Series 3, Issue 13 Monday, April 1, 2013
Cullman's Monday Newspaper
CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters
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A Waltz Down Memory Lane





Fairview resident Melanie K. Patterson publishes book chronicling local historic photos & stories - p. 12

"I figured, where better to research history than in your own hometown?"

'Egg'stravaganza - p. 6

4D Farm provides Easter fun for children and adults



Cullman Car Dealer Indicted for Violating Legal Protections for Active-Duty Service Members

By: Peggy Sanford

BIRMINGHAM – A federal grand jury Wednesday indicted a Cullman used car dealer for violating federal protections for active-duty military service members by refusing to reduce the loan interest rate and repossessing the vehicle he sold to a man who was later deployed overseas with the Alabama National Guard, announced U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance and FBI Special Agent in Charge Richard D. Schwein Jr.

A two-count indictment filed in U.S. District Court charges CARL RALPH NUSS, 75, with violating the Service members Civil Relief Act. The act restricts or limits civil actions in the areas of financial management, including rental agreements, security deposits, evictions, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgages, civil judicial proceedings, and income tax payments, against service members called to active duty.

Nuss, owner of North Alabama Wholesale Autos in Cullman, sold a 2002 Ford Sport-Trac in February 2011 to the 22-year-old man. The dealership sold the vehicle for $9,746 and, after a $2,200 down payment, financed the balance at 25 percent interest per year, according to the indictment.

In May 2012, the Guardsman, a private first class, was called to active duty in Afghanistan. In July 2012, according to the indictment, Nuss received a letter from the Guardsman requesting that the dealership reduce the interest rate on his car loan from 25 percent to 6 percent, as required by the act. Nuss never reduced the interest rate and, two days after receiving the letter, hired two men to repossess the guardsman's truck.

The two men repossessed the vehicle without a court order, in violation of the Service members Civil Relief Act, the indictment says.

The maximum penalty for each count is one year in prison and a $100,000 fine.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges.

A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

ARTS IN APRIL

WSCC offers full lineup of entertainment all month long - p. 3

SPOTLIGHT ON

Cullman Bearcats Baseball - p. 5

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In Brief

Cullman's Unemployment Rate at 7%, State average is Slightly Higher at 7.2%

By: Tara Hutchison

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's preliminary February unemployment rate is 7.2%, up from January's rate of 6.9%, and equal to February 2012's adjusted rate. February's rate represents 154,885 unemployed persons, compared to 148,663 last month, and 155,673 last year.

"While we did experience a slight uptick in the unemployment rate this month, we also saw an increase in the number of people working, both over the past month and the past year," said Surtees. "We've also seen an increase in the number of people in the labor force. This tells us that some people are regaining confidence in the job market and are looking for work again."

The number of people employed in February was 2,002,810, up from 1,999,493 in January, and also up from 2,000,021 in February 2012.

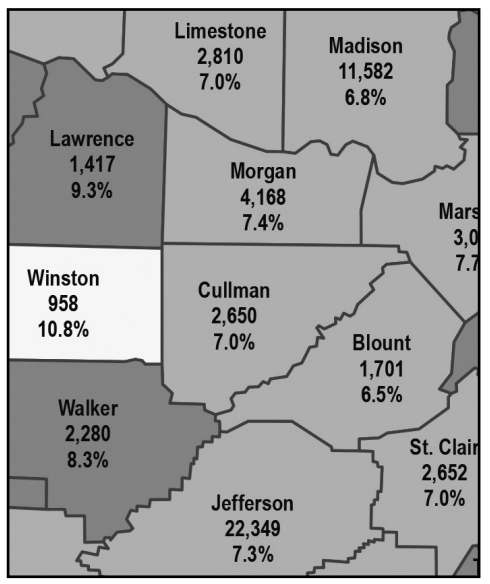
The Civilian Labor Force (CLF), increased in February to 2,157,695, up from 2,148,156 in January. It is also above the 2,155,694 recorded in February 2012. The CLF is made up of people who have a job or are seeking a job.

"Going hand in hand with the increases in the number of employed, we are also seeing increases in the number of jobs in several sectors, including manufacturing and leisure and hospitality," continued Surtees. "Additionally, initial unemployment compensation claims were down by more than fifty percent from last month. This represents stabilization in initial claims as the expected loss from seasonal hiring and temporary shutdowns begins to wane."

Wage and salary employment increased 15,300 over the month. Increases were seen in the following sectors: government, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, educational and health services, manufacturing, and construction, among others. The only sector to lose jobs over the month was financial activities.

There were 17,108 initial unemployment compensation claims in February, compared to 34,560 in January. This is also below the 18,289 initial claims reported in February 2012.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates in February are: Shelby County at 5.6%, Lee County at 6.4%, and Blount County at 6.5%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates in February are: Wilcox County at 17.6%, Lowndes County at 14.5%, and Dallas County at 13.8%.



Contributed

Senate passes General Fund budget with level funding for Medicaid

Contributed By: Medicaid

MONTGOMERY – A General Fund budget with level funding for Medicaid passed its first hurdle on March 12 when the Alabama Senate approved a $1.75 billion General Fund operating budget for state agencies. The budget now goes to the state House of Representatives for action.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency, the largest consumer of General Fund dollars, was level funded with $615.1 million allocated for the 2014 fiscal year.

The Senate-approved budget also includes about $146 million transferred from the Alabama Trust Fund as a result of a constitutional amendment approved by voters in September 2012 and $48 million from a pending tobacco settlement.

At a February 20 legislative budget hearing, State Health Officer Dr. Don Williamson, chair of the Medicaid Transition Task Force, said reductions in provider reimbursements and other changes will help Medicaid operate with a $615 million General Fund appropriation for the 2014 fiscal year that starts in October 2013.

"With your help, God's grace, and the renewal of the provider taxes and nothing else going wrong, we will make 2014 work," Dr. Williamson said.

He warned lawmakers, however, that Medicaid will need more than $730 million from the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2015, even if changes recommended by the Alabama Medicaid Advisory Commission are implemented. The proposal will save some money and provide better patient outcomes, but it will not solve the financial problems, he explained.

"Nothing we do is going to fix a $100 million hole in Medicaid," Williamson said.

CRMC Foundation Gala XII

By: Lindsey Dossey

CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation will host its twelfth annual spring gala beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at The Atrium in Cullman. Gala XII, is a volunteer-organized event by the CRMC Service Guild and monies raised will benefit the new Refresh-A-Room Campaign at Cullman Regional Medical Center. The Foundation will also honor a local humanitarian and a physician who have been instrumental in improving healthcare in the community.

About the H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award and the Physician Recognition Award

- The special awards from the CRMC Foundation recognize individuals who have played a significant role in advancing healthcare to the community and surrounding area through Cullman Regional Medical Center.
- The 2013 H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award honoree is Dr. William F. Peinhardt.
- The 2013 Physician Recognition Award honoree is Dr. B. Gregory Bostick.
- Previous honorees for the Humanitarian Award include: Dr. James Davis (2012), Keith Parrish (2011), Janie Ensor (2010), Danny McAfee (2009), Betty Leeth Haynes (2008), Steve Glasscock (2007), Frank Fink, Jr. (2006), Dr. Silvia Morris (2005), Chester Freeman (2004), Sarah Hicks (2003), and Dr. Herman Ensor (2002).
- A Physician Recognition Award is given to honor medical staff members who have dedicated their lives to improving healthcare at CRMC in the community. Previous honorees include: Dr. Vincent E. Bergquist (2012), Dr. Jim Davis & Dr. Bill Peinhardt (2009), Dr. Rick Gober, and Dr. Phillip Freeman (2010).
- A posthumous humanitarian award was first given in 2006 and presented again 2007 and 2008. Recognized through this award were Dr. Frank Stitt, Sr., Dr. Roy Williams, and Dr. Lowell Clemmons.

About the Gala

- Held each Spring, the CRMC Foundation Gala is the largest annual fundraiser for CRMC and features a dinner, dance, and silent/live auction. 2013 marks the Foundation's twelfth Gala, which continues to grow in attendance each year.
- Cost to attend the Gala XII is $300 per couple and $150 per person.
- Proceeds from Gala XII will be reinvested in the CRMC Foundation Refresh-A-Room Project.
- Some Galas have been designated for special needs, such as the stereotactic breast biopsy system purchased in 2008 and cardiac monitoring equipment installed in the ER in 2007.
- Two Galas were dedicated specifically to the ER expansion project, and those proceeds were used for the construction/renovation.
- Other Galas have been undesignated, so that funds could go to the area of greatest need at CRMC to better affect patient care. Examples of Foundation purchases from Gala donations include an ultrasound system for IV placement, a bladder scanner to determine important patient diagnostic bladder volume information, and equipment for cardiac and physical rehabilitation patients.
- CRMC bears no expense to create the Gala. The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation hosts the event every year as a fundraising opportunity. The CRMC Service Guild performs all planning on behalf of the Foundation.
- The Foundation recognizes local humanitarians with the H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award, named for the family from whom the property to build the original Cullman County Hospital was acquired.
- The Foundation also honors physicians at the Gala for their years of service and commitment to CRMC and to the community.

About the CRMC Service Guild

- Approximately 40 women from the community volunteer to support the CRMC Foundation for special events, such as the annual Gala.
- These women create the theme, the decorations, invitations, and more to facilitate these events.
- The Guild is passionate for the Foundation's mission to promote health and wellness through our community hospital
- The Guild is committed to the cause of fundraising for CRMC and to being integral parts of the Cullman community.

Background information:

- The Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation is an organization designated by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charity, separate from Cullman Regional Medical Center.
- It was created to advance healthcare excellence at Cullman Regional Medical Center by providing funds for special equipment, specialized training for patients or staff, facility renovation/expansion, healthcare, and patient tools/equipment, etc.
- As a 501(c)3 charity, all donations to the Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by IRS rules.

The Foundation hosts three main fundraising events each year:

- Lights of Love (Christmas tribute program)
- Gala
- Million Dollar Hole-In-One golf tournament

The Foundation hosts one fundraising event every other year: Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show

For additional information on the Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation, see the CRMC web site at crmchospital.com or contact us at 256-737-2565.

What's Online

WALLACE STATE'S INAUGURAL BASS FISHING CLUB UNDERWAY, SET FOR GROUP'S SECOND COMPETITION AT SMITH LAKE

When Wallace State freshman Ethan Flack has spare time, he can normally be found with a rod and reel in his hand."

qrne.ws/23

GOVERNOR BENTLEY SIGNS MEASURES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Robert Bentley recently signed a series of measures aimed at increasing efficiency across government agencies

qrne.ws/24

AUBURN'S KAREN HOPPA RECEIVES CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH 2017 SEASON

With seven straight NCAA Tournament berths and two consecutive SEC Tournament Championship Game appearances currently on her resume...

qrne.ws/25

In Brief

Relay For Life of Cullman to Hold Team Captain Meeting April 4

By: Mallory Hill

CULLMAN – The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cullman invites team captains to the monthly team captain meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 4 at 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

This monthly meeting offers two times for convenience and will provide the team captains the opportunity to interact with the event committee, share their fundraising progress, and ask any questions they have concerning the event.

The team captains will be updated with any new information regarding the event and will learn where they are on the event planning progress.

Team captains lead a team of around 8-15 members who share the passion for defeating cancer and creating a world with more birthdays. These team captains are responsible for organizing the team's fundraising and participation in other activities regarding Relay For Life.

Relay For Life takes place overnight on an athletic track, park, or other gathering area. Individuals and teams register for the event and set up camp with the goal of keeping at least one team member on the track or pathway at all times.

Teams raise money before the event and during the event at their personal campouts. Relay For Life is a community owned, volunteer driven fight against cancer, and the world's largest grassroots fundraising movement.

Since its beginning in 1985, Relay For Life has developed from one man running around a track for 24 hours to a full-fledged international event taking place in more than 5,000 communities and 20 countries across the globe with nearly 4 million walkers in the United States alone.

All of the funds raised from Relay For Life support the American Cancer Society's mission to help people stay well, by helping them get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back.

For more information on Relay For Life or team captain meetings, please contact Mavis Martin at 256-339-6385 or Tim Kelly at 256-737-9405. To sign up for Relay For Life of Cullman, please visit RelayForLife.org.

Wallace State plans events for Arts in April

By: Gail Crutchfield

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State Community College will offer plenty of opportunities for entertainment and introspection this month as it celebrates Arts in April. From a pianist and a storyteller to theater, band, and choir performances, WSCC will host a variety of events starting on April 1 and continuing throughout the rest of the month.

English Department faculty member Kathy Buckelew, who co-chairs the Arts in April committee, said the annual event started out as a week-long event before growing to encompass the entire month. Faculty and staff from the English, Music, Theater, Speech, and Philosophy and Religion departments, as well as Museum staff and representatives from the college's diversity team met to plan the agenda for the month.

Buckelew said the theater performances and the Jazz Band dance have become popular events throughout the month. This year the theater department will conduct five performances of the Pulitzer Prize winning comedy "You Can't Take it With You." The performances will be held at 7 p.m. April 11-13, and at 2 p.m. on April 14. A special morning performance is also scheduled for April 11 at 9:30 a.m.

The Jazz Band will hold its dance on April 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the atrium of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Buckelew said the dance is often attended by dance groups from the area, but is also fun for observers who may not feel like putting on their dancing shoes. "That's for anyone who likes to listen to jazz and big band music," said Ricky Burks, chair of the Fine and Performing Arts division and Arts in April committee co-chair.

Other events include a piano recital by UNA professor Dr. Yi-Min Cai; a presentation by storyteller Nina Reeves, who will talk about the art of storytelling and spin a few yarns herself; a discussion of philosophy by retired Ole Miss professor and author Dr. William Lawhead; a celebration of original poetry in honor of National Poetry Month; and a conversation on the art and architecture of Italy in advance of a spring trip sponsored by the Burrow Museum. Artwork by local and student artists will be on display as part of the Wallace State Art Department's Juried Visual Art Exhibition. The Evelyn Burrow Museum is featuring an ongoing exhibit of Alabama pottery. Donny Wilson, museum director, will host a gallery talk on April 23 at 11:30 a.m. on Alabama pottery and the Burrow collection.

Events include:

- April 1-13 – Juried Visual Art Exhibition at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts featuring art from students and community members.
- April 1-31 – Pre-1900's Alabama Pottery Exhibition at The Evelyn Burrow Museum. The Burrow Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- April 4 – Piano recital by Dr. Yi-Min Cai at noon in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 9 – English Forum with Storyteller Nina Reeves at 9:30 a.m., in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 9 – WSCC Choir "Seasons of Love" concert at 7 p.m., in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 10 – Sam Pugh, Outreach Coordinator of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Recital Hall at Burrow Center.
- April 11 – Wallace State Theatre performance of "You Can't Take it With You" at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., in the Betty Leeth-Haynes Theatre in the Student Center building. Admission charged.
- April 12 – Wallace State Theatre performance of "You Can't Take it With You" at 7 p.m., in the Betty Leeth-Haynes Theatre in the Student Center building. Admission charged.
- April 13 – Art Reception from 8 to 11:30 a.m., at Burrow Center.
- April 13 – Wallace State Theatre performance of "You Can't Take it With You" at 7 p.m. at Betty Leeth-Haynes Theatre in the Student Center Building. Admission charged.
- April 14 – Wallace State Theatre performance of "You Can't Take it With You" at 2 p.m., at Betty Leeth-Haynes Theatre in the Student Center Building. Admission charged.
- April 16 – Philosophy Scholar Dr. William Lawhead at 9:30 a.m., in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 16 – WSCC Concert Choir at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 19 – WSCC Jazz Band Dance at 7 p.m., in the atrium of the Burrow Center. Donation requested.
- April 23 – Gallery Talk with Museum Director Donny Wilson at The Evelyn Burrow Museum, 11:30 a.m.
- April 25 – WSCC Music Department Spring Show with Jazz and Concert Bands at 7 p.m., in the recital hall at Burrow Center.
- April 30 – Cultural Conversation: Italian Art and Architecture at 5:30 p.m. in the recital hall at Burrow Center for the Performing Arts; a meeting for travelers taking part in Wallace State's May trip to Italy will follow at around 6:15 p.m.

There is a $10 charge for adults and $5 for students, including WSCC students, to attend the theatre performances of "You Can't Take it With You." A $15 donation is requested for the Jazz Band dance on April 19. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Divine Mercy Service to be Celebrated Sunday, April 7th

By: Barbara Ragsdale

Community Contributor

CULLMAN – On the Octave (or 8th day) Day of Easter, April 7, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church will join in a worldwide celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. the Church faithful are invited to attend services which Christ Himself requested when appearing to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska on February 22, 1931.

From Saint Maria Faustina's diary it is clear that this "Feast of Jesus' Mercy" eight days after Easter was chosen by Christ Himself.

The Risen Lord promised complete pardon of sin and punishment on Divine Mercy Sunday through reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, confession, and attendance at services.

Her diary writings also indicate that Christ offers extraordinary graces for those who gather on Divine Mercy Sunday, along with a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

In His apparitions to Saint Faustina Jesus revealed the Sacred Image of Himself as The Divine Mercy with two colorful rays, red and blue, emanating from His body.

In His words, spoken to St. Faustina and written in her diary, "The two rays denote blood and water. The pale blue ray stands for the water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls….these two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross." The special prayer attached to this image is "Jesus, I trust in You".

Jesus imparted many revelations and promises to Saint Faustina regarding His love, mercy, and compassionate forgiveness for every soul, among them "My mercy is greater than your sins, and those of the entire world", and "Whoever places their trust in My mercy will be filled with My divine peace at the hour of death".

What an astonishing consolation for all Christians!

Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000 and at the same time he established Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire church.

Members of Sacred Heart of Jesus' Divine Mercy group invite all to come on April 7 and share in the spiritual blessings of the day.

They also welcome those interested to attend their monthly meetings at 3:45 p.m. in the Family Life Center of the Church on the third Sunday of each month.

Wallace State Invites Poetry Submissions for National Poetry Month

By: Kristen Holmes

WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE, Ala. –In celebration of National Poetry Month, Wallace State Community College in Hanceville is seeking submissions of original poetry from students, employees, and community members for publication in The Mane Issue and on the college's Arts in April webpage.

Submissions should be e-mailed to communications@wallacestate.edu and must include the author's name, e-mail address, city and state of residence, and phone number for verification purposes.

There are no limitations on length or structure, only that the work be original and appropriate for wide distribution.

Video and audio submissions of individuals reciting their own work will be accepted as well as text submissions.

National Poetry Month was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture.

For more ways to celebrate National Poetry Month, visit poets.org.

NASA Selects Integrated Program Support Service Providers

By: Sonja Alexander

WASHINGTON – NASA has selected seven small businesses to provide a variety of program support services for the agency's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The blanket purchase agreements have no minimum or maximum value.

There is a five-year ordering period. Tasks will be performance-based, fixed-price, or time and material orders.

The agreements include a one-year base period followed by four one-year options that may be exercised at NASA's discretion.

Under the Marshall Integrated Program Support Services blanket purchase agreements, the following companies will lead teams to compete for task orders:

- Analytical Mechanics Associates Inc., Huntsville
- Earth Resources Technology Inc., Laurel, Md.
- Manufacturing Technical Solutions Inc., Huntsville
- Quantech Services Inc., Huntsville
- Sigmatech Inc., Huntsville
- Sumaria Systems Inc., Danvers, Mass
- Victory Solutions Inc., Huntsville

Tasks will include support for the Marshall's current and future programs and projects in areas of program planning and control, cost estimating and analysis, configuration management and data management, project coordination, and subject-matter expert support.

SPORTS

Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship Hits Million Dollar Milestone

By: Shelton Thompson

By Birmingham, AL – The Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship Program has achieved a significant milestone by reaching $1 million dollars in total scholarship funds available annually to high school student-athletes across the State of Alabama.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment," noted Edgar Welden, Chairman/President of the Bryant-Jordan Foundation, "especially when you consider that this program began with $500 awarded to 48 scholar athletes and has now grown to one million dollars in scholarships available to Bryant-Jordan winners and nominees. From the beginning, it has been the mission of this program to grow in order to affect as many young lives as possible. We're extremely pleased that with this milestone our mission will continue well into the future."

The million-dollar benchmark was made possible, in part, by working with several of the four-year universities and the community colleges around the state to garner additional scholarship awards.

Just this year, Alabama State University, Auburn University in Montgomery, Miles College, UAH, and The University of West Alabama have all joined several other universities across the state to offer tuition scholarships to those deserving student-athletes who are selected as Bryant-Jordan winners.

The appreciation of this support was hailed by AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese, "I'm proud of the partnerships we've forged and the humbled by the generosity of our university, college, and corporate partners. Without their support, many hard-working, deserving students-athletes may not have had the opportunity to take their education to the next level."

Founded in 1986 by the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in partnership with the Alabama High School Athletic Association, the Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship Program has awarded over $7 million in college scholarship awards to over 2,400 Alabama high school students.

Named after two of Alabama's most famous leaders of men, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant of the University of Alabama and Auburn University's Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan, the Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship Program serves to honor the "best of the best" high school student-athletes both on the field and in the classroom.

High School faculty and administrators nominate student-athletes in their senior year, they are then sent through a selection process in their area and region. Over 400 students are nominated each year.

While the scholarships are not based on financial need, many students who go on to become recipients will fill the very real need of assistance in funding their college education.

ASHOF Executive Director, Scott Myers echoes this reality, "We are proud to be able to recognize and assist such bright, motivated student-athletes. We hope to see all students who have the drive and work ethic get the opportunity to attend college. As this scholarship program grows, we are reaching more and more students and providing them the gift of a promising future."

At the Inaugural Bryant-Jordan Awards Banquet in 1986, 48 scholar-athlete winners were awarded $500 each to attend the college or university of their choice. Three years later, the Bryant-Jordan Board of Directors added a new category to the scholarship process – achievement winners.

This scholarship category awards those students who are able to overcome adversities and still shine in the academic and athletic arenas.

Today, the Bryant-Jordan Foundation offers 48 scholar winners and 48 achievement winners a one-time scholarship of $2,500 that can be used at the college of their choice.

Other special scholarships, and the university and community college scholarships, are also available to the Bryant-Jordan winners and nominees across the state.

This year's winners will be honored at the 28th Annual Bryant-Jordan Awards Banquet & Ceremony on Monday, April 8, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel Birmingham.

Participating Four-Year Universities

- Alabama State University
- Auburn University
- Auburn University of Montgomery
- Birmingham-Southern College
- Jacksonville State University
- Miles College
- Samford University
- Troy University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham
- The University of Alabama in Huntsville
- The University of Montevallo
- The University of North Alabama
- The University of South Alabama
- The University of West Alabama

Participating Community Colleges

- Bevill State
- Calhoun
- Central Alabama
- Chattahoochee Valley
- Gadsden State
- Jefferson Davis
- Jefferson State
- Lawson State
- Northeast Alabama
- Northwest-Shoals
- Shelton State
- Snead State
- Wallace -Dothan
- Wallace State

Good Hope Softball rises, Cullman Baseball falls in latest ASWA polls

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The Lady Raiders of Good Hope won three of their four games this week by 10 or more runs, including a 17-0 drumming of Priceville and a 16-0 beat down of Addison to jump two spots form eighth to sixth in this week's Alabama Sportswriter's Association rankings.

The Lady Raiders now have their eyes set on dethroning the defending Cullman County Softball Champions, Holly Pond.

CLASS 3A

1. Pisgah (12-2)
2. American Christian (14-5)
3. Glencoe (17-5)
4. Winfield (11-4)
5. White Plains (13-5)
6. **Good Hope (16-5)**
7. Leeds (11-7)
8. Cordova (17-6-1)
9. Opp (12-3)
10. Madison Academy (16-5)

Although the Cullman Bearcats won three of four over the East Limestone Indians, including the 13-0 win in the deciding tie-breaking game, they dropped from four to five in class 5A.

The Bearcats have played some very talented teams in their out of area games that have affected their ranking, but a state title, not rankings, is what Cullman has their eyes set on.

CLASS 5A

1. Spanish Fort (18-3)
2. Faith Academy (21-1)
3. Russell County (23-6)
4. Southside-Gadsden (13-6)
5. **Cullman (14-10)**
6. Hartselle (22-6)
7. Homewood (19-1)
8. Etowah (12-5)
9. Chilton County (15-8)
10. Briarwood Christian (11-8)

Wallace State softball outfielder Katie Gentle named OC Sports NJCAA Player of the Week for second consecutive week

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State outfielder Katie Gentle has achieved softball program history, recognized Wednesday as the OC Sports National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Player of the Week for the second consecutive week.

Gentle, a sophomore from Hartselle, lifted the 7th-ranked Lady Lions to four victories from March 18-24, finishing 12-for-15 with two homers, six doubles, and 11 RBIs.

In a March 20 doubleheader sweep against Columbia State, Gentle was 7-for-8 with two homers and nine RBIs.

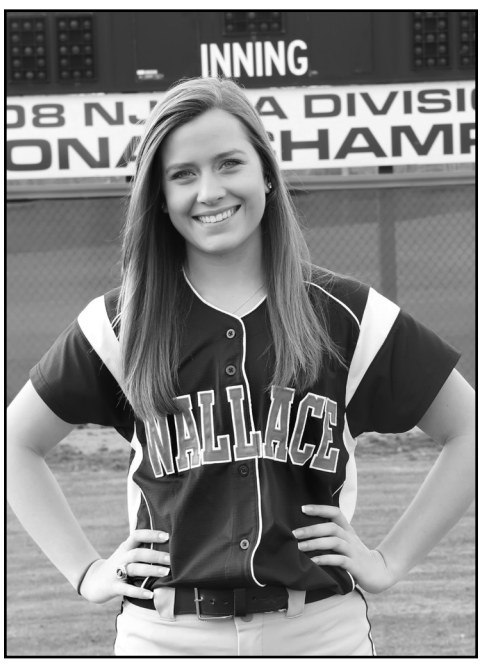
She added five more hits and two RBIs in a pair of wins against Alabama Southern on March 23. A week ago, Gentle became the first Wallace State softball player since Kelsey Dennis in 2009 to earn a NJCAA player of the week nod and is now the first Lady Lion to be acknowledged in back-to-back weeks.

Former Wallace State pitcher Holli Hill earned multiple weekly honors in 2008, but none consecutively.

Since March 15, Gentle is hitting a sultry 26-for-35 (.743) with three homers and 21 RBIs. Overall, Gentle boasts a .556 average this season with six homers, 35 RBIs, 35 runs scored, 18 doubles. and 18 stolen bases in 20 attempts.

As a freshman, Gentle hit .342 with six homers and 39 RBIs, helping the Lady Lions win their fifth state championship in six seasons and finish third at the national tournament.

Wallace State is idle until Tuesday, when it travels to Motlow (Tenn.) State for a doubleheader. The Lady Lions begin conference play April 4 at Gadsden State. For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit wallacestate.edu.



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SPORTS

Area Team Spotlight: Cullman Bearcats Baseball

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Electric arms. That is what you will find in between the chalk lines of the baseball diamond at Cullman High School. The Bearcats are 14-10 overall this season but they still find themselves sitting at #5 in the ASWA Class 5A rankings. This is due in part to their very tough out of area schedule.

"The schedule has been as strong as we could get it", Cullman Coach Brent Patterson said of his teams schedule so far.

"We have played 3 of the top 5 teams in 5A-Southside 4 times and Russell County twice (splitting with each of them). We got to play Hartselle outside of area play in the semi's of the Hoover tournament (lost) and we also played the defending 6A state champions on opening day (Oxford- we won 6-5)," he continued.

"We played 2 very good teams in LaGrange in Eagle's View and Grayson, who was ranked 2nd nationally at the time. We also played Hoover and saw their #1 (got beat 1-0). So hopefully our schedule is preparing us for area play and the playoff run."

Helping the Bearcats play with the best, are two players who near domination on the mound, Keegan Thompson and Jordan Guthrie. They are two of the best pitchers Class 5A has to offer and they keep Cullman in each and every game they play.

Thompson is the number one baseball prospect in the state of Alabama and is on a lot of MLB team's radar.

He has committed to play for the Auburn Tigers next year but Thompson will have a big decision come draft day as he is predicted to be drafted in the second round (56th pick overall) by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Guthrie is the number two pitcher on the Bearcat staff, though he could easily be the ace for anyone in 5A.

He has a strong arm and live movement on his fastball, along with nice breaking stuff that helps him be successful in keeping hitters off balance. Guthrie has signed to play collegiate baseball at Sneed State, joining former teammate Jakob Kirkwood on the diamond once more.

"Keegan and Jordan have been better than anyone could ask for," Patterson said of his star pitchers.

"We knew coming in to the season that they were going to be the strength of our team, but they have possibly exceeded expectations. We just constantly work on building our staff around those two mainstays on the mound."

Following Thompson and Guthrie is three star athlete Troy Forrest and Sophomore Sam Huser for a solid four man rotation. Cullman also has a surplus of arms in the bullpen, including Junior Auston Neal.

On the offensive side of the game, Cullman has struggled as of late at the dish but they are showing signs of coming out of their slump.

"Our offense has sputtered at times," said Patterson.

"We are still trying to find our identity offensively and we know that although we've shown signs of being a capable offense, we have to become more consistent."

Thompson is a very solid hitter and is a threat to go deep each and every time he steps in the batter's box.

Zac Crocker led the Cullman Bearcats deep into the state football playoffs as the quarterback and he looks to do the same at the plate and behind it, being the Cullman catcher on the baseball diamond.

"We have to have guys who get hot at the right time and carry us through the rest of the year," he said.

"Several guys have proven that they can contribute offensively, but again we are looking for more consistency."

The Bearcats are a perennial threat for the Class 5A State title, winning three titles since 2002 and going back to back in '07 and '08. This year Cullman looks for more of the same. The Bearcats will settle for nothing less than their fourth state title.

The Collector's Corner: 2012-13 Panini Basketball (Part 1 of 3)

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Welcome to the first ever edition of The Collector's Corner. Collecting has always been a passion of mine.

At a young age when I discovered the joy of sports, imagine how thrilled I was to discover card collecting.

This hobby soon ballooned into a full blown obsession and I have not looked back. I am very fortunate to have my lifelong love of sports and of card collecting blossom into a career as a sports and entertainment editor.

This Collector's Corner is being brought to you by the fine folks at Panini America, Inc.

Panini America, Inc is a card company based in Irving, TX. Panini offers anything a collector could want, from moderately priced products such as:

- "Set Builders" like **2012-13 Panini Basketball** (roughly $75 a box) that offers a nice base set for collectors just getting into the hobby or for those that like to put together sets, along with a smattering of autographs included for the chase aspect. Boxes like this are usually situated with 10 or more cards a pack and 24 pack to a box.
- "Mid-range" boxes like **Panini Elite Basketball** (roughly $120 a box) and **Panini Playoff Contenders Football** (roughly $150 a box) that cater to most collectors. The set builder element combined with some "guaranteed hits" like autographs and game used memorabilia, insuring you will have something unique to go along with your base cards. These type boxes usually have roughly 18 to 24 packs of cards each.
- "High End" boxes like **Panini Playbook Football** ($200 a box/pack) and **Panini National Treasures Baseball** ($400 a box/pack) which cater to the ever growing collector looking for the risk/reward factor of hitting the jackpot with pulls like rare bat knobs, buttons off jersey's from the greatest legends to ever play, and hard to get autographs.

With that being said, I know the real reason you are reading this article is for the product that the wonderful guys and girls at Panini have provided for The Collector's Corner, so without further ado, here we go!

2012-13 PANINI BASKETBALL

What we pulled:
INSERTS:

- **Gold Parallel (8)** notables include Luol Deng and Marcus Camby
- **Spirit of the Game (4)** Joe Johnson, Josh Smith, DeAndre Jordan, and Jrue Holiday
- **Heroes of the Hall (4)** Chris Mullin,Wilt Chamberlin, John Stockton, and Bob Lainer
- **All-Panini (2)** Kenneth Faried and Carmelo Anthony
- **Autographs (2)** Base Autograph Nikola Vucevic, Hall of Fame Signatures Chris Mullin

The 2012-13 Panini Basketball was a tremendously fun box to open. 10 cards a pack and 24 packs a box gives you plenty of packs to rip and tons of cards to flip through.

The box we opened had 208 base cards (after inserts and autographs) and we did not receive a single duplicate card.

For anyone who is a set builder, like myself, this is a welcome sight. Little to no doubles means you can put together a set with very little difficulty.

The base set is a crisp and clean design with no bells and whistles.

This is a drawing point for collectors who enjoy getting base cards autographed in person or through the mail.

No gloss means the card will hold an autograph very well.

Speaking of autographs, 2012-13 Panini Basketball has that too.

With two autographs a pack, you are assured to walk away with some ink, and to be a very affordable product (less than $100 a box), the autograph checklist is outstanding.

Names like Jimmer Fredette, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Kyrie Irving, and Anthony Davis are scattered throughout the rookie autographs checklist.

The rookies also have Rated Rookie patches which are manufactured jumbo patches that have been signed by the top name rookies in the set.

The Hall of Fame Signatures are chocked full of legends including 1992 Dream Team members, David Robinson, Chris Mullin, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, and Isiah Thomas, as well as names like Bill Walton, Elgin Baylor, and Dr. J himself, Julius Erving.

For anyone who is a fan of basketball and card collecting, you owe it to yourself to pick up a box or two of 2012-13 Panini Basketball.

A great mix of legends of yesterday and stars of tomorrow await you in 2012-13 Panini Basketball.

Thanks to Panini America, Inc, for providing this product for review.

Find us on Facebook - facebook.com/CullmanSense

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Cullman County Sheriff's Office
Relay for Life 2013
Yard Sale

We are now accepting donation's for our 2nd Annual Relay for Life Yard Sale!
Yard sale will be in April
With the help of our community our Relay for Life 2012 yard sale was Absolutely AMAZING!
GOAL for 2013 BIGGER!



If you have items you would like to donate:
PLEASE HELP
Drop them off at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Monday thru Friday 8a.m. to 4p.m.
Drop-off deadline April 15th

Contact Jamie or Michelle at 256-734-0342 if you need further information.



Tax receipts will be available upon request.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DONATION'S
BIG OR SMALL
EVERY DONATION HELPS!

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Community Matters

4D Farm Holds Easter 'Egg'stravaganza

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

4D Farm held an Easter 'Egg'stravaganza this Easter weekend after a rain delay the previous week. Kids and parents were able to partake in an array of activities including a petting zoo, jumping pillow, play barn with slides, pony rides, an 80 foot slide, cow train rides, a tire mountain, the Easter bunny, face painting, a huge Easter egg hunt, the Easter story told in the barn, and several other events that could be enjoyed by kids (and parents) of all ages.

Children eagerly rushed from one activity to the next with huge smiles and squeals of excitement. Every kid had his or her own favorite event. Brooklynn Wells said her favorite part "was the big black slide because you go really fast and it was fun."

Located in Welti off of Co. Rd. 703, 4D Farm provides a nearby escape for family entertainment in a safe environment. For more detailed directions and event planning visit their website at 4dfarmfun.com.



Movie Review: *Taken 2*

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Presented by 20th Century Fox

On the watch list this week is *Taken 2*. It is the sequel to Taken, the movie that made Liam Neeson (*Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace, Batman Begins*) a bona fide action movie star by playing the role of Bryan Mills.

The film also stars Maggie Grace (*Lost*) as Kim, Bryan's teenage daughter, and Famke Janssen (*X:Men, X2, X:Men The Final Stand*) as Lenore, Bryan's ex-wife.

The bulk of the film takes place in Istanbul, Turkey. After Lenore separates from her new husband, he cancels a spring break trip to China that Lenore and Kim had planned on taking. This leaves Lenore upset and when Bryan comes over to pick up Kim for her driving lesson, Lenore tells him of the dilemma.

Bryan offers to have them come to Istanbul where he is working for three days as private security.

Not hearing from Lenore or Kim, Bryan assumes they are not coming and starts to make plans to come home.

Little does he know, Kim and Lenore are standing right behind him, ready to surprise him.

The family spends some time together in Istanbul before Bryan an Lenore go off on their own because Kim complains that jet-lag has caught up with her, all in a ploy to get her parents alone and hopefully back together.

It starts to work as Bryan and Lenore reminisce about when they were together. Everything is going great until Bryan notices someone following them.

He calmly instructs Lenore on what to do and where to go, knowing that they are going to be kidnapped.

From this point on, the movie is a shoot 'em up, bang 'em up, unbridled roller coaster of action that keeps you on the edge of your seat.

To find out how the movie ends, pick up your copy of Taken 2 from 20th Century Fox.

Starring:

- Liam Neeson as Bryan
- Famke Janssen as Lenore
- Maggie Grace as Kim
- Rade Serbedzija as Murad Krasniqi

Taken 2 is rated PG-13 for violence and some mild sensuality

My Take:

I consider myself an expert of sorts when it comes to the action genre and I loved the originality of the first *Taken*.

With that being said, I wanted to see *Taken 2* but I was also a little skeptical of how they could make another movie with the same premise of the first without it being a carbon copy.

When I sat down to screen *Taken 2* I did not have high expectations, but instead I was blown away with the action and the storytelling.

I give *Taken* 2 an 8 out of 10 and I certainly will be watching it over and over again.

It's Raining Eggs!

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Desperation Church reaches the masses by dropping plastic eggs?

CULLMAN – Yes, the above mentioned title and subtitle are correct. It in fact did rain eggs on multiple occasions Saturday at Heritage Park as part of Desperation Church's annual Easter Carnival which drew in an estimated 10,000 attendees.

Amy Martinez, church member and event volunteer, was impressed with the draw for the day's event. To kick off the day, Martinez, along with 449 other participants, bellied up to the dying table to set a group world record.

"The previous Guinness Book World Record for most eggs dyed, I believe was 315," said Martinez. "We had places for 450 participants. I am not sure what our final number was for the record, but I am pretty sure we surpassed the old record."

While the numbers may have not been officially declared for the egg dying world record just yet, one factor which was evident were the 50,000 plastic eggs which covered a sizable portion of the soccer field. The eggs were dropped in via helicopter as eager children stood by waiting for their chance to sprint out into the egg laden ground.

Though the spectacle may seem crazy, Martinez said the event carries on for a greater purpose.

"We just like to do crazy, fun events such as this so we are able to witness to those who may not otherwise have an experience with the church," said Martinez.

"Today, we had a lot of people who we were able to have a great time with while being able to share the message of Christ."

Jamie Owens brought her three sons, Michael, Dylan, and Tyler out for the fun and festivities.

Owens said the opportunity to bring her children to the park for the third annual egg drop is a great way to celebrate the light hearted side of the holiday with her family.

"We absolutely love it," said Owens. "It's a blessing what the church does for the community. It really is the best Easter celebration around."

It was obvious that Desperation Church pastor Andy Heis was a blast at the carnival. Despite the multiple carnival rides, bounce houses, and food vendors, Heis had his eyes fixed on the crowd, watching families interact, which is a key point to the pastor.

The young, ambitious, and energetic pastor spoke on the three points the church is trying to provide residents during the carnival.

"The first thing is we want to do everything in this city that we can, so we want to get out of the four walls so we can let everyone know what we are about. Secondly, this event brings families together and we love to see families come together. And third, Easter being a big time that it is, a lot of people are trying to make a decision on where to go to church," said Heis. "This gives us the opportunity to see them face-to-face to invite them and let them know that we save people."

Desperation Church is located at 202 Elizabeth Street Northeast in Cullman. Church service times are Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. Wednesday service is at 7 p.m.

"Come hang out with us," said Heis. "I tell everyone, come to church one time and if you don't like it you don't have to come back."





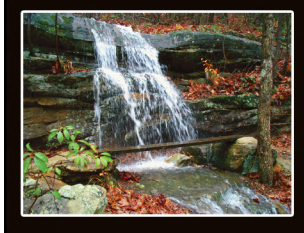








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1st Time Rock Climbing & Survival Classes Available

Hours
Friday: 12:00 p.m. - sunset
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset

For more information
Call 256-734-2125

Community Calendar

Submit your event to calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday

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.

Weekly Jam Session at Senior Center
There is a new 'fun' event added to the ongoing programs at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. From 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., there will be 'Jam Sessions' offered under the guidance of Don and Barbara Whitehead. Everyone is invited to bring your instruments and join in the playing or just sit and relax and enjoy the music. These musical gatherings are FREE so come on down and bring your friends.

Making Choices - BODYWORKS
A series of FREE sessions on healthy living will be offered. Sessions are 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

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Raised Bed Gardening
Everyone is invited to take part in a one-time class sponsored by the Cullman County Extension Service office with the topic being 'Raised Bed Gardening'. This spring time event is free and for more information please call the office at 256-737-9386. Make your yard the bright spot on your street.

Dog Obedience Class
Cullman Parks & Recreation will sponsor a 7 week Dog Obedience class with Barbara Guettner as instructor from March 26 through May 7. Classes for puppies start at 6 p.m. with adult dogs classes at 7 p.m. Please contact the Civic Center for further info at 256-734-9157.

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.

Wednesday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

'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

Cornerstone Word of Faith Holding Maundy-Thursday Service
Cornerstone Word of Faith, a new 'Word of Faith' church in Cullman will be holding a Maundy-Thursday service at the Cullman Civic Center at 7 p.m. Communion will be served, and anyone that confesses Jesus as Lord is welcome to receive it. Praise and worship and the message will center the cross of Christ. Prayer for the sick, with signs, wonders, and miracles will also be part of the service, because the Word says, "We shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"; and this is because Jesus took the beatings and lashes, so we could be healed (1 Peter 2:24). All are welcome. For more information, call 256-777-9606.

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 is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

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

County Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park
Smith Lake Park will be the site of a County Wide Yard Sale starting at 7 a.m. Free admission to the general public. Vendor spots are $10.00 for grass sites, and $15.00 for pavilions. Set up time starts at 6 a.m. with general sale starting at 7 a.m. Please call Smith Lake Park to reserve your spot at 256-739-2916.

April Walking Tours of Cullman
Come take advantage of the Cullman County Museum's guided walking tours of Cullman each Saturday morning during April. Tours start at 10 a.m. at the museum and last about one hour. For additional information please contact Drew or Julie at 256-739-1258. Mark your calendars for this annual springtime event.

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!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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Looking Ahead

May 9-11th 2013
Cullman StrawberryFest 2013
Join us at 211 2nd Ave NE, Cullman for live music, Arts and Crafts Show, Car Show, Antique Tractor Display, Great Food, and Local Produce, located at the Festhalle Market Platz, Depot Park, and the Cullman County Museum. Music Guest: Three on a String, MP4theband, The Hit Men Roy Crawford and the Cullman County Bluegrass, Mean Mary, Street Level, Round 2, and more to be announced. Free Admission. Call 256-739-1258 for more information.

Community Matters

Vote Now!

Do you still have a land-line phone?

Last Week's Poll:

Do you believe that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe?

Yes - 38%
No - 63%

Cast your ballot at cullmansense.com/poll

Reflections of History



Untitled Group Portrait — Contributed by Arcadia Publishing/Melanie K. Patterson

Do you have an old photo or recognize this one?
E-mail us at history@cullmansense.com

Visit us online at CullmanSense.com

How to Brew the Perfect Cup of Coffee

(StatePoint) It's not magic. Brewing the perfect cup of coffee can take place in your own kitchen!

As with any recipe, fresh, high-quality ingredients matter.

Start with fresh, cold water. If you don't like the taste of your tap water, use filtered water for better flavor.

Remember, grinding coffee in advance of brewing means loss of flavor.

So invest in a coffee grinder for a fresher brew.

Not all coffee beans are created equally -- rely on a coffee with distinctive flavor profiles and consistent roasting, such as Portland Roasting Coffee, named by "Roast Magazine" as the 2012 Roaster of the Year.

Use 2 tablespoons of ground coffee per 6oz of water.

Make sure your brewing device reaches between 195F-205F to extract maximum flavor.

This Week in History Apr. 1 - Apr. 7

April 1st

- 1778 – Oliver Pollock, a New Orleans businessman, creates "$" symbol
- 1889 – First dishwashing machine marketed in Chicago
- 1948 – Big Bang theory proposed in Physical Review by Alpher, Bethe and Gamow
- 1979 – Iran proclaimed an Islamic Republic following fall of Shah

April 2nd

- 1865 – Battle of Ft. Blakely, AL and Selma, AL
- 1917 – President Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany
- 1971 – Sci-fi soap opera "Dark Shadows" concludes an almost 5 year run
- 2012 – Three widows and two daughters of Osama bin Laden were charged with illegally living in Pakistan; they were sentenced with 45 days in jail and fined $114 each

April 3rd

- 1790 – Revenue Marine Service, U.S. Coast Guard, created
- 1927 – Interstate Commerce Commission transfers Ohio to Eastern time zone
- 1975 – Bobby Fischer stripped of world chess title for refusing to defend it
- 2012 – Following the News International phone hacking scandal, James Murdoch resigns as Chairman of BskyB

April 4th

- 1687 – King James II orders his Declaration of Indulgence read in church
- 1932 – Vitamin C first isolated by CC King at the University of Pittsburgh
- 1989 – New York Yankee Tommy John ties record of playing 26 seasons, his 287th win puts him 19th overall as Yankees beat Twins on opening day 4-2
- 2012 – The first deployment of U.S. Marines arrives in Australia's city of Darwin in the Northern Territory

April 5th

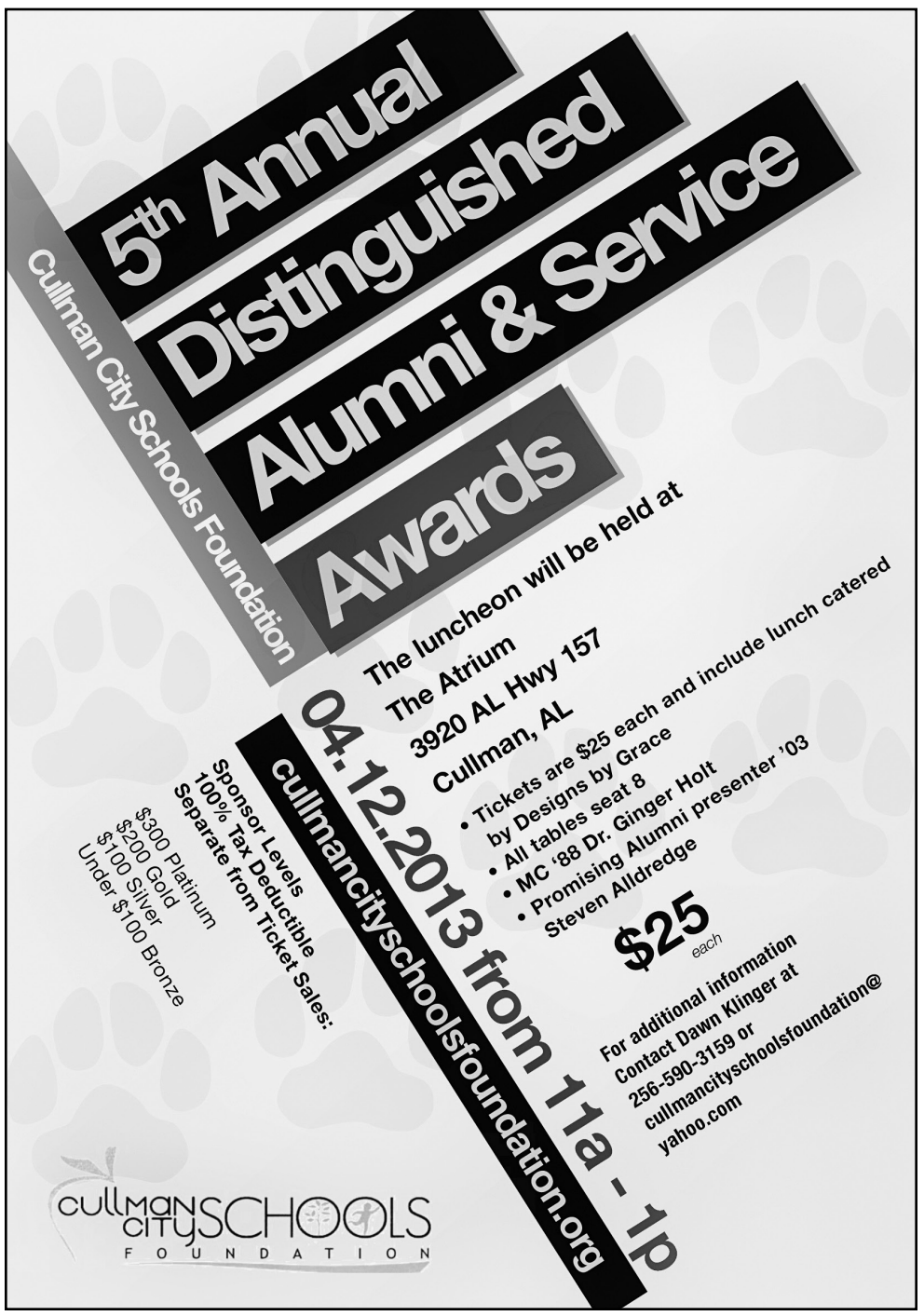
- 1621 – Mayflower sails from Plymouth on a return trip to England
- 1887 – Anne Sullivan teaches "water" to Helen Keller
- 1951 – Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, atomic spies, sentenced to death
- 1990 – Paul Newman wins a court victory over Julius Gold, to keep giving all profits from Newman foods to charity

April 6th

- 1722 – Peter the Great ends tax on men with beards
- 1868 – Brigham Young marries his 27th and final wife
- 1945 – Massive kamikaze-attack on U.S. battle fleet near Okinawa
- 1992 – Voting begins on choice of Elvis postage stamps

April 7th

- 1827 – English chemist John Walker invents wooden matches
- 1923 – Workers Party of America (New York City) becomes official Communist Party
- 1958 – Dodgers erect 42-foot screen in left field at LA Coliseum to cut down on home runs, since it is only 250 feet down the line
- 2012 – The Anonymous computer hacking group is credited with launching an attack on the United Kingdom Home Office



Community Matters

The Fitness Chronicles of Norrell - Week 15

By: Jessica Norrell
jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com

I haven't ever participated in Lent and have only a loose understanding of the process, but I have decided to do my own health centric version of it.

Instead of six weeks, I will be undergoing this activity for four weeks because it is best to change up workouts after four weeks so the muscles don't grow accustomed to the same motion, which could result in a bit of a workout plateau. It's like…Body Lent…or perhaps something that sounds better.

At the end of four weeks I will give a rundown of my exact workout routine and have a link to my food journal with all of the recipes I enjoyed.

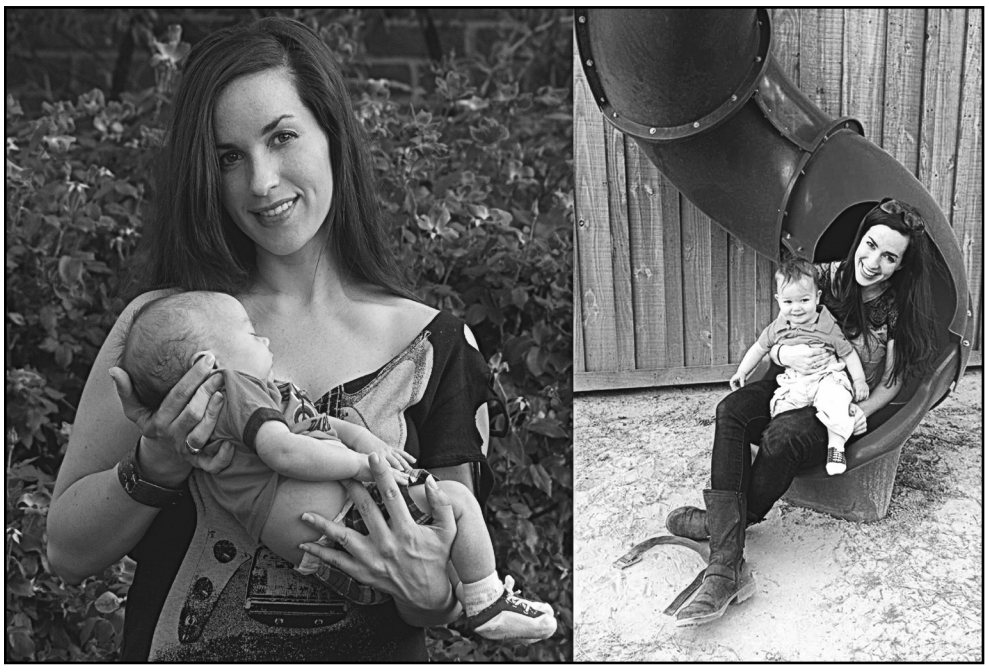
I will share my favorite recipes, fitness apps, and any other useful fitness additions weekly and give a more streamlined, organized plan. I have already been very satisfied with my results but would like to reach my full potential.

This week I am going to share a couple of smoothie recipes that are tried and true by me that are great for a flat belly, well at least at helping you get there.

Pineapple Kale Blueberry Smoothie

Ingredients:
- 3 ounces vanilla Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon almond butter
- 1/2 cup frozen blueberries
- 1/2 cup frozen pineapple
- 1 cup kale 3/4 cup water

Place all the ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth. Enjoy immediately. Makes one serving.



Left: August - Right: Now. Down 10 lbs. at least and several inches.

"The Greek yogurt in the recipe provides a good amount of calcium and protein, both of which can aid in weight loss. The smoothie also contains several ingredients — like blueberries — which have been shown to help diminish belly fat. If that's not enough, you also get the sweetness of pineapple, which contains an enzyme that helps ease digestion and banish bloat. You won't be able to taste the kale, which is full of fiber to prevent constipation, as well as calorie-free water to help clean you out." - Jenny Sugar from fitsugar.com.

This next smoothie recipe is one of my favorites and great for breakfast especially when I am in a hurry:

Lauren Conrad's "7 Days to skinny Jeans" ... Oatmeal Smoothie

Ingredients:
- 1 cup ice
- 1/2 cup frozen raspberries or strawberries
- 1/2 cup plain low fat yogurt
- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup coconut water (or other liquid, such as juice).

Place all the ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth. Enjoy immediately. Makes one serving.

Next week I will share a sample from my food journal and meal planning.

Cutting out processed foods and sweets are my priority this week as well as sticking to a routine.

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

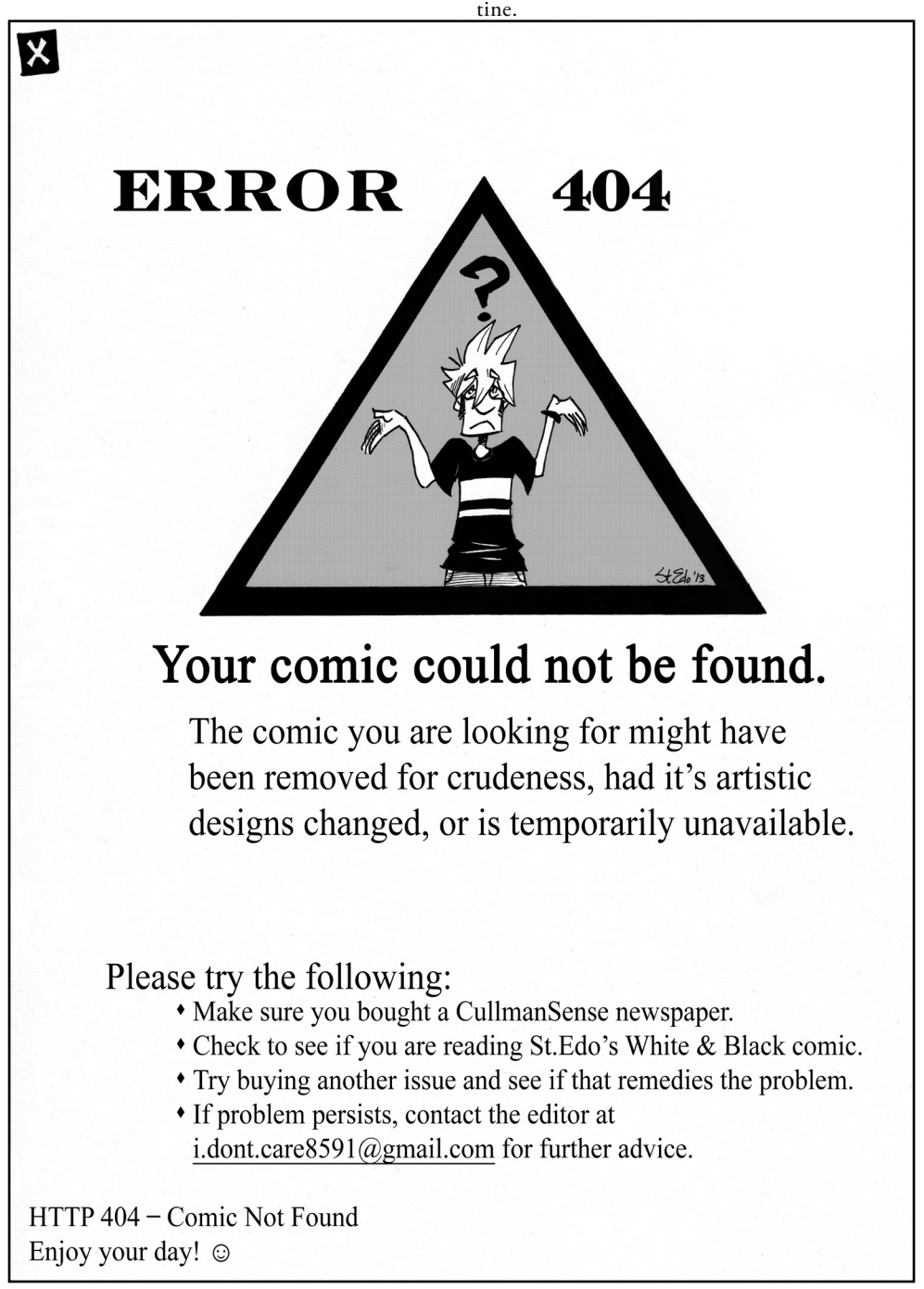
- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Community Yard Sale & Craft Fair Postponed:** The Community Yard Sale & Craft Fair scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at Heritage Park will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 6 at Heritage Park.
- **Dog Obedience Class:** Classes held on Tuesdays, beginning March 26. $65 for 6 week session; puppy class held at 6pm and adult at 7pm. Call 256-734-9157.
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center. Call 256-531-4429 for more details.
- **Oil Painting and Acrylic Classes:** Classes are held Mondays from 6:30-9:30pm at the Cullman Art Guild with instructor Delancey Gardner. Class is $20 per month, call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Camp Cullman Summer Camp Registration:** Registration will open on April 1 for Camp Cullman. Ages 12 & under can register at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.
- **Lifeguard Certification Classes:** Held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center April 1-18 and a second will be held April 22-May 9.. Cost of the class is $200 which includes CPR and all certification. Must be 15 to take the class. Call 256 -775-SWIM (7946) for details.
- **Ballroom, Latin, and Swing Dance Lessons:** Classes will be held April 4-25 on Tuesday nights at the Cullman Civic Center with Instructor Mack Wilson. Call the Civic Center for details.
- **Autism Walk:** The Therapeutic Recreation program and the Autism Society hold this event Saturday, April 27 at the Wallace State track at 8:30am. Games and other activities will also be held. Call Hollie at 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Senior Spirit Travel:** Last day to register for the Loretta Lynn Ranch and New York City Trip. Call Angie at 256-734-4803 for full details.

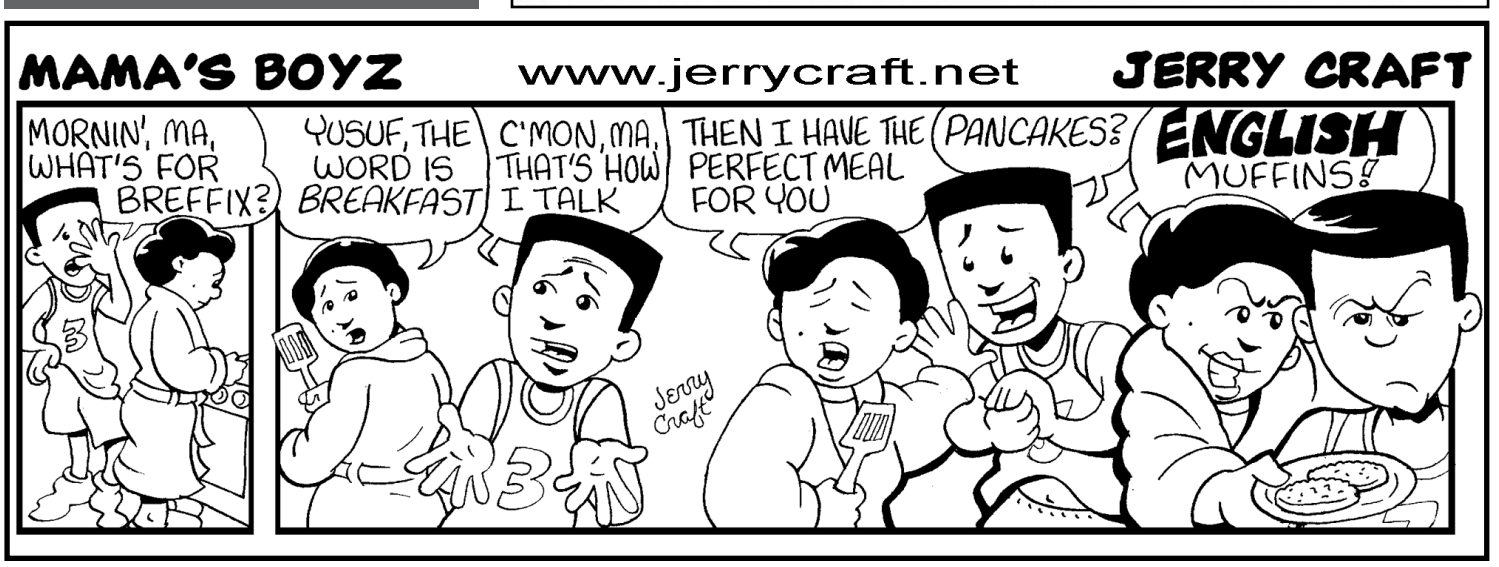
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Editorial

The Tyranny of the Status Quo

By: Kay Ivey
Alabama Lt. Governor

The "status quo" is defined as "the existing state of affairs" or often referred to as "the way it's always been done." Rarely is the phrase used to describe the way an organization operates, or a process, in a positive light. President Ronald Reagan once said, "Status quo, you know, that is Latin for 'the mess we're in.'"

I was not elected to maintain the status quo and that's why I have taken steps in my office and supported action in the Alabama Legislature to challenge the status quo. Prior to the beginning of the 2013 Legislative Session, I made the decision to select a Parliamentarian to advise me as the President of the Senate.

My current Parliamentarian, Mr. Richard Allen, has served as advisor to a U. S. Senator, Deputy Attorney General to four Alabama Attorneys General, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections, a practicing attorney and retired General from the Army Reserves. He is highly respected, qualified, and very knowledgeable of the Alabama Constitution, Code of Alabama, and Rules of the Alabama Senate.

I understand that my decision breaks tradition and the status quo of how the Senate has operated in the past, but adhering to the rules and following the letter of the law trumps tradition. The actions of the Alabama Senate are governed by the Alabama and U.S. Constitutions, the Code of Alabama, the Joint Rules of the Alabama Legislature, and the Rules of the Alabama Senate.

I acknowledge the change has been challenging at times and has resulted in a shift, but I believe it is best for the operation of the Senate and the people of Alabama.

The Alabama Legislature also recently made a courageous move to challenge the status quo of our state's education. The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, signed by Governor Bentley on March 14, is historic legislation that creates real education reform in Alabama. For too long, a child's education has been dictated by zip code or family income. And for too long, our schools have not been held accountable resulting in a chronic legacy of failure.

Under the flexibility provisions in the law, school administrators now have the ability to tailor their classrooms to fit the needs of the individual schools and through tax credits and scholarships, parents with children stuck in chronically failing schools now have the choice to move them to a better school. The concept of empowering parents to seek a quality education for their kids is a no-brainer to me, however, we've seen a select few attempt to prevent progress and maintain the status quo.

I strongly believe that government has a commitment to assure that all children receive a quality education. It is the agreement with the status quo that leads us to accept the notion that an education model based on government monopoly is the best way to educate society. We must begin to renew our commitment to education by investing in students and not schools.

My role in the process to pass the legislation in the Senate has been under scrutiny. Several members have publicly said I did not follow the rules. I can assure you I followed the rules and applied them properly even though some members failed to comply. For example, a rule requiring that a member must be recognized by the President of the Senate before speaking was ignored. You can look back and review the course of events on February 28 and quickly realize that rules were disregarded by several members despite multiple calls to refrain. It is incumbent upon the body to conduct its business in a civil and orderly manner with mutual respect for each other.

My gavel does not reach beyond the desk, it is simply a tool to help reinforce communications from the chair – it is the body's responsibility to comply. As President of the Alabama Senate, I pledge to continue to administer my duties in order to move the body forward and turn from the status quo.

I hope every Senator does the same and chooses to abide by the Rules of the Senate and act accordingly. Change is often difficult to implement and accept, but the children, parents, educators, business owners, and taxpayers of Alabama deserve the best leadership for progress and prosperity we can help provide.

No(ah)-it All: Why are you so angry?

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

While silence has never been a strong suit of yours truly, I must say it has been a treat to keep my big mouth shut over the past month. Something to the count of five weeks you've all gone without having to read any of the mindless rants which somehow work themselves free from the recesses of a dark mind only to fall neatly on this page.

Alas, that break is over for us all. While some may expect a radical April Fool's Day prank, I hate to disappoint but tis not the case today, so my sincerest apologies to you and yours. Others who feel they are somewhat close to this curmudgeon may expect a rant against the establishment or someone who I feel has made an error. However, this space will not be used for the exploitation of the ones deemed unclean.

For the ones close to me, the ones who know the monumental weight willingly placed firmly on these broad shoulders, you all are eagerly awaiting the penance speech. Yet another disappointment because the only atonement available is what I allow, which at this moment is nil at best, so we are going a different route this week.

What else could possibly be left? Let's talk about why I am so angry. Angry in life, angry for death, eaten up with so much frustration that tracing the origin has had me locked in the deep recesses of a twisted, mad man's brain for a little while.

Over recent days – meaning a solid eight days of all day and all night sessions – I have been researching the origins of the hatred which seems to be the only fuel this gent is willing to run on. Let me say this in fair warning, it's dangerous enough the things I allow to escape daily but diving into the mental vault has been nothing less than insane.

At first I thought, well it could be based on experiences which were developed while in school. I thought back to high school but all that was there were memories of anticipation for being free from mental constraints, so no real anger. The rage existed before that so the scraping continued.

Next to be unearthed was the resentment for male authority figures which was born and breed during my 7th grade year of formal learning. An awkward time for most youth anyway, this phase of life saw multiple suspensions, countless lines of forced sentences, and a constant war with the gym instructor all which helped mold a harsh resentment for any man who felt they could relate, let alone correct my attitude or behavior.

So once hitting on that sour note the dig continued until I reached the layer of insecurity which was developed as a small child. As stated many times in the past, growing up in poverty was never fun.

The fact you know the shoes you have on today will be the shoes you are wearing 18 months from now, combined with knowledge that you have two pairs of summer pants and two pairs of winter pants, will make you realize where you stand in this delightful caste system.

Could it be something as simple as feeling under appreciated because of the perceived notion that we were socioeconomically disadvantaged? No, it wasn't and it could never be, no matter how convenient it would be.

So why am I so angry? Simple. Because I just am. Eight days trapped in the mental vault and the only logical conclusion is that I am a just an angry person. While I do share in happy experiences, the basis of drive is focused around being angry.

As stated earlier, it is a fuel of sorts. While to some anger is an exhausting emotion, to this gent it is the fuel needed to remove myself from bed each morning. It's the reason the column was created. Plus, for all the health gurus out there, it keeps the heart healthy, beating at a calm, melodic beat.

While I do take full responsibility for all the words and behaviors displayed throughout the years, I just ask that you let me have the anger. It truly is the only thing keeping me going.

Oh yeah, don't forget to prank someone at some point this week.

Happy April Fool's Day!

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PALS
PEOPLE AGAINST A LITTERED STATE

Cullman County / City Clean-up
April 20, 2013

Rain Date April 27, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Dumpster Locations:

West Elementary
East Elementary
Cullman Middle School
Cullman High School
Cold Springs School
Baileyton Town Hall
Colony Community Center
Crane Hill Sulphur Springs
Dodge City Fire Station
Fairview Community Park (across from Fairview Superette)
Garden City maintenance area
Good Hope Town Hall
Hanceville behind City Hall
Holly Pond - Lions Club Park
Jones Chapel School
West Point Town Hall

All dumpsters will be manned for your convenience

Items we Can Not take are tires, paint, and chemicals

55 gallon drums must have multiple punched holes or they are not allowed

Please contact your local Town Hall or City Hall for bags (bags furnished by State PALS).
We are asking all citizens to pick up the roads around their homes as far as possible in each direction.
Place this garbage with your weekly garbage and please be safe.

For more information contact:
Carl English, cenglish@topreamerica.com
Mike Krassick, 256-385-2454
Cherrie Haney, chaney@co.cullman.al.us, 256-775-2906

Community Matters

A Waltz Down Memory Lane

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

"Dedicated to those who have made Cullman what it is today and to those who have preserved and shared the city's history."

– Dedication from *Images of America: Cullman*

CULLMAN – Fairview resident Melanie K. Patterson has spent her life admiring history and news. These two interests have led her across the country as she wore many hats in the journalism field.

Recently an opportunity was afforded to her which allowed this local to seek out unique stories, along with photos, that best show the history of early Cullman County residents.

"This is my first book. However, I've been writing for 19 years as a journalist," said Patterson. "I was a print journalist for eight years with the U.S. Army Reserve, and have worked at various newspapers in Alabama and Colorado."

Arcadia Publishing will be releasing Patterson's book, Images of America: Cullman, on April 15, a first for the publishing company.

Patterson, who has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology with a minor in history from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, found the hometown project just waiting for her to pick it up.

"I figured, where better to research history than in your own hometown? I contacted Arcadia, and it turns out the company had been looking for somebody to compile a book about Cullman's history for a couple of years. It was a perfect fit for me to tackle the project," she said.

"The book is very broad in scope. It covers agriculture, manufacturing and plenty in between. It covers the time span from the 1870s to the 1940s. Some things in the book will be very familiar to people, but much of the material will be new to most Cullman residents."

The 128 page historical look at life in the early days of Cullman is filled with images from the ordinary life of residents to the gruesome sight of the only legal hanging in the city.

"Many people will find it morbid, but I was fascinated by the story of Cullman's only legal hanging, in 1915. A picture of the gallows is in the book. I found the transcript of the trial at the Wallace State Community College Library, and was amazed by the details," she said.

One stunning discovery for Patterson was the bustling night life which could be found in the early days of this now sleepy community.

"I was also surprised by how artistically diverse Cullman seemed to be in its early days," she said.

"There was an opera house and theaters, and Cullman was frequented by traveling troupes of actors."

With the task of uncovering many of Cullman's secrets was daunting, Patterson was asked if the path was made easier because she is a native Cullmanite.

She said not only did it help her credibility while researching but her knowledge of many of the stories helped to point her in the right direction where she could begin the project.

"Yes, I think it was easier. I think being from Cullman gave me a little more credibility than an 'outsider' could have had in compiling a history of Cullman. People knew I had a genuine personal interest," she said.

"Also, since I'm local, I had heard of many of the people and places that are in the book, so I was not completely starting from scratch while researching the material."

After many months of research, gathering photos, and preparing them for print, Patterson could not help but think about all the untold stories lost over time.

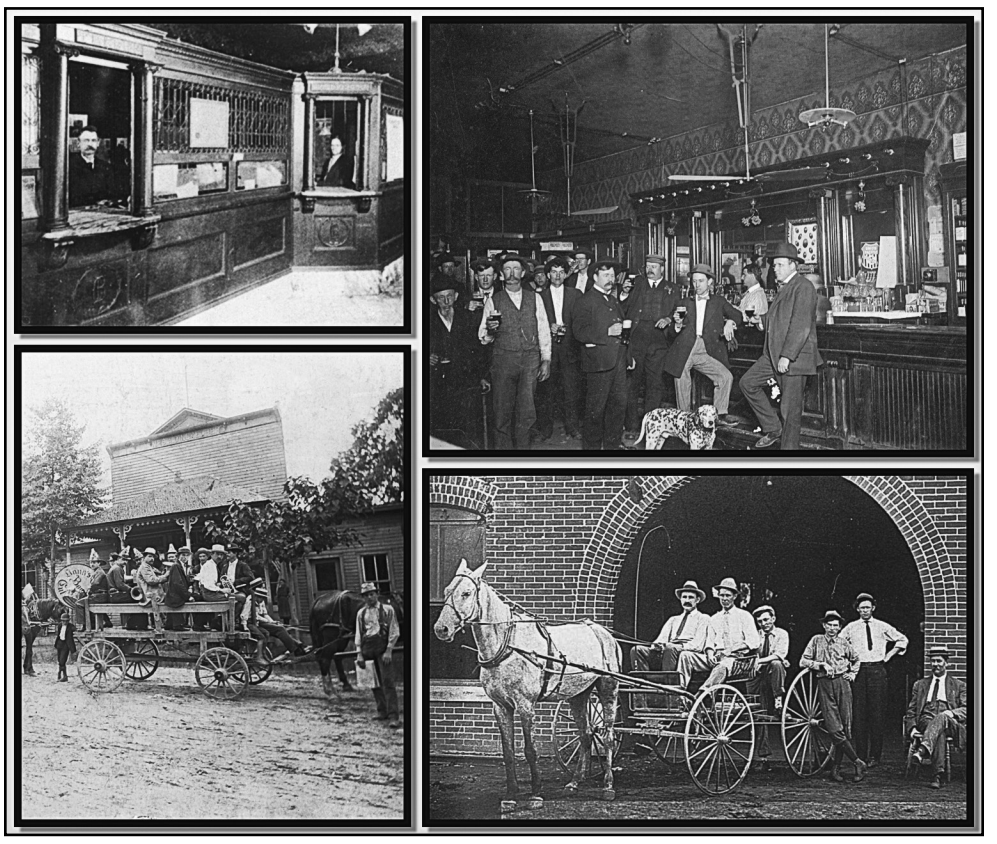
The book's dedication simply reads "to those who have made Cullman what it is today and to those who have preserved and shared the city's history."

"The most heartfelt part of that statement is the second half. Preserving history is one thing, and so many people do that, to varying degrees. But I think the most important thing people can do is share history. It does no one any good to stash historic photos, documents or other items in a closet or safe forever," she said.

"Their significance usually dies when the owner dies. Descendants often find old photographs and do not know who those people were. Or they find old items and do not know who they belonged to, so they discard an important part of their own history. This book would have never been completed without people willing to share Cullman's history with the rest of us. Those are the people to whom this book is dedicated."

Patterson will have a booth at the Strawberry Festival on May 10-11.

The book will be available at Deb's Bookstore in Cullman and online at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



Photos contributed by Arcadia Publishing and Melanie K. Patterson

