SERIES 3, ISSUE 20 MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
$0.50 $0.50

In this Issue:

Local



An Aerial Display of Affection

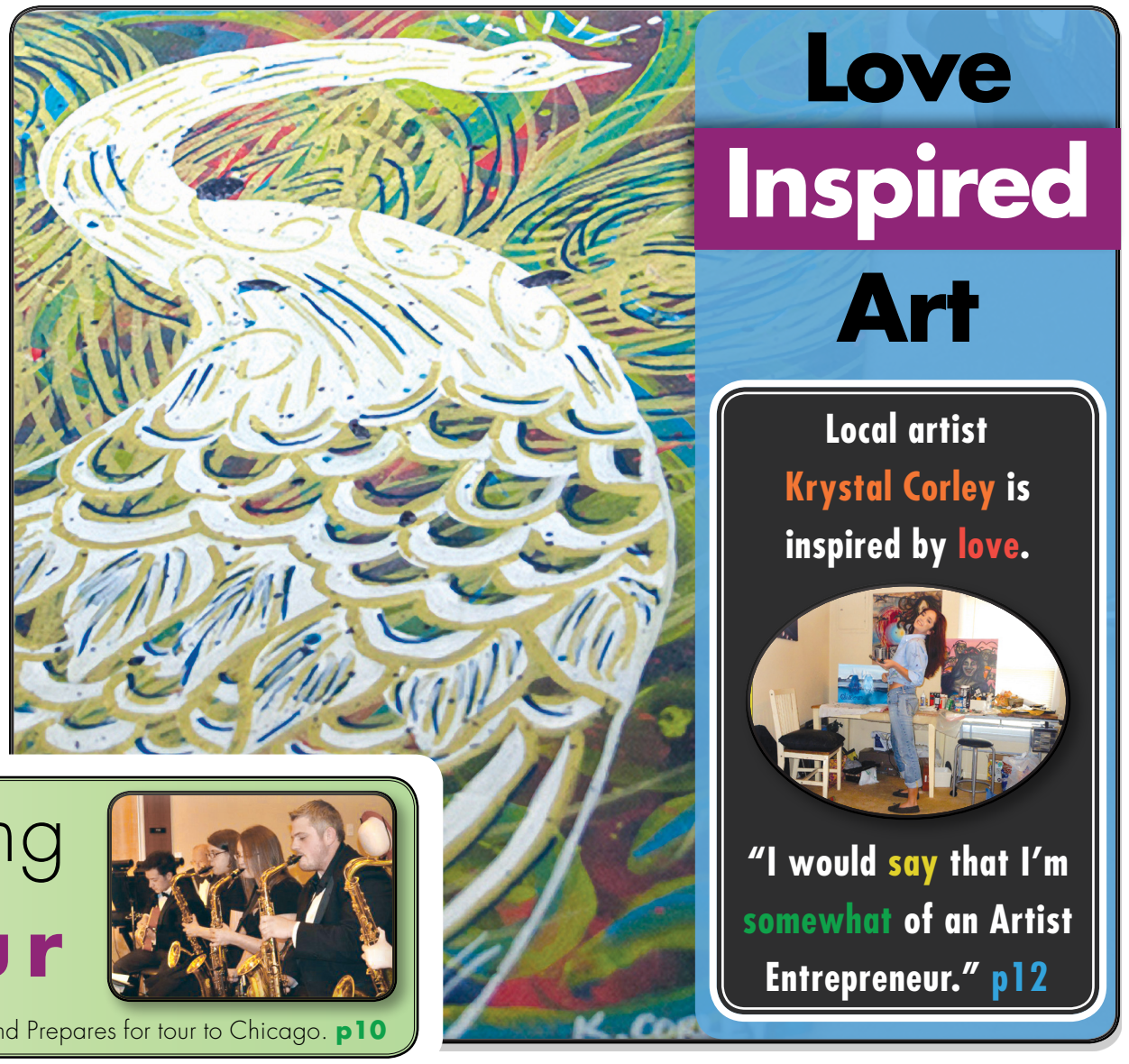
630 balloons emerged from the trees at Heritage Park in memory of Lyndon Brooke Stidham, a life cut short by HAE. p7

Moe's Original Bar B Que slated to open in late May

Joseph Fralic along with Cullman natives Justin Gilley and Tyler Schuman plan to introduce Moe's Original Bar B Que to their hometown of Cullman. p2

ADECA HOLDS Public Meeting

to Determine Greatest Needs for **$49.1 MILLION** in April 2011 tornado recovery funds p2



Love Inspired Art

Local artist Krystal Corley is inspired by love.

"I would say that I'm somewhat of an Artist Entrepreneur." p12

Spring Tour

WSCC Jazz Band Prepares for tour to Chicago. p10

State

Executive Amendment to Help Public Schools; Ensure Fiscal Responsibility p3

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.9%; Cullman sits at 5.2% p3

Sports



WSCC wins national championship p5

Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson "Fergie" Jenkins coming to America's Oldest Ballpark

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

BIRMINGHAM – Legendary Chicago Cubs pitcher and Cooperstown member Ferguson Jenkins will be the featured guest at America's Oldest Ballpark, Rickwood Field, for the 18th Annual Rickwood Classic.

Since 1996, The Birmingham Barons and the Friends of Rickwood have hosted the Rickwood Classic at the historic park. This is a game that features the hometown Birmingham Barons and an opponent for the AA Southern League. Each team wears uniforms from a different period in history, paying homage to the different eras of Barons baseball.

The historic field has played host to numerous exhibition games over the years and has even been featured in films and ESPN documentaries. The ballpark was opened some 100+ years ago, in 1910, and has served as the home of the Birmingham Barons as well as the Birmingham Black Barons of the now defunct Negro Leagues.

Although no team officially calls Rickwood Field home anymore, it is the oldest professional ballpark to still feature professional baseball. With all of this history, it is only fitting that a former Cy Young winner ('71) and Hall of Fame Inductee ('91) would be on hand to meet fans and sign autographs.

Mr. Jenkins baffled hitters for 19 Major League seasons, 1-0 of which he spent with the Chicago Cubs, earning three All-Star invites, an NL Cy Young Award, and a Comeback Player of the Year Award.

While playing baseball in Southwest, Ontario where he grew up, Jenkins started out his career as a first baseman. He used to throw lumps of coal at a local coal yard, helping to hone his pitching skills.

Jenkins was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1962 and made his MLB debut in '65, coming in from the bullpen. In 1966, in a career altering event, Jenkins was traded to the Chicago Cubs where he would become the star he was destined.

Despite pitching in the "Friendly Confines" at Wrigley Field where the ball flies out of the ballpark, he posted a 3.31 ERA in his first eight seasons in Chicago.

The Rickwood Classic will feature the home Birmingham Barons vs. the visiting Tennessee Smokies. First pitch is slated for Wednesday, May 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at barons.com or by calling the box office at 205-988-3200.

Safety is Key during Graduation, Summer Festivities

Contributed by Alabama Department of Homeland Security

MONTGOMERY – Another school year is drawing to a close, and the member agencies of the Alabama's Integrated State Law Enforcement Task Force remind everyone -- particularly parents and their graduating high school seniors and other teens -- to add safety to any celebration plans at home, at a nearby venue or at the beach or other vacation destinations.

SLE Task Force officers will work together to create a highly visible enforcement presence and to promote public safety through Memorial Day Weekend and the summer.

They are intent on preventing crimes and violations that lead to deaths and injuries.

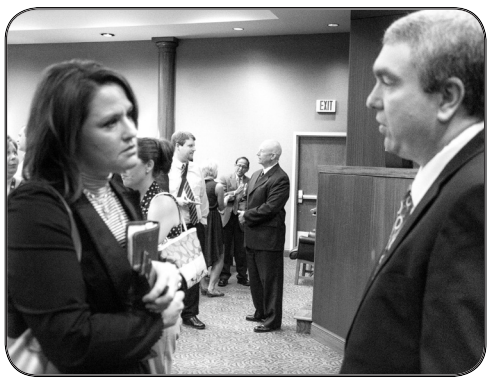
All available personnel will combine p3

Sports - 4 Calendar - 8 Poll - 9 Comics - 10

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

ADECA holds public meeting to determine greatest needs for $49.1 million in April 2011 tornado recovery funds

By: Russell Sellers


Photo by Noah Chandler

CULLMAN — Infrastructure repairs were the most common need expressed by attendees at a public meeting held today to gather input on how $49.1 million in pending federal disaster relief funds should be spent. The funds would be available to assist only those areas impacted by the April 2011 tornadoes.

The Alabama Department of Community and Economic Affairs conducted the meeting at Cullman City Hall to identify the greatest needs that remain two years after the disaster. In addition to infrastructure recovery, ADECA officials said that other common requests are likely to be for housing rehabilitation and economic development projects.

More than 50 county commissioners, mayors, consultants and residents listened as ADECA officials described what might be eligible for funding and how the grant process will work.

While the timeline for the availability of the funds is still pending, ADECA's Shabbir Olia said communities should begin outlining their projects and getting cost estimates so they can be ready to apply for a grant.

"Before you start on your project, we want you to come and talk to us about it," said Olia, manager of ADECA's Community and Economic Development Programs Unit. He said that ADECA can't guarantee grant funds, but might find something that could help with a proposed project.

In December, Governor Robert Bentley awarded more than $15.7 million in grants for disaster recovery projects in nine communities. ADECA also secured $7.7 million in 2012 to help rebuild or renovate approximately 300 houses in 20 affected Alabama counties.

ADECA's Al Jones said projects not funded by the first round of disaster relief should be submitted again and, with more funding available, may have a better chance of being funded this time.

A few weeks after the storms struck the state, Gov. Robert Bentley assigned ADECA the responsibility for coordinating long-term tornado recovery efforts.

The public meeting was part of the process required to prepare a statewide action plan for the funding. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will review the state's plan to ensure the proposed funding meets requirements.

Moe's Original Bar B Que slated to open in late May

Contributed

CULLMAN – Joseph Fralic along with Cullman natives Justin Gilley and Tyler Schuman plan to introduce Moe's Original Bar B Que to their hometown of Cullman. Moe's will be located at 318 1st Ave SE in late May.

Moe's Original Bar B Que serves up an award-winning, all things Southern, Alabama-style BBQ experience, complete with take out and catering.

The restaurant has 20 foot ceilings and spans 4300 square feet with booths, tables and bar seating for 90 while the 800 square foot patio seats 50 out front under the breeze of a huge fan.

With a full premium bar, bushwackers and 12 beers on tap, the hickory wood bar extends 40 feet and is surrounded by huge HDTVs and a view of the stage for live music.

In an effort to help revitalize the heart of downtown, the restaurant was a complete build out that kept with the character of the old building while allowing the owners to create the ultimate Moe's Original Bar B Que experience from scratch.

"Justin, Joseph and I all enjoy being a part of the culture that surrounds Moe's Original Bar B Que," said co-owner Tyler Schuman.

"We wanted to bring that vibe and atmosphere to Cullman as this is where Justin and I grew up."

Headquarted in Vail, Moe's Original Bar B Que was founded by Alabama three boys; Mike Fernandez from Tuscaloosa, Ben Gilbert from Athens, and Jeff Kennedy from Huntsville.

These partners learned how to fire roast meats from Tuscalooa legend Moses Day and it is his distinct style makes up Moe's original flavor of BBQ.

Local owners Justin and Tyler moved from Cullman to Vail when given the opportunity by the founding partners to join the team. After spending a year with the founders learning the ins and outs of running the restaurant and bar, they moved back South, added partner Joseph Fralic and honed their skills at several of the other Moe's Original locations.

Moe's Original Bar B Que has quickly becoming a player in the fast casual marketplace with eleven additional Alabama locations as well as fourteen restaurants in Colorado, Georgia, Maine and North Carolina.

One of 2013's Best Doctors in America

By: Lindsey Dossey

CULLMAN — Cullman Regional Medical Center's Chairman of Radiology, Jeffrey K. Nicholson, MD has been named one of the Best Doctors in America® for 2013. The prestigious recognition marks the second time that Dr. Nicholson has earned this honor. The highly regarded Best Doctors in America® List, assembled by Best Doctors, Inc. and audited and certified by Gallup® results from exhaustive polling of over 45,000 physicians in the United States. In a confidential review, current physician listees answer the question, "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer?" Best Doctors, Inc. evaluates the review results, and verifies all additional information to meet detailed inclusion criteria.

Best Doctors has earned a sterling reputation for reliable, impartial results by remaining totally independent. Doctors cannot pay to be included in the Best Doctors database, nor are they paid to provide their input. The List is a product of validated peer review, in which doctors who excel in their specialties are selected by their peers in the profession.

Over the past 20 years, Best Doctors has earned global acclaim for its remarkable database of physicians, regarded as the world's premier effort to create a validated, peer-reviewed database of excellence in medicine.

The Best Doctors methodology is rigorously impartial and strictly independent; only those doctors recognized as the top 5% of their respective specialty earn the honor of being named one of the Best Doctors in America. The experts who are a part of the Best Doctors in America database provide the most advanced medical expertise and knowledge to patients with serious conditions – often saving lives in the process by finding the right diagnosis and right treatment. "Cullman Regional Medical Center and our community is very blessed to have talented medical staff members such as Dr. Nicholson," CRMC President/CEO Jim Weidner said. "We are certainly proud of his accomplishments and proud to have him bringing his expertise to the people of Cullman."

Speed and Agility
with Steve Johnson
All Sports Available
June 11th - July 12th
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:45 - Noon
Heritage Park
$125 per six weeks
Deadline to register is May 31st
Steve's Cell: 256-709-2192 • ASPT Office: 256-736-2997

Summer Junior Tennis 2013
√ Session I: June 3 - June 13
√ Session II: June 17 - June 27
√ Session III: July 8 - July 18
• Sessions held Monday-Thursday; Beginners from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and Intermediate and Advanced Groups from 9:00 a.m. -10:00
• Tennis Balls are provided; racquet is required. Instructors Don Wilbanks and Ryan Hunt will lead the sessions.
cullmanrecreation.org

What's Online

Innovation Awards includes four CCS finalists

Recently it was announced that four administrators and personal with Cullman City Schools have been nominated for the Alabama Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award.

qrne.ws/44



Accident Free Workplace

In late April, GSI Group in Bremen, celebrated a milestone not many workplaces can hang their hat on; four years of accident free work. Brigitte Whaley, HR Manager at GSI Group, said the company celebrated the achievement with lunch, door prizes, and giveaways for the 100 staff members...

qrne.ws/45

Diagnostic Imaging, Respiratory Therapy programs hold pinning ceremonies

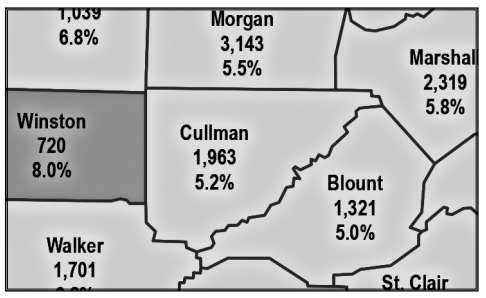
Wallace State Community College bestowed more than 20 students with a pin signifying their success in completing an Associate Degree in Science in the Diagnostic Imaging program.

qrne.ws/46

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.9%; Cullman sits at 5.2%

By: Tara Hutchison

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary April unemployment rate is 6.9%, down from last month's 7.2% and below the 7.4% recorded in April of 2012. April's rate represents 150,503 unemployed persons, compared to 155,011 last month and 158,749 in April 2012.



"The labor force increased, meaning more people are regaining confidence in the job market," Governor Bentley said. "Also, the number of people employed increased, meaning more people have jobs, and the number of people who are unemployed decreased. I am encouraged to see these improvements, and I will continue my efforts to recruit more jobs until everyone who needs a job is able to find one."

The number of people in the civilian labor force increased in April to 2,177,865, up from 2,164,537 last month and up from 2,157,873 in April 2012. The number of people employed increased to 2,027,362, up from 2,009,526 last month and 1,999,124 last year. The number of people unemployed dropped to 150,503 from 155,011 last month and 158,749 last year.

"Like last month, the positives continued to increase for Alabama's counties. All of the counties saw drops in their rates, including a significant drop of 2.4 percentage points in Lowndes County's rate," said Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees. "In addition, we saw an increase of nearly 10,000 jobs in the state, with some industries that had been previously lagging showing some real improvement, like construction."

Wage and salary employment, totaling 1,898,100 in April, increased 9,700 over the month. Industries gaining jobs were leisure and hospitality (+7,100), construction (+2,200), and professional and business services (+1,400), among others.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 4.0%, Lee County at 4.9%, and Blount County at 5.0%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 14.8%, Perry County at 11.7%, and Dallas County at 11.4%.

Executive Amendment will Help Public Schools Improve While Ensuring Greater Fiscal Responsibility

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on recently announced an upcoming executive amendment that will help public schools improve while also allowing the state to make greater progress in repaying the Education Rainy Day Fund.

The executive amendment to House Bill 658 will call for a two-year delay on the implementation of the tax credit and scholarship portions of the Alabama Accountability Act.

Governor Bentley outlined two main reasons for providing the executive amendment:

- Greater Fiscal Responsibility: The Education Trust Fund owes the Education Rainy Day Fund $423 million by the end of fiscal year 2015. The state needs to pay its debts. Delaying implementation of the tax credits and scholarships until the 2015-2016 academic year will allow more resources to be focused on Rainy Day Fund repayment.
- Time to Improve: The executive amendment will preserve the flexibility provided by the Alabama Accountability Act. Public schools asked for, and deserve, that flexibility so they can develop unique and innovative plans for improvement. By delaying the tax credit and scholarship provisions for two years, schools will have time to put their improvement plans into place and provide a better education.

"If the Legislature accepts my executive amendment, we can help schools improve while also helping ensure the state meets its financial obligations," Governor Bentley said.

"I believe this is the most fiscally-responsible approach."

"I have always been a strong supporter of giving schools the flexibility they need to improve," Governor Bentley added. "I want to not only give them flexibility – I want to give them time to put it into place and make progress. This executive amendment will help us accomplish that goal."

"Moving forward, my ultimate goal is to have zero failing schools," Governor Bentley concluded.

"The flexibility provided by the Alabama Accountability Act will help failing schools improve and help non-failing schools get even better. That's why this legislation is so important. My executive amendment will preserve that flexibility while also helping ensure greater fiscal responsibility."

Congresswoman Promotes USDA StrikeForce Initiative

By: Fay Garner

AUBURN – Congresswoman Terri Sewell, 7th Congressional District, joined USDA agency leaders and others at a meeting of the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Alabama. Over 90 people from around the state participated in the event held at the Central Alabama Farmers Cooperative in Selma, Alabama. The kickoff for the Initiative was held at Al Hooks' Produce Farm in Macon County, Alabama, on May 2.

Currently, 90 percent of America's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. The primary goal of the StrikeForce initiative is to partner with local and state governments and community organizations on projects that promote economic development and job creation.

Congresswoman Sewell said that her office is proud to be a partner in this Initiative to help elevate poverty. She encouraged everyone to use the resources available to help in the 23 persistent poverty counties in the StrikeForce Initiative. Eleven of these counties are in her District.

"We want the success of your organizations to really reflect on the success of our State and this District," Sewell said. "What I love about the StrikeForce Initiative is its primary focus is leveraging public-private dollars which gives us a lot of opportunities to seek grants for public-private land, conservation, and many different sectors."

Dr. Tammy Gray-Steele, Executive Director of the Oklahoma based National Women in Ag Association, spoke to the group about the importance of partnering with agricultural and community-based groups to provide vital opportunities for rural and urban communities. She said it was important to make investments within communities to help move toward an authentic and sustainable future.

USDA leaders of the Alabama StrikeForce Initiative include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Food and Nutrition Service, and other USDA offices and state agencies.

At the meeting, representatives spoke about the investment in the Initiative and the need for involvement of community-based organizations to make it work.

The goals of the Alabama StrikeForce Initiative are:

- Support economic viability
- Promote food security
- Expand program education
- Remove barriers that limit goals 1, 2, and 3

"We are proud to welcome these groups today," said State Food and Agriculture Council Chair and StrikeForce Lead Dr. William Puckett. "USDA in Alabama is actively involved in community outreach, service, and economic development. We look forward to expanding this effort to help rebuild and revitalize rural communities." For more information on the Alabama StrikeForce Initiative, visit www.al.nrcs.usda.gov.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack started the "StrikeForce" initiative as a pilot project in 2010 in selected regions in three states: Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi. In 2011 it was expanded to include Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada. In 2013, Secretary Vilsack announced new efforts to bring the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity to Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Want to work with Cullman's fastest growing newspaper?

We're Hiring Self-Motivated Individuals for all Positions

For more info e-mail: jobs@cullmansense.com

Safety is Key during Graduation, Summer Festivities (Cont. from Front))

forces with county and municipal agencies in Alabama to conduct various details designed to enhance public safety and to enforce all laws, including traffic, boating, and alcoholic beverage laws.

It is especially important this time of year to caution graduating high school seniors and other teens of the dangers associated with alcohol and drugs.

Not only is it dangerous, but it is against the law to use drugs and for anyone younger than 21 to consume alcoholic beverages.

SLE Task Force officers urge everyone to bring safety to the fore this summer by:

- Restricting access and closely monitoring teens to prevent underage use of alcoholic beverages.
- Avoiding driving or boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Buckling up -- no matter how short the trip -- on the road or on the water. Occupants of all ages should use seat belts or child restraints when traveling by motor vehicles. On waterways, all occupants of water vessels should use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Focusing on driving or boating and avoiding such distractions as texting and talking on cell phones.
- Slowing down in construction zones along the way. Drivers pose the greatest danger in work zone crashes by not paying attention, speeding, and driving while impaired or distracted.
- Being careful when crossing highway-railway crossings. Motorists should never drive around lowered crossing gates; and pedestrians and cyclists should never trespass or play around railroad tracks.
- Reporting anything suspicious (at school, public venues, etc.) to the Alabama Fusion Center's tip line, 866-229-6220.
- Making hotel/motel stay safe. Choose establishments that are protected by both smoke alarms and fire sprinkler systems. Once in rooms, guests should review escape plans with the entire party. If alarms sound, leave rooms right away, using the stairs and avoiding elevators.
- Calling before you dig in the yard or other property to prevent gas pipeline accidents. The Alabama Public Service Commission encourages everyone to call 811 a few days before any type of excavation project regardless of depth or familiarity of property.
- Taking care when using grills or building outdoor fires. Never leave them unattended, and place them a safe distance from everyone, especially children and pets. It's a good idea to designate a 3-foot "safe zone" around the grill or fire.
- Paying attention to weather conditions, particularly when there is thunder and lightning. Storms can come up quickly, especially in warm weather, so keep an eye to the sky. Watch for temperature changes, shifts in wind patterns and changes in cloud formations.

Good Hope Lady Raiders play hard, fall three wins short of title

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The Good Hope Lady Raiders have had a tremendous season in 2013. They have fought opponents tooth and nail and won by the narrowest of victories. They have blown opponents away with run rule shortened games.

They have hit game winning homers as well as laying down timely bunts to score runs. The Good Hope Lady Raiders have given there all each and every time they have stepped out on the field.

Over the weekend, the Lady Raider traveled down to Montgomery for the State Softball Tournament. Although good Hope ultimately fell short of the heir goal of the 3A State Title, they have all the reason in the world to hang their heads high and know that they gave it their all.

Here is how the State Tournament played out.

DAY ONE - GAME ONE

MONTGOMERY – Lagoon Park was full of Good Hope softball fans Friday and the Lady Raiders gave them something to cheer about. Cara Goodwin, the fixture in the circle for Good Hope, was on her game as she shut down the Lady Wildcats of White Plains, striking out 10 on the way to the 2-0 Good Hope victory.

"Great!," Goodwin said of how she felt about the game, that lasted less than an hour. "No 13 and 14 inning games," she said with a smile, referencing the marathon games she pitched in the Regional Tournament.

The lightning quick game did not feature many hits, just three for Good Hope, but the Lady Raiders made the most of them.

Kayla Tillman led off the game with a single and immediately took second on an errant throw. Bailey Andrews then laid down a great but, as she has done throughout the postseason, moving Tillman to third.

Goodwin then hit a slow roller to short and was thrown out but she picked up the RBI as Tillman raced home.

The pro-Good Hope crowd would have to wait until the sixth to see their Lady Raiders plate their second run. Kacy Thomas has been crushing the ball as of late and Friday was no different. She led off the inning with a booming double. "I thought I had hit my first home run in the State Tournament," said a beaming Thomas after the game.

Her double would not be wasted. Darby Randolph moved her over on a sacrifice. Tillman then grounded back to the pitcher and, due to Thomas' lightning speed, she scored on the throw to first to put her team up 2-0 heading to the final inning.

Goodwin gave up a two out double to Olivia Taylor in the seventh but finished the game but getting Shelby Wood to fly out to Thomas. Good Hope moved on to face Madison Academy at 7 p.m.

DAY ONE - GAME TWO

Five Good Hope errors led to three Madison Academy runs and sent the Lady Raiders to the loser's bracket by a 3-0 score.

Lindsey Lewter started the fourth inning by reaching first on one of two Good Hope errors in the inning. Lewter moved around to third on an E-9 and came home to score the first run of the game on a Katie Clarke RBI single.

The Lady Mustangs would take advantage of three more Good Hope errors in a weird sixth when Brandi Foreman and Clarke came home to score on a Maizie Dyess two run single. This gave Madison Academy a 3-0 lead that would hold up to be the final score.

Good Hope dropped to the loser's bracket to face the Winfield Lady Pirates at 9am on Saturday.

DAY TWO - GAME ONE

In a record setting season, Good Hope played their way into the second day of the 3A State Tournament but fell to the Winfield Lady Pirates for the second time in a week by a score of 4-1.

The first was a 14 inning strike fest with both pitchers hurling extremely well. The second game was the same with one exception; Winfield was able to time three Good Hope pitches, depositing them over the center field fence that led to the victory and eliminating Good Hope from the 2013 State Tournament.

Micaela Beck, who had hit two grand slams in the same game less than 24 hours before, got things going for the Lady Pirates when she drove a pitch deep to centerfield putting Winfield up 1-0 on the bottom of the second. Two short innings later, Sam Riley provided an instant replay, hitting a similar pitch to the same spot. Winfield 2, Good Hope 0.

The final home run of the game came off the bat of Lexi Coleman just an inning later when she hit it out to left center.

Good Hope took advantage of two Winfield errors in the sixth to scratch across a run on a Alannah Henke fielder's choice but it was not enough as the Lady Pirates added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth and advanced in the tournament by a 4-1 score.

CullmanSense would like to extend congratulations on a great season to Seniors Savannah Fendley, Kayla Tillman, Cara Goodwin and Darcie Wilson as well as all of the Good Hope Lady Raiders.

Southern Invasion!

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

HOOVER – For 12 SEC teams, the Road to Omaha and the College World Series runs through Hoover, AL. Starting Tuesday, May 21st, the Hover Metropolitan Stadium will be taken over by SEC Baseball.

In a chance from last year's 10 team tournament, this year the top 12 teams in the Southeastern Conference earned an invite to the tournament. Here are how the teams are seeded and their win percentage on the year as well as how the action will get underway.

1. Vanderbilt (.897)
2. LSU (.767)
3. Arkansas (.621)
4. South Carolina (.586)
5. Mississippi State (.533)
6. Ole Miss (.500)
7. Alabama (.483)
8. Florida (.467)
9. Texas A&M (.448)
10. Auburn (.433)
11. Kentucky (.367)
12. Missouri (.333)

Tuesday, May 21

- Game 1 9:30 a.m. #6 Ole Miss vs. #11 Kentucky [FSN]
- Game 2 TBD #7 Alabama vs. #10 Auburn [FSN]
- Game 3 4:30 p.m. #8 Florida vs. #9 Texas A&M [CSS]
- Game 4 TBD #5 Mississippi State vs. #12 Missouri [CSS]

Wednesday, May 22

- Game 5 9:30 a.m. #3 Arkansas vs. Winner Game 1 [CSS]
- Game 6 TBD #2 LSU vs. Winner Game 2 [CSS]
- Game 7 4:30 p.m. #1 Vanderbilt vs. Winner Game 3 [CSS]
- Game 8 TBD #4 South Carolina vs. Winner Game 4 [CSS]

Thursday, May 23

- Game 9 9:30 a.m. Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6 [SPSO]
- Game 10 TBD Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8 [SPSO]
- Game 11 4:30 p.m. Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6 [SPSO]
- Game 12 TBD Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8 [SPSO]

Friday, May 24

- Game 13 3:00 p.m. Winner Game 9 vs. Loser Game 11 [CSS]
- Game 14 TBD Winner Game 10 vs. Loser 12 [CSS]

Saturday, May 25

- Game 15 Noon Winner Game 13 vs. Winner Game 11 [ESPNEWS]
- Game 16 TBD Winner Game 14 vs. Winner Game 12 [ESPNEWS]
- Sunday, May 26
- Game 17 3:30 p.m. Winner Game 15 vs. Winner Game 16 [ESPN2]

All Times Central
FSN - Fox Sports South, Sun Sports, Fox Sports, Southwest, Fox Sports Houston
SPSO - SportSouth, Sun Sports, Fox Sports, Southwest, Fox Sports Houston
CSS - Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast

There will be some outstanding baseball played at the Hoover Met and you will have to see some up and coming stars. Guys like Cullman's own Josh Rutledge (Alabama), Cy Young winners Cliff Lee (Arkansas), Tim Hudson (Auburn) and R.A. Dicky have all hurled for the SEC. Come out and support your favorite team and take in some one of a kind excitement!

Men's & Women's Open and
Men & Women's Church League
Summer Softball Registration
May 1-May 20
Registration—$375
Register at Heritage Park
256-739-9931
*Must be over the age of 15 to play
SOFTBALL
Sign-up

Good Hope Raiders impressive in spring football Jamboree

By: Johnny Thornton

GOOD HOPE - Victory in a spring football game can serve a purpose when a team is moving forward in search of a winning formula.

Thursday night at James Shabel Stadium, the Good Hope Raiders concluded spring workouts by dominating Brindlee Mountain 42-0. The effort was pleasing to Raider head coach Chris Moss, but not satisfying.

"We got nine good days of practice under us. We were trying to get our guys in the right position. We having some to build on, because we still have a long way to go."

Good Hope has gone through some coaching changes from last season when the Raiders were only 3-7. The program has only produced seven victories in the past four years.

Former Cullman quarterback Tyler Caldwell has joined the staff in replacing Mitch Witcher who resigned before spring practice began. Caldwell has implemented the spread formation offense for the Raiders that clicked very effectively in building a 28-0 lead by halftime.

Good Hope scored on four first half possessions in gaining 216 yards of offense to get command of the spring contest.

On the second play from scrimmage, Cannan Smith found Austin Reed open for a 52-yard pass play down the left sidelines. The first of six extra points from Austin Harris was converted for a 7-0 lead with 9:04 to go in the opening quarter.

Good Hope's defense forced two Brindlee Mountain fumbles the next two times the Lions had possession. The Raiders took the second miscue and turned it into a score when Smith took a busted play and found Reed open between two defenders for 11 yards and the TD. The Raiders were up 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Sebastian Fendley took over running the Raider offense in the second period. The first time he touched the ball, he scampered 52 yards to the end zone.

This came with 9:00 to go in the second and the Raiders extended their lead to 21-0 as Harris booted the conversion.

Good Hope drove 55 yards for its final first half touchdown. A pass play of 39 yards got the Raiders down to the Brindlee Mountain 10 where in two plays, Fendley got loose around left end from the six.

Harris tacked on the extra point and the Raiders led 28-0 at the break thanks to 87 yards rushing in the first two quarters and 129 yards passing.

The Raiders received the ball to begin the second half. Fendley went to the air with two throws to Chris Raper covering 30 and 46 yards. The drive came to a close when tailback Jared McClure went over behind left guard from three yards out. The kick from Harris pushed the margin to 35-0.

Good Hope's defense forced three Brindlee Mountain fumbles in the night and kept the Lions out of the end zone. Their best opportunity was on the final play of the first half when the Lions had a first and goal at the Good Hope seven. The Raiders put pressure on the quarterback and dropped him behind the line at the 16 to end the threat.

The Lions got inside the Raider 30 at the start of the third then turned the ball over on another fumble.

Smith came back and took snaps in the final period, ending a drive with a TD pass into the end zone. This came 3:00 into the fourth to complete the Raider runaway of 42-0.

Good Hope utilized the passing game out of the spread by completing seven of nine in the third quarter for 94 yards. Through three quarters, the Raiders' passing game had gained 223 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions.

Now the Raiders have something to work on in building from this spring game. A good workout in the weight room during the summer will help with the Raiders determined to get back to winning ways.

Good Hope meets Holly Pond in the season opener at Shabel Stadium Aug. 29. The game has gained plenty of magnitude when the Broncos announced that former Cullman and St. Paul's coach Mike Bates will take over the program.

Bates has been out of coaching for five seasons. The last time he coached was with St. Paul's in 2008.

The Saints had won the 2007 Class 5A state championship with a quarterback named A.J. McCarron who is now leading the Alabama Crimson Tide.

The opener for the Raiders will mark the ninth season Chris Moss has been in charge of the Good Hope program. The Raiders won at Holly Pond last season 37-6 and have beaten the Broncos in 11 straight assignments. Good Hope leads the all-time series 27-10.

Wallace State softball captures second NJCAA Division I national championship

By: Russell Moore

WSCC Contributor

ST GEORGE, UTAH – Wallace State softball has won its second national championship. The Lady Lions, seeded eighth, defeated Salt Lake City (Utah) CC 7-3 in Saturday's NJCAA Division I national title game, using another big offensive inning in order to capture it all at the Canyons Complex in St. George Utah.

Tournament MVP and Most Outstanding Pitcher Lindsey DeFee scattered two earned runs on five hits in seven innings, freshman Kori Benson added her school-record 23rd home run and the Lady Lions put together a five-run seventh inning to pull away and earn the college its sixth national title overall.



"I can't say enough positive things about this team. It seems like for the last month we've had a lot of clutch hits from people up and down the lineup. I can't even begin to name them all, but that's helped us achieve this ultimate goal, along with our two sophomore pitchers," said Wallace State coach Jayne Clem, whose team won its first national crown in 2008. "Nobody thinks Alabama can play softball in junior college, so we never get much recognition. We still may not get any after this, but we'll continue to prove it on the field."

A year after finishing third nationally, Wallace State's only hiccup in the tournament was an 8-0 loss in Saturday's opener, forcing the Lady Lions to win the title in the "if" game.

The Lady Lions (55-12) were up to the task. Their forte throughout the entire tournament was giving the pitching staff a comfortable lead by exploding for big innings. With the game tied at 2-2, Wallace State decided the seventh was the magic inning in the finale.

For the third time in the tournament Wallace State batted around, sending 10 to the plate. Victoria Frith drove in the first run with an RBI single, and Katie Gentle and Kori Benson each added two-run singles for a 7-2 advantage.

After allowing a one-out solo homer and single in the bottom of the seventh, DeFee induced a 4-6-3 double play to start the celebration.

"Words can't describe what this means to this team. It's the best feeling I've had in my life," said DeFee, a Eufaula native. "We proved ourselves the entire tournament. I knew our hitters were going to come through and take the pressure off the pitching staff."

DeFee was pressed into duty earlier than she expected during Saturday's opener, relieving BreeAnna Blevins, and readjusted to Salt Lake hitters in the championship game. DeFee (26-5) earned three victories in the tournament, including two against second-seeded Salt Lake.



"It took a while for me to get ready mentally, and after we lost that first one I told myself we weren't going to lose the second one," DeFee said. "I knew my teammates weren't going to let it happen either."

Wallace State reeled off a perfect march at the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) tournament earlier this month to punch its national tournament bid and was nearly as dominant at nationals. The Lady Lions felt they were slighted by earning a No. 8 seed in Utah and they made each opponent pay.

Along their route to the title, Wallace State defeated top-seeded Butler (Kan.) CC, No. 2 Salt Lake, and fifth-seeded Pima (Ariz.) CC.

"We play as a team---that's all it is. From the first game at the state tournament to the last game here, we played as a team. Butler (CC) had tons of girls already signed with Division I programs, but that didn't matter or intimidate us," said Wallace State sophomore catcher Paige Rowland. "We knew what our mission was and we were going to get it. It also helped out we came so close last year (when we finished third.) We knew what to expect and some teams here didn't."

Benson, Wallace State's third baseman, was named the Most Outstanding Defensive Player of the tournament and she wasn't a slouch with her bat either. She hit three homers in the tournament, including a two-run shot in the championship game. She finished 2 for 4 with four RBIs.

"When I committed to play at Wallace State in high school, I knew I was going to be a part of a national championship team," said Benson, an Oak Grove grad. "We came closer as a team after we lost some games we shouldn't have in April. That's part of growing up, and we've grown up a lot in the last month."

Also named to the All-tournament team were Wallace State's Gentle, Madeline Lee, and Brittany Gillison.

Clem was named the winner of the Karen Sykes Outstanding Coach of the tournament, earning the recognition for the second time in her eight national tournament appearances.

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

Encourage Kids to Have Gadget-Free Fun this Summer

(StatePoint) You may remember your parents telling you to turn off the television and go outside or read a book. But these days, it's harder than ever to separate kids from media devices, especially as their options become more mobile.

But parents can help their children spend their time differently, in ways that not only increase personal interaction, but help keep minds fresh during the long summer vacation.

"If you make it a game --particularly one you're playing with them -- kids will be more than happy to turn away from those screens. And if they're learning something along the way, all the better," says Susan Bolotin at Brain Quest, maker of educational quiz games for kids.

Visit the Library

Each week, make a point of visiting the library with your children to get them a new stash of books to read throughout the week. You can motivate them to dig right in by posting a chart somewhere handy like the fridge, tracking the books they have enjoyed so far.

Play a Game

Whether you're at home, on a road trip, or running errands, there's no need to stick a gadget in your kids' hands to keep them occupied. Engage your children with on-the-go games that are both fun and educational.

For example, Brain Quest question and answer decks are easy to pack in a small bag and offer age-appropriate, curriculum-based challenges on themes like presidents and American history. The interactive question and answer sessions are sure to keep everyone entertained. More information along with free downloadable projects and resources can be found at www.BrainQuest.com.

Arts and Crafts

Arts and crafts not only offer children an opportunity to use their creativity to make something useful, beautiful or both, but can also help hone hand-eye coordination. At home, you can opt for involved projects like bird feeders, necklaces and watercolors. On the go, bring along crayons and construction paper so kids can draw whenever the artistic spirit moves them. If you're looking for inspiration, check out project books and kits like Recycled Robots and My First Bird Feeder and Bird Book.

Cook

Don't make cooking a boring chore. Get your kids off the couch and into the kitchen. By preparing meals together, you will give your children an opportunity to learn about nutrition and help them develop a practical skill. And there are tasks in the kitchen that are just right for any age.

Outdoor Fun

Help your kids organize outdoor games with other neighborhood children or get outside and play alongside them. Nature walks exploring local parks and streams can also be a great way to get the entire family to have fun while learning about the great outdoors.

School may be out, but learning is in. In honor of summer, make it fun.

On Target

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

WPMS Archery team hits the mark in Kentucky

WEST POINT – Early this month a group of students from West Point Middle School made the trip north to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in the National Archery Tournament.

The WPMS Archery Team consists of students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Coaches Regina Jones and Scott Brown attended the tournament. The tournament was held at the Kentucky Exposition Center May 9th - 11th.

A total of 34 students competed at the regional tournament earlier in the year and out of those 24 advanced to state before reaching the national tournaments.

Only the top teams in the state advance to Nationals, which is a big honor for an up and coming program.

Students who competed are as follows: Brantley Rogers, Sarah Helms, Will Jones, Luke Watson, Colby Sullins, Rylan Jones, Christian Parker, Lane Brannon, Zeb Rushing, Ethan Little, Jaclyn Albright, Natalie Tramell, Will Warren, Nic Freeman, Cheyenne Harper, Scotty Givens, Nicholas Moore, Maddie Whitesell, Carson Moon, Kolton Easterwood, Noah Gammon, Jacob Mosher, Zachary Clayton, and Taylor Willingham. The coaches are Regina Jones and Scott Brown.

For complete results visit http://qrne.ws/wpmsarchery.

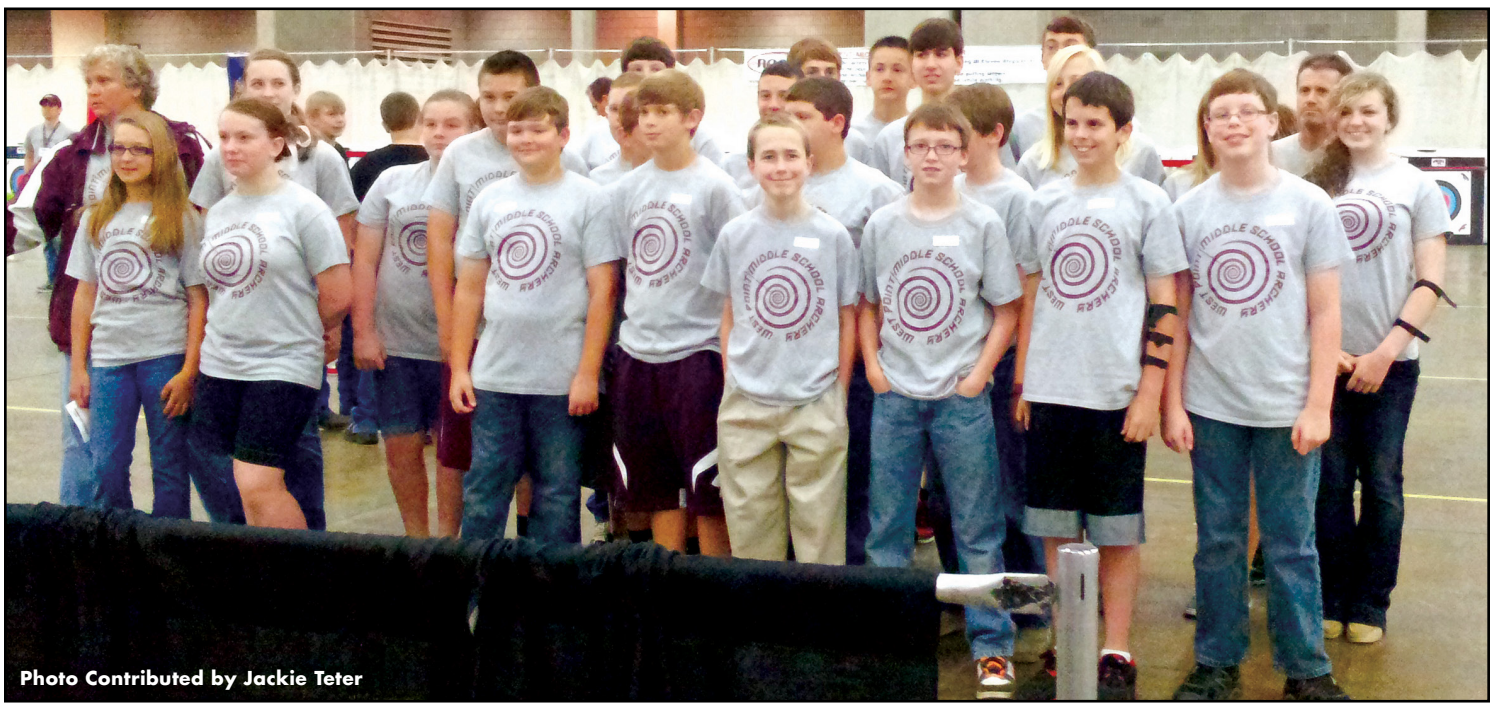


Photo Contributed by Jackie Teter

CRMC Hosts Stroke Seminar

By: Amy Linton
CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Do you know the signs of a stroke? Do you know what steps to take if a loved one shows these signs?

Join CRMC Director of Critical Care Paula Burks, RN as she discusses a few of the many important, life-saving stroke prevention tips during this informative lunch and learn program.

The seminar, hosted in honor of Stroke Awareness Month, will be held on Wednesday, May 22 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in CRMC's Col. Cullmann Room, located in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058).

Cost of this lunch and learn program is $5 for WomenFirst / SeniorChoice members and $8 for others.

To reserve your spot, register online at www.crmchospital.com or call (256) 737-2600.



An Aerial Display of Affection

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – A mass of 630 balloons emerged from the trees at Cullman's Heritage Park on Thursday, as friends and family of Lyndon Brooke Stidham remembered the young woman whose life was cut short due to Hereditary angioedema, better known as HAE.

"It means a lot to me, a lot to my family to have this support," said Hillary Schaffer, Lyndon's sister. "My sister was 12 when she passed away. She was very unique, had a lot of friends and she was my best friend." The second annual Lyndon Brooke Stidham Memorial walk for HAE, was held on May 16th, a day which was declared HAE-DAY by the U.S. Senate last year. The all-day event began at 8 a.m. and lasted through the evening hours before ending with a balloon launch at 6:30 p.m.

Lyndon, daughter of Lora Moore, lost her battle with HAE at age 12, on September 28, 2004. Moore said in a release that the rarity of the disease makes it hard to be diagnosed, so she, along with the rest of the family, want to educate others in order to help prevent any more loses due to HAE.

"HAE is very rare and always misdiagnosed by medical personnel as an allergic reaction due to the disfiguring swelling in all body parts and is deadly when it reaches the throat and suffocates the patient. This is what happened to Lyndon," said Moore.

There are a lot of people in the Cullman area that have this disease; it is hereditary and runs in the Moore family. To learn more about HAE and the US HAEA please visit www.haea.org.



Shooting for a Cure

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

JONES CHAPEL – The Circle of Hope group is preparing for the 6th Annual 3-D Archery Shoot, scheduled for July 27-28, a benefit shoot aimed at raising funds for the Bruno Cancer Center, located at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham.

"We are once again hosting our annual Benefit Archery Shoot in our efforts to end cancer," said Circle of Hope member Elaine Blackwood. "This will be our 6th year to have the archery shoot and it will be at Camp David.

In recent years all proceeds have gone to the American Cancer Society.

Blackwood said this year the group has changed the donor recepient to a more localized organization.

"This is just our way of helping out at a more local level where folks from our area are sure to benefit from the donation," she said.

The 6th Annual 3-D Archery Shoot will be held at Camp David, located south of Jones Chapel on County Road 940.

The shoot will take place over the weekend of July 27-28.

Times for competition are from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

A breakfast will be held on Sunday and guest speaker, Steton Hayes will answer questions. A range of 20 3-D targets will be set up with stakes set to mark your distance according to divisions.

"We have all ages and all levels of competition if you choose to compete or you can just come and enjoy shooting. Join us for a great day of fun as we help to raise needed funds to battle cancer," said Blackwood.

Entry fee for competition is $15 or if you prefer to just have some fun while donating to charity, the cost is just $8.

All proceeds go to the Bruno Cancer Center Sponsored by Circle of Hope In Memory of Barry Bailey. For more information, call 256-338-6650 or 256-339-5303.

CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Now Enrolling
2013
2014
Pre-4K -12th Grade
LIONS CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
www.cullmanchristian.org • 256-734-0734

Hurricane Creek Park
Rock Climbing • Hiking • Mountain Biking • Bird Watching





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

6th Annual Castille Football Character Camp
May 31st and June 1st at Heritage Park

Friday, May 31st
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

CHARACTER CAMP

Saturday, June 1st
8:00 a.m. –2:30 p.m.

6TH – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS, PLEASE JOIN US FOR A **FREE** TWO DAY FOOTBALL CAMP TAUGHT BY NFL AND DIVISION ONE FOOTBALL PLAYERS. THE CAMP CONSISTS OF FOUR QUARTERS AND HALF-TIME, IN WHICH FORMER **NFL great and Alabama Legend, Jeremiah Castille**, WILL SHARE TRAITS AND SKILLS NEEDED TO BE A CHAMPION IN LIFE AND ON THE FIELD.

1ST – 5TH GRADE STUDENTS, PLEASE JOIN **Two-Time Olympic Gold Medalist, Willie Smith**, SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST FOR A SPEED AND AGILITY CAMP. THERE WILL BE A MORNING SESSION FROM 8:30-11:00 AND AN AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 11:30 -2:00.

Format
1ST QUARTER: COMBINE DRILLS
2ND QUARTER: SPEED AND AGILITY

HALF-TIME: CHARACTER SKILLS

3RD QUARTER: POSITION DRILLS
4TH QUARTER: COMPETITION

Staff
DENNIS ALEXANDER, UA & TN TITANS
TODD BATES: UA & TN TITANS
KYLE BENNETT; UA, ALL SEC
JUSTIN BRITT: UA & BENGALS
BRANDON BROOKS: UA
JAMES CALLIER: AU, ALL- AMERICAN
LEONARD DAVIS: TN STATE
ERIC GRAY: UA
BOBBY GREENWOOD: UA, ALL SEC & KC CHIEFS
CHARLIE JONES: UA, ALL SEC
ANTONIO LONDON: DETROIT LIONS & GREEN BAY PACKERS
BROC MALCOLM: ALUMNUS OF CCC, 2ND YEAR TO COACH
STEVE MOTT: UA, ALL SEC, ALL AMERICAN & DETROIT LIONS
KENNETH VANDERVOORT: UA
DEON WHITE: JSU, ALL-AMERICAN & STEELERS

Cullman County Schools
TO REGISTER CONTACT T. J. FRANEY
CULLMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
256-734-2933 OR 256-590-4803
SPACE IS LIMITED, SO REGISTER SOON!
Jeremiah Castille Foundation
WWW.CASTILLEFOUNDATION.ORG
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER
INFO@CASTILLEFOUNDATION.ORG

– 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.

Bosom Buddies Support Group Meeting
Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer and will meet at 6 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Centers Ave Maria Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058). For more information contact group coordinator Mary Dyer at 256-734-8729.

Men's Parenting Advice on Raising Children Talk by John Croyle
All men who are fathers and grandfathers, or 'future' parents/grandparents of children, including college-age students who will qualify in the 'future', are invited to attend a free evening with John Croyle as he speaks about raising children. His 'experience' in this field covers raising more than 1,800 children on his Big Oak Ranch for Boys and Girls, in addition to raising his own two children! This free event, which will be held in the Cullman Civic Center is being brought to the Cullman area by the Alabama Baptist Convention State Board of Missions. Croyle has written a book highlighting many topics concerning raising children in today's world and everyone can benefit from hearing him talk. For further info on this event please contact Steve Stephens at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 268 or through sstephens@alsbom.org. Mr. Stephens serves as the Men's Ministry/ Royal Ambassadors Consultant for the Board of Missions.

'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.

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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Cullman City Board of Education Meeting
All members of the Cullman City Board of Education will gather at 6 p.m. There also is a work session scheduled after the business portion of the meeting.

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.

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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

First Community Bank Women's Investing Class
All women are invited to attend a FREE 'Women's Investing' Class at 12 noon at First Community Bank. This free educational lunchtime meeting is being held to help women learn more about investing for themselves. Bring your own lunch. This is NOT a sales meeting. For additional information please contact Heather Branch at 256-734-4863.

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.

ROOT Classes at Grace Episcopal Church
All are welcome to attend special ROOT (Radically Overcoming Obstacles Together) classes each Thursday night beginning at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. Food and fellowship begin at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. by the meeting. For additional information please check out Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/TheRoot) or www.agccullman.com. Come to one class just to see if you are interested in this topic and its purpose. You might be surprised how these meetings can affect your life.

Friday

Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Group Cleanup
Member (and all others interested in this project) of the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee will gather at the Smith Lake Boat Ramp both at 8 a.m. for 'clean-up' work in the area. Committee folks will pick up styrofoam and when that work is accomplished, attack the trash! Lunch will be served to workers. Cleanup will last from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce's 4th Friday Luncheon
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Retail Committee will host the monthly 'Fourth Friday' Luncheon in the All Steak Restaurant Banquet Room with doors opening at 11:30 A.m. Lunch and program begin at 11:50 a.m., with $10.00 per person for Chamber members and $20.00 for 'future' members. RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE ARE REQUIRED. Register online at www.cullmanchamber.org or by calling the Chamber at 256-734-0454. This month's program, sponsored by Hanceville Nursing & Rehab Center will feature Andy Marshall, owner of Puckett's Grocery in Franklin, Tennessee. He also has opened additional dining/music venues and is recipient of numerous awards revolving around food and entertainment venues. Come listen to this successful professional businessman share his 'secrets' today.

'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

Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Group Cleanup
Member (and all others interested in this project) of the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee will gather at the Smith Lake Boat Ramp both at 8 a.m. for 'clean-up' work in the area. Committee folks will pick up styrofoam and when that work is accomplished, attack the trash! Lunch will be served to workers. Cleanup will last from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

2nd Annual KIDZ Fishing Rodeo
The Refuge Church is sponsoring its 2nd Annual KIDZ Fishing Rodeo from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Adair Pond in Vinemont. There will be three age categories from 2 to 5 years; from 6 to 11 years; and from 12 to 15 years of age. Prizes will be given every hour to the child in each category with the most weight. At the end of the tournament, trophies will be presented for the biggest fish and the fish that weighs the most. Fish and hush puppies will be served. Those attending are asked to bring their own rods and reels, fish bait for bass, brim and/or catfish, and lawn chairs. Further information is available by contacting Pastor Steven at 205-718-9142; Tim at 256-636-1856; or Justen at 256-507-2905. Everyone is welcome.

Hanceville Police Department Women's Firearm Training Class
Hanceville City Police Department is offering a FREE Women's Firearm Training Class, with the classes lasting about 4 hours, with a two hour training session in a classroom setting and two hours on the shooting range. This course is for all women who are 21 years of age and older. Participants must be 21 in order to obtain a gun permit. Requirements to take the class are that women have a valid gun permit, a handgun of the participant's choice as well as 50 rounds of ammunition for that particular weapon. The main object of the course is to help women become more familiar with their weapons and how to handle them safely should the need arise to protect themselves. The class was offered last year and many of the women attending were proven shooters while others were handling guns for the first time. Classes are free but donations gladly will be accepted. For information and to register please call 256-352-1213 and ask for Police Chief Bob Long. You may also check out this event thru Hanceville201@yahoo.com.

Cullman Plowing/Driving Club Demonstration
Members of the Cullman Plowing/Driving Club have rescheduled their demonstration of old time plowing and wagon rides to take place from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon. This event is free and open to the public and will be held at Peinhardt Living History Farm. Those attending may want to bring folding chairs for comfort during the morning hours. For additional info, please call Carolyn Johnson, 256-734-0850 or 256-734-7271. Also available through email bjohn781@aol.com. Come bring the kids and let them see how 'it used to be done'.

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Saturdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

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
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!

Looking Ahead

PorktoberQue
Oktoberfest meets Barbecue Competition in Dothan, Alabama September 27-28, 2013. This KCBS sanctioned BBQ competition draws teams from across Alabama and features $5,000 in prize money and an entry to the American Royal for the cookoff/ BBQ winner. It is also a stop on the Alabama BBQ Trail and has a points award for national barbecue team rankings. Spectators enjoy polka music, country and rock bands, an indoor Biergarten, outdoor "man cave" and loads of shopping opportunities. Barbecue and Bratwurst dominate the food menus from regional vendors, and beer is available in several areas. Sponsored by MIke Schmitz Auto group-come take a test drive for free tickets, or take a drive at PorktoberQue for great deals! FREE ADMISSION IF YOU DRESS UP IN LEDERHOSEN OR A GERMAN OUTFIT! Kids welcome, many kid's activities available. See www.porktoberque.com for details and info.

Upgrading Your Home's Outdoor Spaces Can Lower Energy Bills

(StatePoint) Making the most of your home's outdoor spaces can do wonders for a property's overall value. What's more, some updates can also potentially lower your home's energy bills while increasing its efficiency. "There are many adjustments and additions, at various price points that homeowners can make to outdoor spaces that will make a big difference in their bank account," says James Walbridge, President of Tekton Architecture and member of the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Custom Residential Architects Network.

To help get homeowners thinking along these lines, Walbridge offers the following advice:

- **Orientation**

The most efficient outdoor space allows sunlight to enter the home during the winter months while reducing it in the summer. To achieve the optimal effect, determining the sun's path in relation to your home is the most critical factor to consider. According to Walbridge, the southern-facing side of the home is normally the most beneficial place for outdoor space. However, working with an architect can ensure you're making the best choice for your particular property and home orientation.

- **Shading**

Properly placed trees and plants are the easiest way to ensure shade during the summer months, which keeps the home cooler and air conditioner use to a minimum.

When selecting shrubbery, look for drought-tolerant plants that don't require much water and maintenance, which will also reduce your water bill.

Additionally, opting for trees that lose their leaves in the winter allows the lower winter sun to enter and warm your home while still acting as a wind barrier.

Awnings and trellises are popular ways to decrease direct exposure to harsh sunlight in the summer. Trellises are usually permanent additions; however awnings can often be retracted in the winter. If your budget is a little larger, consider an extension of your roof, a porch or a permanent overhang.

- **Extend Your Living Spaces**

French doors or folding window walls are aesthetically pleasing ways to extend the indoors, out. Both will allow air to move through the house, reducing the need for heating or cooling. In climates with all four seasons, a few extra steps are needed to ensure outdoor spaces serve their purpose. Windows or glass sunrooms should be properly sealed or protected with films to ensure there is no leakage of air. These spaces should also be closed off properly during the winter months. Whenever possible, install energy saving windows and doors. These products might have a larger cost upfront, but will reduce energy costs over time.

Finally, take advantage of natural weather conditions when designing outdoor space. "In a dry climate, fountains, ponds or pools can help cool things down.

Meanwhile, features like a wraparound porch work well in a humid client," Walbridge said. An architect can help homeowners maximize energy savings on existing outdoor space or design a new area.

To find an architect in your area, visit: http://ArchitectFinder.aia.org/. With a few upfront costs, you can lower your bills long-term and improve the look and feel of your home's outdoor spaces.

Reflections of History



Sacred Heart Church and School — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

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

This Week in History May 20 - 26

May 20th
- 1690 – England passes Act of Grace, forgiving followers of James II
- 1874 – Levi Strauss markets blue jeans with copper rivets, price $13.50 dozen
- 1940 – Igor Sikorsky unveils his helicopter invention
- 1985 – 1,150 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners exchanged for 3 Israelis

May 21st
- 1804 – Lewis and Clark Expedition begins
- 1906 – Louis H. Perlman patents a demountable tire carrying rim for cars
- 1961 – Governor Patterson declares martial law in Montgomery
- 2011 – Christian radio broadcaster Harold Camping predicts May 21, 2011 at 6:00pm as the date of the Rapture for all Christians around the world

May 22nd
- 1761 – First life insurance policy in U.S., issued in Philadelphia
- 1892 – Dr. Washington Sheffield invents toothpaste tube
- 1960 – Virtually all coastal towns between 37th and 44th parallels severely damaged by tsunami that strikes Hilo, Hawaii at 01:04 a.m.
- 2012 – Yahoo! sells off its stake in Alibaba Group for $7.1 billion

May 23rd
- 1785 – Benjamin Franklin announces his invention of bifocals
- 1900 – Associated Press News Service forms in New York
- 1955 – Presbyterian Church begins accepting women ministers
- 1983 – Radio Moscow announcer Vladimir Danchev praises Afghanistan Muslims standing up to Russia; he is removed from the air

May 24thw
- 1626 – Peter Minuit buys Manhattan from Indians for trinkets, valued at $24
- 1915 – Thomas Edison invents telescribe to record telephone conversations
- 1961 – 27 Freedom Riders arrested in Jackson, Mississippi
- 2010 – After South Korea's ROKS Cheonan ship is sunk by North Korea, South Korea cuts off trade with North Korea and announces North Korean ships will no longer be allowed to use South Korean waters

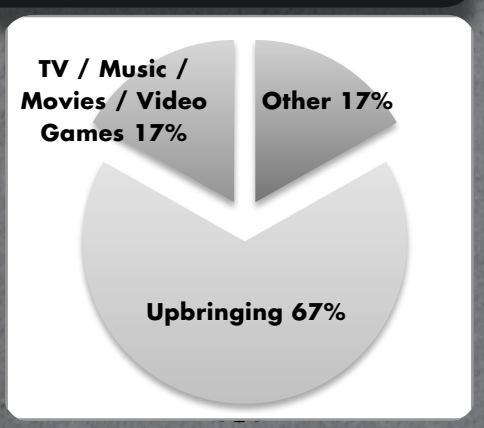
May 25th
- 1793 – Father Stephen Theodore Badin is first U.S. Roman Catholic priest ordained
- 1935 – Jesse Owens equals or breaks 6 world records in one hour
- 1979 – Israel begins to return Sinai to Egypt
- 2012 – The first commercial spacecraft, SpaceX Dragon, docks with the International Space Station when it completes docking at 12:02 p.m. EDT

May 26th
- 1868 – President Andrew Johnson avoids impeachment by 1 vote
- 1930 – Supreme Court rules buying liquor does not violate the Constitution
- 1966 – Buddhist sets self on fire at U.S. consulate in Hue South-Vietnam
- 2011 – The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly votes against funding for ground troops in Libya

EvaBank
More Loans & Fewer Excuses
Manufactured Homes * Construction * Commercial
Conventional * USDA * FHA * VA
Apply in person, over the phone or online to get started today.
We are here to help!!
256-255-2000
256-737-1655
www.evabank.com
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC NMLS#414640

Last Week's Poll

What contributes most to violence?



This Week's Poll

Do you think food should continue to be taxed in Alabama?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

WSCC Jazz Band Prepares for Spring Tour to Chicago

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Chicago may be best known as the windy city, but if you listen closely those winds carry with it strains of jazz and blues made famous by favorite sons Nat King Cole, Benny Goodman and Herbie Hancock.

Members of the Wallace State Community College Jazz Band will walk in the footsteps of those musical giants when they visit the Illinois city that is the starting point for the Historic Route 66, memorialized in a song first recorded by Cole.

An out-of-state trip is an annual event for the jazz band which often plays shows in and around the region.

The band most recently performed during Cullman's Strawberry Festival.

"It's good for them to get out and expose them to different places other than the South," said band director and music department chair Ricky Burks.

Chicago, Burks said, was the place where Dixieland Jazz was first recorded, so the trip will give the students a chance to see where musical history was made.

The group will be performing at Hancock Tower Plaza and at the Field Museum. Burks expects large audiences for their lunch-time performances.

Trumpet players Michah Greene and Courtney Tindale said they are excited about the trip. They will depart for Chicago on May 29 and return on June 1.

Along with performances, they plan to do some site-seeing at the Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium and see a performance by the Blue Man Group.

Greene, of Hartselle, is looking forward to performing in a "different environment and different atmosphere" from their usual performances.

Also, this will most likely be the last performances for many of the band members who have performed together for years.

"We spend so much time together, it's like our second family," Greene said of the relationships that have developed between band members over the years. "We like to spend time with each other." "This will be the one last thing we do together," added Tindale, of Cold Springs.



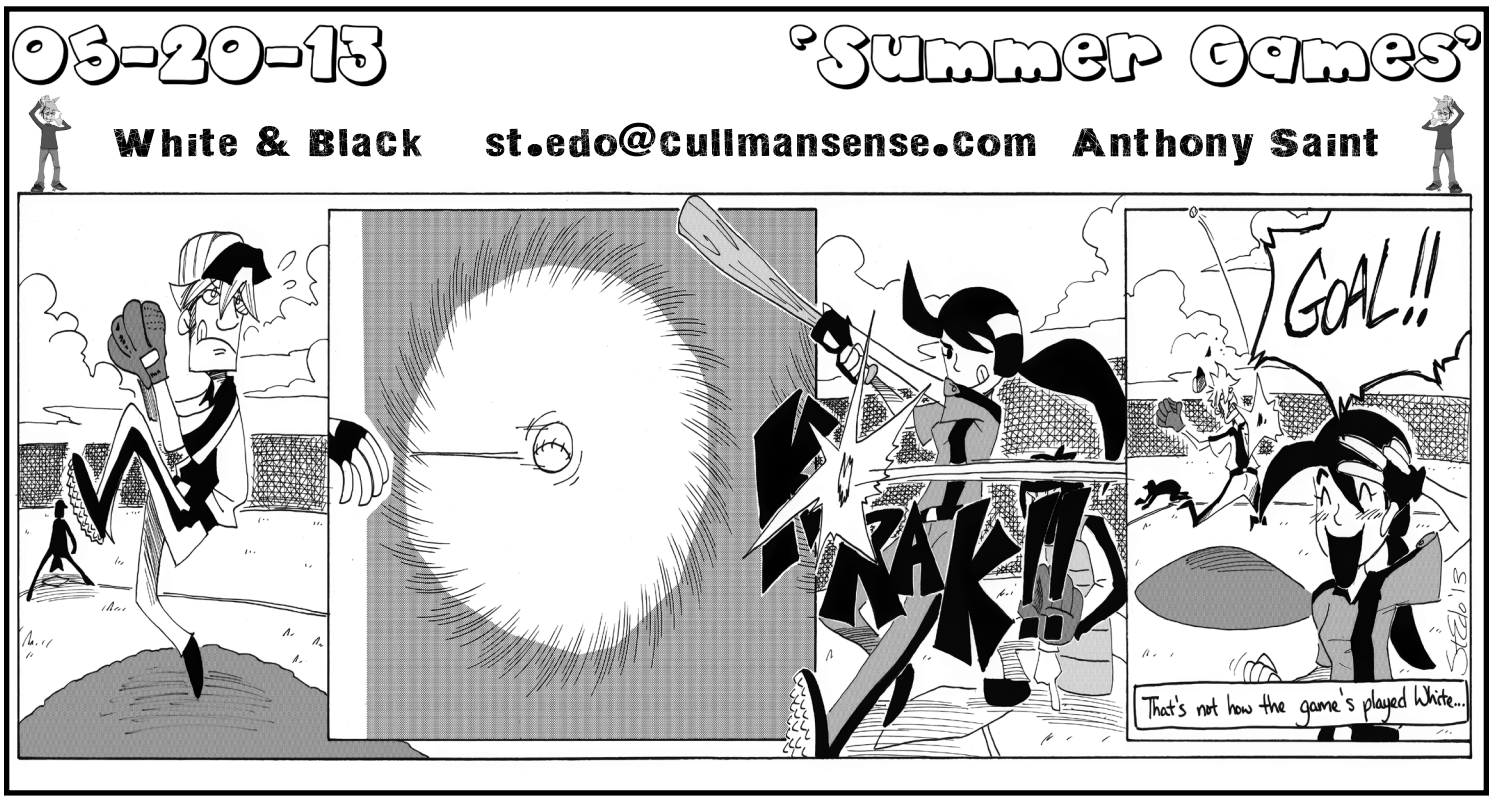
BURCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY
Martha Burchell, Agent
Nationwide
On Your Side
Auto • Home • Life • Commercial
No one will ever perform a better human service to secure the needs of others
200 2nd Ave. SE • Cullman, AL 35055 • Phone: 256-737-7450 • burchem@nationwide.com



RadKIDS Summer Camp
Join our RadKids summer camp this June!!!
For boys and girls ages 4-10
Your child will learn:
House fire escapes
Stranger Danger
Calling 911 Dispatch
Internet Safety, protecting themselves from vicious dogs & More!
Place: Cullman McGukin Civic Center
Date: June 24th – 28th 2013
Time: 9:00 a.m – 11:00 a.m
CLASS IS $5.00 per child (for entire week)
(To be paid first day of camp)
Hosted by: Cullman Police Dept.
Registration begins May 1st at the Cullman Civic Center
To host a Radkids camp for your kids group, school, organization or
If you have questions about this course, or need the registration forms emailed to you,
Contact: Officer Cindy Rohrscheib Email: cindyr@cullmanpd.com or (256) 736-4703

cullman city parks & recreation
WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....
www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Tuesday nights at 6pm with Fabian Holland at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Tuesdays at 10am with Ann Caretti at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Summer Concerts Series:** Held at Heritage Park Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in the recognition gardens beginning June 4 through July 23. Hope Alive will play on Tuesday, June 4.
- **Speed & Agility Camp:** A speed and agility camp will be held at Heritage Park for ages 7-12 from June 11-July 16. Registration will be $125. Camp will be led by Steve Johnson and is open to boys and girls. Register at the Civic Center.
- **Outdoor Pools Opening at CWAC:** The outdoor pools and water park at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will open Saturday, May 25.
- **Gun Safety Class:** The Gun Safety course scheduled for May 18 has been moved to June 15. The course will be held at the Cullman Civic Center, call 256-734-9157 for full details.
- **Junior Tennis Lessons:** Tennis lessons will be held this summer at the Municipal Tennis courts in three different sessions beginning on June 3. Classes offered for all skill levels. Call the Civic Center for details or to register.
- **Junior Golf Clinics:** Learn to swing like a pro this summer with golf pro Ches Harris in this course held on Tuesdays in June. Ages 8-18 may participate. Call 256-739-2386 for full details.
- **Nesmith "Quarter Day":** Nesmith Pool will open Saturday May 25 from 12pm-5pm. Admission for Saturday, May 25 will be a quarter ($0.25). Normal hours will be Sunday-Friday from 1pm-5pm and Saturday from 10am-5pm.
- **Dive-in Movies @ CWAC:** Free Dive-In movie will be held Thursday, May 30 on the outdoor pool deck. The movie *Brave* will be played at dark. Movies will be shown the last Thurs. monthly.
- **Drive-in Movie:** Drive-in movies will be held the last Friday each month starting Friday, May 31 at Nesmith Park. *Wreck it Ralph* will be played on Thursday, May 31. Concessions will be open, and the event is free to the public.





Benghazi, the IRS, and the AP: More Questions than Answers

By: Congressman Robert Aderholt

Our nation's forefathers created three equal branches of government to ensure checks and balances existed within in the federal government.

No one branch should have more power than the other and no branch should be exempt from scrutiny from another. In recent weeks the importance of checks and balances has been on clear display in Washington.

If you have caught a glimpse of the news lately, you have seen or heard coverage of a number of questionable actions by this Administration.

One of these events alone is concerning, but together the pattern of negligence and/or disregard for the law for political gain by this Administration is alarming.

Beginning with Benghazi, when State Department 'whistleblowers' testified at a Congressional hearing regarding the events that happened in Benghazi on September 11, 2012 that took the lives of four Americans. Followed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), who illegally targeted and scrutinized conservative nonprofit groups. Trailed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) that may have illegally obtained Associated Press (AP) journalists phone records.

Despite the Administration's numerous attempts to stall or ignore Congressional inquiries regarding the attacks in Benghazi, eight months of back and forth resulted in more questions and answers that simply did not add up.

The Administration's lack of answers prompted the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to hold a hearing with three brave State Department Officials, known better as the 'whistleblowers,' that were directly involved in the events that occurred on that fateful night.

It wasn't until the Congressional hearing this past week that the mainstream media recognized the importance of the attacks in Benghazi.

And it wasn't until after the hearing concluded that the Administration finally started to release more information.

However, the fact remains four Americans lost their lives in this attack and a number of important questions remain unanswered.

Until they are this issue is far from being resolved.

And then last week, we learned that the IRS allowed agents to improperly target conservative groups for extra scrutiny when applying for tax-exempt status for more than 18 months. This action is completely unacceptable and beyond that, illegal.

Though I appreciate that the President agrees that this is unacceptable and has called for the immediate resignation and replacement of IRS Commissioner Steven Miller, there are many pieces to this puzzle that need to be put together so we get the complete picture.

If Benghazi has taught us anything, we cannot just take the Administration's word for it and move on. A number of hearings have already been scheduled and Congressional investigators will be on the job until the puzzle is complete and those responsible are held accountable.

The latest concern came when the AP reported that the DOJ had secretly seized two months of reporters' phone records—including the records of correspondents stationed in the Capitol—in search of a leak regarding a CIA operation in Yemen. There is no denying that taking action in interest of national security is important.

However, the scope of the phone records collected from these 20 AP phone lines is incredibly broad and covers conversations of about 100 journalists, doing two months of newsgathering.

Just a few days after this information become public Attorney General Eric Holder was on Capitol Hill to testify before the House Judiciary Committee. When asked about his Department's actions, he claimed to be out of the loop and in fact responded with the phrase "I don't know" at least 20 times. If Mr. Holder does not know what is going on in his agency, then who does? As with Benghazi and the IRS, again there are a lot of unanswered questions here.

It seems that the common theme of this Administration is unanswered questions on questionable action, inaction or authority.

Every Administration has its challenges and no one expects perfection. Be it Republican or Democrat, what the American people, however, do expect is integrity and honesty.

President Obama has said on a number of occasions that his Administration was the most ethical and transparent in history.

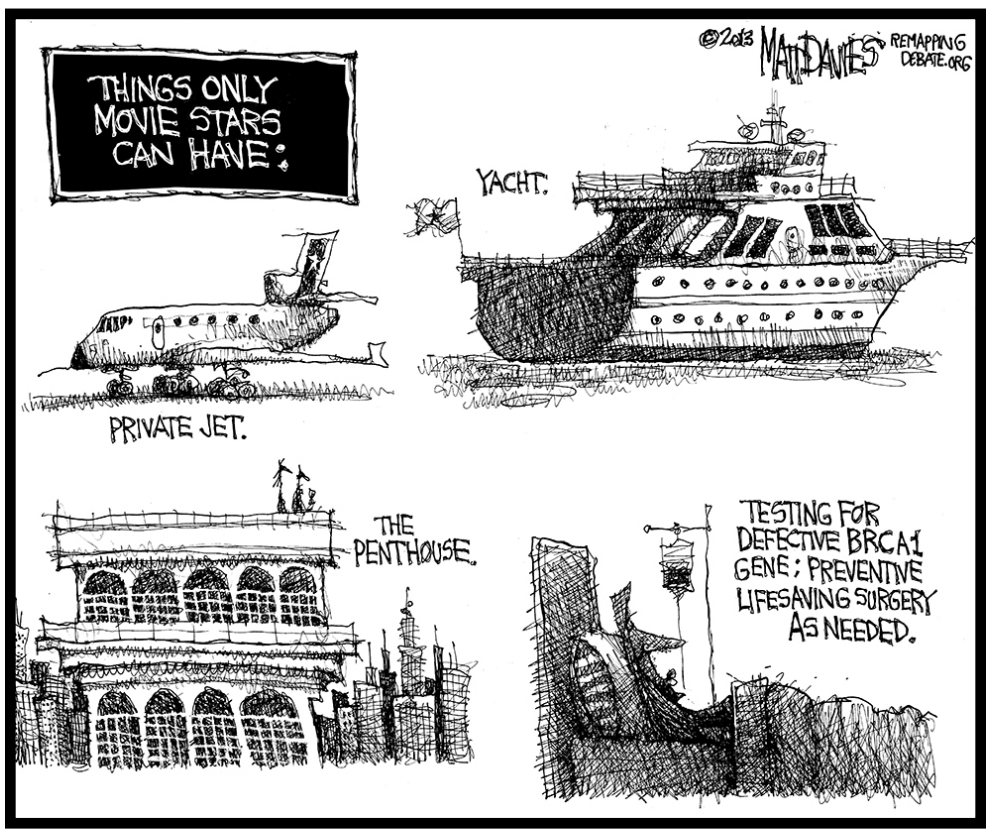
However, the limited and perhaps concealed information regarding the attack in Benghazi, the IRS specifically targeting conservative groups and the DOJ potentially compromising the liberties of our nation's Constitution, suggest that reality does not match.

The President must lead by example and raise his Administration's standards of doing business to meet the expectations of the American people.

As these investigations continue, it would be great if the Administration would commit to work with Congress to create a complete picture of what happened in Benghazi, at the IRS and at the DOJ.

If not, my colleagues, and I in Congress will continue to examine these issues until all of the questions are answered, so events like these do not happen ever again and the White House can focus on our nation's economy instead of damage control.

$cholar$hip Jump$tart
Elementary ~ Middle School
High School ~ College Transition
"We Make College Cost Less"
256-736-5969 • www.n2college.com



Executive Amendment Needed to Improve Alabama Accountability Act

By: Governor Robert Bentley

Governor Bentley's Letter to the Legislature on his Executive Amendment to the Alabama Accountability Act

"All children deserve a quality education, no matter where they're from and no matter how much money their parents make. I believe this is something on which we can all agree.

Earlier this year, the Alabama Legislature approved, and I signed, a bill that gives public schools a new method for improving education. That method is flexibility.

Public schools asked for this flexibility, and it is something they deserve. Flexibility is the most important part of the Alabama Accountability Act, and that's why I signed the bill. In the past, schools were limited by regulations that often took a one-size-fits-all approach to education.

But with the Accountability Act, local schools are empowered to customize education to meet the needs of their students. Educators can come up with plans for improvement and put those plans into place, which gives them the opportunity to improve the quality of education for their students.

In addition to the flexibility provisions, the Accountability Act provides for tax credits and scholarships to be applied if a child assigned to a failing public school transfers to a non-failing public school or a private school. This provision is expected to cost the state an estimated $40 – $65 million per year.

I want to help children who are stuck in failing schools receive a better education. I also want to help public schools improve. And I want us to be fiscally responsible. We can accomplish all of these goals.

On Monday, when the Legislature convenes for the final day of the 2013 Legislative Session, I will ask lawmakers to pass an Executive Amendment to House Bill 658, an updated form of the Accountability Act.

The Executive Amendment calls for a two-year delay on the tax credit and scholarship portions of the Accountability Act. There are two major benefits to this executive amendment.

First, the two-year delay provides greater fiscal responsibility. The Education Trust Fund owes the Education Rainy Day Account $423 million by the end of fiscal year 2015. The state is constitutionally required to pay its debts, and we cannot afford to jeopardize our ability to make that repayment.

My budget recommendation to the Legislature at the beginning of the session included $100 million to help repay the Rainy Day Account. But the budget that passed the Legislature last week included only $35 million for repayment

We need this executive amendment. Delaying implementation of the tax credits and scholarships will allow the state to save money that can be used to help repay the Rainy Day Account. This is the most fiscally-responsible approach.

Second, this delay gives public schools time to make improvements before the tax credits and scholarships go into effect.

My executive amendment preserves the flexibility we provided in the original Alabama Accountability Act. Schools can immediately use that flexibility to begin improving education.

Failing schools must get better. No one disagrees with that. I want to make sure our state provides all public schools with real remedies to improve and become successful.

But we must also allow appropriate time for the remedies to work. It's not enough to simply prescribe a possible cure; we should also give schools enough time for the prescription to show results.

With the tools afforded by the flexibility in the Accountability Act, and with the State Department of Education's aggressive plan to address failing schools, local educators are empowered to significantly improve schools across the state.

Ultimately, my goal is to have zero failing schools.

If the Legislature agrees with my executive amendment to the Accountability Act, we can make improvements in education while ensuring greater fiscal responsibility for the state.

I hope you will contact your legislators and encourage them to support this executive amendment."

- Governor Robert Bentley

Love Inspired Art

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com


Corley

CULLMAN – Passion, dedication, motivation, and determination are all good qualities to possess whenever one sets out accomplish a goal, whether it is work related, a personal life issue, or just the need to follow one's heart.

For Krystal Dawn Corley the push to follow her life's passion came about in a dramatic fashion.

"I began painting in the fall of 2009, shortly after the loss of a loved one and several other life changing events," said Corley. "However, as far back as I can recall, art has always been my passion; my release or escape. It's a way to view my world as though I wish it were or simply how I actually perceive it to be."

Corley has found that her passion to express emotions and thought through various art forms is not limited to her own experiences, as she has begun receiving multiple requests for commissioned pieces. This new avenue of revenue has given the determined young artist the time which is needed to produce new works regularly.

"I have been employed for almost four years at Cracker Barrel and since February of 2013, I have had the extreme pleasure of working from home (Monday through Friday) due to the volume of custom paintings/orders I have been accumulating," she said. "So I would say that I'm somewhat of an Artist Entrepreneur."

Boldness is needed whenever dealing in a medium which is created with intent to be judged. Corley said that is not an issue for her no limitations style. She said the key is to have a desire to constantly learn. "There are no limitations, whatsoever. You can never be over-educated because every day is a learning process. You push yourself to reach higher goals, further than you yourself had even expected," she said. "The passion one possesses for something that they love, I find indescribable. Passion for what you, in able body, mind, and soul are capable of producing...it's one of the greatest gifts given to all human beings."

The themes to her many artworks can come from a variety of places. However, the one source of inspiration is love.

"What inspires me is love and all that that word embodies; the dichotomies of love. Pain, loss, sacrifice, pleasure, excitement, endearment, hope, loyalty, thoughtfulness, deceit, deeply moving...All of it," she said. "Love is what we all have in common. Love is what we all aspire to possess, receive in return, or never to lose. It is, in fact, what makes the world go around. I know it does mine. I'm inspired everyday by the beauty of love and the mark it leaves on all that it touches."

Corley is currently working on a website, but if you would like to contact her for a commissioned piece or purchase one of her finished works, you may contact her via Facebook.

"You can find my artwork in my public albums on my Facebook page as I am currently in the process of creating my webpage, along with separate business Facebook pages where I can be more easily contacted," she said. "But as of now, I'm usually contacted through my personal page. I'll discuss the custom orders (or the purchase of an original) with the client, be that dimensions, material cost, hourly rate, and subject matter." To contact Corley, visit http://facebook.com/KrystalCorley.





Photos Contributed by Krystal Dawn Corley

