the most talent laden years in recent memory. Names like EJ Manuel, Landry Jones, Kejion Barner and Denard Robinson just to name a few.

The 2013 game is also making history. For the first time since the Senior Bowl game in 1950, two juniors will be allowed to play in the Senior Bowl game. Justin Pugh form Syracuse and Alabama's own DJ Fluker are four year juniors, have their degrees and have declared for the NFL Draft so they have been cleared by the NFL to play in Saturday's game.

The game will be held at Ladd-Peebles Stadium on January 26th in Mobile, AL. Here are the rosters for the game.

2013 South Roster
Landry Jones QB
EJ Manuel QB
Tyler Wilson QB
Andre Wellington RB
Mike Gillislee RB
Onterio McCalebb RB/RS
Stepfan Taylor RB
Tommy Bohanon FB
Cobi Hamilton WR
Tavarres King WR
Quinton Patton WR
Ryan Swope WR
Conner Vernon WR
Terrance Willliams WR
Vance McDonald TE
Mychal Rivera TE
Michael Williams TE
Oday Aboushi OL
DJ Fluker OL
Dalton Freeman OL
Garrett Gilkey OL
Lane Johnson OL
Xavier Nixon OL
Brian Schwenke OL
Dallas Thomas OL
JC Tretter OL
Larry Warford OL
Dustin Hopkins PK
Carson Tinker LS
Ezekial Ansah DL
Everett Dawkins DL
Lavar Edwards DL
Malliciah Goodman DL
Corey Grissom DL
Montori Hughes DL
John Jenkins DL
Cornelius Washington DL
Jamie Collins LB
Zaviar Gooden LB
Nico Johnson LB
Sean Porter LB
Chase Thomas LB
Vince Williams LB
Robert Alford DB
Marc Anthony DB
Sanders Commings DB
Robert Lester DB
Leon McFadden DB
Bacarri Rambo DB
BW Webb DB
JJ Wilcox DB
Shawn Williams DB
Ryan Allan PT

2013 North Roster
Zac Dysert QB
Mike Glennon QB
Ryan Nassib QB
Kenjohn Barner RB
Jonathan Franklin RB
Robbie Rouse RB
Kyle Juszczyk FB
Aaron Dobson WR
Marquise Goodwin WR
Chris Harper WR
Aaron Mellette WR
Denard Robinson WR
Markus Wheaton WR
Jack Doyle TE
Nick Kasa TE
Ryan Otten TE
Braxston Cave OL
Eric Fisher OL
Kyle Long OL
Joe Madsen OL
Justin Pugh OL
Davis Quessenberry OL
Hugh Thorton OL
Ricky Wagner OL
Brian Winters OL
Quinn Sharp PK
Luke Ingram LS
Michael Buchanan DL
Marqus Hunt DL
Datone Jones DL
Alex Okafor DL
Jordan Hill DL
Kawann Short DL
Brandon Williams DL
Sylvester Williams DL
Steve Beauharnais LB
Arthur Brown LB
Khaseem Greene LB
Kevin Reddick LB
John Simon LB
Trevardo Williams LB
Jonathan Cyprin DB
Will Davis DB
Dwayne Gratz DB
TJ McDonald DB
Jordan Poyer DB
Jamar Taylor DB
Philip Thomas DB
Desmond Trufant DB
Duke Williams DB
Blidi Wreh-Wilson DB
Jeff Locke PT

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Beef: It Draws a Crowd (from Front)

ferring to U.N.A.," she said.

"I'm very grateful for this scholarship, so thank you! You've helped me pay for college, so thank you because it is expensive."

To help celebrate in style, cowboy poet Baxter Black made his return to the annual meeting, the last coming in 2003.

The cowboy poet kept the large crowd with his unusual brand of farm humor. Most of the parables uttered by Black centered mainly on the hazards which a farmer faces when trying to do most anything with cattle.

"I'm telling you guys, don't let your cattle graze if we're coming out to breed them," Black said to laughing crowd. "You know that grass just works like lube for them, which isn't good for us."

Once getting the crowd rolling, Black shifted to a more conventional take on the importance of farming.

"It only takes 10 percent to feed everyone. Think on that," said Black.

"So next time you're around Gentiles – that's what I call those non-farmers – and they look at you funny when you tell them you farm, just remind them that you make their food."

Membership dues are $30 for men and $12 for women.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Cullman County Cattlemen's or Cattlewomen's Association, contact Steve Lake at 256-747-4052 or send in an e-mail request to lisadlake@gmail.com.







Interim No More

By: Noah Chandler

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Bolin named President of Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce

CULLMAN – Following the announced departure of former Chamber of Commerce President Kirk Mancer in July 2012, the leadership role fell to Interim President Leah Bolin, whose constant community involvement has led to a rise in memberships, along with a rise in moral.

"Leah's performance during the interim period was exceptional. She has professionally represented the Chamber already at a number of very important city/county functions. Membership revenues are 15% higher now than at this time last year," said Charlie NeSmith, Chair.

"She has consistently demonstrated her creativity and marketing skills, worked long hours, and sees tremendous opportunities for the Chamber to be active in marketing the Cullman area. We feel fortunate and look forward to have her serve as our newest Chamber President."

In an e-mail sent out to Chamber members on Tuesday, NeSmith officially announced the hiring of Bolin. NeSmith stated the committee, which is comprised of Chester Freeman, Susan Guthrie, Fred Cespedes, John Apel, Rickey Kreps, and Charlie NeSmith, sifted through more than 50 applications, including one from overseas, before the group narrowed the selection scope to just a handful of prospective candidates.

"In July of 2012, following the resignation of Kirk Mancer, a search committee was appointed to determine the new President. The committee members thoroughly reviewed each resume over several weeks and narrowed the search to six candidates," said NeSmith. "The committee then compiled a series of specific questions that were asked of each candidate during personal interviews. The finalists were gradually narrowed down based on these interviews until the decision was made final."

One stipulation the Executive Board placed on the interim President at the time was that the fulltime position could not be filled by anyone serving as interim. NeSmith explained that the board wanted to avoid any possible awkwardness which could arise if the interim was not chosen as a permanent replacement.

"Prior to the deadline of collecting resumes for the permanent position, numerous Chamber members and Board members requested that Bolin be given the opportunity to apply. This request was thoroughly discussed and supported by both the Chamber Executive Board and Search Committee," he said. "Bolin was then notified that she could apply for the position if she so chose."



That's exactly what she did. Bolin, who has worked with events such as Celebrate Cullman and Rock the South before coming to the Chamber, is looking forward to developing new, fresh ideas, promoting better communication, and implementing new programs to help diversify the Chamber.

"The Executive Committee and I would like to work on a new strategic plan. I believe setting long term goals will provide the continuity we need to make a few necessary changes. My personal focus will be on member retention and recruitment, tourism, and retail development," said Bolin.

"The chamber was organized to advance the prosperity of the Cullman area in business and quality of life. We want to tackle projects that provide solutions to current issues. In order to do this, we need to evaluate what programs are working and which are not."

In order to accomplish these goals, Bolin said continued hard work is the key.

"Our plan is very simple. Your chamber will continue on the path it was put on 70 years ago. We will work hard to provide stability, support, and solutions to the local economy," she said. "You may see us doing things in an entirely different way than we have ever done it before, but I guarantee you will see positive steps in the right direction."

As someone who has lived within the boundaries of Cullman County, Bolin has an immense amount of pride for the area.

"Our (family) band sings a song called I Love this Town. Having grown up here, it is easy for me to see the value of our community," she said. "I really do love this town and I will do my very best to work with all of you to make it an even better place to live, work, and do business."

Unemployment (from Front)

"Governor Bentley and our Department of Commerce are working to bring jobs to the state, and the staff in our Career Centers will continue to work to help the unemployed and underemployed find the right career."

Assistance in finding a job, writing a resumé, and receiving educational or vocational training opportunities can be found at any of the state's 47 local Career Centers. A listing of Career Centers can be found at www.joblink.alabama.gov.

The counties with the lowest December 2012 unemployment rates were: Shelby County at 4.6%, Madison and Blount Counties at 5.5%, and Coffee, Cullman, Lee, and St. Clair Counties at 5.7%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox County at 15.1%, Bullock County at 13.1% and Perry, Greene and Dallas Counties at 12.0%.

