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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Construction to take place near City Economic Development Agency due to problems related to old water treatment plant

There will be construction taking place in the parking lot in front of the Cullman City Economic Development Agency building next week. There will be restricted access into the parking lot until construction is complete. Please bear with us.

We have discovered problems underground related to the old water treatment plant that must be repaired. – Mayor Max A. Townson

Registration, Voting Underway for 2013 Cullman Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Contributed by: Brian Lacy

CULLMAN – Registration and voting has started for the 2013 Cullman EC Annual Meeting that will take place Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, from 8 a.m. until noon at Northbrook Baptist Church.

Voting this year includes candidates running for three spots on the co-op board of trustees, and a proposal to make changes to the co-op by laws.

The candidates for District 2 are Tim Butts, current board member Lynda Carter, and Keith Wise. In District 4, current board member James Fields is running against Martha Hart. Candidates for the District 6 seat are Jeff Byars and current board member Daryl Calvert.

Co-op members are also being asked to vote either for or against proposed changes to the co-op bylaws. A complete list of the proposed changes was published as a special 16-page insert in the July edition of Alabama Living magazine, which is delivered to all co-op members.

Any Cullman EC member who wants to review a copy of the proposed changes can download a PDF file from the co-op's website at www.cullmanec.com, or come by the Cullman or Addison office and ask for a copy.

Co-op members should have received their registration card, ballot, and voting instructions in the mail this month. Signed registration cards and completed ballots should be sent in the business reply envelope and must be received by the independent auditor no later than Sept. 19, 2013. Members can vote absentee by coming to the Cullman or Addison office before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Members can also register and vote by coming to the Annual Meeting between 8 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21. 2013.

Cullman Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative serving more than 42,000 member accounts in Cullman, Morgan, Lawrence, and Winston counties.

2013 Cullman Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees Candidates

DISTRICT 2 — Tim Butts, Lynda Carter, and Keith Wise

Tim Butts has been a self-employed home-builder for 22 years and a poultry farmer for 17 years. He is a graduate p7

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Mrs. Martha Wells asks a few questions to begin the school year.

St. Bernard Prep Opens New School Year

By: Joyce Nix • St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – Students from across the globe became residents or commuting students at St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman this past weekend.

President, Fr. Joel Martin said the school enrollment for 2013-14 remained basically the same with an increase of only one student over the ending enrollment of the previous year. Twenty six of those students are international from six different countries.

Having travelled to four different countries in the past nine months, Fr. Joel said that his trips have been successful in recruiting students to Alabama and especially St. Bernard. "There is a great deal of interest on the part of students to study here. The students understand English is the language of the world for business, and they see American Universities as the best in the world and want to be well prepared for this experience."

In the resident program at St. Bernard, there are 49 students enrolled, 21 girls and 28 boys. There are seven boarding students in the Middle School and 42 in the high school.

Middle School principal, William Calvert was pleased with the numbers but added he has four spaces open for additional students. "All of our Middle School students came to class in uniforms and were ready for the first day of school," Calvert said. "It's a great indication of their willingness to get started on the right track. Calvert added that the seventh grade enrichment program would include a study of the seven habits of successful people in addition to study skills and current events.

On the high school level, Counselor Mary Mayo, also reported that the first day had gone very smoothly. Mayo said she had to make a few schedule changes, and, in general the students were adjusting to the rhythm of academic life. St. Bernard Prep is operated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Bernard Abbey. For more information contact the school at www.stbernardprep.com or 256-739-6682. Applications for the first semester will be accepted through Labor Day.

Alabama Shining Star Special Needs Pageant

By: Chasity Waddell McRae

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139: 13-14

CULLMAN – The 3rd annual Alabama Shining Star Special Needs Pageant will be at 6:00 p.m. on September 14, 2013 at the Cullman Civic Center.

The pageant is open to any male or female, from birth to adult, who has a mental or physical disability or deformity. We welcome anyone from any area, not just Cullman County.

We currently have numerous people from the Birmingham and Decatur/Huntsville area that are participating.

The past two years we've had around 50 contestants, but hope this year will be even bigger and better.

This is a non-profit event, with any proceeds exceeding the costs being donated to the Cleft Palate Foundation in honor of my daughter.

The money is then used for patients to have the cleft surgeries needed, maintain a scholarship fund, produce cleft bears for Children's Hospital in Birmingham, and provide family assistance to those in need.

We do this as a service for those with special needs, so it is completely free for them. We want them to be able to do something that society deems as "normal" and something we take for granted.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity to celebrate differences without any ridicule.

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville donates their time and services to provide hair and make-up for free.

We also try to work with local businesses and individuals to get dresses and tuxes for everyone that needs one.

Special needs cost enough money, so we want this experience to just be fun and worry free.

Contestants get to dress up, feel pretty/handsome, have fun getting praise, and attention, and take home a crown.

We do give place awards, but everyone, male and female, gets a crown. It is a life changing event!

For more information call Chasity at 256-775-6373.

Wallace State Theatre to Hold Auditions for Shrek: The Musical on Thursday

By: Kristen Holmes • WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Theatre announces open auditions for Shrek: The Musical. All students and community members welcome!

Auditions will be Thursday, August 29, beginning at 2:30 pm at WSCC's Burrow Center. Auditions will last until 6 p.m. Participants should prepare 32 bars of a song that shows range and bring an accompaniment CD or marked sheet music.

Participants should also be prepared to read from the script, and bring appropriate attire for a group dance audition. High school students interested in receiving college credit for participating in the production may enroll in Theatre Workshop as a dual enrollment student.

For more information, contact Lauren Salerno at 256-352-8422 or theatre@wallacestate.edu.

St. Bernard Implements Summer ESL Program

Joyce Nix • St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – Two international students from China are getting a jump start on American culture in preparation for the upcoming school year. Kedi Mo and Travis Cai are currently enrolled in this Summer's newly-created ESL camp at St. Bernard Prep School in Cullman. The camp is a four-week program designed with a focus on improving English skills in speaking, listening, writing, reading, and analysis.

Br. Linus Klucsarits, OSB, who teaches ESL at St. Bernard said this is the start-up of what he hopes to see continue to grow and become more popular with other nationalities around the world.

Kedi and Travis are from China and are proficient in speaking the English language. Their culture has prepared them well for studies in the United States as both prepare to study in the U.S.

Getting settled in was a smooth process as students found their home and got their banking completed and cell phones working. "The people at Wells Fargo and AT&T were very patient and kind in helping students get their accounts activated in Cullman," Br. Linus continued.

American culture is a focus of the language process. "The students and I have enjoyed becoming familiar with the Southeast through documentaries, books, and travel," Br. Linus said.

Student studies have included trips to the Helen Keller Museum, the Space and Rocket Center, and the Civil Rights Center, as well as a trip to Atlanta to watch a Braves game, explore the world of Coca Cola, and visit the Georgia Aquarium.

To conclude their final weeks, St. Bernard has partnered with the NASA Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville for the students to attend Space Camp. "This has been a great experience for all of us," Br. Linus continued. "We are hoping to grow next year by adding more diversity to the camp. It works best if they can process in their own language and then go back to work through it in English."

St. Bernard Prep School is a private co-educational boarding and day school for students in grades 7-12. For more information visit www.stbernardprep.com or like their page at www.facebook.com/stbernardprep.

What's Online

Cullman native named finalist for 480th Airman AF level Award

A member of the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, Lt. Robert Lee, has been selected as a finalist for the Air Force Association's Gill Robb Wilson Award.

qrne.ws/86



Party in the Park: Exit 310 Performs Benefit Concert for The Link of Cullman County

It's mid-August and the hint of an early fall breeze presented itself this past Friday night. Families watched their children play, strangers became friends, and everyone around the stage nodded their...

qrne.ws/87

Bumper Crop: A Review of John Grisham's *A Painted House*

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.

qrne.ws/88

Survey: Americans Unfamiliar With the Common Core

By: Adrienne Lu • Stateline

A majority of Americans have never heard of the Common Core State Standards and dissatisfaction with standardized testing in schools is growing, according to a survey released recently.

The Common Core, which was voluntarily adopted by all but a handful of states, consists of English and math standards establishing what children should learn each year from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The standards were intended to ensure students graduate from high school prepared to enter college or begin careers, as well as to provide some uniformity in education among the states.

Among the findings of the survey by Phi Delta Kappa International and Gallup:

- 62 percent of those surveyed had never heard of the standards. Even among those with children in public schools, only 45 percent had heard of the Common Core.
- Only 22 percent said testing helped the performance of their local school, down from 28 percent in 2007. Another 36 percent went further, saying that testing was hurting school performance.
- Americans are also growing wary of using students' standardized tests to evaluate teachers. In just one year, the percentage of respondents who oppose using tests for teacher evaluations grew from 47 percent to 58 percent.
- Even those who said they had heard of the Common Core had false impressions of the standards. Some agreed that the Common Core will create standards in all academic areas, is based on a blend of state standards or is a mandate of the federal government—all of which are false.
- William J. Bushaw, executive director of PDK International, a professional association for educators based in Arlington, Va., said he was surprised how many Americans have not heard of the Common Core.

"State and local education leaders have been very focused on implementing the standards and working on the new assessments," Bushaw said. "It really wasn't until less than a year ago that groups suddenly raised criticism against the standards. It's my opinion that the state and local leaders were caught off guard by that."

The Common Core has critics on both the left and right. Conservative critics say it is an intrusion from the federal government. (The standards were adopted by the states, but the Obama administration has strongly supported the effort.)

Some critics on the left have expressed concerns about the testing associated with the standards, arguing that the tests are too difficult or that teachers should not be evaluated based on student testing.

Bushaw said he expects education leaders will devote more effort to informing the public about the Common Core so that they will be more supportive of it.

Sandra Boyd is chief operating officer and senior vice president of strategic initiatives for Achieve, a nonprofit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C. that helped to create the Common Core, along with the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers.

Boyd said that while some individual teachers, schools, and districts have done a good job educating parents and the public about the Common Core and its implications, the survey indicates a need for more communication.

"The takeaway for everyone is that it's really important for parents and for the general public to understand what the expectations in schools are, what kids should be able to do at the end of every grade," Boyd said. "It's incumbent upon everyone that that's the case."

Other surveys have also found that the public is not very familiar with the Common Core.

A recent poll by the Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago found that 26 percent of parents think their children take too many tests.

Fifty-two percent of parents surveyed said they have heard little or nothing about the Common Core.

Parents surveyed in the AP poll appeared to support standardized testing more strongly than those surveyed by PDK International, with 75 percent saying standardized tests are a good measure of children's abilities and 69 percent agreeing that such tests are a good measure of a school's quality.

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

Attorneys Generals' Hope to Snuff 'Little Cigars'

By: Mark Matthews • Stateline

Attorneys general from 39 states and Guam are lobbying to change federal regulations that allow tobacco manufacturers to classify cigarettes as "little cigars," which they say allows these companies to skirt health restrictions and taxes.

In two petitions sent to federal regulators in April and May, the attorneys general called on the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) to modify its rules to prevent tobacco companies from labeling cigarettes as little cigars.

Little cigars avoid advertising and health restrictions imposed by a 1998 deal between tobacco companies and 46 state attorneys general. Called the Master Settlement Agreement, this deal prohibits techniques such as using cartoon characters in tobacco advertising.

Taxes on cigars are significantly lower, which allows tobacco companies to sell little cigars at about half the price of cigarettes, according to the attorneys' general petition. Little cigar manufacturers also don't have to report their ingredients to the Centers for Disease Control and they can avoid putting health-warning labels on cigar packages.

"The incorrect and inaccurate classification of Little Cigars raises numerous public health and other public policy concerns for States ... The States therefore petition the TTB to adopt new rules to stop unscrupulous manufactures from continuing their end run around all the federal and state laws and regulations designed to tax and regulate cigarettes," reads the petition, which is being pushed by Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller.

Consumption of little cigars have more than doubled in the last decade, from about 1.4 billion in 1995 to more than 3.7 billion in 2005, according to Department of Agriculture statistics cited by the attorneys general.

At the same time, sales of cigarettes reached a 55-year low in 2005 with sales of about 378 billion, according to the National Association of Attorneys General.

The crackdown on the "little cigar" loophole has at least one detractor. Norman E. Kjono, who serves on the board of directors of the consumer advocacy group Forces Inc., said states are pushing to reclassify little cigars primarily as a means to generate tax revenue.

"It's a revenue play, that's what it is," Kjono said.

But a representative from the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company said the company would cooperate with the attorneys general.

"We look forward to being involved in the process of ensuring that all tobacco products are properly classified — be it cigarettes, cigars or little cigars," according to a company statement.

The push against little cigars adds to a string of recent state efforts to pressure the tobacco industry.

In January, 37 attorneys general reached an agreement with tobacco manufacturer Philip Morris to curb online cigarette sales. And in March, Eliot Spitzer, New York's Attorney General, pushed to stop the shipment of cigarettes through the mail.

More states also requiring tobacco companies to manufacture "fire-safe" cigarettes designed to burn out quickly and prevent house fires.

In 2004, New York became the first state to require fire-safe cigarettes and four states since have followed suit — including Illinois on May 19 and New Hampshire on May 31.

Bill Roach, a spokesman for attorney general Miller, said the numerous state cigarette battles are not a coordinated effort. Rather, it's the result of the industry's effect on the country.

"The tobacco industry sells a product that is responsible for the deaths of 1,200 people every day in America. On many levels, government has the responsibility to deal with the enormous loss of life. And that does mean multiple fronts," he said.

Roach said he expects TTB to take several months to review the attorneys' general petition.

The 39 states that backed the little cigar petition include: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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

Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey Appointed to Co-Chair National Military Affairs Committee

By: Katy Sulhoff

MONTGOMERY – Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey has been tapped to Co-Chair the National Lieutenant Governor's Association (NLGA) State Strategies in Military Affairs committee by NLGA Chair Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb.

The newly-formed committee is a forum for lieutenant governors to collectively advance conversation and knowledge about the effect on states of federal actions related to the military, such as the Base Realignment and Closure process (BRAC) and sequestration.

"Alabama has seen the positive and negative effects of changes to our military installations, so I feel confident I can bring that knowledge to the table when discussing the matter on a national level," said Lieutenant Governor Ivey. "Our military installations play a crucial role in our state and national defense and are an economic driving force. I am deeply involved in efforts to protect and maintain Alabama's military assets as Chair of the Military Stability Commission, so I was very pleased to be asked to serve as co-chair of the committee to help strengthen the military at home and across the country," said Lieutenant Governor Ivey.

Members of the committee will work in conjunction with other state leaders and federal delegations on pressing military issues within a state or region. Montana Lieutenant Governor John Walsh will also serve as Co-Chair of this important committee.

NLGA is the professional association providing research and issue exchange opportunities to the officeholders first in line of succession to governor in all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

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Six AU football players on Coaches All-SEC Team

By: Shelly Poe

AUBURN – Six Auburn football players were selected as part of the SEC Coaches preseason all-conference teams released recently.

Running back Tre Mason, who rushed for 1,002 yards in 2012, and center Reese Dismukes, a third-year starter on the offensive line, were selected for the second team offense. Placekicker Cody Parkey and punter Steven Clark, both seniors, were second-team honorees as well.

Named to the third team were tight end C.J. Uzomah and defensive end Dee Ford.

This marks the 11th straight year of the SEC Coaches preseason all-SEC team.

Eleven of the 14 SEC schools had a representative on the first team, while every institution had at least two players named to one of the three units.

Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players.

Auburn's season opener is Saturday, August 31, at Jordan-Hare Stadium versus Washington State in a 6 p.m. Central kickoff.

The calm before the storm; jamboree games showcase high school football talent

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

All across the county trams were lacing up cleats, pulling on pads and strapping on helmets for a battle in the trenches. The jamboree games may just be a warm before the regular season kicks off but that doesn't mean the seven Cullman County schools took their games lightly.

Big bombs, lightning quick rushes, and bone jarring tackles were the name of the game on Thursday and Friday, giving fans a sneak peek on what to expect from their favorite team in 2013. Here is a rundown of the teams from across the county.

Good Hope 28 @ West Point 7
Under the leadership of new head football coach Dan Farley, the West Point Warriors dominated the first two quarters of their three quarter affair with the Good Hope Raiders. However it was Good Hope who would control the game for the last quarter, forcing an interception and back to back fumbles that the Raiders converted into 21 points on their way to victory.

Meek 0 @ Cold Springs 14
The Cold Springs Eagles picked up right where they left off last year, with a win. The Eagles shut out the visiting Meek Tigers with a strong run game. The Eagles also played strong on the defensive side of the football. Expect good things for the blue and gold Eagles this season.

Arab 6 @ Fairview 0
Fairview ran all over Arab Friday night, chewing up yardage as the marched up and down the field. Unfortunately for the Aggies, turnovers kept them from pay dirt. The defense was reminiscent of the old Pittsburgh Steelers' "Steel Curtain" defense. The only major blemish was a 60+ yard bomb that set up a one yard plunge for Arab. This turned out to be the lone score of the night.

Corner 14 @ Hanceville 7 / Brookwood 0 @ Hanceville 6
Hanceville played a split jamboree game Friday night and it was truly a tale of two quarters as the first varsity quarter was played vs. Corner and the third quarter, also varsity, was played vs. Briarwood.

"We didnt play very well in the first quarter," said Hanceville head coach Danny Miller, "but I think we improved in the third."

Hanceville has always been known for their run game and this year is no exception, but Miller did stress the fact that he wanted his team to be more efficient throwing the ball as well.

JB Pennington 21 @ Vinemont 13
Big plays doomed the Vinemont Eagles Friday night as they took on the JB Pennington Tigers in a warmup contest, but it was not all bad news. Despite getting beat in the secondary, Vinemont largely won the battle. They were able to run at will behind John Michael Dye who has big shoes to fill following one of the best runners Vinemont has had, Ty Jones.

Holly Pond @ West End
Check cullmansense.com for a recap of the Broncos jamboree outing at West End.

United Way of Cullman County
Presents



"Fabulous In the French Quarter"

Thursday, September 12, 2013
Preview of Tablescapes: 11am – 1pm
Tickets: $10.00
Dinner, Tablescapes, Live Entertainment,
Silent Auction:
6pm – 9pm
Tickets: $65.00
Top of the Town, 316 2nd Ave. SW
Tickets can be purchased at the United Way Office.
304 First Ave. NE (The old train depot)
RSVP Deadline: September 5, 2013
256.739.2948
Proceeds help benefit United Way and their 13 Partner Agencies.

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CALLING ALL
EXHIBITORS!!

Saturday, Sept. 7 8AM-1PM
•Receive individual entries in **Handicraft, Sewing and Canning**
•Receive individual entries in **Art** (Exhibit Building)
(Fairgrounds will close at 1:30 PM)

Sunday, Sept. 8 1PM-5PM
•Receive individual entries in **Photography** (Exhibit Building)
•Receive individual entries in **Art** (Exhibit Building)

Monday, September 9
9AM-5PM •**Set Up Exhibit Booths**
Commercial, Community Clubs, 4-H, FCCLA, FFA
Noon-6PM •Receive individual entries in **Handicraft, Sewing and Canning**
•Receive individual entries in **Art** (Exhibit Building)

Tuesday, September 10
9AM-5PM •**Set Up Exhibit Booths**
Commercial, Community Clubs, 4-H, FCCLA, FFA
Noon-6PM •Receive individual entries in **Handicraft, Sewing and Canning**
•Receive individual entries in **Art** (Exhibit Building)

Wednesday, September 11
1 PM - 6PM •Receive THE FOLLOWING field crops & Honey (Agriculture Exhibit Building)
Department M - **Field Crops**
Division I - **Corn**
Division II - **Hay**
Division III - **Cotton**
Division IV - **Soybeans**
Division V - **Potatoes**
Division VI - **Pumpkins**
Division VII - **Peppers**
Division VIII - **Watermelons**
Division IX - **Vegetables**
Division X - **Tomatoes**
Division XI - **Current Season Gourds**
Division XII - **Apples**
Division XIII - **Pears**
Department N - **Apiculture**
All the Honey Entries

Thursday, September 12
8 AM - 10 AM •Receive entries in Horticulture (Dept. O)
8AM - 11AM •Receive individual entries in Food Department I Culinary Foods D
9AM - 11AM •Receive Division III FCCLA and FFA Food Entries

Information on Rules and Check-in times for all competitive exhibits is available at...
www.cullmanfair.com
or you may call 256-734-0661. Exhibitors may come by the Fairgrounds Office starting Wednesday Sept. 4th to register so exhibitor labels will be ready when you come on your division's entry day.

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION
Exhibitor Labels. You may call 256-734-0661 or come by the Fair Office at 1501 Sportsman Lake Road to register so exhibitor labels will be ready when you come to enter your exhibits. Please advise us of any change of name, address or telephone number.

Your name, address and telephone number are required to register. This information is not sold, given or shared with anyone outside the Cullman County Fair Association or the Cullman Lions Club. For each exhibit entered you will receive a ticket to place in a drawing for $100.00 cash.

There will be 20 $100.00 winners & one $500.00 grand prize winner for a total of $2500.00.
Exhibitors may only win one time each year. Exhibitors may enter one exhibit in each class of all Divisions and Departments.

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Area Team Spotlight: the Cold Springs Eagles

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

COLD SPRINGS - The Spotlight turns its attention to the top of the mountain in Bremen to find Cold Springs High School in this week's team spotlight.

The Eagles took a step in the right direction last year, winning their first game of the 2012 campaign and snapping a 35 game losing streak that dated back midway through the 2008 season.

The Eagles went on to win three games in the season, 36-6 vs. Decatur Heritage, 22-6 over Francis Marion, and a 40-22 victory over Carbon Hill.

Head coach Rodney Elliott is looking for the same success from his team, but more of it.

As he prepares his team for the upcoming season, he took time from his preparations to answer these questions for the Spotlight.

Josh McBrayer: What starters from last year's team did you lose? What positions did they play?
Rodney Elliott: We lost one full time starter Vince Stewart. He played RB and DB. Terry Campbell was a part time starter that played OL.

JM: What new players do you have coming in this year that will see a lot of playing time? What positions?
RE: We have several players that will help contribute this year.

Elisha Crandall and Christian Crandall are two kids that will be new to the program that will help us a lot with their quickness at the RB position and DB. Alson Nic Rollo is a 9th grader that will help at RB.

JM: Who are you looking to for the biggest impact on offense? Defense?
RE: Logan Campbell and Caleb Ellison are already established players in the program. The 2 Crandall's will be called on a lot. Austin RIchard and Zac Ellison at the TE position.
JM: What are your expectations for the 2013 season?
RE: Our goal this year and every year is to make the playoffs. I think with hard work and things going our way will have a very good shot at being in the playoffs.

The Cold Springs Eagle are ready to kick off the 2013 season and look to improve on last year's 3-7 mark.

With the new players coming in and Elliott heading into his sixth overall season as head coach, the Eagles are in a prime position to make a run at the 2A Region 4 title.

Area Team Spotlight: the Hanceville Bulldogs

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - In a special double dip, the Spotlight was affixed on two teams this week, the second of which is the Hanceville Bulldogs.

As Danny Miller settles in for his fifth full season as the Bulldogs head coach, he has one thing on his mind, getting off to a fast start.

"Don't start the season like we did last year," responded Miller when asked about his goals this year. "We do not need to put ourselves in a hole that we have to climb out of."

The hole Miller is referring to is the 0-3 start his team got off to last year, where the Bulldogs were outscored 114-40 in the three contests. However, Hanceville righted the ship and went on to win the next seven straight before falling to Deshler in the first round of the state playoffs.

Just like other teams around the county the Bulldogs will have a transition this year. The big blow is losing HB/LB Sheldon Lewis. The good news for Hanceville is they are one of the few teams in the county that have an experienced quarterback under center for the 2013 season.

"We line up and run the ball well," said Miller, "but we are looking for more consistency throwing the ball."

Miller is optimistic about the new season while he looks to his veteran players like Bronte Harris and Tory Glenn to lead the Bulldogs deep into the playoffs.

Avoiding the pitfalls of "fad" collecting

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Pop quiz: What do hula hoops, poodle skirts, and neon leg warmers have on common? Answer: They were all just fads and now are relegated to thrift stores and landfills.

Yes, there have been some crazy fads over the course of American history. Unfortunately, the same is true in the autograph world. There has been many a collector who has fallen victim the fad collecting side of the autograph collecting hobby.

In this column, I will outline the three biggest potential busts (in the hobby world) and how you can avoid sinking tons of money into a collection that is valuable now, but will be worth a tenth of what you paid three years down the road.

Number One: Bryce Harper
Bryce Harper is a 20 year old baseball prodigy who had an impressive rookie season. As a fresh faced 19 year old, he hit .270 with 22 home runs and 59 RBIs in 139 games with the Washington Nationals. With his strong debut season and a strong amateur baseball background, Harper's autograph has skyrocketed.

However, Harper's sophomore season has not been so stellar. While he is matching last year's average, Harper has developed a bit of a reckless streak, smashing into the wall on two different occasions.

Harper plays with reckless abandon that, if not curbed, can potentially shave years off of his career.

Right now Harper is hot on the secondary market. He does not seem to like to sign autographs, making his signature even more sought after. A Harper ball routinely fetches $100+ with bats and jerseys in the $200 range. Game used equipment (if authenticated) can reach upwards of $400-500.

My prediction is that in three years Harper is a very solid ball player with the tools to be great, but like most rookies who start red hot on the collectables market, he will inevitably cool off; except in rare cases of a player like Derek Jeter or Albert Pujols.

If you must add Harper to your collection right now, you can add him for $60 or less (on a ball) if you are willing to shop around, or you can hold off for a couple of years and pick one up for under $50 when the demand drops and drives the price down.

Number Two: Yasiel Puig
This is one that really amazes me. Puig came straight from AA Chattanooga to the Los Angeles Dodgers and made an immediate impact. When he was called up on June 3rd, he caught fire hitting everything in sight to the tune of a .443 average over 27 games. Everyone jumped on the Puig bandwagon.

Hobby shops could not keep signed Puig baseballs in stock and when they did have them, they were a bargain at $200. Do you know who had a similar start to Puig? Jeff Francouer. That's right, just like Puig, Francouer was supposed to be the next breakout star. Instead he has now been released by his fifth team in eight years and his signed baseballs can be found for less than $20.

I am not saying the same is going to happen with Puig but the scouting report is getting around on him. In the next 15 games after his red hot start, Puig hit just .220.

Only time will tell on Puig, but $200 for a signed ball is ridiculous. If you are going to drop that on a ball, it would be better spent on an established star like Jeter or Ichiro, or on a Hall of Famer like Hank Aaron or Ted Williams.

Number Three: Mike Trout
Trout is by far the most established star in this list as he, in his first two full tears in the big leagues, has been a 2x All Star, Rookie of the Year, Silver Slugger winner, and has already hit for the cycle.

But just like the others mentioned here, his memorabilia is much overpriced. With baseballs selling in the $150-200 range and premium items considerably higher, Trout should be left alone for a few years and then you will be able to get a signature for $100 or less when more examples of his autograph hit the market.

As I sit in my living room writing this article, I look at my walls and see autographs from legends and established stars like Aaron, Mantle and Mays and I think to myself, thank goodness I was never swept up in fad collecting.



cullman city parks & recreation
cp&r
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.

Like CullmanSense on Facebook

Farm Y'all: Celebrating the Agriculture of our Community

By: Natalie Bonner

Temperatures soared into the 90s this past Saturday as families enjoyed Cullman's first agriculturally themed festival, Farm Y'all, held at Depot Park and surrounding areas.

The festival brings a literal interpretation of farm-to-fork with the Farmer's Market bringing its slew of farmers and fresh produce, several different organizations and groups, highly anticipated chefs conducting culinary demonstrations, and a variety of fun family-oriented games.

The Farmer's Market set up in the Festhalle Market Platz was especially abundant on this hot August day, with an array of fresh fruits and ripened vegetables available for purchase along with cute crafts and nifty items for sale.

"As my first time here, it has been very rewarding. There have been lots of orders and great sales," first-time vendor Karen McCluskey said. There are a lot of friendly people, and you see a lot of friends you haven't seen in awhile. I look forward to coming back."

Amid all the food and games were some interesting competitions in the form of overweight vegetables, with Trent Boyd dubbed pumpkin king with his 903-pound wonder, and Frank Mudd taking the prize for largest watermelon at a staggering 276 pounds.

One of the highlights of this year's program was the chefs' schedule, which included some of the state's top chefs preparing fresh food from their own restaurant's menus including: Chef Matt Heim of All Steak Restaurant; Chef Dyron Powell of Dyron's Lowcountry; Chef Frank Stitt of Highlands Bar and Grill; Chef Chris Hastings of Hot and Hot Fish Club; Chef Clif Holt of Little Savannah; and Chef Chris Villa of Wallace State Culinary Arts.

Cullman Mayor Max Townson said, "We've had some outstanding chefs here that came from Birmingham and some actually local because they grew up here and graduated from high school here. They've become famous for all of their great food, and it's great to have them back in Cullman."

Frank Stitt, owner and executive chef of Highlands Bar and Grill, Bottega, Bottega Café, and Chez Fonfon, was a highly anticipated guest among the masses. Stitt grew up in Cullman and has an appreciation for this town.

"There's a sincerity, a genuineness, and a work ethic that is pervasive of Cullman," Stitt said. There's a quality about the people here that they seem to cherish their connection to the land, to farming, to hard work, to community, and to those kind of values that seem like they're in the water here."

The festival was highly esteemed and well received by the community.

Many expressed their interest and excitement for a repeating tradition of this festival every year.

"I feel that Farm Y'all has been a great first event. The farmers, the County Extension Office and the Chamber partnered together to bring agricultural awareness to the area along with bringing a successful event to Cullman," said Cecelia Smith, tourism director for the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

Leah Bolin, president of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, echoes Smith's sentiments of the festival's success: "The Chamber is ecstatic about Farm Y'all. For a first-time event it has been everything we hoped it would be. We want to draw attention to local foods and farmers. We want folks to know that Cullman is number one in a lot of things including agriculture."

Farm Y'all is the only one of its kind anywhere in the southeast, and its focus is on buying fresh food locally grown.

It's a celebration of the honor, heritage, and humanity that goes into agriculture on a very personal, local level.

Mayor Townson gives credit where credit is due when he said, "We all need to give thanks to the farmers because without the farmers, there would be no food, and we must always remember that. We are all coming out to honor these farmers for the great job they do."



Photos by Jessica Norrell, Noah Chandler











Daryl Calvert District 6
James Fields District 4
Jeff Byars District 6
Keith Wise District 2
Lynda Carter District 2
Martha Hart District 4
Tim Butts District 2

Cullman Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting (from Front)

of J.B. Pennington High School, and a licensed Alabama Home Builder.

He built the model energy efficient home for Cullman Electric Cooperative in 2008, and has a thorough understanding of energy conservation principles. Tim is a husband, a father to five children, and has nine grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his family and being a member of the Poultry and Egg Association. "I am seeking this position in order to further serve our communities," Butts said. "As a longtime cooperative member, I could not perform my career or family obligations without clean, reliable power. Knowing the members of my community have the same values and expectations I do drives me to serve in this capacity of trustee. I will strive to be the voice on the board for my community and members that I will serve."

Lynda Carter retired from teaching after 25 years and now works part-time as education coordinator for Childhaven and for Cullman County Schools as a homebound teacher. Carter has a B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in home economics and a M.A. degree from UAB in elementary education with a concentration in supervision and administration. Her husband, Keith, is also a retired educator who works part-time for Cullman County Schools as a homebound teacher.

Carter has successfully completed the curriculum of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned her NRECA Leadership Credentials. "As the cooperative continues a tradition of growth, financial stability and enhanced member services, I would like the honor and privilege to again represent the member-owners of Cullman Electric Cooperative on the Board of Trustees," said Carter.

Keith Wise is the former owner and president of Wise Trucking, Inc., for 35 years. He was president and owner of Wise Logistics, LLC for three years, and is currently the owner and president of Wise Consulting, LLC. He is employed at R.E. Garrison Trucking where he serves as the South Eastern Regional Sales Manager for the company. He is an Alabama Trucking Association Board Member, and is involved in both state and national trucking issues and regulations. He has been a Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation board member for eight years. Keith founded the Children's Brain Disease Golf Classic in Alabama, and he served for 12 years as a national board member for that event. He is actively involved in First Baptist Church of Cullman where he has served on the finance committee and the building committee. "I would like to learn more about the way the Cullman Electric Cooperative works daily," Wise said, "I would like to be available to better serve the board and communities to the best of my ability for the Cullman Electric Cooperative."

DISTRICT 4 — James Fields and Martha Hart

James Fields is a graduate of Hanceville High School. He continued his education at Jacksonville State University where he earned a B.S. degree in Law Enforcement and Sociology. During his career with the Department of Industrial Relations, Fields worked as the Assistant Administrator and North Alabama Supervisor in the department's Fraud Unit. Fields has successfully completed the curriculum of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director, and continues participating in cooperative leadership courses.

With the business knowledge he has gained through the years and his concern for the community, Fields believes he brings strong leadership qualities to the Cullman EC Board of Trustees. "I hope to continue the contributions I have made to Cullman Electric and its members during my years on the board," said Fields.

Martha Hart recently retired after working the past 36 years as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked for Dr. William F. Peinhardt for 21 years, and was affiliated with Cullman Regional Medical Center Hospice for five years. She received her LPN license from Wallace State Community College in 1977. Martha managed the scheduling for Boudreaux Industrial Service, and was the coordinator of Peinhardt Living History Farm for 10 years.

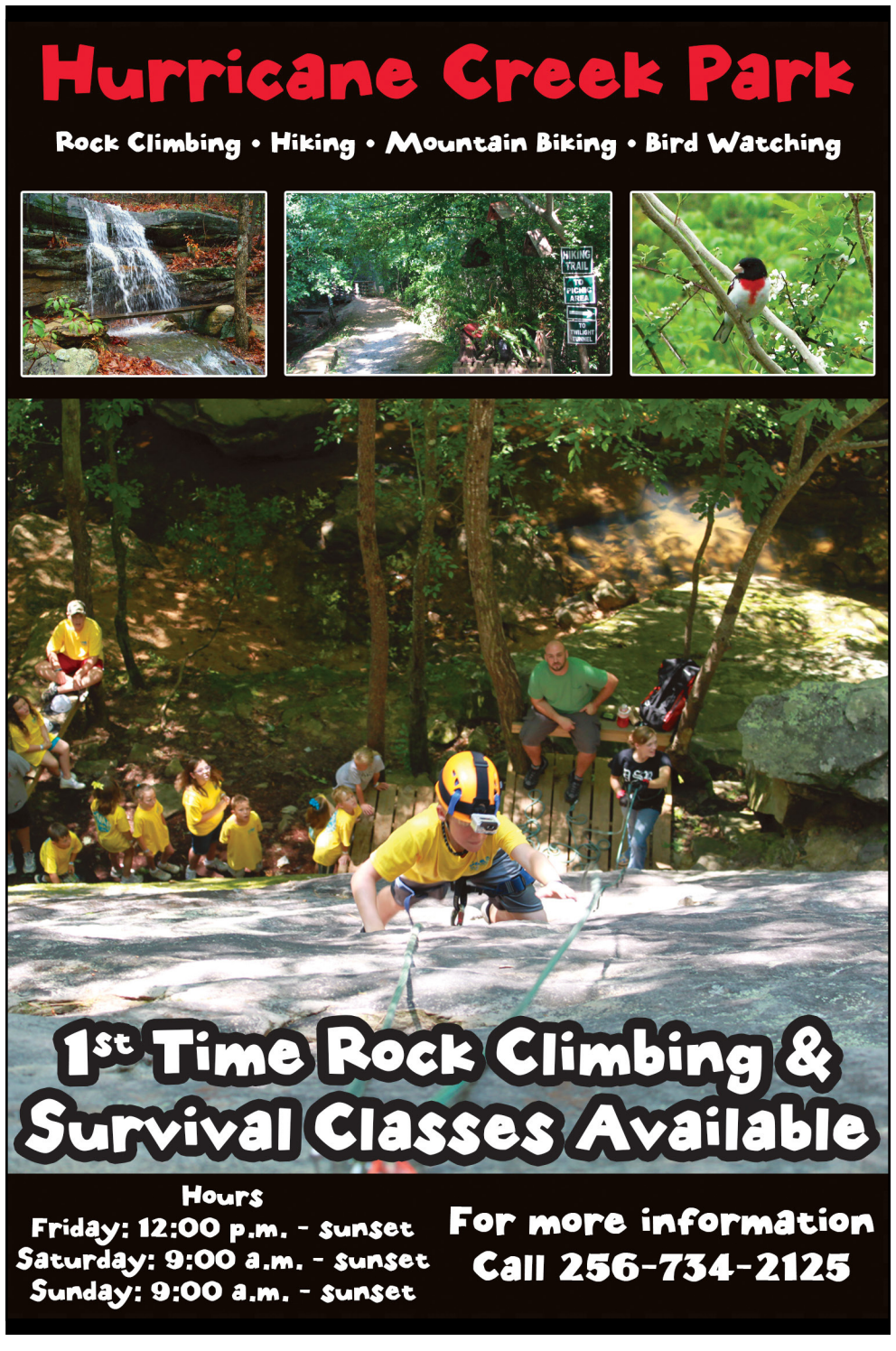
Her civic and personal interests include serving God, her family, hospice, and community support and involvement. "Filled with integrity, honesty, and compassion. Focused on what counts — the people" is a slogan Hart lives by. "I promise to use good judgment in helping make sound decisions in the interest of Cullman Electric Cooperative and its members," Hart said. "I will instill progressive ideas in providing guidance to the co-op in the areas of research and innovative energy distribution, while maintaining fair and reasonable costs to the consumers."

DISTRICT 6 — Jeff Byars and Daryl Calvert

Jeff Byars is a senior accountant for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. His work responsibilities include performing audits of hospital financial information as it relates to hospital reimbursements. Byars graduated from UAB in 1999 with a degree in accounting. He has been a state licensed EMT and volunteer firefighter since 1992, and serves with the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments and the Alabama Emergency Medical Technician Association. As the medical officer for the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments, he has worked to improve education and training for all levels of the county's medical responders and is an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Instructor. "I feel my broad, in-depth business background will be useful in the financial and operational decisions that are necessary to keep an organization such as Cullman Electric Cooperative running at optimal performance while minimizing the financial impacts on co-op members," Byars said. "I feel my addition to the board will bring in some fresh insight to issues the board faces. Serving as a trustee also provides a great opportunity to have an impact in the community where I was raised and continue to live."

Daryl Calvert retired from Wal-Mart Fleet Maintenance as shop supervisor after more than 20 years of service. Today, he is owner and operator of a small lawn care business, DC Lawn. Graduating from Cold Springs High School in 1974, Calvert worked as a diesel mechanic for 27 years and farmed for 10. He feels these experiences allowed him to develop good people skills and a strong work ethic.

Calvert enjoys lawn work, hunting, fishing, and woodworking. In addition, he likes to spend time with his children and grandchildren. Calvert has successfully completed the curriculum of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director. "I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving my community on the Cullman Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees," said Calvert.



– 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.

U.S. Disaster Relief Command meeting
Members of the U.S. Disaster Relief Command meet each last Monday of every month in Good Hope Town Hall, beginning at 6 p.m. You can never be too prepared for unexpected disasters. Volunteers are needed and all welcome to attend these monthly meetings.

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.

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission will gather for a work session at 8:30 a.m., followed by the regular 10 meeting.

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 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.

Tips for Improving Customer Service
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce offers a seminar on 'Tips for Improving Customer Service' from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. in the Chambers Business Room. Guest speaker will be Lacy Beasley, a municipal retail consultant with The Shopping Center Group. All welcome but please RSVP by calling the Chamber at 256-734-0454 to reserve a seat.

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.

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.

Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen's Association Annual Steak Sandwich Sale
Members of the Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen once again are firing up their grills to cook and sell ribeye steak sandwiches from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the parking lot of Cullman Shopping Center. The cost is $5.00 per sandwich and all monies raised will benefit the cattlemen's and women's association. Come enjoy a great sandwich and help a good cause as well. Advance orders can be placed by 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, to Ed Calvert at 256-734-9337.

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.

17th Annual Sweet Tater Festival
The 17th Annual Sweet Tater Festival takes place from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and will be held this year at Smith Lake Park. The festival will continue on Labor Day, between the hours of 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is $3.00 admission each day of the festival. There will be continuous entertainment including: Gospel, Bluegrass, Patsy Cline tribute artist Traci Hite, Tall Timber Medicine Show and Willie Nelson tribute artist Wayne Abbott. Door prizes, arts and crafts, food vendors, kiddie rides, free parking and of course, the ever- delicious Cullman County Sweet Taters donated by the Cullman County Sweet Potato Growers. Check out website www.sweettaterfestival.com for more information.

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.

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

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.

Labor Day Celebration at Fairview Park
Fairview Lions Club invites all to attend their Labor Day Celebration at Fairview Park. A parade will begin at 11 a.m. with the lineup beginning at 10 a.m. There will be moonjumps, turtle races, a shooting gallery and fun for all. Money raised from this event will benefit both the Town of Fairview and the Lions club projects. All churches, football teams, cheerleaders, etc., are invited to take part in the parade, with booths for the day renting out at $20.00 per space. Please contact Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 to take part in this holiday event! And come be part of the fun on Labor Day!

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.

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Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes that are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information!

Looking Ahead

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.

Last Week's Poll

Have you been the victim of an online scam? Did you find resolution?



This Week's Poll

Have your children told you about being bullied?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

Share your historic photos with us!
E-mail history@cullmansense.com



Construction of Walgreens Drug Store — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

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Talk With Your Children about Bullying

(StatePoint) Think bullying is just harmless teasing? An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students, according to the National Education Association. And Yale health researchers have found a connection between suicide -- the fourth leading cause of death in children ages 10 to 14 -- and bullying and being bullied.

Experts say that kids themselves have the power to put a stop to bullying. Unfortunately, both victims and bystanders don't always know the best way to handle bullying situations as they occur.

"Most kids feel terrible when they see friends or classmates get bullied. They want to help, but they don't what to do," says Alice Cahn, Cartoon Network Vice President of Social Responsibility. "Having strategies for these situations can help prepare children to intervene when the time comes."

With this in mind, Cartoon Network launched the award-winning Stop Bullying: Speak Up in 2010 to educate kids on what to do when they see friends getting bullied. In partnership with official advisors, including staff from the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services; and partners including CNN, The Anti-Defamation League, the Pacer Foundation, and nationally recognized academic experts, the bullying prevention campaign aims to put a stop to this common and serious problem.

The pro-social campaign is offering these tips for parents and kids to help stop bullying in their schools:

- Tell an adult: When someone gets bullied, tell a parent, teacher, or trusted adult. Talking about it isn't tattling or snitching. It's helping someone out.
- Be friendly: Bullying can make a victim feel alienated and lonely. Saying a few kind words to the person who has been bullied makes a huge difference.
- Volunteer: Your school's bullying prevention program needs parents and students to help encourage everyone to speak up against bullying.
- Say it loud: Ask your school to fly or display the official Stop Bullying: Speak Up flag, which indicates that the school is a place where bullying actions will not be tolerated.
- Learn more: Free online resources can help you learn how to deal with bullies. Visit www.StopBullyingSpeakUp.com to access public service announcements, two 30-minute documentaries, and tips sheets for parents and teachers that offer a step-by-step guide for safe and effective ways to be an active bullying bystander. The site also provides links to the Anti-Defamation League, Boys and Girls Club of America, and other partners providing expert advice about bullying. All materials are available in English and Spanish.

No child should feel like his or her school is not a safe place to learn. Parents, teachers, and students can work together to make a difference.

This Week in History

August 26th
- 1883 – Krakatoa erupts with increasingly large explosions kills 36,000
- 1920 – 19th amendment passes - women's suffrage granted

August 27th
- 1828 – Uruguay gains independence during Brazil-Argentina peace talk
- 1912 – Edgar Rice Burroughs' publishes "Tarzan of the Apes"
- 1984 – President Reagan announces Teacher in Space project

August 28th
- 1837 – Pharmacists John Lea and William Perrins manufacture Worcester Sauce
- 1884 – First known photograph of a tornado is made near Howard, South Dakota
- 1981 – John Hinckley, Jr. pleads innocent in attempt to kill President Reagan

August 29th
- 1831 – Michael Faraday demonstrates first electric transformer
- 1941 – German Einsatzkommando in Russia kills 1,469 Jewish children
- 1972 – San Francisco Giant Jim Barr retires 1st 20 batters he faces added to last 21 he retired 6 days earlier for record 41 in a row

August 30th
- 1854 – John Fremont issues proclamation freeing slaves of Missouri rebels
- 1914 – First German plane bombs above Paris, 2 killed

August 31st
- 1842 – Micah Rugg patents a nuts and bolts machine
- 1909 – A. J. Reach Co. patents cork-center baseball
- 2010 – In Sudan, the People's Liberation Army announces it will demobilize its child soldiers by the end of 2010

September 1st
- 1689 – Russia began taxing men's beards
- 1836 – Reconstruction begins on Synagogue of Rabbi Judah Hasid in Jerusalem
- 1938 – Mussolini cancels civil rights of Italian Jews

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Publisher: Noah Chandler
Editor: Dustin Isom
Phone: 256-297-1847
Advertising Misty Foster
Entertainment Dillon Lee
E-mail: news@cullmansense.com
Sports Josh McBrayer
Cartoonist Anthony Saint
Address: 101 1st Ave NE, STE 230 Cullman, AL 35055

Reductive Jingoism: *Ultimate Captain America Vol. 1* by Jason Aaron & Ron Garney

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

For the uninitiated, there are two "main" Marvel Universes- the central universe (called 616) that has pretty much been in a constant timeline since the earliest days of Amazing Fantasy and Journey Into Mystery in 1962. Unlike DC, Marvel has rewritten its history subtly and stayed away from complete reboots of its continuity. The miniseries called Marvels is a great place to start to understand the retrograde history of the 616. At any rate, in 2000 Marvel launched a new universe, typically called the Ultimate Marvel universe. Here we see the birth of many elements carried over into the Marvel films- especially the design of Nick Fury, originally based on Samuel L. Jackson (so its convenient he said "yes" to the film deal). This universe is presented as a more "realistic" superhero world.

Volumes 1 & 2 of the Ultimates (their version of the Avengers) are simply brilliant world building books. In 616, Captain America has had decades to adjust to the modern world; he's had numerous ups and downs, periods of disillusionment, even periods of rebellion against the US government. In the Ultimate universe, Cap is still a man out of time.

As such, he's written pretty flatly- a tough, "yes, sir," soldier type. I had hoped that Jason Aaron, an award winning indie comic writer, would add some nuance to Ultimate Cap. And in a way, he does- simply in the wrong direction.

While Ultimate Captain America should be a product of those "innocent" pre-war days- where isolationism, poverty, and racism were endemic- instead, he is treated as a symbol of what we imagine to be America's Golden Age, the idealistic post-war 50s.

Given the fictional timeline, Ultimate Captain America shouldn't have those same nostalgic misconceptions of modern Americans or even the baby boomer generation. And yet this Cap does. The set-up of this series- the Cap of WWII meeting the "Cap" (really just a super solider) of Vietnam, would have made for an interesting clash of ideologies. It was a chance to allow Ultimate Cap to re-evaluate his "mom and apple pie" naivety. The opportunity is lost in this book. Ultimate Captain America is once again reduced to a jingoistic simplification, which is frankly not the Captain America that I personally love.

As a historian, I'm critical about the rise and role of this nation, and any other. Captain America doesn't appeal to me as a flag waving patriot, but as a symbol of the promise of America- what it represents and what it could be. This book, while well drawn and brimming with promise, falls far short. Not recommended.

Comics

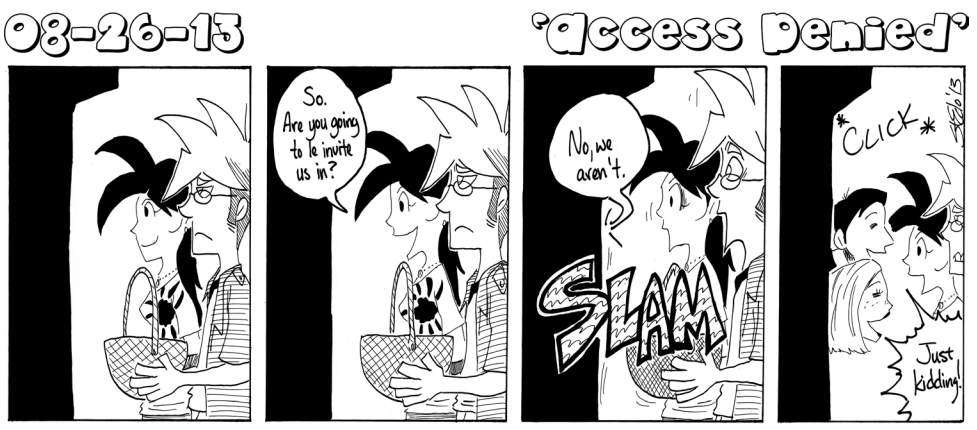
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"Well... I guess we'll be calling ourselves the *Three* Musketeers from now on."

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Filmmaking Masterminds: Quentin Tarantino

By: Jackson Hogan
Entertainment Reporter

Tarantino 101: *Reservoir Dogs*

Within the Entertainment section of the CullmanSense, we strive to bring forth highlights of all aesthetic aspects of culture in ways that are both purposeful and hold their own form of beauty. In this vein we have decided to do a multi-edition excursion into the compelling world of perhaps cinemas most distinctive voice through commentary of several of his films.

Not only do we aim to introduce these unique films to audiences who are unfamiliar with his work, but also to unite each of the individual works into one incredible stroke on the canvas of cinema, each frame into a rich scene.

There is no better introduction point into Tarantino films than his first: *Reservoir Dogs*. It holds his trademarks that can be seen in a familiar manner throughout his work in a way that condescends and simplifies them: somewhat like an introductory course in college. Based on your reaction to this movie, you will either love or vigorously hate his style, as no other director has been so polarizing as he.

A heist goes south. That is the core of the film, the only real premise. A group of professional (and anonymous) criminals fail in an attempt to lift some diamonds off a wholesaler. In the film, the heist isn't even shown; the entire focus of the movie is how the heist came to be, and its brutal aftermath. This simplicity of plot allows Tarantino to work what is his greatest feat of magic: a dialogue that is so distinctive, no creator has been able to copy. Tarantino, who also writes all of his movies, develops his characters through his truly powerful dialogue, dialogue that sounds literary and yet also holds traits that are exclusive to cinema.

It is especially noted for its focus on minutia; a choice example being a lengthy discourse on the merits and downfalls of a society that tips waitresses. Though this may sound tedious, it is truly never so, and to explain why would be trying to explain why a fish knows how to swim. It's simply organic.

These conversations, which are often a core part of his movies, make the characters feel like human beings as opposed to fictitious figures. You feel as if you are a part of the conversation, and therefore a part of the movie.

That being said, his work is also riddled with profanity, and the viewer must decide whether than can handle such speech. Yet the profanity also never comes across as a cheap attempt to heighten the gravity of the situation: in fact, it would seem unlikely that a set of people who don't even hold qualms about murder would refrain from swear words under great stress.

With that disclaimer said, words truly drive this film. Anyone who cherishes choice turns of phrase would relish this picture.

That all being good and well, the lines would be nothing without the actors behind the film. Harvey Keitel delivers a stunning delivery of his character known as Mr. White. He truly embodies the concept of a thief with honor, one you find yourself rooting for regardless of his criminal nature. The movie also came to be what it was partly because of him, as when he took up the role he also chose to aid the movie in many other ways such as finding funding and other support, showing the level in which he believed in the project. Steve Buscemi really hits the nail on the head when it comes to his role as Mr. Pink, being so unlikable and yet pragmatic and sensible, perhaps the only purely "professional" member of the operation.

But the major breakthrough performance, arguably the one that made the movie great, was that of Michael Madsen as Mr. Blonde (a.k.a. Vic Vega). The character levies this calm insanity that is unsettling but so captivating. Every scene he is in, he steals.

He also is given the most memorable quote of the movie: "Are you gonna bark all day, little doggie, or are you gonna bite?" Tarantino rightfully prides himself on his casting, because each performance is exactly what it needs to be, done by exactly who needs to do it.

One would be remiss to leave out a discussion on Tarantino's filmmaking without mentioning his incredible taste for music. Each song holds an importance; there is no filler tune. Calibrated for greatness, the soundtrack is meticulously tailored to produce an effect in each scene, and it is no coincidence that the most unsettling scene of the movie is made so in large part by the use of an innocent enough song, "Stuck In The Middle With You". But in Tarantino's hands, no song is innocent.

But it is not enough for Quentin to simply make a movie: instead, he makes each of his movies a full on spectacle in honor of some genre he grew up with and obsessed over. *Reservoir Dogs* is his homage to the classic heist films that he watched and enjoyed, especially Kubrick's *The Killing*. He ties together the themes, highlights, and perhaps several downfalls of the genre and blends them together into a new animal altogether, and it is truly a wonder to watch him do so.

It also ties in the noir of movies he admired in a way that perhaps has reinvented what noir is and can be. But while honoring his cinematic past, this movie proves that Quentin Tarantino is out to do things his way, making his visions realities. In short, both he and his movies don't just bark; they bite to the bone.

Recommended viewing: *Dogday Afternon*, *Pulp Fiction*, *True Romance*.

What should we review next? reviews@cullmansense.com

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Why small-business owners still aren't hiring

By: Rosemary Elebash

Usually, small business is the thing that drives our economy. It accounts for about 97 percent of all employers in the state and employs 49 percent of Alabama's private-sector workforce. But small business isn't hiring.

Earlier this month, my group, the National Federation of Independent Business, released the results of its monthly Small Business Economic Trends survey. Technically, the Great Recession ended four years ago, but owners still don't have a lot of confidence in where the economy is headed. NFIB's report for July found that:

- More respondents still think general business conditions will be worse in six months than better.
- Only 9 percent think it's a good time to expand. In a better economy, that percentage would be in the double digits.
- Owners rank taxes and government "red tape" as the most important problems facing small businesses, with 21 percent each; "poor sales" was third, with 16 percent.

The upshot is this: You're not going to hire anyone if you don't think you'll have the money to pay them.

If you're a small-business owner, you're the boss. You invested your life's savings to start the business, and you're on the hook if things don't work out. You're not going to invest in your business if you don't know what's coming down the pike.

What's creating all this uncertainty? Several things. For starters, there's the badly misnamed Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It includes a provision called the health-insurance tax, or HIT. It's a tax on insurers, but the Congressional Budget Office says the insurance companies will simply jack up premiums rather than absorb the additional cost.

Self-insured employers will be exempt from the HIT. That means the HIT is aimed squarely at small businesses. Then there's a tidal wave of new rules and regulations coming out of Washington. President Obama's most recent Unified Agenda shows 3,500 regulations in the pipeline. Most are directed at big corporations, but 700 will affect small businesses like yours to one degree or another. If Washington is serious about getting the economy back on track, it'll stop nickel-and-diming small business and get to work on creating a sense of certainty that gives owners the confidence to grow and finally start creating jobs again.

BRIEF BIO
Rosemary Elebash is Alabama state director of the National Federation of Independent Business, the state's leading small-business association. She lives in Montgomery and can be reached at www.NFIB.com/AL.



REACHING (FOR) THE RED LINE

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Go See Sequoyah Caverns before it's too late

By: Todd McLeroy

When the owner of Sequoyah Caverns announced earlier this summer that he is closing the cave to the public after September 3rd, I decided to take my family for our first visit. I'm glad I did.

We enjoyed a cool guided trip underground and were treated to the usual cave displays of stalactites, stalagmites, drapery, and other water and mineral formations, but unlike a lot of other caves, Sequoyah Caverns also had a lot of "looking glass" pools of water, which, though only a few inches deep, present the illusion of being bottomless. One large room in the cave has often been used as a wedding venue.

Sequoyah Caverns is privately owned and located on a farmstead just off United States Highway 11 North of Valley Head that has been in the same family since 1842, when James Ellis homesteaded the property.

A frontier cabin is open to tourists, and there is an old barn with the classic "See Rock City" painted on the roof. Various domesticated animals, including fallow deer, cattle, goats, and a proud turkey gobbler, make their home there.

While we were there, a young man was blowing haunting but pleasant sounds on a horn made from what appeared to be the horn of a Texas Longhorn. There is a small gift shop where tickets are sold.

The site is located off the beaten path of Interstate 59, and no other attractions are located nearby, so tourism has declined in recent years. Our tour guide told me that the owner, John Jones, is ready to retire and does not want to turn over control of the property to the State of Alabama or anyone else.

Sequoyah Caverns may not be as large as Cathedral Caverns or have a big waterfall like Ruby Falls, but we liked what we saw. I recommend that you get off the beaten path and go see Sequoyah Caverns while you can.

On the civil unrest recurring in Egypt

By: Joe Bialek

People of Egypt, over two and one-half years ago I wrote about your plight as you struggled for your freedom from former President Hosni Mubarak. I too shared in your joy when he left power and became even more excited about your first democratic elections.

Sadly though the understanding of democracy has not caught up with the mechanism of democracy. Yes indeed there was a vote and candidates won with a majority (albeit a very small one) but I don't think anyone in Egypt fully comprehended the responsibilities that are required of a democratically elected republican (representative) form of government. It is similar to preparing for a camel race without knowing the rules of the race.

Winning a election does not constitute the acquirement of absolute dictatorial power. It requires that those elected serve all the people and not just those who supported them.

Even in the United States we have checks and balances (as set up by our Constitution) that limits what those in power can do.

As much as I am in disagreement with the coup d'état executed by your military I am also hopeful that once the violent protest recedes into peaceful protest the election process can begin again with those newly elected officials having learned a lesson from this first-time fiasco.

My brothers and sisters of Democracy who are members of the Muslim Brotherhood need to understand that compromise for the public good is not necessarily a compromise of one's religious beliefs.

You must come to a fundamental agreement with my brothers and sisters of Democracy who are members of the secular group that you agree to disagree without having to resort to violence.

The Egyptian military needs to be convinced that your two groups will come together to form a strong united country before they are willing to suspend martial law.

You must demonstrate to them (and the world) that whether you are secular or Islamist, Christian or Muslim it is more important for all to live in peace and have equal opportunity than for a chosen few to rule as dictators in support of one small faction.

People of Egypt, it is up to you.

The Roast of Roy Drinkard (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner

"If you build it, they will come." Although misquoted from the 1989 fantasy-drama, "Field of Dreams," the quote's intention is still the same that an idea conceived can be achieved.

Roy H. Drinkard is an expert on this notion. The young-at-heart businessman seems to have it all – a budding empire of successful business ventures, the knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit required of such a profession, and the love and loyalty of Cullman. Thus, in true comedic style, he becomes the perfect guest to "roast."

On Thursday, August 22, Victim Services of Cullman hosted their Second Annual Roast at Terri Pines Country Club. The guest of honor was, of course, Mr. Roy Drinkard, of Drinkard Development, LLC. The semi-formal event featured a delicious dinner and numerous roasters taking a shot at Drinkard. Many jokes, puns, anecdotes, and the like were shared, but more than anything, an overflow of adoration. It cannot be denied that Drinkard is beloved in this community. The annual event also secured proceeds for Victim Services of Cullman.

Victim Services of Cullman provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The mission of VSOC, Inc. is to break the cycle of family violence and sexual assault, preventing future acts of abuse through education, outreach, and empowering survivors through support and advocacy.

This year's roaster line-up starred many of the community and state's industrial leaders, whom all have a close kinship to Drinkard: Tom Kreb of Christian & Small Attorneys in Birmingham; Chris Rooney, board member of St. Bernard Prep School; Bill Floyd of State Farm Insurance; Marsha Folsom of Resource Fiber of Alabama; Fr. Marcus Voss of Saint Bernard Abbey; Randall Moore of ETI, Inc. from New Orleans, LA; Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., Chancellor of Troy University in Troy; and Randy Wilhelm, Financial Director of Bentley for Governor.

Tiffany Cantrell, prevention educator at Victim Services of Cullman, said, "Our board came up with this idea, to poke fun at a well-known community member for a good cause."

The event's program even has italics around "Honoring." The event is definitely designed in good spirit and executed in comedic tendencies, with no distasteful or unfavorable jokes. Many families and community members attended. This year's only female roaster, Marsha Folsom from Resource Fiber of Alabama, had the room in constant chuckles with her cleverly crafted cracks at Drinkard. She referenced the 2-dollar bill that featured Drinkard's smiling face that lay before every attendee.

"I guess at his age he considers himself a founding father," Folsom lovingly quipped.

Drinkard, in true sportsman-like attitude, graciously accepted his "roastings," which were generously sprinkled with love. The business aficionado who is seven years shy of a 100-years-old has accomplished so much in his life that I secretly want to call him Superman. He has seemingly done it all from mortician and auto trader to mayor and businessman. "I think it was a wonderful night. Mr. Drinkard and all his family and friends enjoyed themselves. We had some visitors from out of town and they got to witness our hospitality. That's always a good thing," said Donna Jacobs, executive director of Victim Services in Cullman. "We really want to thank everyone involved."

Who knows whom next year's roastee will be, but as for this year, Drinkard was celebrated and cheered, with maybe a jab here or there.

Folsom, eloquently described Drinkard's character when she said, "He is a man who loves his God, his country, his state, and his community." And Cullman clearly loves him back.



Marsha Folsom from Resource Fiber of Alabama roasts Roy Drinkard

"He is a man who loves his God, his country, his state, and his community."



Cullman County Schools Menu for Aug. 26 - 30

Monday – Chicken Tetrazzini w/roll or Cheeseburger, Oven Potatoes, Candied Carrots, Lettuce/Tomato/Onion, Fruit Choice

Tuesday – Chicken Tenders or Corndog or Salad Entrée, Carrots w/Ranch Dip, Baked Beans, Fruit Choice

Wednesday – Chicken Fajita Salad w/Salsa and Sour Cream or Fish Nuggets w/Hushpuppies or Bistro Box, Brown Rice, Mexican Cornbread, Green Beans & Corn, Fruit Choice

Thursday – Ranch Baked Chicken or Salisbury Steak w/Gravy or Salad Entrée, Pinto Beans, Southern Greens, Cornbread, Fruit Choice

Friday – Pepperoni French Bread Pizza or Chicken Nuggets w/Roll or Bistro Box, Oven Potato, Broccoli w/Cheese, Fruit Choice

NASA Explores New Uses for Historic Launch Structures

By: Tracy Young

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. – NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida is seeking concepts for the potential use or divestment of three historic launch platforms that are not needed for the agency's current or planned future missions.

A Request for Information (RFI) released Friday will gauge the interest of commercial or government entities for using the three nearly identical mobile launcher platforms in support of either commercial launch activity; deconstruction; or an alternative option that benefits the public, environment or other entities not associated with the space.

The three mobile launch platforms were used to hold Saturn rockets and space shuttles as they made their way from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the launch pads in preparation to travel into space. The platforms are two-story, hollow steel structures on which Saturn rockets and space shuttles launched. They are 25 feet tall, weigh around 8.2 million pounds, and are 160 feet long and 135 feet wide. Each platform features numerous pathways, compartments, and plumbing and electrical cabling systems.

The RFI is the latest in the work to transform Kennedy into a multi-user spaceport for both government and commercial clients and support NASA's future spaceflight programs and initiatives.

These include plans to launch astronauts from Kennedy to study an asteroid and work with commercial companies to send crews to low-Earth orbit and the International Space Station from Florida's Space Coast in the next four years.

