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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

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A Midnight Run

700+ runners from ages 5 - 86 made a glow-in-the-dark 3.1 mile journey. Donny Barnes who ran the entire distance in 16 minutes and 37 seconds came in first overall at the 21st Annual Cullman 5K Midnight Run. p6

Farm Y'all!

Farm to Fork Festival to showcase Cullman County's best agriculture. p6

State

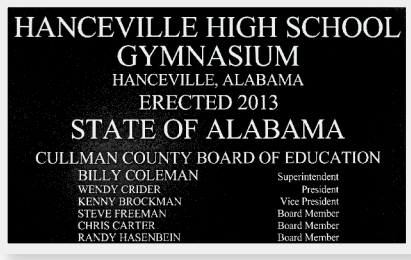
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PRAYER RALLY



Prayer in Numbers

Cullman County School Superintendent Billy Coleman speaks at annual Prayer Rally despite criticisms from the Freedom from Religion Foundation

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Prayer Caravan, Rally draws crowds across Cullman County campus'

CULLMAN – Following a few weeks of tension surrounding a Prayer Caravan, which was being protested in theory by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the annual event drew more members of faith than any in years past.

"God is great," Brent McDonald, Prayer



Some of the estimated 1,000 attendees held up signs at the event

P12

MORE TROOPERS Bentley awards highway safety grant to improve safety

By: Jim Plott

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded an $800,000 grant to make highway travel safer in Alabama by taking dangerous drivers off the roads.

The grant to the Alabama Department of Public Safety will permit an increased presence of state troopers at locations that have experienced a high number of roadway crashes and other traffic violations, including speeding and impaired driving.

"An increased number of troopers on the road translates into a reduced number of drivers who disregard our traffic safety laws," Bentley said. "I urge motorists to always obey traffic laws, drive defensively, and report unsafe drivers, even when law enforcement officers are not apparent."

The grant will enable troopers to work extra hours and conduct high-visibility traffic enforcement measures including driver checkpoints and increased patrols. Troopers will focus many of their increased patrols around major holidays when the volume of traffic is highest.

Dancing with our Stars raises funds, busts a move for cancer research

By: Natalie Bonner

Annual dance event gets community on their feet

CULLMAN – You might be thinking, "What is going on?" I understand. I'm right there with you.

As I watch two of my friends, talented as they are, somewhat aimlessly bound around on Wallace State Community College's auditorium stage at the 2nd Annual Dancing with our Stars event.

First, they are engaging in the traditionally elegant form of dance called the foxtrot, and then, as if struck by uncertainty, they pander out to opposite sides of the stage and individually carry on their own

p12

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is
CELEBRATING
100
YEARS

Sacred Heart Church celebrates with a Mass closing event of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present building in downtown Cullman. P7



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PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

WSCC's Business Department adds Revamped Entrepreneurship Program for Fall Semester

By: Russell Moore • WSCC Contributor



HANCEVILLE – Growing up in an entrepreneurial family, Terri McGriff-Waldrop witnessed at an early age the ups and downs a business owner encounters. And, as a business instructor at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Ala. for the last 24 years and co-owner of a successful real estate company, Waldrop is always passionate about sharing and relaying the challenges and rewards her students may one day come across as aspiring entrepreneurs.

Now, Waldrop and her colleagues have revamped the Wallace State business program's entrepreneurial course option, new for the 2013 fall semester curriculum, to incorporate even more of the real world experiences business owners face.

The Wallace State Management and Supervision associate in applied science degree has four options (management, entrepreneurship, financial management, and office management) for business major students.

The Entrepreneurship option is designed for students who plan to run their own business one day or to have a goal to create and market their product. The degree encompasses a wide variety of business disciplines and can be used in the business world even if the goal is not individual business ownership. The revamped major gives students an opportunity to learn through case studies, team projects, principles of using the Internet for business enterprise, web design, and simulated exercises in computer applications and systems integration.

"The expanded Entrepreneurship option is quite timely and gives promising entrepreneurs an opportunity to incubate their businesses when Wallace State's Incubator program is expanded soon," said Wallace State President Vicki Hawsey.

"We decided last year we wanted to make some significant improvements in our Entrepreneurship program, and we're really excited about what we now have to offer our students. This is for the individual who is interested in owning or operating their own business, and it's especially tailored for those interested in small businesses. While the size of the business is important, we are trying to provide the fundamentals of how to run a business, whether you are self-employed, have one employee, or 30 employees. We want to help develop those students who are truly innovators and teach the proper concepts of owning your own business," Waldrop said. "This is designed for that individual who says they want to take all the risks. It's for those not afraid to fail, but also for those excited about all the rewards available."

Wallace State business department adjunct professor Brandon White, an entrepreneur himself based out of Oxford, owns an advising center for people seeking business guidance and has worked with the department to update its entrepreneurship course offerings. White's classes, along with many of the department's classes, are offered online.

The revamped courses have all been approved by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

"I appreciate the level of input I was given to update specific courses for this major and I'm excited it was approved," White said. "I would love for students to come out of the program with a workable business plan, but if they are not ready, at least they will have learned the framework necessary for how to construct a business that has a greater chance of success."

The Entrepreneurship option takes five semesters to complete and requires a student to complete core classes like English, history, algebra, and humanities in addition to the specialized courses for the major. The five entrepreneurial classes in the curriculum are small business management, entrepreneurial marketing, innovation and creativity, entrepreneurial finance, and business planning. The entrepreneurial marketing and small business management courses will be available during the fall. Principles of macro and microeconomics, accounting, marketing, and management are also required for completion of the major.

"We had entrepreneurship classes in the past, but it just didn't have this much meat to it. It wasn't such a specialized concentration," Waldrop said. "We always have students join us who found themselves out of job or were laid off. They want to go back and do what they know well. They were once in the workplace and now think they can do something better if only they were the boss." Waldrop and her colleagues attract more than just business majors in their classes. Each semester it's becoming more and more common to have their classes mixed with cosmetology, culinary, and welding students, among other majors with students whose careers will require some business savvy.

Priority registration for the fall 2013 semester is underway and continues through mid-August. Classes begin August 19. Those interested in the Entrepreneurship program or any business-related course can contact Waldrop at 256-352-8072, or business department chair Kathy Sides at 256-352-8126.

For more on this story visit cullmansense.com.

The Link of Cullman County Rockin' for Change Charity Event

By: Dawn Owens

CULLMAN – Come out and experience a reunion event of the band, "Exit 310" at a charity event called "Rockin' for Change" on August 16, 2013 from 6 p.m. -10 p.m. at Depot Park, Cullman, AL. Since the spring of 2011, Exit 310 has become one of the most "in demand" cover bands in North Central Alabama. They have been known to do weddings, corporate and charity events all over.

Proceeds from this event will benefit The Link of Cullman County, a local faith-based nonprofit that is working towards overcoming the barriers to poverty through providing support services like goal-setting, career coaching, financial counseling, adult literacy, English as a Second Language courses, job preparedness courses, and more.

A $5 donation is asked at the door, children under 10 are free. Food and drinks are available for purchase, but a bounce house will be there for kids to jump for free. There will also be giveaways, face painting, and balloon animals.

Special thanks to the Title Sponsor, Peoples Bank of Alabama for supporting this event and their on-going support of Wise Up a Financial Literacy program for teens in the local Cullman County schools, which is also executed by staff and volunteers of The Link.

For more questions about this event, call 256-775-0028. You can learn more about The Link online at www.linkingcullman.org, Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.

CRMC Update

Happenings at CRMC

Cullman Regional Medical Center's ONE Rehab & Sports Medicine Offers Friday Night Injury Clinic

By: Lindsey Dossey • CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — ONE Sports Medicine of Cullman Regional Medical Center opens the Friday Night Injury Clinic again this football season.

Starting at 9 p.m. until approximately midnight in CRMC's Medical Day Hospital, athletes can see the staff of Sports Medicine Specialists, Orthopedic Surgeons, and Athletic Trainers.

The clinic provides an assessment and treatment for injuries sustained during games. Appointments are not necessary and the wait time is minimal.

The clinic begins on Friday, August 30 and will run through the regular high school football season ending Friday, November 1.

ONE Sports Medicine Certified Athletic Trainers, Donna Chamblee, Scott Lochridge, and Matthew Griffin are proud to provide exclusive athletic healthcare to the following schools — Cullman, Fairview, and West Point; however the Friday Night Injury Clinic is open to athletes from all area schools.

Call Cullman Regional Medical Center 256-737-2000 or visit us online at www.crmchospital.com for more information on the Friday Night Injury Clinic or to find out more about the services offered by ONE Sports Medicine.

Upcoming Bosom Buddies Support Group Meeting Announced

By: Lindsey Dossey • CRMC Contributor

CULLMAN — Bosom Buddies Support Group offers support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer.

The group will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 19 at 6 p.m. in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Ave Maria Room in the Community Education Center located in Professional Office Building 2 (1912 AL Highway 157, POB 2, Cullman, AL 35058).

For more information contact group coordinator Mary Dyer at (256) 734-8729.

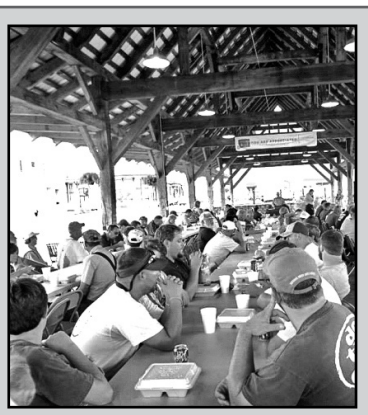
For a complete list of upcoming support groups and events at Cullman Regional Medical Center visit the online Calendar of Events at www.crmchospital.com.

What's Online

Lunch Is Served

Cullman City Mayor Max Townson, along with City Council members Garlan Gudger, John Cook, Jenny Folsom, Andy Page and Cullman City Parks & Recreation Director John Hunt, played host duties to over 300 city employees during the annual City-Wide Employee Safety Meeting.

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Bennett Sworn in as Secretary of State

In a ceremony on Wednesday with Governor Robert Bentley, Jim Bennett was sworn in as Alabama's 52nd Secretary of State.

qrne.ws/82

Bentley Signs Prescription Drug Abuse & Diversion Bills

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley recently held a ceremonial signing for three bills aimed at decreasing the abuse of prescription drugs in Alabama.

"Used properly under a physician's direction, pain relievers and other prescription drugs bring much-needed comfort to many Americans, but their abuse is a serious and growing threat," Governor Bentley said. "As a physician, and as a governor, I understand the importance of fighting prescription drug abuse. These bills are designed to help us address this problem while also protecting the rights of patients."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2012, Alabama had one of the highest rates of prescription painkillers sold per 10,000 people. Three bills that were approved during the 2013 Legislative Session will help decrease the abuse of prescription drugs.

Bills that are part of the Prescription Drug Abuse and Diversion Package include:

· HB 150 – The prescription drug monitoring program bill clarifies language for the Board of Medical Examiners to regulate the use of a monitoring program which lists individuals who receive controlled substances and the names of the medical professionals who prescribed them. Physicians can now designate members of their staffs to access the database on their behalf. The bill also grants the Medicaid Agency the ability to access the database and check prescription drug use by people enrolled in Medicaid.

House Bill 150 was sponsored by Rep. Jim McClendon (R-Springville) and went into effect on August 1.

HB 151 – The pain management bill increases the regulation of pain management clinics where drugs are prescribed for chronic, nonmalignant pain. It also gives the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners subpoena power to investigate those clinics when needed.

To operate, these clinics must have a medical director who is a physician licensed in Alabama. Clinics providing pain management services must acquire pain management registration from the board.

With certain exceptions, this bill requires that clinics for pain management services be owned by doctors who are licensed to practice in Alabama or by businesses registered with the Secretary of State.

House Bill 151 was sponsored by Rep. April Weaver (R-Brierfield) and went into effect in May when it was officially signed.

HB 152 – The "doctor shopping bill" establishes criminal penalties for patients who "doctor shop" for prescription drugs. The bill makes it a crime for a patient to get prescription drugs by deceptively concealing from a doctor that he or she had received the same or similar prescription drugs from another physician during a concurrent period of time. If convicted, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in jail. If a patient is convicted four times in five years, the offense becomes a Class C felony, which is punishable by up to 10 years in jail.

House Bill 152 was sponsored by Rep. April Weaver (R-Brierfield) and went into effect on August 1.

"There are many good physicians treating patients who have legitimate issues with pain, and we want to encourage the continued treatment of those patients," said Buddy Smith, MD, Chairman of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama Board of Censors. "Some states that have tried to combat prescription drug abuse have passed legislation that had disastrous effects on patient care and placed tremendous burdens on physicians. This package presents a workable solution. It comprehensively tackles this growing problem in our state, and we appreciate Representatives Weaver and McClendon, Senator Ward and the Governor for fighting prescription drug abuse."

"A lot of work has been put into these bills over the past year, and it's exciting to see them become law," Representative Weaver said.

"Prescription drug abuse is on the rise, and healthcare providers across the state can confirm that the cases are becoming more frequent. By addressing prescription drug abuse at the point of prescribing, our goal is to focus on this issue at the beginning of the process while also protecting patient confidentiality and preserving the rights of healthcare providers."

"This package of new laws will help take prescription drugs off of the street corner, reduce drug abuse and make it easier to identify those involved in the illegal sale of prescription drugs," Representative McClendon (R-Springville) added.

"Prescription drug abuse is a threat to the public health and safety of our citizens," Senator Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) said. "I was proud to work with Governor Bentley in the Senate to tackle this growing problem for our state."

Tax Dollars for Private School Tuition Gain in States

By: Elaine S. Povich • Stateline

Opponents called it a "bombshell" and "sleaziness." Backers said it was "historic" and would free low-income students from failing public schools. Hyperbole aside, the Alabama Legislature's last-minute move to create a $3,500 state tax credit for private school tuition is emblematic of a growing movement in the states.

Thirteen states created or expanded tuition tax credits, private school scholarships, or traditional vouchers in 2013, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Eight states did so in 2012 and seven states in 2011, according to the group.

Private school vouchers have been around for quite a while. But some state supreme courts have questioned the constitutionality of giving parents public education dollars to send their children to parochial schools.

To get around that issue, states have turned to strategies that are less direct. Some have created tax credits for parents who pay private school tuition.

Others are giving tax credits to those who donate to private scholarship funds that dole out money to families who need help paying for private school.

- Two states — Alabama and South Carolina — created new scholarship tax credit programs in 2013. Six states — Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia — expanded their existing programs. With the exception of Rhode Island and Iowa, Republicans control both the legislature and governor's office in those states.
- North Carolina instituted a new statewide voucher program for low-income students. Additionally, five states— Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin — expanded existing voucher programs. All of those states are controlled by the GOP.
- Wisconsin also created a tax deduction for private school tuition and fees.

Purchasing power under private school choice programs ranges from a maximum of $250 in Iowa (personal tax credits), to 115 percent of per-pupil public school funding in Maine (for private school vouchers), according to Jeff Reed, communications director for the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, a pro-vouchers and tax credits group.

No matter the approach, the effect is the same, according to Josh Cunningham, an education policy analyst at NCSL.

"The state is saying we're going to forgo tax revenue for the purpose of encouraging students to transfer from the public school system into the private schools," he said.

Fight in Alabama

In Alabama's legislature this spring, a conference committee considering a much narrower piece of education legislation suddenly expanded it—with little debate—to include the scholarship tax credit and a personal tax credit for private school tuition, drawing howls of protest from Democrats and teacher groups.

It took until the middle of June for the state education department to come up with the list of 78 "failing" schools. It defines a "failing" school as one that lands in the bottom 6 percent of state standardized tests three or more times in six years, or one listed as "low performing" in the state's most recent school improvement grant application.

The Alabama Education Association, which represents the state's public school employees, filed a lawsuit to block the plan, but courts have allowed it to proceed.

More legal action is pending, but for now the race is on for interested parents to pull their kids out of public schools, sign up for admission to private schools, and take advantage of the $3,500 tax credit program before school starts in a few weeks. Lawmakers expect a bigger impact next year.

The effect on states' treasuries is up for debate. In a widely-cited 2008 study, Florida estimated it saved $1.49 in per-pupil costs for every $1 it lost in revenue due to the private school tax credits, for a total of $39 million. But other estimates say states lose money on the tax incentives.

Alabama, for example, put aside $40 million in its budget to absorb the anticipated loss from the tax credits, according to Norris Green, director of the Alabama Legislative Fiscal Office. "Our sense is that $40 million is going to be enough but we don't know. It's a question of how many are going to opt for private schools," he said. Some $25 million of that total represents lost revenue from the tax-exempt donations to the scholarship funds, and the tax credits to parents who send their kids to private schools account for the rest.

Alabama state Sen. Del Marsh, author of the tuition tax credit program, said his state is being "very responsible" in putting money aside to fund the credits, noting that with Republicans in charge of the legislature the time was ripe to pass the credits. The Anniston Republican also predicted that the program will generate some long-term savings.

"We have an extremely high dropout rate from high school. Many of those incarcerated in prison do not have a high school diploma. The more we can keep in school to get more education, the less likely they will be to end up in the prison system," he said. One in four Alabama high school students does not graduate.

But the Alabama Education Association, like the American Federation of Teachers and other teachers' groups across the country, opposes the private school tuition tax credit program, on both fiscal and ideological grounds.

"It's very disheartening, at a time when we are seeing revenue actually go up," said Amy Marlowe of the association. "That's money we do have available to spend on (public) education and it's going to be funneled to private schools."

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

New income guidelines released for WIC

By: Carolyn Battle

MONTGOMERY – Alabama families may qualify for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as WIC.

If you are a woman who is pregnant, just had a baby within the past six months, breastfeeding or the parent or guardian of a child up to age 5, you are encouraged to apply for WIC at your local county health department.

Under the recently released 2013 federal poverty guidelines, more families may be eligible for the program. WIC is open to participants with incomes up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Family Size	Annual Income	Weekly Income
1	$21,257	$409
2	$28,694	$552
3	$36,131	$695
4	$43,568	$838
5	$51,005	$981

WIC participants must have both a limited income and a nutritional need. Families who receive Medicaid, SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, or Family Assistance, formerly known as TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) already meet the income qualifications for WIC. Even families who do not qualify for these three programs may be eligible for WIC.

For example, a single mother and her baby can have an income of up to $552 per week (before taxes are deducted) and qualify for WIC.

A husband and wife with three children can have a total weekly income of as much as $981 (before taxes) and meet the income requirements to participate.

WSCC anglers Ethan Flack, Logan Shaddix finish 15th at Carhartt Bassmaster College Series national championship



The dock at the start of the Bassmaster Classic.

By: Kristen Holmes • WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State anglers Ethan Flack and Logan Shaddix concluded a successful and exciting year for the inaugural Wallace State BASS fishing club with a 15th-place finish at the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series championship, held last weekend at the Chatuge Reservoir in Young Harris, Ga.

Wallace State's fishing duo reeled in seven fish for a combined 19 pounds, 8 ounces. Flack and Shaddix were 15th among 64 teams, placing ahead of duos from the University of Oklahoma, UNA, Florida State, and Mississippi State among others.

Flack and Shaddix qualified for the national event by earning a wild card selection at the regional competition at Pickwick Lake in late June.

Television coverage of the Bassmaster College Series will air this month on ESPNU in two parts. The first part will be Sunday, Aug 11, from 11 a.m. to noon and the second part on Sunday, Aug. 18 at the same time slot.

Any current or incoming Wallace State student interested in joining Wallace State's BASS fishing club is encouraged to contact Flack at ethanflack@hotmail.com or call 256-352-8154. One must be a full-time student in order to compete.

In addition to Flack and Shaddix, Jordan Tuten, Bryant Quattlebaum, Colton Henderson, Greg Dean, Ethan Rose, and J.R. Sapp have all fished competitively for the club this year.

"When the fall semester starts, we are looking forward to year two. We've got plenty of people coming back, and I've already been talking to a lot of people who are interested in hooking on with the club. We are going to grow some more," said Flack before he departed for the national event.

The primary purpose of the Wallace State BASS Fishing Club is to encourage camaraderie, sportsmanship, integrity, conservation and development of the skills and knowledge needed to be successful anglers by competing with other schools in FLW National Guard College Fishing tournaments and other fishing tournaments on a local and regional basis.

Wallace State faculty club sponsors are Joe Hendrix, Jeremy Smith, and Brian Hall.



Flack and Shaddix receive their award at Bassmaster Classic.

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COMING HOME

Hanceville's Lane Horton Gymnasium rebuilt after April 2011 tornadoes



By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Like the mythical phoenix rising from its own ashes, Lane Horton Gymnasium once again adorns the campus of Hanceville High School. The three million dollar construction project brought a much needed gym back to Hanceville but most importantly, closure for a community.

The April 2011 tornadoes completely destroyed Lane Horton Gym and since then the basketball programs at Hanceville had not had a true place to call their home. The games on the schedule that were slated as "home" games for the Bulldogs took place at Wallace State Community College.

"The biggest thing is letting the guys play on campus," said assistant principal and boys head basketball coach Daniel Wakefield of the luxury of having a home floor again. "Not just for games but from a practice perspective. Getting back to having a true home court advantage."

Wakefield went on to sing the praises of WSCC and their willingness to let the Bulldogs play on their floor, but he also said, "I think the biggest thing is getting to practice where you play," something Hanceville was unable to do at Wallace.

The new Lane Horton Gymnasium stands in the same spot as the old gym and bears the same name, but that is where the similarities stop. The new building includes a single level high-rise bleacher section overlooking a new college sized hardwood floor, complete with mascot stenciling at center court.

The new facilities also include something that was sorely missing from the old gym, a state of the art weight training room.

"We didn't have a weight room on campus," said new head Principal Jimmy Collins about Hanceville's new gym.

"We were having to go across campus to the armory every day to do our weights. It was a very nice facility, but it just wasn't on campus. It was a must."

Another feature of the new Lane Horton Gymnasium is something lacking in most every other prep gym across the county, air conditioning. Also included in the new facilities are three separate classrooms and a very spacious lobby where spectators can still view the game through four large windows while getting their fix of gym food at the concession stand.

Of course, the gym would not be complete without the familiar, deep purple and gold that comprise the colors of Hanceville High School. The new gym would rival any facility in the state from 1A to 6A and that is something that the students, faculty, players, and everyone in the city of Hanceville can take pride in.

The tornadoes that tore through Hanceville two short years ago may have wiped a piece of history off the Hanceville campus, but Sunday the Hanceville Bulldogs insured Lane Horton's legacy will live on in a building worthy of the legendary coach's name.

Keep connected with CullmanSense through Facebook, Twitter, CullmanSense.com, and our weekly print edition as we will bring you all of the festivities leading up to the first official game at the new Lane Horton Gymnasium in October.



Area Team Spotlight: Vinemont Eagles

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – In our third week of our county wide trek of Cullman County football, the spotlight shines on last year's sleeper team, the Vinemont Eagles.

In 2012, Vinemont lost just two regular season games, Hanceville and Hamilton, and reached school milestones as well as Ty Jones setting a state record for rushing yards in a season.

With that being said, Vinemont is losing some key cogs from last year's playoff team. QB/DB Duncan Hopper, OL/DL Logan Wallace, DL Blane Black, OL/DL Teddy Drake, and the a fore mentioned FB/DL Ty Jones who was also named All-State at season's end.

Coming in for the Eagles and looking to keep the winning tradition going is Bo Wright who is looking to step in and fill the shoes of the departing Jones.

John Michael Dye and Orey Woods are going to be carrying the load at the running back position and Garret Sipe will be the newcomer snagging passes for Vinemont.

Although the Eagles are losing some important players, they will have some "veterans" returning for the 2013 campaign. On the offensive side of the ball you have QB Kurtis Brawner who is taking over the offensive helm from the departing Hopper. Protecting Brawner will be Austin Blair, Josh Chambers, Marcus Clarke, Mason Lindsey, Blake Melton, and Kyle Weems.

Defensively Vinemont will be led by defensive lineman Dewey Batemon, Blake Kimbril, Holden Burrone, Taylor Evans, and Nick Jarrett. In a twist, QB Kurtis Brawner not only will be trying to avoid the sack on offense, he will be looking to sack the opposing quarterback as he will double as a linebacker on defense. Helping him sniff out plays will be Sam Wood, Josh Chambers, and Adam Millwood. Dalton Harbison, Wayne Partain, and Trey Guthery will be the ball hawks at the defensive back position for Vinemont.

Heading into his third season and the head coach at Vinemont, Alan Scott has always been about playing hard-nosed football no matter the outcome. This is a philosophy he has tried to instill in his players from day one. His determination is showing through his team and that produces results.

"I expect our team to be in good condition, both mentally and physically," Scott said of his expectations for the upcoming season. "I expect our players to be prepared to play each and every game to the final whistle. I expect our attitude to remain the same, no matter the score. These are the only variables that we can control."

Well said from a young coach that runs a team like a seasoned vet. Vinemont will look to build on the success they had last season as they made the playoffs for the first time since 2009. Make your plans to come out and see the Vinemont Eagles in action this upcoming season. You will not be disappointed.

MiLB Recap

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

BIRMINGHAM BARONS

MOBILE- Hank Aaron Stadium has not been kind to the Birmingham Barons over the last week.

The Barons have dropped three out of the last four games of the series with one left to play.

But Sunday the Barons did manage to grab a win, the first in the series and breaking a five game road game losing streak.

Birmingham defeated the Mobile BayBears by a score of 3-1.

The second inning was all it took for the Barons to pick up their 70th win of the year for the best record in the Southern League. Dan Wagner was the hero in the game with two out, two run single and Keenan Walker followed with an RBI knock. That would be all the offense the Barons would need to take the game.

HUNTSVILLE STARS

CHATTANOOGA – The Huntsville Stars have been playing inspired baseball as of late. They just finished up a rain filled series with the Chattanooga Lookout where the took three out of five from the talent laden Lookouts.

The Stars got the series off on the right foot, laying it to the Lookouts by a score 7-3. A four run fifth was the game clincher for the Stars as Eric Marzec blasted a two run double and Nick Shaw tripled a home run and then came home to score on a wild pitch.

The Stars also took the fourth game of the series in a shortened, seven inning contest that saw the Stars take the lead in the top of the seventh inning on a Mike Walker double. Walkers hit would prove to be huge as the Lookouts failed to score in the bottom half and Huntsville laid claim to the victory.

Huntsville clinched the series win on Sunday with a 4-0 victory over Chattanooga. The Stars scored single runs in the third, fourth, eight, and ninth. Chadwin Stang, Hector Gomez, Brock Kjeldgaard, and Jason Rodgers were responsible for the Huntsville RBIs.

Make sure to come out and support your local teams as Huntsville opens a 10 game home stand Tuesday starting with the Mobile BayBears.

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

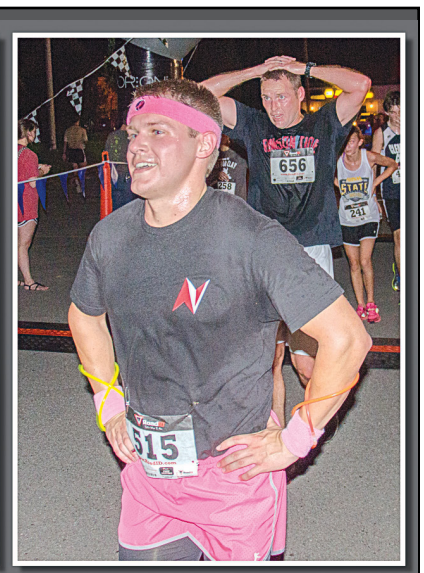
- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors.
- **Nia Dance/Ageless Grace Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **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.
- **Dog Obedience Classes:** Tina Cagle Parker will be holding dog obedience classes at the Cullman Civic Center on Tuesday nights beginning on Tuesday, August 13 at 6pm. Class is 6 weeks after first week orientation. Puppy class at 6pm and adult class at 7pm. $65 per dog; register at the Civic Center.
- **CLUCKNBREW:** CP&R will be holding Clucknbrew, a wingfest event on Saturday, September 7 at Depot Park. There will be a wing cook off, live music, beer, a kid's zone, games, and more. The event will be held from 3pm-9pm. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Fall Baseball/Softball Registration:** August 1-20 at the Cullman Civic Center for ages 6-8 and 9-12. Cost per child is $75 or $350 per team. Fall Men's and Coed softball is also registering from August 1-20 at Heritage Park for $350 per team. Call 256-739-9931 for details.
- **Wilderness Survival Classes:** Held at Hurricane Creek Park on Sunday afternoons at 1pm, this course teaches basic survival skills including building a shelter, fire, finding safe water, and navigating. Register in advance by calling 256-734-2125.
- **First Time Rock Climbing:** Available for anyone interested in trying rock climbing with little or no experience. The program is offered on Saturday mornings at Hurricane Creek Park to anyone 6&up. A professional guide will be on site and all gear is included. Reserve ahead at 256-734-2125.
- **Tee off at Cullman Golf Course:** Come by our beautiful 18 hole course and relax with a game of golf! Discounts daily after 2pm. Call to book a time at 256-739-2386.

Follow @CullmanSense













A Midnight Run

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – 3.1 miles, or 5K may not seem like a long distance but tell that to Donny Barnes who ran the entire distance in 16 minutes and 37 seconds and came in first overall in the 21st Annual Cullman 5K Midnight Run.

"I run in 25 a year," said Barnes of his marathon habits. "I usually run 5Ks."

Barnes 16:37 time was just 22 seconds off his personal best time. Barnes recently finished his high school career at Buckhorn and will be running for Montevallo this upcoming year.

In a show of support to his former school, Barnes will donate half of his $250 winnings to the Buckhorn soccer program and the other half to the track and field program.

The annual Midnight Run was something that was started in part by Cullman Parks and Recreation Department director John Hunt when he arrived in Cullman and it is something he is quite proud of.

"We were looking for new events," said Hunt about the run, "and at the time road races were not that popular. Now it seems like everyone is doing a 5K road race. What I wanted to do was something no one else was doing and that is why it is at midnight. I know there is not another one in the state of Alabama."

The course runs through the heart of downtown Cullman from the Cullman Civic Center, wrapping around to Hobby Lobby and the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center and eventually back to the Civic Center. This has been the course since the inception of the race 21 years ago.

"We certified the course, so to keep all of the records from day one, we have to keep the course the same," Hunt told CullmanSense.

Among the racers were various track teams from around the county that use the 5K Midnight Run as a kind of warm up or precursor to stay in shape for the upcoming track and field season.

Another interesting fact about the race is the great disparity in ages. There were runners as young a six running alongside their parents all the way up to senior citizens who took part.

"We have kids five and six running and I think our oldest runner is 86," said Hunt.

For some of the runners that took part, it was a true competition but to others, like CullmanSense's own comic artist Anthony "St.Edo" Saint, it was just a fun way to get some good exercise.

"I not out here to race anyone, I am just out here to see if I can beat my time from last year," said Saint, who was looking to beat his time of 25 minutes flat.

700+ runners showed up and, yet again, the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department did an amazing job putting on a family-friendly event for the people of Cullman.

Editor's Note: I have said it before and I will say it again, Cullman has the best parks and rec department in the South and they make me thankful to live in the great city of Cullman.

Farm Y'all!

Farm to Fork Festival to showcase Cullman County's best agriculture

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Red ripe tomatoes, delicious yellow corn on the cob, freshly prepared chicken, and home cooked rolls are all staples of a typical southern dinner. On August 24 the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, along with a host of sponsors, will takeover the Historic Downtown District to host the first annual Farm Y'all – Farm to Fork Festival.

Several regional and nationally celebrated chefs including Frank Stitt of Highlands Bar and Grill, Clif Holt of Little Savannah, Chris Hastings of Hot and Hot Fish Club, Dyron Powell of Dyron's Low Country, and local chefs including, Chris Villa with Wallace State Culinary and Matt Heim with All Steak Restaurant, Blue Moose Café & Brew Pub, and Rumors Deli, will be preparing dishes featuring local foods for people to sample.

One food connoisseur to take to the Rotunda is WSCC Executive Chef and Culinary Educator, Chef Chris Villa, who is eager to display not only his skills but that of his students.

"Once we heard the news The Wallace State Culinary Academy had to get involved," Villa said. "Agriculture statistics are out and Cullman is still the #1 agriculture county in Alabama, and we think it is high time we celebrated that fact."

Villa began his tenure at WSCC in the summer of 2004. He is a graduate of the prestigious Johnson & Wales University Charleston, SC, where he gained his Associates Degree in Culinary Arts and Bachelor's Degree in Food Service Management.

The focus of Farm Y'all is to showcase all aspects of Cullman County agriculture. The celebrity chefs will work their magic with the best the county has to offer. Villa said the intriguing nature of the event reinforces a technique being instituted on the local campus in Hanceville.

"There's no substitute for fresh local ingredients and local revenue production," he said. "Wallace Culinary program has teamed up with the campus Horticulture Department to grow our own produce, and also compost on site as part of our sustainability initiative."

The festival will begin at 8 a.m. and will run until 3 p.m. and will take place at Depot Park, the Festhalle Market Platz, the Rotunda, and the Cullman County Museum. Competition with growers coming from several southern states to show off their mammoth fruit. Trent Boyd, the local farmer who shattered the Alabama state giant pumpkin record with his 885 pound behemoth, will be on hand to help ensure the event will be a smashing success.

The Cullman County Museum will be open and the Cullman County Extension office will be conducting several seminars on everything from making baby food from the garden, to cooking local and starting your own fall garden. Several sponsors will be exhibiting their products including our title sponsor Tri-Green Equipment who will bring John Deere equipment.

For more information on Farm Y'all – Farm to Fork Festival, visit www.farmyall.com.

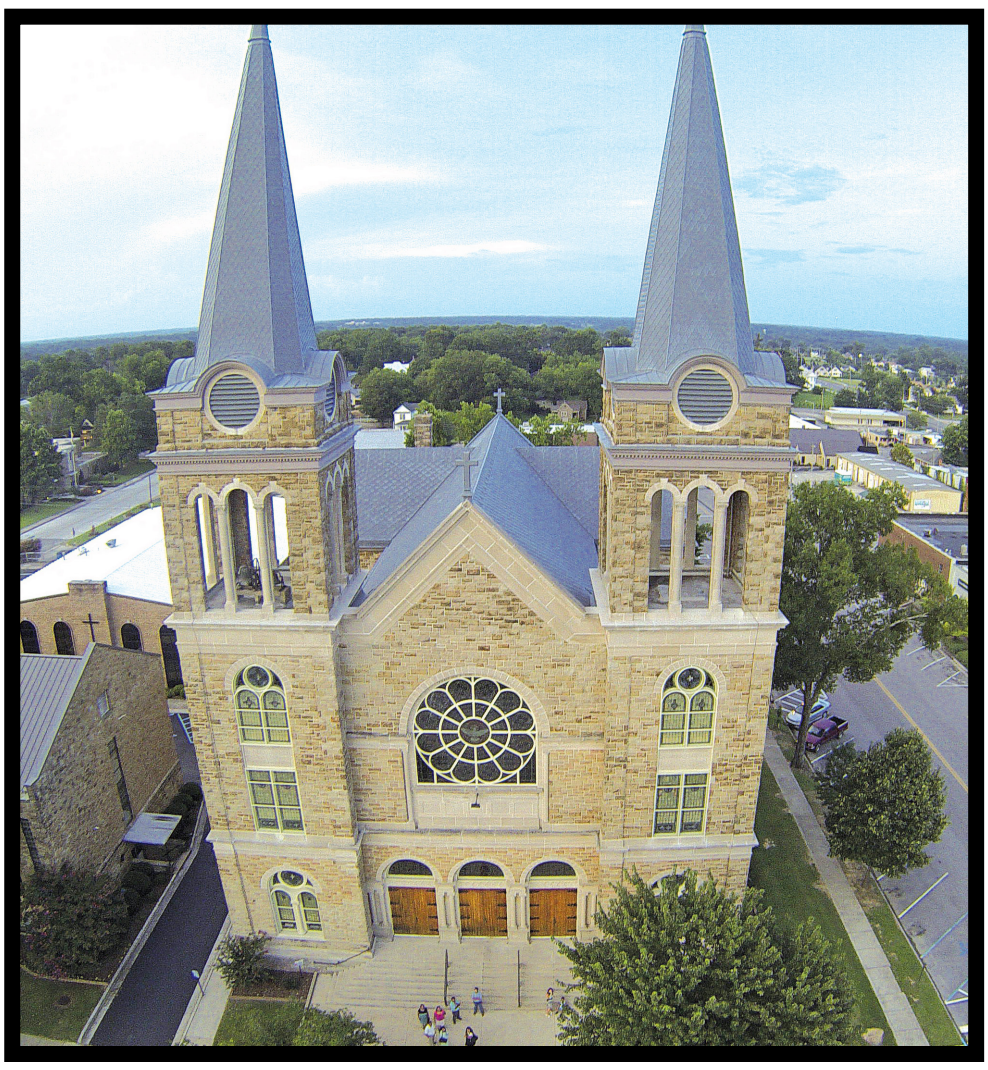


100 YEARS

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Celebrates Anniversary

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church celebrated Mass recently as the final closing event of the past year's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present historic building in downtown Cullman. Bishop Baker blessed a specially commissioned plaque noting the 100 year anniversary which will be mounted permanently in the Church at a later date. The plaque was a special gift to the Church from a Florida friend of Pete Nassetta's.

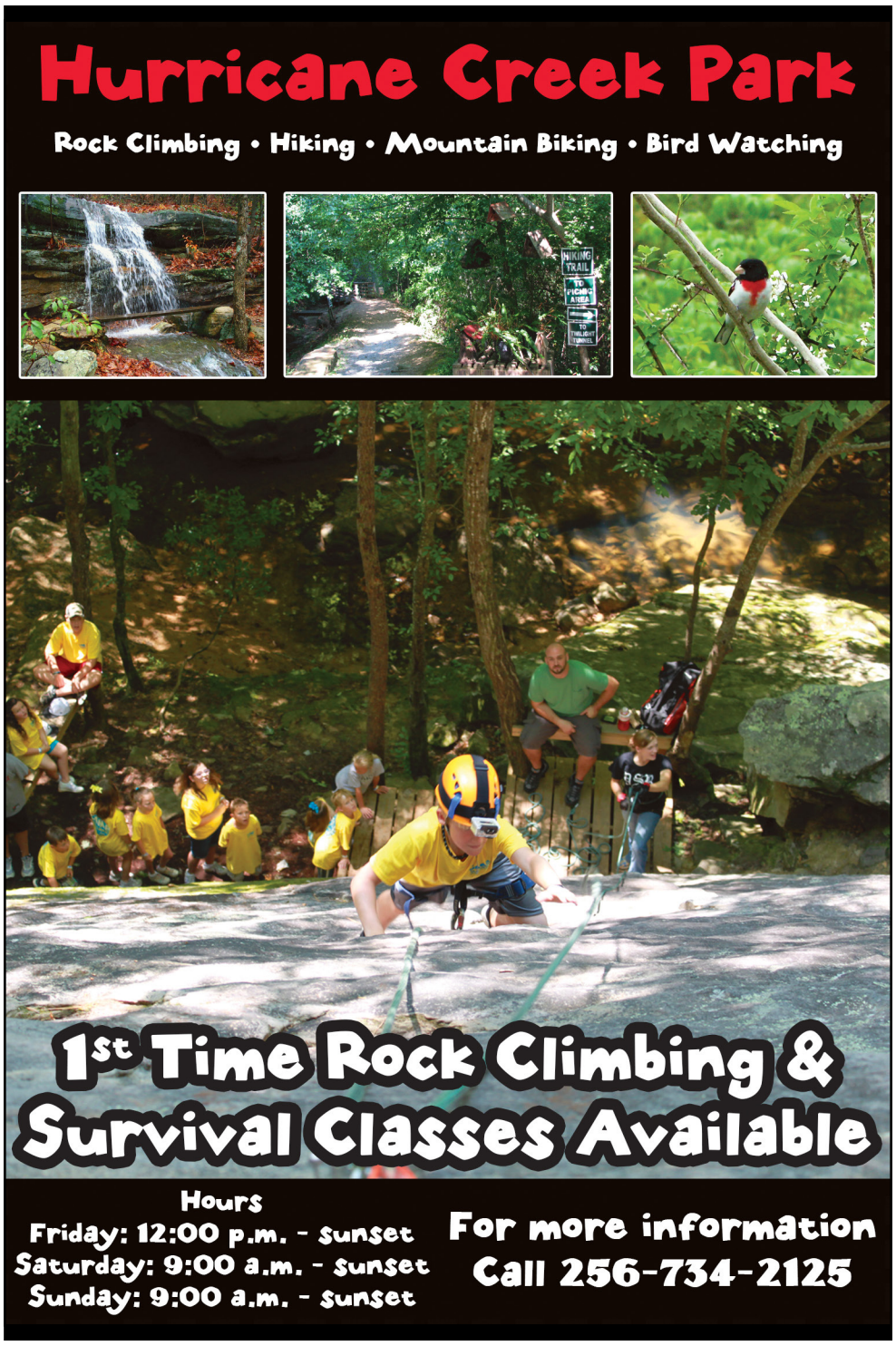




First row: altar servers Alison Gongre and Adam Smith; second row: altar servers James and Hayden Hovater and John David Grey; third row: con-celebrants Fr. John O'Donnell, OSB, Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart; Abbott Cletus Meagher, OSB, Abbott of Saint Bernard Abbey and former Sacred Heart Pastor; Birmingham Diocesan Bishop Robert J. Baker, main celebrant of the Mass; Bishop Emeritus David E. Foley; Parish Vicar for Hispanic Ministries Rev. Jose Guillermo Aristizabal of Sacred Heart; back row: Deacon-in-training Peter Nassetta; Deacon Michael Branch; Deacon-in-training Ken Kreps; and Sacred Heart of Jesus Pastor Fr. Patrick Egan, OSB. Aerial photos by Noah Chandler







– 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Percy Sledge in Concert at TP Country Club
Percy Sledge will appear in a concert to raise funds for the March of Dimes starting at 8 p.m. at TP Country Club. Doors to the event will open at 6:30 p.m. If interested in obtaining tickets, please call Hannah Hicks, TPCC events coordinator, 256-739-0720 or chairman Amber Lamote, 256-338-8410. Come listen to one of the greats of American music and help the March of dimes at the same time as having a great evening.

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.

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

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Looking Ahead

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.

Register for Summer Youth Programs
Now registering for North Alabama Agriplex Summer Youth Programs. Summer Garden Camps for ages 3-10, starting May 29th, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Touring Farms for Kids, June 19-20, ages 7-13, and Sewing Camp July 9-12 ages 5-10. For more info call 256-297-1044 or e-mail cullmanag@gmail.com.

Reflections of History



Kenny Mule Barn - 1959 Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

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

This Week in History
August 12 - August 18

August 12th
- 1851 – Isaac Singer patents sewing machine
- 1922 – Dedication of Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. as national shrine
- 1977 – Space shuttle Enterprise makes first atmospheric flight

August 13th
- 1876 – Reciprocity Treaty between U.S. and Hawaii ratified
- 1944 – Jackie Gleason-Les Tremayne show premieres on NBC radio
- 1981 – Last broadcast of "Waltons" on CBS-TV

August 14th
- 1782 – Suriname forbids selling slave mothers without their babies
- 1942 – Dwight D. Eisenhower named commander for invasion of North Africa
- 1997 – Oklahoma Court of Appeals upholds death sentence of Timothy McVeigh

August 15th
- 1635 – First recorded U.S. hurricane hit the Plymouth Colony
- 1893 – U.S. no longer allowed exclusive rights in Bering Sea
- 1994 – Terrorist, Carlos the Jackal, captured in Khartoum, Sudan

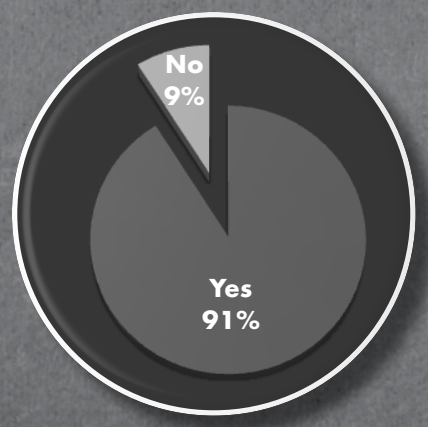
August 16th
- 1829 – Siamese twins Chang and Eng Bunker arrive in Boston to be exhibited
- 1954 – Sports Illustrated magazine begins publishing
- 1991 – President Bush declares recession is near an end

August 17th
- 1859 – First air mail (in a balloon) took off from Lafayette, Indiana
- 1943 – General Patton enters Messina, completing conquest of Sicily by Allies
- 1977 – Russian nuclear sub "Artika" is first to North Pole

August 18th
- 1926 – Weather map televised for first time
- 1960 - First photograph bounced off a satellite, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- 1981 – Football running back, Herschel Walker, of University of Georgia, takes out a Lloyd's of London insurance policy for $1 million

Last Week's Poll

Should the Prayer Caravan continue as scheduled?



This Week's Poll

Did you do your back to school shopping during the tax holiday?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

2013 SIGN-UP FALL BALL
Children's Baseball
Men's and Co-ed Softball
Miracle League

Children's
$75.00 PER CHILD
(JERSEY & HAT INCLUDED)

Miracle League
$30.00 PER PLAYER
(JERSEY & HAT INCLUDED)

$350.00 PER TEAM (JERSEY NOT INCLUDED)

REGISTER 8.1.13 THRU 8.20.13 @THE CULLMAN CIVIC CENTER

Men's & Co-ed Softball
$350.00 PER TEAM
10 game season with single elmination tournament to follow.
REGISTER 8.1.13 THRU 8.20.13 @ HERITAGE PARK

cpr ATHLETICS
for more info, call the Civic Center @ 256-734-9157
or Heritage park @ 256-739-9931/9582
www.cullmanrecreation.org

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Paradise Gets Messy: a review of the film, *Elysium*

By: Dillon Lee • Entertainment Editor
dillon@cullmansense.com

South African filmmaker Neill Bompkamp made his feature debut in the brilliant scifi film *District 9*, but his story started before that big screen splash.

Blomkamp became known in certain circles (mostly European) for his short film work and his commercials that integrated scifi CGI characters and live actors flawlessly.

This caught the eye of Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson, who had been tasked by Microsoft with bringing the massively popular game franchise *Halo* to the cinema. Jackson hand-picked Blomkamp, but Microsoft said "no" to the unproven director.

Soon after, Jackson parted ways with Microsoft and no *Halo* film has materialized. Thankfully, however, Jackson decided to push Blomkamp into feature filmmaking. As writer and director, Blomkamp wowed audiences with *District 9's* unique setting, plot, violence, and shifting style.

Elysium is his chance to prove that he was better than a one trick pony and perhaps as a backhanded insult to Microsoft. *Elysium* features a gorgeously imagined ring world al la *Halo*.

In the near future of 2154, the overpopulated, diseased world is abandoned to the "have-nots" while the "haves"- the rich and beautiful of the planet- have moved to the ring world Elysium in high orbit above Earth.

Here, as the name suggests, they live in paradise. Thanks to in home medical bays able to restructure the body atomically, there is no disease. There is no crime. And everyone is beautiful.

Meanwhile, Earth is a vast ghetto. It's a seemingly endless slum with part of the aesthetic borrowed from Blomkamp's own native South Africa, but most of its visuals are lifted straight from the poverty choked, crime ridden favela's of Brazil. L.A. in fact appears to be little more than a giant, overcrowded favela dotted with thick black plumes of smoke from tire fires and punctuated by near constant bursts of gunfire.

It is here we are given the life story of Max, our protagonist played by Matt Damon. Raised in an orphanage, Max, as child, took early to petty theft and befriended an intelligent orphaned girl named Frey. In this bleak future, education is a luxury, so the literate Frey reads books to Max. The two dream of the paradise of Elysium, visible in night sky, and become the closest of friends.

Jump forward to a Max nearing middle age. He is a reformed crook of some skill, but now spends his days on an assembly line of the ruthless ARMADYNE Corporation, the megalith who built and now protects Elysium.

Run-ins with the law and the criminal element are unavoidable for Max and the audience is quickly introduced to Max's former associates.

Most of them boost cars or attempt to smuggle the sick aboard Elysium- if the sick and dying can afford it. We see the desperation, disease, and misery that inflicts those dwelling on terra-firma, while the upper class live the perfect, healthful existence on the space station above.

Genre filmmaking has long been the most effective method of making social critiques while veiling them in a fantastical world. *DISTRICT 9* explored the poverty and racial divide of Afrikaners, white, usually Dutch, South Africans, and native South Africans.

Instead of using the obvious racial division, Blomkamp used the stranded insect-like aliens- The Prawns.

In *Elysium*, his messages and parallels are more veiled. Clearly, there is an immigration message as the elites of Elysium, and their Secretary of Defense, played by Jodie Foster, invoke violent methods to keep a wall between the "commoners" of Earth and the crème of humanity.

We see the future equivalent of the thuggish "coyotes," who like their current counterparts, smuggle people across space and into Elysium on fake IDs. We see a distinctive, almost medieval, language barrier as the Earth bound speak Spanish and English almost interchangeably and those on Elysium, in the proper surrounding, speak only French.

While the geo political climate in the film is rife for more critiques and commentary, especial on class divisions, Blomkamp is restrained. Instead, he focuses on a more traditional tale of protagonist versus antagonist.

Max must make it to Elysium to cure himself of the fallout from an industrial accident. This is no small feat but things become more complicated when he is inadvertently entangled in the machinations of Jodie Foster's ruthless head of defense.

He has to make the heros' choice of selflessness over self-preservation, all while attempting to reconcile and help his estranged friend Frey and moreover being doggedly pursued by a military trained killing machine in the employ of Elysium named Krugar.

Krugar, played by Sharlto Copley, star of *District 9*, is so disgustingly savage that you occasional forget who our main character is. Copley, a minor producer, never acted before *DISTRICT 9*, but has since played a variety of parts, each as genuine as the last. He is captivating, if loathsome, throughout the film.

For those familiar with *District 9*, Blomkamp likes to get messy. His future weapons rend limbs and reduce humans (and aliens) to bloody sacks.

It is hard to look at occasionally, but this is hard scifi, free of the sterilities and PG-13 sensibilities of *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*.

This is scifi in the real world, or as close as we can get. The shocking violence is not only realistic, but brave. It does not glorify it as much as it shows the horror of such relentless weapons.

Weapons that likely exist on the cutting edge of current technology. For all its impressive cinematic spectacle, it too is a subtle commentary on violence for those scenes are unforgettable.

This is not Blomkamp's finest work, though I truly hope it is not his final either. His character arcs are immediately predictable and his character development relies on the convenient short hand of carefully chosen flashbacks and callbacks. All of which were more organically grown in the unique structure of *District 9*.

Still, Blomkamp incorporates and blends disparate filmmaking techniques that feel fresh and original.

In a cinema filled with traditional slow motion or newer "Bourne"-style quick cuts, Blomkamp has his own distinctive, almost documentarian, eye- made even more interesting my his creative futuristic weaponry and shockingly blunt death and carnage.

For fans of action, or scifi that is intelligent though not overtly so, *Elysium* is worth the money to see on the big screen.

For those of us in the 99%, there is some guilty satisfaction with the messy world below compromises the austerity of the ivory towers above.

Comics

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Bumper Crop - A Review of John Grisham's A Painted House

By: Jackson Hogan
Entertainment and Culture Contributor

It is not often that successful writers are able to transcend the beaten path they forge for themselves. Once distinguished in a genre, they are often forced to remain in that vein if they wish for their books to sell. John Grisham, who is the name in legal thrillers, breaks free of his usual routine of courtroom drama by weaving a tale that is sustained not by sensational suspense or a neck breaking speed, but by simple storytelling and beautiful prose.

In 1952, on a modest cotton farm in the lowlands of Arkansas, it is harvest time. The Chandler family will, as all county farmers, hire "hill people" of the Ozarks and Mexicans transported in cattle trailers to bring in the year's crop. As seen through the eyes of the littlest Chandler, a seven year old boy named Luke, the family and their juxtaposed hired help race to bring in 80 acres of white gold before picking season is over.

If it seems that this premise is almost impossibly simple, it is supposed to be. Grisham really chose to take on a project that flew in the face of all his previous work. His novels are characteristically complex, with high stakes, high finance, and high suspense. Yet this work tackles a plot that is much more difficult to coax interest out of: the minute ups and downs of a young boy's cotton picking summer break. He took on a challenge from himself, almost a dare. He faced the question many a writer must wrestle with: Am I really a good writer? Or did I just write the right thing, at the right time? So by stripping his work of everything except the pure merit of his prose, he took a huge risk, one that would reveal his true level of skill.

Luckily for both Grisham and his readers, he came through in ways that perhaps no one expected. Within the microcosm of the Chandler farm, Grisham conjures up such subtlety and ephemeral beauty that one feels the fertile loam beneath your feet, and the fiber of the cotton bolls between your fingers. The reader feels the boyhood joy of backyard baseball game in the same way a young boy would. You feel all the aspirations of the family members, which pale in comparison to our 21st century goals, become as valuable and tangible as they are to the farmers. As you read, your heart begins to beat in the same rhythm as the cicadas and your blood flows as easy as the creeks and rivers which Luke explores. Grisham decompresses the very soul of the reader, cleansing it of the hustle and bustle which accompanies modern life.

All that being said, don't let that make you think this read is nothing but a lazy river. Though unpretentious and humble, *A Painted House* is a page turner in its own right. It is true that there are no flash-bang moments; there are no cheap thrills to be found. Once you learn to glean the worth from its sentences like cotton from a boll, you earn the enjoyment of its captivating word magic. The book is not flash-fried fast food fiction; it is the slow, sweet smoking of a Southern masterpiece.

Why Cullman County Came to Pray

By: Dr. Mell Johnson

BRIEF BIO
Dr Mell has an ICF-Certified Practice in Applied Positive Psychology and more than 25 years of experience mentoring adults in transition.

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Crowds of people gathered together on Saturday, August 10, 2013, in Cullman County to pray for their community schools and colleges. The reasons are crystal clear. At school after school, in crowds so large there was standing-room only, parents, grandparents, neighbors, and children closed their eyes and bowed their heads for a common purpose.

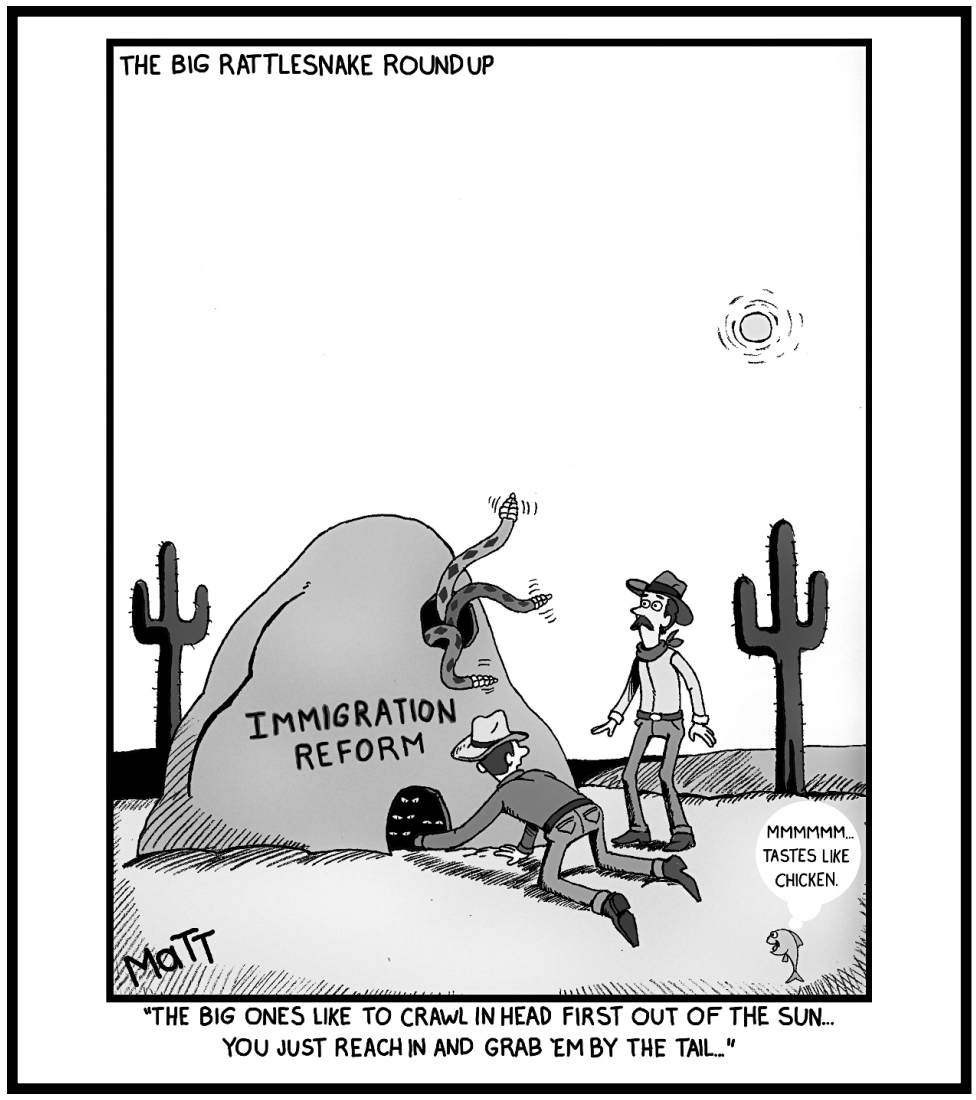
The measure of the crowd was not determined by the stylish clothes they were wearing or the expensive trucks and cars they were driving. The measure of the crowd was determined by the sincere and earnest intention they all felt to ask for God's blessings on the students, teachers, staffers and administrators who will soon begin a new school year in their communities.

Their intention was to exercise their power: to remove the bitter sting of laws their legislators created and Governor Bentley signed in Montgomery this year to take taxpayers' money away from their schools and give it to rich people whose children go to private schools. Their intention was to ask God to empower their prayers to bring new, stronger leadership to Montgomery and to their local school boards.

Their heartfelt prayers were to remove weak, selfish politicians from office who take revenue from schools and colleges and give it to wealthy individuals and corporations who hoard it for their personal gain. Their prayers were to free them of corrupt leadership whose only focus is on disrespecting teachers and taking benefits from educators, bus drivers, school nurses, and principals who sacrifice their own paychecks to protect their students, maintain their classrooms, and sustain their schools.

Their prayers were extended to students and parents who are struggling in hard, harsh economic times. They asked God to give their local and state leadership the courage to ask the citizens of Alabama to participate in shared sacrifice—to insist that wealthy individuals and corporations that take natural and human resources from this state give back a fair share of their profits in taxes to generate real revenue for schools and colleges.

They asked that God guide their legislators in Montgomery to stop penalizing teachers with bad laws that rob public education dollars and asked Governor Bentley to stop colluding with greedy politicians by signing legislation that robs taxpayers, shuts down schools and kills good communities. Their pure and soulful intentions will not be ignored by the One who heard their prayers and will deliver them from the hateful scourge of weak leaders and bad laws. Those of us who were with them in spirit appreciate their effort, support their causes, and join with them in asking that God heal our hearts, strengthen our leadership, embolden our educators, and guide us all toward an unflinching focus on excellence in public education in Alabama.



Cryptozoology: An exercise in the unknown

By: Josh McBrayer
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As many of you know, I write a weekly column of the things that I find interesting and I hope you enjoy reading about them. I mostly write about things like baseball and autograph collecting that are passions of mine. What you may not know is I have another, slightly obscure passion and that is Cryptozoology, which is the study of hidden and/or unknown animals.

I have been fascinated and intrigued by the unknown and unexplained from a very young age. I even recall my own fleeting encounter with something I cannot explain. I was very young, maybe around seven or eight.

It was a warm summer night and my parents had lifted the windows to let some fresh air into the house. My dad had sat a small radio in the window and it was playing soft music from the sixties. My mom had already retired to the bedroom for the evening and my dad was in the kitchen.

As I sat in the floor playing I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. Something big and reddish in color had just crossed our yard on two feet. It looked like a hairy man but with an unnatural red tint to his hair, which covered his body. Of course, when I told my parents and sister about it, they didn't believe me and to this day, and with me now in my 30s, it is a running joke about the "Big Red Thing" that I saw. Everyone laughs and gets a kick out of it but I swear I saw something in our yard. I think that is where my love for the legends of Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and others began. While most cryptozoologists are still trying to prove or disprove the cryptozoology "rock stars" like the Loch Ness Monster, Yeti, Bigfoot, and others, the field is a real science and has made significant discoveries over the years. Here are just a few of the cryptids that turned out to be real.

Pre-1800s naturalists exploring the vast wildernesses of the world would often report seeing a curious animal that was a mammal but uncharacteristic of a mammal that laid eggs. Furthermore, the animal looked to be a hodgepodge of different animals. It had the furry body and tail of a beaver and small clawed feet like that of an otter with the hind leg that was equipped with a venomous spur. But the most unusual thing about the animal was that it had the bill of a duck. Now clearly this animal is made up, right? Wrong. The animal early Europeans were describing is the egg laying, venom secreting, duck billed platypus.

Next on the weird list is a real life dragon. Early explores told tails of a armor clad beasts ten feet long with viscous claws and the ability to kill a man just by breathing on him. Once again, claims of such a monster were quickly dismissed until the rumors of the giant reached the ears of a Dutch lieutenant. The result? The komodo dragon which can grow ten feet long and has sharp claws and a feisty disposition. Although they cannot kill you with their breath, their bite is filled with nasty bacteria that is toxic.

Perhaps the most famous of known cryptids is the mountain man of the jungle. Natives of Africa long told stories of hairy men who lived in the forests. They were giant, lived in groups and were exceptionally strong. The reports were scoffed at by outsiders until a pair of the "mountain men" were shot in 1902. The specimens led to the discovery of the mountain gorilla and subsequent other gorilla species.

And there you have it; proof that everything you hear should not be so easily discounted. The next time someone tells you a crazy story about a weird animal they saw, keep an open mind, it may just be a new species waiting to be discovered.

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Prayer Rally (from Front)

Caravan Rally organizer, said.

"He has brought us all together in faith and love."

Cullman County School Superintendent Billy Coleman drew much attention from the FFRF following a post on the school system's website and Twitter account regarding the annual Prayer Caravan.

Coleman, who held a press conference earlier in the week, reaffirmed his stance on the rally, stating that the event is not a county school system sanctioned event.

"It's so overwhelming and it's hard to put in words, but I do think that people in this country are ready to take a stand. Sometimes it takes a challenge to make us take that stand. I believe that the heart of America still believes in Christian values and what this country was founded on," Coleman said.

"What makes this country great is respecting others rights but at the same time we need to recognize that this country was built on Christian values and we are not going to compromise our values."

The Prayer Caravan Rally capped off a day of prayer which worked it's way across the county, from school yard to school yard.

"The Prayer Caravan Rally was organized and set up by the concerned citizens and local Christians in defense for not only the freedoms of prayer but to stand on all freedoms and rights of the Christian community, which are little by little being taken by groups such as the FFRF," McDonald stated on The Prayer Caravan's Facebook page.

The rally was held at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. It drew an estimated 1,000 attendees.

For more on this story, including photos, visit CullmanSense.com.





Photos by Jessica Norrel (cover, rally); Dustin Isom (aerial); Pam Willingham (Fairview); Elizabeth Watwood (Hanceville); Nathan and Shanda Chambers (Holly Pond)



Stars (from Front)

strokes of genius.

Brackeen, exuding her established paradigm of charisma and carefree energy, swings into a very technical execution of what I will refer to as swingy leg syndrome.

Meanwhile, Chandler, is channeling Carlton Banks circa the late 90s from the infamous sitcom, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, swingy sashay and all. I believe we all know what dance move this is.

I believe I can safely say that the audience is confused and intrigued by this point, having watched many talented dancer pairs portray a variety of technical levels and inspirations of dance.

Emcee, Mike Ledbetter, takes the stage as the duo commences, and says in awe, "Is it really over or is it just another interlude?"

The crowd cheers, uplifted by the eclectic surge of dance.

This unique, annual event draws people from all mediums and abilities of dance with one vital, common interest – the desire to raise funds for cancer research.

"We are a family team raising funds to donate to cancer research," Janet Laney, Circle of Hope team captain, said, "We've been involved with Relay for Life for 10 years, and this year we decided to direct our funds to St. Vincent's Bruno Cancer Center."

Last year, Circle of Hope raised over $21,000 in funds that was donated to the American Cancer Society.

The family team has also raised over $135,000 over the past 10 years, accruing their funds through a variety of events and activities from an archery competition to a beauty pageant.

The annual Dancing with our Stars event was another creative idea to engage the community in their pursuit to fight cancer.

Laney's sister, Elaine Blackwood, explains their passion for the cause: "I received my treatment from Bruno Cancer Center. They helped me and now we can help them. When you have to make that journey [fighting cancer], it's great to have people who care. I felt like I was surrounded by angels at the Bruno Cancer Center."

Blackwood continues, explaining how many Cullman residents go on to receive treatment from the Bruno Cancer Center.

"We live in the greatest, most caring community. People are so willing to help others and it comes so naturally for people to want to help, whether it be reaching out and helping others, or making a donation or a pledge. We can make a difference."

The room is enveloped in darkness. Its silenced audience waits in antsy anticipation of the results. People shift about, someone coughs, and a small kid cries out. Finally the shuffle of feet is heard as the dancers prepare to walk out one last time.

Much applause follows as the entrants are called out in their collective pairs: Ruth Downs and Bill Sacra (taking home the Mirror Ball trophy); Kellian Carperter and Payton Palmer (taking home the People's Choice Award); Wayne Smith and Cheryl Harrison; Christie Warnke and Richard Bradbury (taking home the Judge's Choice Award); Bobbie Brown and Phillip Farley; Terry Shabel and Jessica Brackeen; and Noah Chandler and Jessica Brackeen.

Entertainment was provided by: the Wallace State Jazz Band and director Ricky Burkes; ABC's Dancing with the Stars Fabian Sanchez and Jackie Sanchez; Tahauny Cleghorn; and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Farley.

The glowing dancers wave to the crowd as they laugh in unison and start to idly chat. I drift over to my good friends as everything draws to a close.

I raise an eyebrow at Mr. Chandler as he sums up his experience with the following comment: "I enjoyed myself. Jessica is a wonderful dancer. I knew I had to devise a routine that showcased her true abilities while pointing out my obvious flaws, which is movement in any way."