SERIES 3, ISSUE 28 MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS
$0.50 $0.50

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Stich by Stich

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SPORTS

Auburn Fan Day Set for August 11

Event gives Tiger fans an opportunity to interact with their favorite players and coaches.

By: Kirk Sampson

AUBURN – Auburn's annual Fan Day presented by Golden Flake Snack Foods is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 11 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Auburn Arena. The event is free of charge.

This annual preseason event gives Tiger fans a unique opportunity to interact with their favorite players and coaches. Doors will open at approximately 3 p.m. to allow fans to begin getting in line for autographs. The autograph session will end promptly at 5:30 p.m.

Members of the Auburn football team and football head coach Gus Malzahn, along with the Auburn cheerleaders, Tiger Paws, and the soccer and volleyball teams will be available for autographs. Fans can also get their photo taken with Aubie, but Aubie will not sign autographs during this event. Posters and schedule cards will be provided at no charge.

In order to serve as many fans as possible, each fan may only bring ONE item to be signed. Autograph items are not restricted as long as they can be transported by one person without holding up the line and do not pose a safety hazard or impede the line. AU Athletics Department staff reserve the right to deny an item if it poses a problem. Players will be arranged with tables clearly marked.

Season and select single-game tickets for the 2013 Auburn football season are p12

Aderholt Supports the FARRM Act

By: Anne Marie Malecha

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) released the following statement recently after H.R. 2642, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act of 2013, passed in the United States House of Representatives.

"I think most Americans recognize that America's farmers and ranchers are vital to our nation—they create jobs in our communities, provide food for our tables, and export goods around the world," said Aderholt. "Though the process may not have been pretty, today's vote was an important step in the legislative process and giving producers certainty that is vital to the continued health of American agriculture."

For the full text of the bill, please visit: docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20130708/BILLS-113hr-PIH-FARRM-Act.pdf.

Aderholt currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the powerful House Appropriations Committee, is a member of the Committee's Commerce, Justice and Science; and Homeland Security Subcommittees, and also serves on the Helsinki Commission.

Governor Bentley Signs Bill to Increase Efficiency in State Vehicle Fleet



Governor Robert Bentley signs Senate Bill 57 at the State Motor Pool facility in Montgomery. Also pictured behind Governor Bentley are Willie Bradley Jr., ALDOT's Deputy Director for Fleet Management, and State Senator Cam Ward (R-Alabaster). Photo Credit: Governor's Office p12

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Cullman gets its first full time Tourism Director

Contributed


Smith

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Board announces the hiring of its first full time Tourism Director.

After a lengthy search, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce has hired Cecelia Smith, originally from Georgia, as the Tourism Director. She recently started the position on with a unanimous approval by the Chamber's Tourism Board. Cecelia brings with her extensive experience in marketing, sales, tourism, and hospitality. Before joining the Chamber she recently worked as a private marketing consultant in Decatur, Alabama, but previously served as Events Director of the Northern Pima County Chamber of Commerce in Tucson. She also worked in marketing at the Indianapolis Zoo, as well as customer service experience with Delta Air Lines and US Airways, and served as Membership Director of the Walton County Chamber in Georgia.

Sammie Danford, Tourism Board Chairman said, "With new events like Rock the South music festival and the approval of the Bass Hall of Fame permanent site, the need for tourism continues to grow. It is our hope that we will be able to organize all tourism initiatives under one roof."

Melissa Cartee, Chamber Board Chairman stated, "The hiring of the first full-time Tourism Director for Cullman is a milestone that the Chamber's Board of Directors has anticipated for a long time. Cecelia Smith brings to this position the expertise and knowledge that will result in economic growth through tourism for the entire Cullman area. On behalf of the Chamber Board of Directors we look forward to working with Cecelia and the newly formed Tourism Board."

Sacred Heart to Conclude Year-Long Celebration Sunday, July 21

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church will bring to a close their year-long celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the present building in downtown Cullman with the concluding Mass on Sunday, July 21. Birmingham Diocesan Bishop Robert J. Baker will con-celebrate the 11 a.m. Mass with Pastor Patrick Egan, OSB. Reception and luncheon will follow in the Family Life Center. Everyone is invited to attend this special celebration.

Under the guidance of Centennial Chairman Curt Thomas, church members undertook the 12 month celebration with various organizations in the parish sponsoring a variety of events. The year started with a Mass commemorating the service and connection that the Benedictine Priests and Monks of St. Bernard Abbey and the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery have shared over the past decades, staffing both the Church and the School.

A Ministry Fair highlighted 16 of the various service and prayer organizations available for parishioners to join as a means to serve others in the parish and local community as well as strengthen their spiritual life. The Legion of Mary hosted a prayer meeting and yearly social reception for parishioners in August.

The Knights of Columbus Street Dance in August brought music and dancing to the school playground, while the school later also dazzled the community with its annual Oktoberfest activities, the huge street sale, and German Festival. This event, which was the very first German Festival in Cullman, was undertaken in 1977 to celebrate the school's 100th anniversary!! Two years later the City joined in and this has become an annual community-wide event.

The Choir hosted the annual Cullman Combined Choirs concert as part of Oktoberfest, complete with reception.

Later that week the Altar Society served its annual German Dinner complete with bratwurst from Frankenmuth, Michigan and all the traditional German supper trimmings.

Once again the school took center stage as the Alumni held a special Open House with a tour of the school, collages of pictures dating back to 1924, and a reception hosted by the students and faculty.

St. Vincent dePaul Society which provides food and clothing to those in need sponsored an Open House to show the work they do each week to help residents of the Cullman community.

Early November brought the annual Cemetery visit for All Souls' Day. This year's event was extra special as parishioners were asked to put pictures of their deceased on the tombstones and then everyone gathered around for a picnic on the grounds, an old custom revived for our Centennial Celebration!

In December our Hispanic Community under the guidance of Padre Jose Guillermo Aristazabal shared their annual celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the Church community. Mass, music, ceremonial dress and dances, food, and fellowship united the parish for a wonderful evening of shared camaraderie.

Sponsored by the Parish Council, the Church's history was highlighted in January when members gathered for a 'tour through the decades' as numerous items from the past were on display for viewing. Wedding veils from the early 1900s, old family Bibles, First Communion pictures, Holy Cards, diplomas, quilts, newspaper clippings, and various other items which recalled earlier years lined the Family Life Center for perusal by attendees. Lunch was served by the ROCK youth of the parish and stories of the 'past' were told and enjoyed.

Boy Scout Troop 321 opened the month of February by serving during Mass on Scout Sunday. Following church they provided a meal and guided attendees through their mock camp site and numerous displays of knots, rope work, badges, emergency preparedness, and scouting memorabilia.

The Senior Citizens group sponsored the 'Strawberry Festival' complete with Prince and Princess and of course, numerous dishes with all things 'strawberry', reminiscent of the earlier festivals in the mid-1940s and '50s. Square dancers and line dancers livened up the afternoon with their catchy songs and dancing feet!

March brought the annual Sacred Heart School Gala and 'Paris' to the Family Life Center. Food, dancing, auctions, fellowship, and a grand night was enjoyed by all!!

The Altar Society sponsored their annual Scripture Luncheon in April this year with special guest speaker Fr. Mitch Pacwa from EWTN.

Sacred Heart Choir and the award-winnng Huntsville Brass Band gathered forces in June for a roof-raising concert featuring a musical piece especially created for the Church's Centennial Celebration. The ROCK group sponsored a 'Youth Rally' featuring Jackie Francois and Christopher Stefanick, widely known among the Life Teen Organization followers. Nearly 200 students from the Birmingham Diocese took part in the day's event.

And of course during the past year there have been other events which are part of the 'normal' life at Sacred Heart. In addition, a special calendar, Centennial Book, cookbook, and Parish Directory have been issued commemorating this momentous time in the life of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cullman. The year has been a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present edifice in downtown Cullman, while the Parish itself is 136 years old. Wonder what the next century will bring?

CRMC Update

CRMC Welcomes Chris Stone, Executive Chef

By: Lindsey Dossey • CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Cullman Regional Medical Center welcomes Chris Stone as the new Executive Chef of the CRMC Food and Nutrition Services Department. Stone received his degree from the Florida Culinary Institute in West Palm Beach. He has been an executive chef for 15 years, most recently in the Birmingham area, and has been cooking for 21 years.


Stone

Stone is excited to bring more flavors to the menu while making the overall menu more consistent.

His primary goal is to create a savory menu that focuses on health and wellness. He also plans to continue educating himself and the CRMC staff on new food items.

"My hope is not only to add additional options to the current cafeteria menu but also to increase the catering options available for the community groups interested in utilizing our facilities for events," Stone said.

Guests interested in hosting events in CRMC's Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2 can expect well defined menus complete with descriptions of items in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding of what is being served.

A native of Detroit, Mich., he and his wife, Christina, are coming from the Pelham/Hoover area, and are excited to relocate to Cullman. He and his wife have two cats, Samantha and Reese, and a pit-bull, Rocky.

Stone's hobbies include athletics and gardening. He also enjoys spicy foods and Floribbean and Asian cuisine.

For more information on hosting special event in the CRMC Community Education Center or about other services offered by CRMC, visit www.crmchospital.com or call 256-737-2630.

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What's Online

Cullman County Bosom Buddies 'Bike Ride for Cancer'

A beautiful blue sky, gentle breeze and plenty of sunshine greeted those two wheel and three wheeled riders to the inaugural Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Bike Ride, hosted at the Donald Green Senior Center.

qrne.ws/68



Area high school students delve into biology, forensics during Wallace State's BioTech camp

A four-day BioTech camp at Wallace State Community College last week introduced area high school students to the wonders of DNA and gene sequencing.

qrne.ws/69

Area Youth Take Aim during three-day Archery Camp

For 36 youths, the past week held fun and adventure outdoors, as the children embarked on a three-day archery workshop, hosted by the Cullman City Parks & Recreation.

qrne.ws/70

Zimmerman Verdict Renews Focus on "Stand Your Ground" Laws

By: Maggie Clark • Stateline Staff Write

The acquittal of George Zimmerman in the killing of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., raised fresh discussion of "stand your ground" laws.

The case centered around whether Zimmerman acted in self-defense and drew national attention to Florida's law, which allows people to defend themselves with force if they feel threatened in their home, business, car, or a place where they "have a legal right to be."

At least 21 states have a similar law, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

While Zimmerman did not ultimately use the "stand your ground" defense in his case, Sanford police did not arrest him until almost two months after the shooting because of the Florida stand your ground rules that require police to have specific evidence to refute a self-defense claim in order to arrest someone claiming self-defense.

That provision of the law "does a disservice to Floridians because it's so vague," said Florida Sen. Dwight Bullard, a Democrat, in an interview Sunday with CBS Miami.

The police initially did not have evidence to disprove Zimmerman's self-defense claim, said former Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee, Jr.

It was not until the case drew national attention and a Department of Justice investigation that prosecutors found evidence to charge Zimmerman with second-degree murder. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund is urging Attorney General Eric Holder to undertake a review of the case and encouraging Trayvon Martin's family to pursue civil action against Zimmerman.

Last year, a Florida task force headed by the lieutenant government reviewed the state's "stand your ground" law, but in a final report, the task force only made minor recommendations that required no action from the legislature. No changes were made to the law this year.

Across the country, at least 22 states have "stand your ground" laws, with varying degrees of requirements for when citizens may use deadly force to protect themselves. Before these new laws were put in place beginning in 2005, people who felt threatened outside their home were required to flee from an attacker before they were allowed to use force to defend themselves.

The new laws make clear, however, that if someone feels threatened either inside or outside their home, they do not have to run away and are legally justified in using force to protect themselves.

Some states just allow people to defend themselves in their homes or businesses, while others extend the law to cars or any place someone "has a right to be." Florida's law falls into this second category.

The Zimmerman case drew national attention to the "stand you ground" laws, which were promoted by the National Rifle Association and the American Legislative Exchange Council through model legislation and advocacy. In a study of "stand your ground" laws commissioned by the National Bureau of Economic Research, researchers found that in states with "stand your ground" laws, the number of homicides had significantly increased from the years before the law was enacted.

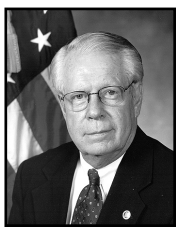
They found that the provision that allows self-defense "in any place a person has a legal right to be" is the driver of the increase in homicides. The increase in homicides, they argue, negates the claim that these laws reduce crime.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

Bentley Appoints Jim Bennett as Secretary of State

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – One of Alabama's former Secretaries of State will serve as the next Secretary of State. Governor Robert Bentley on recently announced he will appoint Jim Bennett to the position.



Bennett

Bennett will succeed current Secretary of State Beth Chapman, who announced she would step down from the position on July 31. Bennett's appointment will be effective upon Chapman's resignation on that date. Governor Bentley said Bennett's distinguished record of service made him well qualified to complete the current term as Secretary of State.

"Jim is a dedicated public servant," Governor Bentley said. "He was a trusted member of my cabinet where he served as Labor Commissioner until his retirement in 2012. Having previously served as Secretary of State, Jim is uniquely qualified to lead the Secretary of State's Office through the 2014 election cycle. I know Jim will fight for every Alabamian's right to vote. I appreciate his willingness to serve and know he will be an honest and dedicated Secretary of State."

Bennett was appointed Secretary of State in 1993 and was elected to the position in 1994 and 1998. He served as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State from 1999 to 2000. During his time as Secretary of State, Bennett was an active proponent of campaign finance disclosure. He also worked to combat absentee ballot abuse and to increase the accuracy of voter rolls by making sure names of the deceased were removed.

"It is a distinct honor to return to the Secretary of State's Office where I served for 10 years from 1993-2003," Bennett said. "I appreciate Governor Bentley's confidence in my ability to continue to lead the effort for honest elections and to support the opportunity for all citizens to actively participate in government through the voting process. This is especially important with the 2014 election cycle a short time ahead. To those who would seek to manipulate our most basic right to decide issues and elections fairly and honestly at the ballot box, my appointment will not come as good news."

Bennett has served in state government for well over 30 years. He was a member of the Alabama State House of Representatives from 1978-1983 and a member of the State Senate from 1983-1993. Jim was appointed Labor Commissioner in 2003 and was re-appointed in 2006 and 2011. Bennett currently serves as Chairman of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees. Bennett will not be a candidate for Secretary of State in 2014.

Upon announcing Bennett's appointment, Governor Bentley also praised Beth Chapman for her years of service. "Beth Chapman has done an outstanding job as Secretary of State, and I appreciate so much her public service to Alabama," Governor Bentley said. "She has always worked hard to protect everyone's right to vote, especially our men and women who serve in the military. I have the utmost respect for her. Her honesty and integrity are above reproach. I wish her the very best."

Students Must Have Tdap Vaccine to Protect against Highly Contagious Pertussis

By: Tracey England

MONTGOMERY – Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious and sometimes fatal bacterial disease which has increased alarmingly in the past decade. To help provide protection, all students 11 years of age and older entering the sixth grade in Alabama schools during the 2013-2014 school year are required to have a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. The Tdap vaccine helps to protect adolescents from pertussis which will prevent spreading the disease to family members, other students, and school staff. Students entering the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades during the 2013-2014 school year who did not receive the Tdap vaccination during the 2012-2013 school year are also required to have the vaccination.All students attending public and private schools are required to have an up-to-date certificate of immunization.

The Tdap school requirement will go up by one higher grade each school year. For example, Tdap is required for students entering sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in 2013-2014, sixth through tenth grades in 2014-2015, and up through twelfth grade in 2016-2017. "Of the 212 reported cases of pertussis in 2012, school-aged children represented 33 percent of the cases," said Dr. Mary McIntyre, Assistant State Health Officer for Disease Control and Prevention. "The sixth through ninth grade requirement for students age 11 or older will protect students from pertussis at the adolescent age in school and through the remainder of their school experience." The number of reported pertussis cases in Alabama in all ages continues to be of concern with 205 cases in 2010, 133 cases in 2011, and 212 cases in 2012. During the first six months of 2013 there have been 73 reported cases of pertussis in the state. Pertussis is a bacterial infection of the lungs and spreads from person to person through moisture droplets in the air, probably from coughs or sneezes. A person with pertussis develops a severe cough that usually lasts four to six weeks or longer.

Contact your private physician or local county health department regarding Tdap vaccinations. For more information contact the Immunization Division at (334) 206-5023 or 1-800-469-4599.

Governor Bentley Highlights Success of Agriculture Rural Crime Unit

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Thursday highlighted the success of the newly-formed Agriculture Rural Crime Unit (ARCU).

A new unit in the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the ARCU is tasked with investigating agriculture and rural crimes such as theft of farm animals and farm equipment. Since launching in June, agents have made 14 felony arrests and recovered stolen property estimated at more than half a million dollars in value.

"This is evidence of our how streamlining our state-level law enforcement will benefit the people of Alabama," Governor Bentley said. "These investigators will specialize in fighting and solving agriculture-related crimes. Agriculture is one of Alabama's top industries. We owe it to our hard-working farmers to devote as many resources as possible to protecting their property and their livelihood."

The ARCU is composed of 10 state investigators from four different state agencies. Those agencies are the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Department of Agriculture. Lieutenant Gene Wiggins is the commander of the unit.

Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan praised the work of the newly-created agency.

"Shortly after the law enforcement consolidation legislation passed, Governor Bentley and Spencer Collier took advantage of this change to contact other state agencies and combine resources to create the Agriculture Rural Crime Unit," Commissioner McMillan said. "The unit is already a huge success, thanks to the wisdom of appointing Gene Wiggins to head the operation and the experience of dedicated officers from several state agencies."

Alabama Law Enforcement Secretary Spencer Collier said the Agriculture Rural Crime Unit is an excellent example of streamlining law enforcement agencies to provide better services to the public.

"The new Agriculture Rural Crime Unit shows how state law enforcement can work collaboratively to combat criminal behavior," Collier said.

"I want to thank Governor Bentley for his leadership in the creation of this unit, and we look forward to working with the agriculture community and local law enforcement to make this a model for the future." A rural crime tip line has been established for members of the public to report a farm crime. People can call 1-855-75CRIME to speak with an analyst at the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.



Governor Robert Bentley discusses the newly-formed Agriculture Rural Crime Unit during a news conference at Trotman Cattle Company in Montgomery. Also pictured, from left to right: Bubba Trotman, owner of Trotman Cattle Company; Spencer Collier, Alabama Law Enforcement Secretary; John McMillan, Alabama Agriculture Commissioner; and Lieutenant Gene Wiggins, Commander of the Agriculture Rural Crime Unit. Photo Credit: Governor's Office



Photo Contributed

Former Cullman Grad Raking in the Cape Cod League

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

HARWICH, MA – What else can be said about Ben Moore? In high school he was a standout on the diamond at Cullman High, he won numerous awards last year playing as a freshman for the Alabama Crimson Tide including being named to the SEC All-Freshman team and being chosen as a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American.

As a sophomore at Alabama he started all 63 games and hit .280 with four home runs and a team leading 41 RBI's. Moore also led the Crimson Tide in triples with four, stolen bases with 16 and total bases with 101. He continues to improve each and every time he steps on the diamond. Alabama head coach Mitch Gaspard has sang the praises of Moore on several occasions and relies on his maturity and leadership both on and off the field. With such an impressive resume already under the belt of Moore and two more years of eligibility awaiting him at Tuscaloosa, what is next? The Cape Cod League is the answer.

The Cape Cod League is a baseball league based in Massachusetts and serves as a summer league for players still in the college ranks. Many MLB players have made their mark on the Cape Cod League and Ben Moore is striving to be the next.

Moore is patrolling right field for the Harwich Mariners and impressing everyone across the league. He is hitting .254 with one home run. His 11 RBI's are tied for the team lead but he really impressed on July 3rd.

One day before our nation celebrated independence, Moore put on his own fireworks show.

In a 10-3 win over the home Brewster Whitecaps, Moore went 4-4at the dish with a home run, three RBI's and scored two runs.

Moore spent last off-season in the Northwoods League where he garnered MVP honors in his first year.

With numbers like he has put up only 18 games into the Cape Cod League season, he may have to make room to add another trophy to his quickly growing collection.

Auburn Volleyball Releases 2013 Schedule

By: Wes Todd

AUBURN – Nine of Auburn's 13 home volleyball matches will take place at Auburn Arena, and the Tigers will face eight opponents from last year's NCAA Tournament as Head Coach Rick Nold released Auburn's 2013 volleyball schedule recently.

The Tigers will play a total of 11 matches against 2012 NCAA participants. Auburn faces two matches each against SEC foes Arkansas, Tennessee, and Texas A&M, and one meeting each with conference mates Florida and Kentucky, along with non-conference powers Nebraska, Notre Dame, and Florida State.

"We are really excited about our schedule for this fall," Nold said. "We feel like our preseason matches will be a good variety of styles that will help prepare us for our conference season and ultimately the NCAA Tournament.

"The SEC is, year in and year out, one of the best conferences in the country, and this year will be no different. Each year there seems to be more and more parity amongst the teams, and this year I expect that to contribute to a very exciting season for our fans."

Nold and the Tigers are scheduled to play the majority of the Tigers' home matches at Auburn Arena this season. The only contests this year that will not be played at the Arena will be the six matches of the Active Ankle Challenge (Sept. 5-6) and the Nov. 8 match against Missouri. Those matches will be played at the Student Activities Center.

The Tigers will kick off the 2013 season in St. Louis, Mo., with the Billiken Invitational on Aug. 30-31. Auburn will face the host Billikens in the season-opener Friday night, then take on national power Nebraska – the No. 7 team in the nation in the final 2012 ranking – Saturday morning. A match with Louisiana-Monroe on Saturday afternoon will wrap up the tournament, and the Tigers will head across the Mississippi River to take on SIU-Edwardsville on Sunday morning before heading back home.

Auburn will then play host to the Active Ankle Challenge the following weekend as Troy, Mercer, and Wisconsin-Green Bay will visit for a two-day tournament on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 5-6. All six matches will take place at the Student Activities Center.

"We are especially excited to host the Active Ankle Challenge," Nold said. "The Active Ankle Challenge will be an unusual Thursday/Friday matchup that we think will fit in nicely with the weekend experience we are working hard to create for our fans on football weekends. They will get multiple opportunities to take a break from other activities to come over and show their support."

After the Tigers make the short trek to Jacksonville to face Nold's former team, Jacksonville State, on Monday, Sept. 9, Auburn will travel to South Bend, Ind., for a two-day tournament at Notre Dame. The Tigers will take on Oakland, Loyola-Chicago, and the host Fighting Irish in the Shamrock Invitational Sept. 13-14.

One final non-conference tilt will take place the following weekend as the Tigers play host to 2011 Final Four participant Florida State on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the first-ever volleyball match at Auburn Arena.

"Florida State is a team I expect to be ranked in the top 15 to start the season," Nold said, "so having them on our floor will be a big bonus for our fans. In addition, this will be our first match hosted in Auburn Arena where we will be playing a majority of our matches this season after many years in the Student Activities Center."

Southeastern Conference play gets underway Friday, Sept. 27, as the Tigers host Kentucky at Auburn Arena. The following Wednesday, Oct. 2, Auburn will welcome rival Alabama to the arena for one of the season's marquee matchups.

Auburn will then hit the road for six of its next eight matches, traveling to Missouri (Oct. 4), Arkansas (Oct. 6), and Ole Miss (Oct. 13). The Tigers will host LSU (Oct. 18) and Texas A&M (Oct. 20) in the middle of the pair of three-match road swings before heading to Florida (Oct. 25), South Carolina (Oct. 27), and Tennessee (Nov. 1).

The Tigers will then be home for three in a row against Mississippi State (Nov. 3), Missouri (Nov. 8), and Arkansas (Nov. 10). The Missouri match on Nov. 8 is currently scheduled to be played at the Student Activities Center, pending a potential scheduling conflict with Auburn Arena.

Trips to LSU (Nov. 15) and Texas A&M (Nov. 17) kick off the home stretch of the season before Tennessee (Nov. 22) and Ole Miss (Nov. 24) visit for the final two home matches of the year. The Tigers will close out the 2013 regular season at Georgia on Nov. 27.

Auburn returns four starters plus the libero from the 2012 team that posted a 17-13 overall record, 8-12 in SEC play. A total of nine letterwinners return from the 2012 squad, and the Tigers will welcome six newcomers for 2013.

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Burleson named new principal of Cold Springs

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com


Burleson/Contributed

COLD SPRINGS- "Right now it hasn't really hit me," said former Cold Springs head basketball coach Tim Burleson in a phone interview Friday with CullmanSense. "I think once we get into October and November it will really hit me."

For 21 years October and November marked the start of another season as head coach of the Cold Springs Eagles boys basketball squad, but not this year. Burleson has hung up the whistle and traded in the clipboard for a position as principal of Cold Springs High.

"I am going to miss the relationships with the kids the most," Burleson said when asked what would be the biggest change.

Basketball is a love and a passion for Burleson but he has always been driven to strive as an educator as well and that was evident in his tenure as assistant principal at Cold Springs.

This is what led Cullman County Superintendent Billy Coleman to the choice of Burleson to replace the former head principal Tommy Youngblood who retired in June.

"I would not trade it for anything," Burleson said of his time as head basketball coach.

Burleson spent 21 years at the helm of Cold Springs boys basketball and had a tremendous career.

He ran roughshot over competition, accumulating 13 Area championships along the way. He led his team to a pair of regional tournament finals and one appearance in the 2A State Basketball Tournament. Cold Springs also claimed three Cullman County Championships under Burleson.

On a personal level I recall playing Cullman County basketball games against Burelson coached Cold Springs squads.

Although the competition was always intense, it was played in a clean and respectful way which is something Burleson strove to instill in the many young lives he touched in his career as a coach.

When the new Cold Springs head coach is named, you can be sure he will have similar values as Burleson who will have a hand in the new hire. Cold Springs is still in the beginning stages of their search and have not ruled out a promotion from within or from outside the school, but one thing is certain, he or she will have big shoes to fill.

Barons, Stars Well Represented in Southern League All-Star Game

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

With the first half of the AA Southern League season over, that means it is time for the Mid-Season All- Star game! The teams have been selected and are chocked full of baseball's most promising prospects.

Guys like Dodger's top prospects Joc Pederson and Zack Lee, Jake Marisnick who is a top prospect for the Marlins and of course Christian Bethancourt who is the catcher in waiting for the Braves.

With all of the talent on the roster, you wouldn't think one region would stand out, but it does. The Birmingham Barons and Huntsville Stars are combining to take 10 of the 25 slots on the North division squad. In addition, two Barons and one Star will be taking the field as a starter.

Birmingham bruiser Dan Black will fill the role of designated hitter and will hit clean-up while teammate Mike Blanke draws duty as the backstop and will hit in the eight hole. Jason Rogers of Huntsville will man the first base pillow and will take his cut at the plate as the number six hitter.

Here is a look at the position players who made the All-Star team from both the Birmingham Barons and the Huntsville Stars.

Birmingham Barons

Mike Blanke – Catcher

Mike Blanke has come on strong since landing the everyday catching job. The 6'4" catcher uses his big frame to block anything in the dirt and he has a very good arm and a quick release that easily cuts down any runner that is foolish enough to try and swipe second on him. He is just as opposing when he climbs into the batter's box.

The righty has clubbed five homers halfway through the season and has driven in 33 teammates on his way to a .255 average and the starting job for the North division squad.

Dan Black – First Baseman/Designated Hitter

Dan Black is the prototypical power hitting first baseman. Standing 6'5" and tipping the scales at 240lbs he screams power hitter and his numbers reflect that. He is hitting at a .283 clip which it good for tenth in the Southern League. He has belted nine long balls and knocked on 56 RBI's, tops in the league. These numbers are the reason Black is hitting cleanup for the North Division All-Stars.

Marcus Simian – Utility Infielder

Marcus Simian, the slick fielding shortstop for the Birmingham Barons, earned a roster spot as a utility infielder for the North. He is sporting a .270 average with ten home runs and 34 RBI's which is sure to earn him some playing time in the Southern League All-Star game.

Huntsville Stars

Jason Rogers – First Baseman

Jason Rogers, just like his counterpart Dan Black, looks like the perfect specimen manning the first base bag. His average is a bit lower than he would like at .234 but his defense around the pillow has really impresses this year and was good enough to earn him the starting nod.

Brock Kjeldgaard – Outfield

Brock Kjeldgaard can flat out hit the baseball. His 14 homeruns have him tied for second in the league and are just two away from the league lead while his 42 RBI's are tied for 12th. The way he handles the stick is the reason he should see significant playing time in the All-Star game.

In addition, Birmingham Barons manager Julio Vinas has been names as one of the coaches for the Futures Game that will take place in New York over the MLB All-Star Week festivities. You can follow the Southern League All-Star Game action on milb.tv.

Autograph Collecting 101: Displaying your collection

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Hello everyone! This week's article is going to be a two-part series on ways to display your collection. There are an infinite number of items to collect and to get autographed and there are just as many ways to display them. Whether you collect photos, balls, equipment, jerseys, or cards (or in my case all five) I am going to give you some ideas to maximize space and show off your collection at the same time.

JERSEYS

In my opinion, jerseys are one of the easiest items to display because there are so many options to display them.

The first option is the folded method. This is when you fold the jersey in thirds to where only then section that is signed is visible. When folded, most times the nameplate (players last name) and number are the only sections visible as the number is the most desired place to have a jersey signed. In some cases, if the jersey is a blank jersey (no number and no name) it will be signed under the team logo on the front and folded as such. The jersey can then be put in what I call a "space saver" shadowbox and hung on the wall, laid on a row in a stand up display case, or simply put in a large, plastic zip lock bag and stored as a future investment.

Option two is the full shadowbox method. This is where you actually hang your jersey in a long shadowbox (can be purchased at Hobby Lobby and other specialty stores). All you do is simply open the shadowbox and pin the jersey to the shadowbox, most places where you purchase the shadowbox will pin it for you for a nominal fee. There are also shadowboxes with hanger rods that you hang the jersey from just like you would in your closet.

Option three happens to be my favorite option, the half jersey frame. This method is best left to a professional framer. The jersey is folded at the bottom to reduce size but not compromise the display. The sleeves are creased and laid flat just like the rest of the jersey. Glass is then laid over the top and the frame is built around it. Once it is all said and done, the jersey is framed just like a piece of artwork.

SPORTS BALLS

The balls of various sports can be the some of the trickiest memorabilia to display because of the size and shape. Thankfully, the sports accessory company Ultra Pro, produces what are known as ball cubes to protect the different types of sports balls. They sell cubes for golf, baseball/tennis, basketball/soccer, and football.

These cubes are the most inexpensive way to store sports balls if you have a large collection that you need to protect. The other option, if you just have that special ball from a memorable game or sporting event, is a wood and glass case also sold at Hobby Lobby. These are very well made cases that have a wooden "skeleton" holding glass in place from where you can view that special item. Like ball cubes they range in size from golf ball to basketball.

I'll see you next week for part two!

NEW LAW CHANGES

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner's Office

The Alabama Department of Revenue recently announced a new law that applies to homestead exemptions for all property owners who are age 65 or older or who are totally and permanently disabled.

How does this affect you?

The new law applies to people claiming homestead exemptions on their primary residences and amends the 2012 homestead tax law. If you had previously qualified for an over age 65 or disability exemption but did not qualify in 2012, you may be eligible now.

Important facts to remember

Your age and income matter: if you are 65 or older and your annual taxable income was less than $12,000 on your 2011 Federal income tax return, you're eligible for a specific tax exemption on your residence. (If your taxable income was greater than $12,000, you still qualify for a partial homestead exemption.)

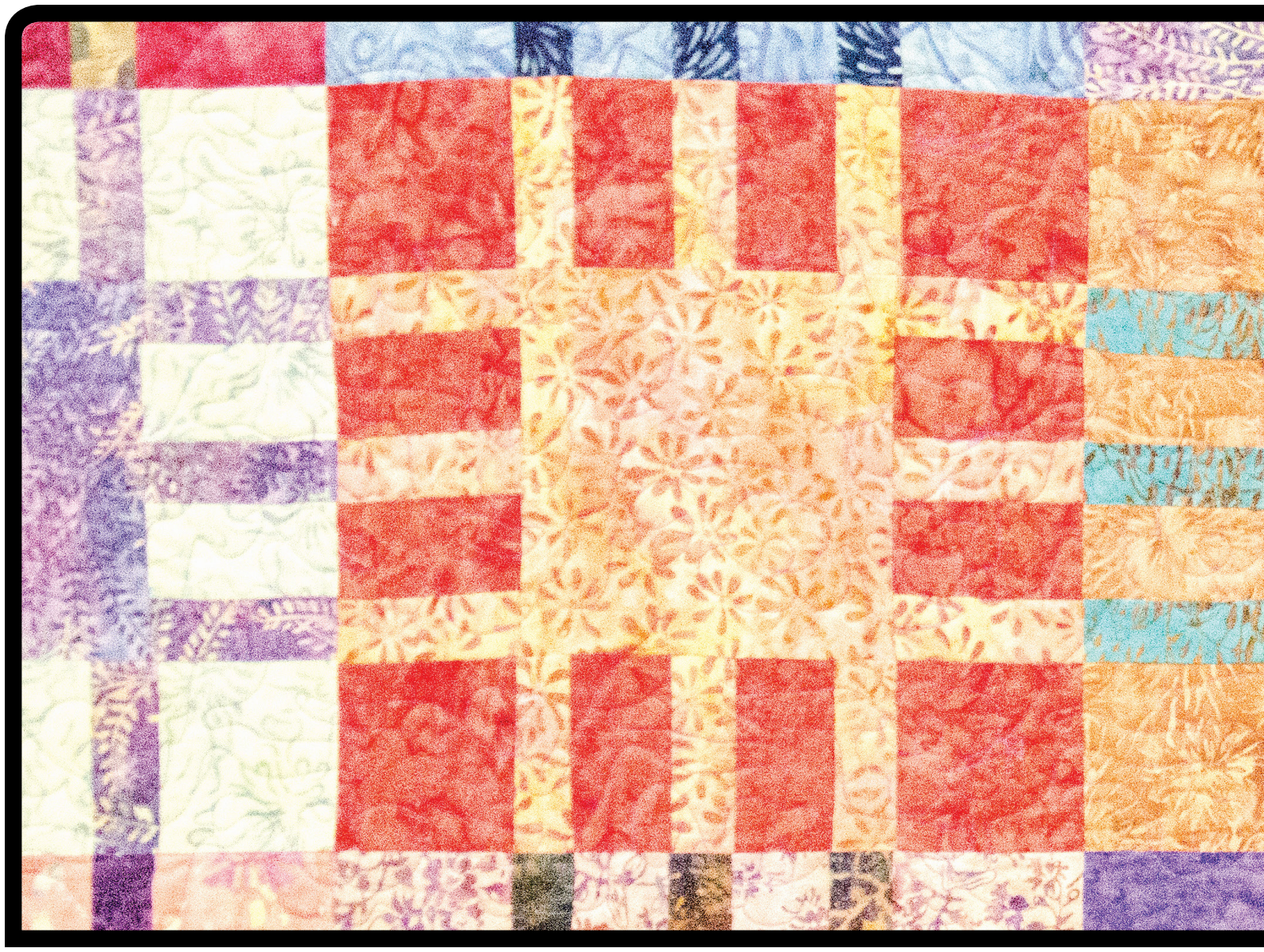
To request your over age 65 homestead exemption, bring documentation of your age and income (2011 Federal and State income tax returns) to the Revenue Commission office at the Courthouse or one of the satellite offices in Baileyton, Dodge City, or Hanceville.

Your disability matters; if you are permanently and totally disabled, you're eligible for a specific tax exemption on your residence. To request your disability exemption, bring your ID, along with proof of disability, to the Revenue Commission office (Courthouse or satellite office).

Proof of disability may include documentation of disability income, such as your private disability annuity or Medicare Card (SSI does not qualify). You may also submit two **Alabama Department of Revenue Physician Affidavits**, as long as one of the physicians is actively treating you directly related to your disability. To be totally and permanently disabled, you must be unable to work because of a medically-determinable physical or mental impairment.

The deadline to submit your over 65 or disability homestead claim for the 2013 tax year is July 31, 2013. For assistance, contact the Revenue Commission at (256) 775-4776.

Stich by Stich



Patriotic Pride Quilt Show draws steady crowd, raises spirits of veterans

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cull-mansense.com



CULLMAN – Some 34 members of the Hartland Quilt Guild came together over the weekend to not only rejuvenate interest in a lost art, but to also honor local veterans and active service members during the Patriotic Quilt Show, held at East Elementary School sponsored by Heartland Quilt Guild.

"In today's time people do not respect our service members. So when we talked about a quilt show we thought it would be a good idea to do the Patriotic Pride our focus point," Hazel Ruehl, co-chairman Patriotic Pride Quilt Show, said.

A total of 128 quilts were entered into the show to be judged in various categories, including My First Quilt, Kids Quilts, and the 2013 Guild Challenge – a competition where quilters had to use three colors chosen at random – and featured the Heartland's Deceased Member Memorial.

"We have our area dedicated to our members who are no longer with us," Porcia Anderson, President, Heartland Quilt Guild, said. "These women meant a lot to many of us, so we like to be able to honor them when given the opportunity."

Special Quilts of Valor Display and Presentation was held Friday evening, as State Representative Mac Buttram helped to award QOV to 27 local veterans and active service people.

Elizabeth Matthews, Alabama Coordinator, Quilts of Valor Foundation, said the mission of the all-volunteer group is to help comfort service members, active or retired. "The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor," Matthews said. "We are made up of volunteers from across the country, all of whom feel the need to reach out to these veterans and active duty service members."

More Americans Optimistic About the Future

(StatePoint) Certain things may be beyond your control -- the weather, the stock market or whether your favorite team wins or loses its next game. However, new findings show that possessing an optimistic attitude makes you more likely to take charge of your life in key ways -- from healthy eating and visiting the doctor annually, to planning ahead and getting more accomplished at work.

This could be good news for the country. According to the Measuring Optimism, Outlook and Direction (M.O.O.D.) of America study, conducted by Lincoln Financial Group, 80 percent of Americans are optimistic about their future, and 78 percent are optimistic about their financial future. The study, which polled more than 2,300 Americans, finds that a majority of people, almost seven in 10, feel "in control" of their lives.They take proactive steps to recharge their mental batteries by pursuing hobbies or spending time with family and friends. They are also more likely to focus on building financial security, such as putting away money for retirement.

Specifically, the majority of those polled view being debt-free, staying within a budget, paying credit card bills in full each month and putting money away for retirement as very important financial steps to take to gain control.

"Financial preparedness is best when it is rooted in optimism that leads to action," says Dennis R. Glass, president and CEO of Lincoln Financial Group. "No step taken is too small."

Experts say you should start preparing for the future by incorporating a proactive approach to financial endeavors.

Where can people turn to for help? The M.O.O.D. study finds that the advice of a financial professional tops the list as a preferred source of information. Thirty-eight percent of those polled say they use advisors or planners for financial advice, compared to other leading sources, like information obtained from online searches (35 percent), spouses or significant others (31 percent) or friends (24 percent).

"There are more sources of information to choose from today than ever before," says Will Fuller, president of Lincoln Financial Group Distribution. "Study results clearly show that a trusted advisor is the most desirable source of guidance, and that's because the knowledge and expertise they bring to the table can help people achieve their goals." For more information, including additional research results and access to free financial tips and calculators, visit LincolnFinancial.com.





UAH Students to Create Green Fund

By: Aaron Traywick

HUNTSVILLE – Students at UAH are preparing for a new fund that could generate over a quarter of a million dollars for on-campus sustainability projects over the next five years.

The Chargers for Sustainability and the UAH Green Club have teamed up with the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment to create a new campus "Green Fund" to support student-designed and implemented projects for energy-independence, efficiency, renewables, recycling, and other environmental initiatives.

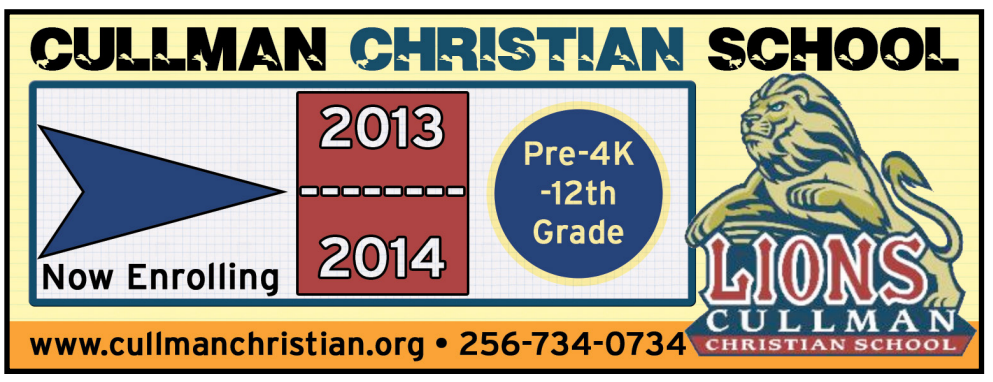
The UAH initiative is inspired directly by recent student actions at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, where a successful student campaign created a new $1 million "Green Fund" this May. All student groups are working in conjunction with the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment and CASE's "Statewide Sustainable Investment Project", which hopes to create additional Green Funds at UAB and Auburn University by January 2014.

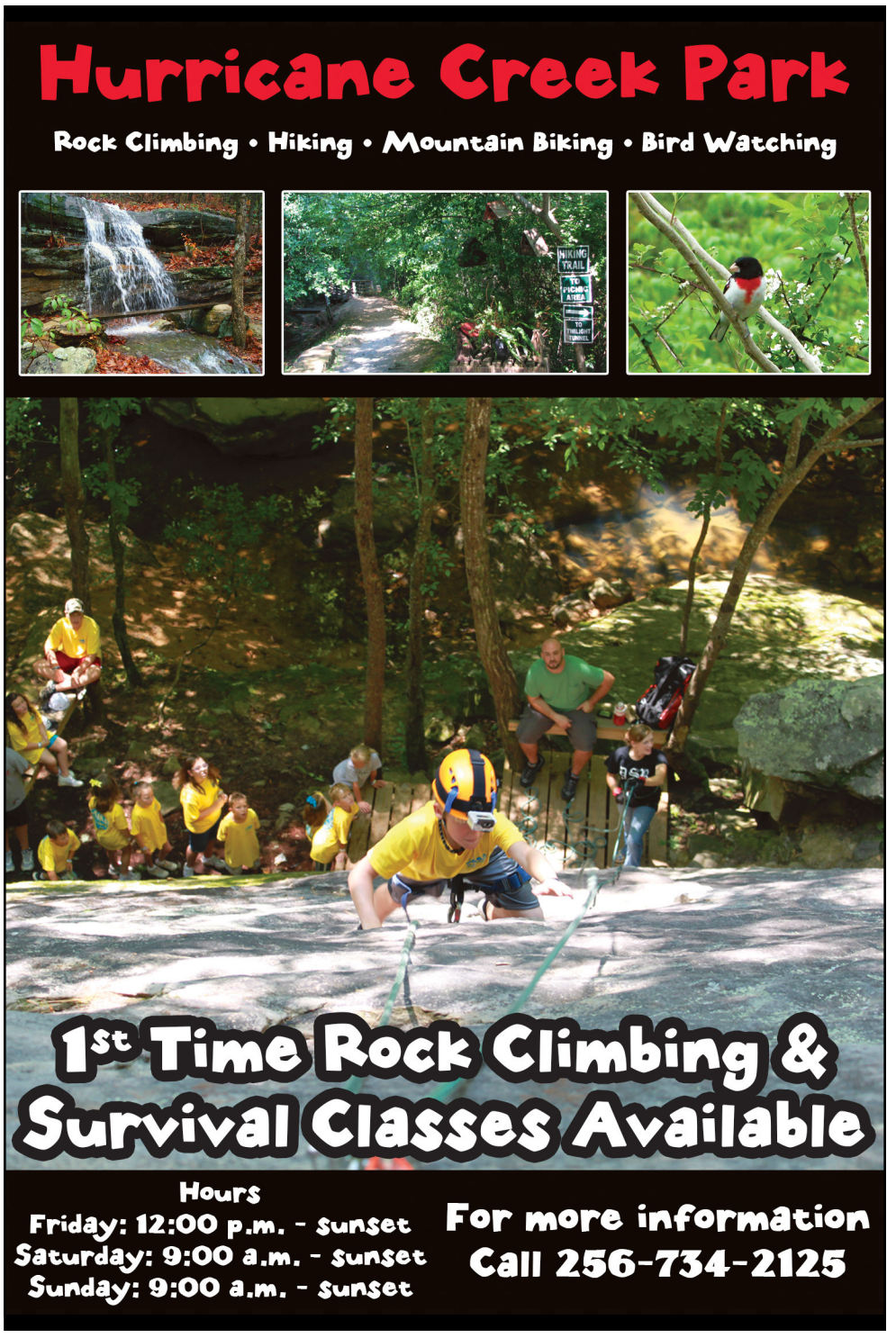
Caitlin McClusky, who led the successful initiative to create UA's $1 million fund, had this to say about new UAH progress:

"I am thrilled that students at UAH took the initiative to establish a green fund on their campus so quickly after our success at UA this past spring. I think rapid efforts to expand upon UA's success by other schools indicates just how much the green fund concept resonates with students in Alabama. It is very clear that students and young people across the state want their schools and communities to embrace sustainable projects and practices."

"Green Fund", a concept common at leading higher-education institutions nationwide, was implemented for the first time at any Alabama public university at the University of Montevallo in 2011. Since that time, the campus has allocated approximately $30,000 annually into on-campus, student-implemented renewable energy, water efficiency, and public transportation projects. All funds are available for request for student projects, and students possess the majority vote on all major and minor funding decisions. This same model has been used for the University of Alabama's new $1 million fund.

CASE is a statewide network of student environmental leaders from multiple grassroots environmental organizations at eight college campuses across Alabama. Coalition members work individually and collectively with public, private, and non-profit organizations to achieve legitimately beneficial collaboration on environmental issues within Alabama communities.





– 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.

Holly Pond Center Open Daily
Holly Pond Senior Center opens its doors to all seniors each Monday through Friday with games, fellowship, rook, Wii bowling and a lunch served each day at 11 a.m.

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Joanne P. LaGanke MS Support Group
Members of the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Support Group will gather for supper followed by their business meeting a program starting at 6 p.m. Please contact Carol Groce, 256-599-5546 for additional information. This meeting takes place at North Central Neurology Associates building. All interested or associated with this disease are welcome to attend.

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.

Fairview Senior Center Open Tuesdays
Fairview Senior Center opens its door in the Town Hall each Tuesday morning for all seniors. Activities and games include rook, dominoes and other entertaining events. A covered dish meal will be available until 12 noon. For more info please call 256-796-5424.

Cullman City Board of Education Meeting
Members of Cullman City Board of Education will meet today at noon for lunch, business session and work session.

Cullman County Board of Education Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Board on Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a work session followed by the general meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room.

WSCC Blood Drive
Give the 'gift of life' today by donating during the Blood Drive sponsored by Wallace State College's Nursing Students and the American Red Cross. The bus will be in the parking lot of the Nursing Department building at Wallace from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please call ANS Faculty Advisor Laura Chapman at 256-352-8062 or thru email at laura.chapman@wallacestate.edu. Help save lives with your donation of blood.

Free 'Sign Language' Classes Offered Weekly
Free 'sign language' classes will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday for 5 weeks (Tuesdays June 18, 25, July 2, 9, and 16) and Thursdays (June 20, 27, July 4, 11, and 18) with classes scheduled for 3 periods 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.; 10 a.m. until 12 noon; and 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Classes will be held at the Child Development Center and to enroll please call the Center at 256-739-0486. Avail yourself of these free learning services if you are friends with or associated with anyone with hearing disabilities.

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.

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.

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.

Good Hope Senior Center Open Wednesdays
Good Hope Senior Center welcomes all senior citizens to come visit on Wednesday mornings for music, games such as rook, dominoes, Wii bowling and many other activities. A covered dish lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. All welcome!! The Senior Center is located inside the Good Hope Town Hall.

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

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.

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.

Baileyton Senior Center open Thursdays
Baileyton Senior Center opens its doors every Thursday morning with music, games, activities, rook, dominoes, Wii Bowling and fun for all. A covered dish lunch is served at 1130 am. For more information please call 256-796-6447.

Cullman County Master Gardeners Association Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Master Gardeners Association will hold their meeting in the conference room of the Cullman County Extension Office on Arnold Street. If you are interested in learning more about the Master Gardeners organization and/or to be part of their new class starting soon, please contact Charles Pinkston, 256-775-7407. All current members are urged to attend this gathering.

Free 'Sign Language' Classes Offered Weekly
Free 'sign language' classes will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday for 5 weeks (Tuesdays June 18, 25, July 2, 9, and 16) and Thursdays (June 20, 27, July 4, 11, and 18) with classes scheduled for 3 periods 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.; 10 a.m. until 12 noon; and 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Classes will be held at the Child Development Center and to enroll please call the Center at 256-739-0486. Avail yourself of these free learning services if you are friends with or associated with anyone with hearing disabilities.

Elks Lodge Buffet Lunch
Cullman Elks Lodge opens their doors to the general public on Thursdays for their buffet lunches served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday. Meal is $8.00 for two meats, vegetables, drink! So come visit your neighbors and enjoy a great meal to boot.

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.

Military Order of the Purple Heart Meeting
Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 2212, meet each third Thursday night at 6 p.m. for a covered dish dinner and business session at the home of John Gissell. All those connected with this prestigious award are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact Mr. Gissell at 256-734-9637 for additional information.

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

'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.

East Side Baptist Church Hosts Ivan Parker in Concert
Everyone is invited to attend a concert sponsored by East Side Baptist Church tonight beginning at 7 p.m. Ivan Parker, a member of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame who has sung on the Gaither Hour, will appear. Everyone is invited to attend this musical, magical night of great Gospel songs.

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

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.

Good Hope Farmers Market
Local Good Hope farmers and growers will be on hand to sell their produce each Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Hathcock Park in Good Hope.

Book Sale at Gov. Guy Hunt Library
A Book Sale to raise funds for the Gov. Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond will be held today from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Come see what great reading material you can find and help a good cause.

11th Annual Fairview Bluegrass Festival & Jam Session
Everyone is invited to Fairview Town Park for their 11th Annual Bluegrass Festival & Jam Session. Bring your lawn chairs and musical instruments and tapping toes and join in the Jam Session which begins at 12 noon. The Bluegrass part of the entertainment will begin at 5 p.m. and will feature the Clay Boys, Stan Nelson & Hurricane Cree and the Ward Family. There will be food vendors during the afternoon and evening but no alcoholic beverages or animals are allowed at the event. For further information please call 256-796-6344. Mark your calendars for a great day of musical entertainment.

Rock Climbing at Hurricane Creek Park
If you are interested in rock climbing then check-in with Hurricane Creek Park for their Saturday morning rock climbing session, starting at 10 a.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call 256-734-2125. Hurricane Creek Park is located on Highway 31 North.

Bunco and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser
Everyone is invited to take part in a Bunco tournament starting at 4 p.m. at Hanceville Assembly of God. A spaghetti supper also will be served and cost for both the meal and tournament is $20.00 per person. In addition, there will be door prizes and raffles. All funds raised will go toward the church's building fund. Please contact Jean Heaton at 256-734-0319 or 256-339-3875 for further information. Come enjoy a great evening of that popular game Bunco and a delicious dinner as well, while helping a good cause.

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.

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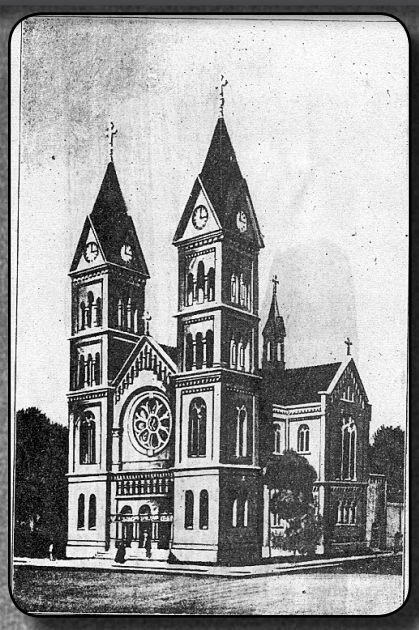
Looking Ahead

East Point Cumberland Presbyterian Church Community Day
The East Point Cumberland Presbyterian Church will host a Community Day on July 27, 2013 at the church (1441 US Highway 278 East at East Point). There will be live music, indoor and outdoor activities and games for all ages, free food, inflatables, and door prize giveaways. More information is available at eastpointcpchurch.com or on the church's Facebook page.

Cullman Oktoberfest
This year's Cullman Oktoberfest will be held October 5-12, 2013 at Festhalle Market Platz and Cullman County Museum. For more information e-mail jburks@cullmancity.org and visit www.cullmanoktoberfest.com.

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.

Reflections of History



Original design of Sacred Heart — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

Send us your historic photos!
E-mail us at history@cullmansense.com

This Week in History
July 15 - July 21

July 15th
- 1904 – First Buddhist temple in U.S. forms in Los Angeles
- 1976 – 36-hour kidnap of 26 school children and their bus driver in California
- 2012 – Saudi Arabia donates $100 million to the Palestinian Authority

July 16th
- 1429 – Joan of Arc leads French army in Battle of Orleans
- 1942 – Jews transported from Holland to extermination camp
- 2010 – U.S.-born Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki is placed on the U.S. 'terror black-list'

July 17th
- 1850 – Harvard Observatory takes first photograph of a star, Vega
- 1922 – Ty Cobb gets 5 hits in a game for record 4th time in a year
- 1968 – The Beatles' animated film "Yellow Submarine" premieres in London

July 18th
- 1743 – First half-page newspaper ad is published in the New York Weekly Journal
- 1915 – Boston Braves start move from last place to become World Series champs
- 1994 – Crayola announces introduction of scented crayons

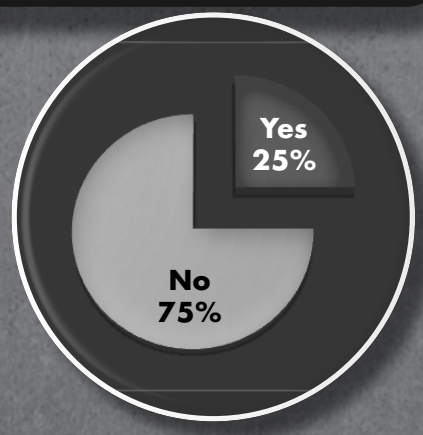
July 19th
- 1553 – 15-year-old Lady Jane Grey deposed as England's Queen after 9 days
- 1866 – Tennessee is first to ratify 14th Amendment, guaranteeing civil rights
- 2012 – The United Kingdom freezes 100 million pounds of assets of Syrian leaders

July 20th
- 1801 – Elisha Brown, Jr. pressed a 1,235 pound cheese ball at his farm
- 1868 – First use of tax stamps on cigarettes
- 2011 – Following an outbreak of Hendra virus, Malaysia declares a ban the import of horses from Australia

July 21st
- 1873 – Jesse James and James Younger gang's first train robbery; Adair, Iowa
- 1984 – First documented case of a robot killing a human in U.S.
- 2010 – The U.S. threatens to impose sanctions on North Korea, continuing its attempt to halt perceived nuclear weapons ambitions

Last Week's Poll

Should gay marriage be legalized in Alabama?



This Week's Poll

Did the Trayvon Martin case directly impact you?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

The Cullman Amateur Radio Club
Presents the 7th Annual

CARC HAMFEST 2013

to be held
Saturday, July 27, 2013
8am to 2pm
at the Air Conditioned
Cullman (McGukin) Civic Center
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(Free parking around Civic Center)
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ADMISSION $5.00
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TABLES $10.00 ea
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CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters
CULLMANSENSE.COM

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Reinventing the Gods: *Justice League (the New 52) Vol. 1: Origins* & *Vol. 2: The Villain's Journey* by DC comics

By: Dillon Lee
Filmmaker, CHS Theatre Director, Pop Culture Critic-At-Large

While The Avengers are all the rage now, *The Justice League* has been a part of wider pop-culture far longer. From its inception in 1960 to its iconic TV shows, the *Super Friends* in the 70s and 80s and *Justice League* in the 90s and 2000s, the League and its members have been more recognized as the greatest superhero group in any fictional world. The concept is scarcely up for debate if you look at the history of the two biggest comic book publishers, Marvel and DC.

The Marvel "house style" pioneered by Stan Lee, was the creation of flawed, fallible, and relatable superheroes.

By that very fact, Marvel heroes have always been weaker; Spider-Man and Captain America aren't bulletproof. Even the current movie favorite, Iron Man usually ends his story wearing a bloodied and wearing a barely functional super suit.

Meanwhile, DC Comics is where the gods live. It's the ultimate fantasy fulfillment. Superman is virtually indestructible; Wonder Woman is imbued with the power of the Greek gods. Green Lantern wields the most powerful weapon in the universe; Flash can run through solid objects, other dimensions and time. Even the entirely human Batman is always the smartest one in the room.

So, how do you reinvent a team this powerful? What threat can possibly challenge them?

Award winning writer Geoff Johns aided by legendary artists Jim Lee, Gary Frank, Gene Ha, and Ivan Reis begin in *Volume 1: Origin* by bringing the heroes together to fight an extra-dimensional invasion from Darkseid (pronounced Dark-Side), a being that seeks to end all life, and his army of monsters.

The task is trying and we learn that not all dimensions have been able to stop this formidable foe.

This laces the first volume with action and showcases each member of the Justice League, but all the while Johns is seeding the real reinvention of the Justice League- their own personal weaknesses, real human weaknesses . Even Superman, an adopted human, suffers doubt and personal strife.

Ego, arrogance, secrets, lies, and misunderstandings are the biggest threat to this incarnation of the Justice League. They lack the friendship and moral center of former versions. At any moment, personal conflict could, at best, tear the team apart or, at worst, force them to come to blows.

This is what makes a compelling comic. To see these characters, who are bigger than life, broken down into something real and relatable. This fragility has always been the secret to Marvel's success.

We worry about Spider-Man because he can be killed and because his personal life is almost always a disaster.

It's hard to empathize with characters that are portrayed as gods among men. So, Johns purposefully paints a portrait of a superficially unbeatable team. The public loves them. The bad guys fear them.

The government respects them, but under it all there are fractures. In *Volume 2: The Villain's Journey*, those fractures are exposed to the public and the members of the League. Without relating the finer details, I would like to mention a few seemingly magical and thoroughly enjoyable triumphs of this book throughout its first two volumes.

First, Johns has a knack for revitalizing classic characters. In the *NEW 52*, he has made Aquaman a force to be reckoned with in the Justice League and in his own self-titled comic. Johns has done similar things with Hal Jordan as Green Lantern and Flash, but Aquaman has long been the butt of jokes. He was lampooned as pop-culture oddity on shows like *Family Guy* and *The Simpsons*.

Johns even breaks the fourth wall; in the comic, everyone thinks Aquaman is a joke too, until they see what he is capable of in the heat of battle.

Aquaman being the king of Atlantis is a confident leader, so later in the series he challenges the League's longtime strategic leader, Batman.

This conflict is not only compelling reading, but it's almost a miracle that Aquaman is believable as Batman's equal!

All of which is thanks to great writing and art, of course. Johns has also turned the formerly B-level character Cyborg into top tier hero.

At first, longtime fans could not imagine him in the League, now I can't imagine what the League would do without him. Lastly, Johns takes these various characters and slowly lets you see their interpersonal relationships.

It's almost like watching an office drama. You don't have to like all your co-workers and they are plagued by their own insecurities and secret agendas. Batman and Green Lantern are always at odds. Aquaman secretly doubts them all.

Cyborg wonders if he's even alive anymore or just a robot. Superman and Batman have a secret trust and partnership outside of the League.

Flash and Lantern relate with the witty banter of a "buddy-cop" movie. All the while, Superman and Wonder Woman have a budding romance.

Throw in real and suggested questions of purpose and morality and it's the kind of drama elevates the medium of comics from simple kid's stuff. I cannot recommend these volumes enough for new or old comic fans.

The beauty of the *New 52* is that you do not have to be well versed in DC Comics lore to enjoy them. Though, if you are, you might enjoy them on another level.

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors.
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Summer Concerts Series:** Held at Heritage Park Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in the recognition gardens beginning June 4 through July 23. No concert will be held tonight in due to the Fourth of July. Concerts will resume next Tuesday.
- **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.
- **Oil Painting and Acrylic Classes:** Classes are held Mondays from 6:30-9:30pm at the Cullman Art Guild with instructor Delancey Gardner. Class is $20 per month, call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **EvaBank Midnight Run 5K:** The 2013 EvaBank Midnight Run will be held on Friday, August 9, 2013 at the Cullman Civic Center. Brochures will be available soon at the Cullman Civic Center, Wellness & Aquatic Center, and EvaBank locations. Register online now at www.active.com
- **CWAC Closing:** Due to the State Swimming & Diving Competition that will be held at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, the Outdoor Pools will be closed on Thursday, July 25. The entire facility will close on Friday & Saturday, July 26-27. We apologize for the inconvenience!
- **Wilderness Survival Classes:** Wilderness survival classes will be held at Hurricane Creek Park on Sunday afternoons with skills including shelter building, finding safe water, building a fire, and other related topics. Call ahead for reservation at 256-734-2125.

Comics

Are you a local cartoonist? We want to feature your work! E-mail comics@cullmansense.com







Ministering With Grace

By: Pastor QT Nyathi

Bio
Pastor QT is a published author, copywriter and speaker. His sincerity, wit, and candid style have endeared him to many hearts. His book DELIVERANCE UNPACKED has been warmly received globally. He conducts spicy marriage or singles seminars with his feisty wife Bonani.

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Source: faithwriters.com

Jesus ministered with kindness, forbearance, patience, tenderness, elegance, propriety, friendship, favor, and beauty. All these are attributes of grace. As his servants we must also minister with grace just like our loving Master. What are the characteristics of a grace-based ministry?

 # 1: Grace-based ministries accept people just as they are.

Jesus totally accepted people without prejudging them. He conversed with prostitutes, dined with corrupt public officials, and received known sinners. That way He was able to help many people because of His gracious demeanor.

Likewise, Christ's servants must accept people just as they are, warts and all. Welcome and embrace people regardless of the nature of their struggles. Believe their stories no matter how horrific or eerie they may sound. Accept them in the beloved.

 # 2: Grace-based ministries are attractive.

Grace is attractive. That is why Jesus drew crowds like a magnet; they just couldn't have enough of this pleasant thing called grace. All sorts of people followed Jesus wherever He went including men, women, children, public officials, Samaritans, rich folk, and the poor. Everybody loved Jesus. People were comfortable around Him. Once we tune our ministry antennas to the grace station we will be amazed at the numbers we will draw with ease.

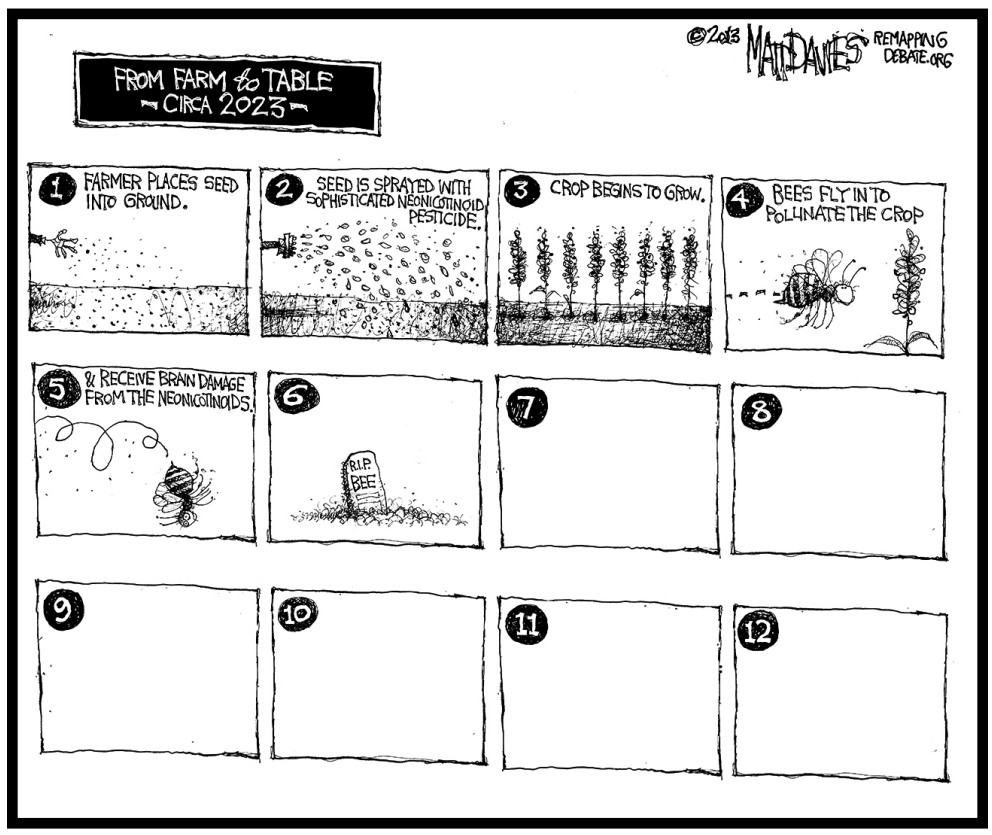
 # 3: Grace-based ministries treat people with respect and dignity.

Oh the dignity and respect with which our Lord treated people. Grace beautifies the ugly, dresses the naked, and freely gives to the undeserving. Jesus respected women who were treated with contempt during His time. He wasn't too busy to talk to children.

Anybody could have an audience with Jesus.

He gave people full attention whether it was in public or in private. Let's minister with grace by respecting God's image in people regardless of status, gender, tribe, race, religion, and country of origin.

Indeed grace came by Jesus Christ. (John1:17) So, we, His servants, must also exude grace as we minister to His precious people whom He purchased with His own blood. Anything less would be a misrepresentation of our Lord.



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Rebuilding Through Faith

By: Natalie Bonner
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CULLMAN – In the scattered ashes of despair, a new sense of hope can always emerge. This was especially true at the open house for the newly rebuilt East Side Baptist Church whose original building was destroyed in the treacherous tornadoes of April 2011.

The open house welcomed the community and church members as they celebrated the birth of their new building. In attendance were cherished long-term church members and curious prospective members.

The stories and smiles bounced around the room as many reminisced and others looked forward to the future. The reunion of sorts sparked the community's ongoing commitment to support one another and spread the Church's mission.

"Church is like home to me. These people are like family. I grew up with everyone here," church member Kelsie Butler said. "I love it here. God has truly blessed us. The tornado has been a blessing in disguise since it's brought us this [new facility]. God has blessed us in our faithfulness to Him."

With the devastating destruction of the original church building, East Side Baptist Church had nowhere to house their worship services. That is, until a very generous, supportive church stepped in and offered their facilities to East Side.

"We had our services at Christ Covenant Church for two years. They were perfect hosts and fantastic to us. They became like family," long-time church member Don Burnham said. "We miss them. We hope they miss us. They made us feel at home."

Brother Sam Hollis, Pastor of Outreach, agrees with Burnham.

"It's been one of the most encouraging experiences of my life for the Church to be the recipient of such hospitality," Hollis said.

Hollis feels that the new facility is a new beginning for the Church. He views the rebuild as an opportunity for the community to make a renewed commitment to Jesus Christ.

"We had a great turnout from the community. A lot of people were looking for signs of healing. With the church being such an important side of this city, seeing the new church is a positive sign," Pastor Ken Allen said. "It shows that when bad things happen, good things can still come from it."

Allen's affirmations take on an even greater, literal meaning when he tells the story of how he and his wife went walking through the nearly finished construction for the church.

He explained how Westboro Baptist Church, the controversial congregation of Topeka, KS recently picketed Tuscaloosa and said that tornadoes were signs of God's judgment.

Picking up in his story, Allen said that as he and his wife walked the floors of the new building, she reflected, "This doesn't feel like judgment."

Rather, Allen believes that East Side Baptist Church and its members have been given a fresh opportunity to impact the community for Christ.

He said, "Our goal is to honor God through this facility."



Photos by Noah Chandler

'Midnight' Restoration

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Midnight Run to help fund Ingle Park revitalization

CULLMAN – Each year in August at roughly 11 p.m. a large crowd descends upon the Cullman Civic Center for a rather unusual group run. Those who venture into the darkness at the annual Midnight Run Eva Bank 5K are helping to raise funds for the various departments under the umbrella of the Cullman City Parks & Recreation.

This year's run will not be any different. CPR Marketing Director Waid Harbison said the run has always been a source for raising funds for the department; however this year's event will help focus funds to the revitalization of Ingle Park.

"We always use the proceeds from the Midnight Run go back into the department to help us keep our programs going," Harbison said. "The community needs a really good playground; it's something we've needed for a long time. We are going to put a lot of investment into the facility and we will need some help from the community to make it a premier family park."

The surface in which the playground is built will be the same material used at the Field of Miracles. Harbison said this padding will help ensure safety for those playing at the new park.

"It's going to be a very safe park," he said. "We will have handicap accessible swings, and the entire area will be a handicap accessible park, which will tie into our Field of Miracles complex."

A total of $2 from each registration to the Midnight Run will go towards the construction of the newly designed community playground.

"It is something our community needs. So anyone who wants to come out to support this effort should definitely make it to this year's run," he said.

The Midnight Run Eva Bank 5K will be held on Friday, August 9 at the Cullman Civic Center. For more information visit the Cullman Civic Center or log on to www.active.com.







Fleet (from Front)

MONTGOMERY – A more efficient method of managing state-owned vehicles will soon be developed thanks to legislation signed by Governor Robert Bentley on Wednesday.

Governor Bentley held a ceremonial signing for Senate Bill 57, which authorizes the Alabama Department of Transportation to review state agency fleets and develop a statewide program to achieve cost savings and greater efficiencies in operating state vehicles.

"This is a continuation of our efforts to make government more efficient and save money for taxpayers," Governor Bentley said.

"The goal of this program is to find the lowest possible cost per mile driven on our state-owned vehicles. A fleet management program is one of the recommendations made by the Commission on Improving State Government, which I established to help us reduce government costs and operate more efficiently. I am proud to sign this legislation that helps us accomplish this goal."

Approximately 8,800 state-owned vehicles are operated by various agencies, departments, commissions, and boards in Alabama. However, there is not a uniform program for managing those vehicles throughout the various entities. Senate Bill 57 addresses that issue and establishes ALDOT as the primary department responsible for assessing the state's fleet and developing a streamlined, uniform management program.

The legislation was sponsored by Senator Cam Ward (R-Alabaster).

"It's been a real pleasure working with Governor Bentley as well as the Legislative Joint Oversight Committee on Energy to develop this piece of legislation that, in short, saves taxpayers money. And that's something we should all strive to achieve," Ward said.

Senate Bill 57 complements an executive order signed by Governor Bentley in March. The executive order established an Office of Fleet Management and a Fleet Manager within ALDOT.

Willie Bradley Jr. has been hired to serve in this capacity. Bradley is currently conducting a detailed assessment of the state's fleet.

"Our goal is to reduce costs to the state while also meeting the needs of agencies that rely on state-owned vehicles," Bradley said.

"We will explore several options for saving money, such as short-term and long-term leasing. We also have potential for savings through buying in bulk across state agencies and establishing more efficient maintenance and replacement procedures. By bringing state agencies and departments into a uniform program, there is tremendous potential for reducing costs to taxpayers."

The assessment of state-owned vehicles is expected to be complete by September 30 of this year.

ALDOT will then use the information developed from the assessment to finalize a detailed plan to meet the needs of entities utilizing state-owned vehicles.

Fan Day (from Front)

now available to the general public through the Auburn Athletics Department Ticket Office. All tickets can be purchased online at www.AUBTIX.com.

For more information or questions regarding tickets, contact the ticket office by e-mail at tickets@auburn.edu or by phone at 1-855-AUB-2010, ext. 1.

More detailed information regarding Fan Day will be made available closer to the event.