SERIES 3, ISSUE 37 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

$0.50 $0.50

In this Issue:

Local



Cancer survivor survives again

Brain cancer survivor, Michael McBride had good intentions of 'Riding for a Cure' from Hopkins, Kentucky to Panama City, Florida in eight days. However, after experiencing another near death accident, he is forced to add a few more days to his schedule. p2

Nature Learning on a Local Level

Classes offer opportunity for families to get together outside, appreciate nature, and take in the beautiful fall weather. p2

State

Sequester Hits Special Education Like 'Ton of Bricks' p3

State program boosts businesses through energy efficiency p3

Sports

Friday Night Football Roundup p4

NO BOYS ALLOWED Third annual Cullman County Girlfriend Gala gets "Fabulous in the French Quarter" for United Way



SPECIAL NEEDS PAGEANT

Shining Stars



Shining Brightly

After unsuccessfully searching for disabled or handicapped focused pageants local couple creates their own p12





TANKED

36,000-gallon Bass Aquarium Planned for Bass Fishing Hall of Fame



Bass Fishing Hall of Fame teams up with acrylic tank manufacturing; Visits with cast of Animal Planet's "Tanked"

Contributed

The Bass Fishing Hall of Fame (BFHOF) board of directors has selected Acrylic Tank Manufacturing (ATM) of Las Vegas, Nev. as the official and exclusive aquarium manufacturer for the p12

Few Ala. adults have received HPV vaccine, survey finds

By: Bret Stanfield

MONTGOMERY – For the first time ever, Alabama has data to measure the percentage of adults who have received at least one dose of the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine. HPV is the virus that causes cervical cancer. The vaccine is recommended for males and females ages 9 to 26. It is most effective when given to children beginning at age 11.

The results were compiled from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a system of health-related telephone surveys that collects state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services. In 2012 the Alabama Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (ACCCP) sponsored questions about HPV vaccinations to study how many people were taking advantage of this important protection against cervical and related cancers later in life.

Alabama has obtained data on the HPV vaccine for adolescents in the past, but the results of this survey mark the first time self-reported HPV vaccine uptake has been measured in adults. Almost 20 percent (19.4) of adults in the 18- to 24-year-old age group reported ever having had the vaccine. In this age range, 34.4 percent of females and 4.2 percent of males reported initiating the series.

Because HPV usually does not exhibit any symptoms, it is possible to have it without knowing it and to spread the virus to others. HPV can be prevented with a series of three safe, effective vaccines that protect against the most common types of HPV and their related health problems. These data will serve as a baseline for the ACCCP's efforts to educate Alabama residents on the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

"It is vital that Alabamians understand the importance of protecting themselves and their children against certain cancers as well as the ease of access to the vaccine," Dr. Grace Thomas, Assistant State Health Officer for Family Health Services, said. "Whenever the vaccine is taken, it is important that all three doses are received to provide maximum protection." The data are very encouraging because nearly 70 percent of those vaccinated received all three doses.

The HPV vaccine is available through your health care provider as well as through the Vaccines for Children and Family Planning programs at your local county health department. You may also be able to get the vaccine by talking with your pharmacist.

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

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Cancer survivor survives again

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor



Michael McBride, AHA Ride for a Cure

CULLMAN – Brain cancer survivor, Michael McBride had good intentions of 'Riding for a Cure' from Hopkins, Kentucky to Panama City, Florida in eight days. However, after experiencing another near death accident, he is forced to add a few more days to his schedule.

McBride, who began his ride on September 5, had already made plans to rest for the evening in Cullman through a website called warmshowers.com.

He had been in contact with another member of the biking community, Dorenda Doyle, who had made arrangements for McBride to spend an evening at the Retreat Center at St. Bernard Abbey.

Doyle received a call from McBride on Friday afternoon stating he was in Hartselle and would be in Cullman in about an hour. However the next call received was one stating he had been involved in a hit and run.

"I got a call from Michael saying that he had been hit by a vehicle on Hwy. 31, just outside Falkville. We immediately called 911, and headed that way," Doyle said.

By the time the Doyle's got to him, police were on the scene. McBride was visibly shaken and had a bloody ankle, but refused medical treatment stating he had spent enough time in and out of hospitals.

"I have a glioblastoma brain tumor, and have been a cancer survivor for six years. I am riding my bicycle with the American Cancer Society to help children that unfortunately have been diagnosed with cancer too," McBride said.

Some may think McBride has more lives than a cat, but he is grateful to be alive.

"I have survived a fall from a roof, a new heart valve, being electrocuted, having brain cancer, an automobile accident, and being hit on a bicycle; however, God has a plan, and I must carry on this mission," McBride said.

The vehicle struck the trailer that McBride was towing with his bicycle, destroying it, and throwing him from his bike.

The accident occurred at dusk on Friday evening, just outside of Falkville.

Although Michael identified the car as a Camry, he refuses to give any further details, "because I don't want to get anyone in trouble."

Although the driver hit the brake lights a few times, after the collision, he/she left the scene of the accident without checking on McBride.

Upon arrival at St. Bernard, McBride finds a different story – one of compassion and hope.

The Retreat Center provided a wonderful place to rest and recover from what could have been a bad situation. Guests staying at the center heard about the evening's tragic events, and placed monetary gifts in his room.

But the giving didn't stop there.

Once employees at the local Wal-Mart heard about the accident, they immediately pitched in and purchased a new bike trailer for him.

McBride was joined by his wife Melissa on Sunday afternoon at St. Bernard.

They were both very thankful and flattered by the kindness of the Cullman Community and especially the Doyle's and Br. Brendan Seipel at St. Bernard.

McBride will now continue his bike journey, to complete his mission to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, with his wife following behind him.

"My family and I appreciate all of the support and comfort received on our brief stay at St. Bernard. We love the Lord with all of our heart and know this would not be possible without HIM!"

Anyone wishing to support McBride may do so by visiting www.relayforlife.org/hopkinsky.

Donations may also be sent to:
Michael McBride
Ride for a Cure
American Cancer Society
952 Fairview Avenue
Suite 4
Bowling Green, KY 42101.

Nature Learning on a Local Level

Classes offer opportunity for families to get together outside, appreciate nature, and take in the beautiful fall weather.

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - "Stop what you are doing for a moment and walk outside. Take a look up at the sky, over the horizon, or down at the ground. Now blink your eyes. Imagine you have just made a picture of what you can see."

Holli Quick wrote this passage about nature study. She is a passionate advocate of being outdoors and all the lessons it can teach to a family. As a former teacher and homeschooling mother of six, Quick encourages her children to observe and record nature all around them.

Quick, along with Rachel Dawsey, the director at the North Alabama Agriplex and fellow instructor, have been conducting nature-inspired homeschool programs for the last year. Agriplex Homeschool has offered classes such as Botany Basics, Pollinators, Soil and Worms, and the popular Nature Notebooks class, wherein participants document their natural surroundings in a journal.

"To me, observing nature is a way to see God at work all around us. I think as parents in today's society, we really have to make an effort to get our kids into nature to explore. All kids start out as babies and toddlers wanting to be outdoors," Dawsey said. "It is us adults who bring them in because it's easier for us what with mosquitoes and sunburn. Nature Notebooking is a way to help children and adults reconnect with nature."

The Nature Notebooks class, taught by Holli, is offering two classes, taking place over three weeks, with the classes targeting ages 7 to 12, but older and younger participants are welcome.

The first class meets on Sept. 11, Sept. 25 and Oct. 9. The second class is almost full and will be offered on Sept. 18, Oct. 2 and Oct. 16. Both classes meet from 9-11 a.m. at varying locations. The class is $10 per child or $20 maximum per family. Each child receives a nature notebook and a pack of colored pencils.

These classes appear to be the perfect opportunity for families to get together outside, appreciate nature, and take in the beautiful fall weather. Quick explains that children are naturally curious about everything and that is the perfect recipe for a wonderful nature study experience.

The children are encouraged to use different media for the Nature Notebooks including watercolors, colored pencils, and pencils. Taping finding in their notebooks and making flower presses are great visuals. Experiencing nature first-hand outside and documenting it in one's notebook enables students to bring the outside indoors.

Jeb Quick, Holli's oldest child, shared his notebooks with the Homeschool children. Dawsey said his artwork and details have increasingly improved and his pictures and journaling are amazing.

In his notebook, Jeb tells the story of finding a trapped wood duck at his grandmother's house.

The feathered friend was stuck behind her fireplace. He wrote the story in his notebook and drew a beautiful, realistic picture of the wood duck.

Sometimes it is the simplest things in life. "Holli encourages the children to always be on the lookout for nature," Dawsey said. "You don't have to live on a great big farm or in the woods to see nature. Nature is all around us even in the city."

The Nature Notebooks class emphasized the importance of nature documentation through the book "The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon" by Jacqueline Davies. Audubon was a naturalist and kept his own nature notebook.

The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College is having a free exhibit of Audubon's drawings of birds.

The exhibit features Audubon's works and the display will be open through the end of September.

There are only a few rules for Nature Notebooking explained Dawsey. First, only one entry per page and record the place and date; second, no markers or crayons because they will bleed through; third, and most important – be outside.

Dawsey said Charlotte Mason, a historical nature educator, summed it up best, "Never be indoors when you can rightly be outdoors." Both Dawsey and Quick are influenced by Mason's work. Quick said Mason even helped shape the way she began homeschooling her little ones.

Dawsey stressed that at a time when most children and adults are so disconnected with the outdoors, it is wonderful to see children connecting with nature. "The Quick family spends so much time outdoors and have so many stories to tell from these experiences," she said.

Dawsey and Quick's appreciation for nature and passion for teaching is infectious.

For more information, contact Rachel Dawsey at 256-297-1044, cullmanag@gmail.com, or on Facebook at North Alabama Agriplex.

What's Online

Accelerated Awareness

"The car show started several years ago, and each year we like to pick a different charitable organization to donate the proceeds to and this year was Autism Awareness" Brenda Allison, event organizer, said.



qrne.ws/95

Aderholt Statement on the Anniversary of September 11th and Benghazi Attacks

Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) released the following statement today in remembrance of the 12th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks and the first anniversary of the deadly assault on Americans...

qrne.ws/96

Cullman cruises to victory, Britton surpasses Oliver Woodard for all-time wins

Coming off a 13-10 sluggish looking win over Walker where the outcome was in doubt up until the final 18 seconds of the game, the home opener for the Bearcats looked much, much different.

qrne.ws/97

Sequester Hits Special Education Like 'Ton of Bricks'

By: Adrienne Lu • Stateline

Since the first day of class for most schools in Michigan recently, Marcie Lipsitt's phone has been ringing nonstop with parents distraught about cuts to their children's special education services.

A new round of special education cuts were taking hold, prompted by a 5 percent reduction in federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), said Lipsitt, a longtime advocate for disabled children and co-chair of the Michigan Alliance for Special Education.

Lipsitt said it means that many schools have eliminated resource rooms where children can go to get help in areas such as math, reading, writing, and organizational skills.

Many schools will have fewer speech, occupational or physical therapists, along with social workers and school psychologists, which means students who previously received speech therapy twice a week might only receive it once week, for example.

And in some general education classrooms that had two teachers – one for the whole class and one specifically to support students with special needs – the special education teacher has been eliminated.

"For Michigan, it hit like a ton of bricks," Lipsitt said. "Conditions are eroding and children are not being allowed to become taxpayers. They're not being given access to independence, being productive, being ready for a global workforce."

Across the country, advocates for children with disabilities are grappling with the impact of sequestration, the automatic budget cuts that kicked in when Congress failed to reach an agreement to reduce the federal budget.

Although the cuts took effect March 1, the impact did not reach schools until the start of the current school year because of the way many education programs are funded.

Experts agree there is little hard data on the impact of the budget cuts on special education. The U.S. Department of Education estimates the sequester cut about $579 million in federal funding for IDEA Part B, which supports students age 3-21 with specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, intellectual disabilities, autism, or emotional disturbances.

The National Education Association estimates that if states and local school systems did not replace any of the funds lost through sequestration, nearly 300,000 students receiving special education services would be affected. The union estimated up to 7,800 jobs could be lost as a result of the federal budget cuts.

All told, 6.5 million disabled children from ages 3-21 received services funded by the IDEA in the fall of 2011, the most recent number available.

What States Are Doing

The impact of the sequester on special education varies from state to state and even district to district.

In Virginia, most school districts have been able to weather the special education funding cuts so far by not replacing teachers who leave, according to John Eisenberg, assistant superintendent for special education and student services.

Many school systems have also reduced or eliminated staff development, which is critical in special education.

"There's constant change in the field in terms of making sure folks are up to speed and are using research-based practices for students," Eisenberg said.

"As we have learned more and more about things like autism, the field has changed. Getting teachers trained in the most recent research-based practices is critical."

Virginia schools have also reported big cuts in budgets for materials and technologies to support students with disabilities, which can include electronic devices to help nonverbal students communicate, technology to help students who are hearing-impaired and computers to enlarge text, for example.

In Florida, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties found the money to keep their special education programming intact.

But nearby Broward County this year eliminated five of 11 behavior specialists, 10 program specialists and an assistive technology position, according to Mark Halpert, director of the Florida Advocacy Coalition for Learning Disabilities.

Halpert worries about the damage a second year of sequestration could inflict.

"These kids are smart – they learn differently, have challenges and can be enormously successful," Halpert said. "We owe it as a society to help them succeed."

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

State program boosts Alabama businesses through energy efficiency

By: Larry Childers

MONTGOMERY — Alabama businesses are saving $5.1 million in estimated annual energy costs because of an innovative state financing program. Launched just two years ago, the AlabamaSAVES loan program expands employment opportunities for Alabamians by helping businesses become more efficient and competitive.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs created the AlabamaSAVES program to provide state businesses with low-cost loans for energy-efficiency upgrades.

The upgrades significantly reduce operating expenses so that savings exceed loan repayments, creating extra cash flow for the business. Since awarding the first loan in June 2011, AlabamaSAVES has approved more than $20 million in loans for energy upgrades.

ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said the program recently reached a milestone by approving its 30th loan.

"Alabama businesses are the engine of our state's economy; by helping them become more efficient, we are expanding employment opportunities for our residents," Byard said.

"More and more Alabama businesses are experiencing the benefits of energy efficiency, and they are finding ADECA and the AlabamaSAVES program to be a strong partner."

The program's 30th loan is going to the same business that applied for the first loan: the Dixie Group's yarn plant in Roanoke, which manufactures a wide variety of carpets and rugs. Dixie officials say the initial $2.3 million loan enabled equipment upgrades and cost savings that increased the plant's capacity, stimulated growth, and created jobs.

The new $1.4 million loan will finance additional high-efficiency equipment to increase productivity even further.

"The AlabamaSAVES program has been an excellent partner in helping Dixie Group upgrade key production equipment and enhance overall efficiency in our Roanoke facility," said Jon Faulkner of Dixie Group. "This is the second project we have financed through the Program and have found the process to be simple and straightforward."

A range of businesses across the state have taken advantage of AlabamaSAVES loans, including large and small industrial companies, office buildings, hotels, retail businesses, and even a llama farm.

ADECA established AlabamaSAVES with funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program. Loans of $50,000 to $4 million are available to help Alabama commercial and industrial businesses finance energy-saving improvements. Interest rates for the loans are currently as low as 1 percent.

Projects are evaluated on potential for sustainable energy savings, cost savings, renewable energy generation, emissions reductions, and job creation and retention.

As loans are repaid, the fund will be replenished and available to finance future projects.

Abundant Power, a firm that collaborates with states and municipalities to design, administer and finance energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs, is helping ADECA administer AlabamaSAVES.

The firm has been instrumental in increasing the initial loan pool from $25 million to $65 million by forming partnerships with private lenders including Regions Bank, ServisFirst Bank, First Commercial Bank, Wells Fargo, Philips Lighting Capital, and others. Regions provided financing for the second Dixie project in cooperation with AlabamaSAVES through its Commercial Equipment Finance division.

"AlabamaSAVES uses public funds with private capital to expand energy costs savings. This enables more businesses to participate in the program, creating more jobs and reducing dependence on fossil fuels," Abundant Power CEO Shannon Smith said.

ADECA recently announced that businesses wanting to convert their fleet vehicles to run on propane, liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas will be eligible for AlabamaSAVES loans. The alternative fuels cost less and produce less emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel fuel.

Loans can cover the costs of converting existing vehicles to run on the alternative fuels and the installation of fuel pumps and other infrastructure needed to provide the new fuels.

Alabama businesses interested in participating in the program can find more information at www.alabamasaves.com.

Dan Jackson Named Assistant State Forester by Alabama Forestry Commission

Contributed Alabama Forestry Commission

MONTGOMERY – State Forester Linda S. Casey is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Dan Jackson as Assistant State Forester by the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC). This appointment was approved by the Governor, effective September 1. Jackson has 25 years of service with the Commission and has served at virtually every level of the agency from county forester to division director.

"Dan's broad range of experience will be a valuable asset as he takes on this new leadership role, and I look forward to his continued contributions to the AFC," said Casey.

Jackson has served at AFC State Headquarters in Montgomery since 2011 as Director of the Forest Operations Division, which encompasses protection, management, and overall operational function of forestry programs in the state.

From 2008-2011, he was Director (Fire Chief) of the Protection Division. Previously, he worked in Walker County as AFC Forester/County Manager and wildland firefighter from 1988-2008.

Prior to coming to the AFC, he supervised a government land management contract at Ft. McClellan. Jackson began his forestry career in 1979 working for the private sector of forest industry in his hometown of Albany, Georgia.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia, and is a registered forester in Alabama and Georgia. Jackson is also a member of the Society of American Foresters.

Additionally, Walter Cartwright has accepted the position of Director of the Forest Operations Division.

Cartwright has worked a total of 25 years for the State of Alabama, the last 10 years with the Forestry Commission serving as Assistant Forest Management Director and most recently as Administrative Division Director.

His first 15 years of state service were with the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations where he was devoted to reclaiming abandoned mines and planting trees for reforestation of those sites. Prior to working in state government, he had 14 years' experience in forest industry in land and timber appraisals and acquisition, forestry management, and business management.

Earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Auburn University in 1974, Cartwright is a registered forester in the state of Alabama and a member of the Society of American Foresters.

The mission of the Alabama Forestry Commission is to protect and sustain Alabama's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principals and education, ensuring that the state's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy. To learn more about the AFC, visit www.forestry.alabama.gov.

No. 8 Wallace State golf team finishes runner-up in its season-opening Fall Invitational

By: Russell Moore • WSCC Contributor



Wallace State defending NJCAA individual national champion Aksel Olsen sizes up a putt during the Wallace State Fall Invitational. Olsen finished in seventh place.



Wallace State sophomore Chris Atchley watches one of his drives during the Wallace State Fall Invitational held Monday and Tuesday at Cullman Golf Course. Atchley finished with an impressive 14-under-par 202.



Wallace State sophomore Patrick Twesme completes his swing on a putt at the Wallace Sate Fall Invitational held at Cullman Golf Course.

CULLMAN – No. 8 Wallace State golf finished runner-up Tuesday in its annual fall tournament at Cullman Golf Course, continuing to inch closer to defending national champion and top-ranked Central Alabama.

The Lions shot a 54-hole total of 842 (22-under par), concluding the tournament five strokes behind Central Alabama.

"I was disappointed we didn't win, but on the same token we played great all three rounds and finished well under par as a team," said Wallace State coach Dan York, a NJCAA Hall of Famer. "Central Alabama beat us by 30 strokes at this time last year, so we are narrowing the gap. We have to get better to get even closer."

"I'm encouraged and excited about this team. I believe it's going to be a great year for Wallace State golf."

Wallace State sophomore Chris Atchley put together an impressive fall debut and earned the best individual spot for the Lions. The Buckhorn grad shot a 14-under-par 202, finishing his rounds with scores of 65-72-65. Atchley was clipped by Central Alabama's Tim Walker, who earned low medalist by shooting a 16-under 200.

Atchley was named to the Wallace State Fall Invitational All-Tournament team after his stellar three-round work. He entered the tournament a little more than four months removed from claiming low medalist honors at the 2013 Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC)/Region 22 state tournament held at Decatur.

Sophomore Aksel Olsen, Wallace State's No. 1 and defending NJCAA individual national champion, finished seventh in the invitational, carding a 5-under (72-69-70).

Wallace State's Cooper Brown, a Canadian, was 2-under for a 10th-place finish. Additionally for Wallace State, Patrick Twesme finished even par, while Will McDowell was 9-over.

Faulkner State, Darton (Ga.) State and Eastern Florida State College, formerly Brevard CC, also competed in the invitational.

Wallace State's next match is scheduled for Oct. 14-15 at the NJCAA National Preview Tournament in Burlington, Iowa.

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

High School Football Week 3 Roundup

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Fantastic action was all over the county this week. With five games to cover, let's jump right into the action!

West Point 14 vs. Cullman 35 (Thursday game)
By: Josh McBrayer

WEST POINT - After battling West Point to a draw in the first quarter, the Bearcats took over quarter number two and set the tone for the rest of the contest.

Cullman started the second quarter in Warrior territory at the 35 but faced a 2-14 due to a holding call. This is where Cullman QB Tyler Glenn took over. On a fourth and eight, Glenn found his go to receiver Trey Mason for a 12 yard pick up and the fourth down conversion. Two plays later Glenn hit Trey Mason on a screen pass and Mason did the rest, sprinting 16 yards to paydirt and a second quarter lead. The PAT was booted through and the Bearcats were up 7-0.

Following a three and out, Cullman set up shop on the Warrior's side of the field once again. It took Cullman just four plays for their second score when Glenn found Mason again for a touchdown, this time from 15 yards out. This would put Cullman up 14-0 and, despite a last second drive by West Point, Cullman held strong and took the 14-0 lead to the halftime.

After a delay of more than an hour, West Point booted the ball to Cullman to open the second half. Fortunately for West Point, the kickoff struck a player on the Cullman front line, allowing West Point to pounce on the ball at midfield. This would lead to the first Warrior points of the night. West Point marched methodically down the field with Tristian Dubberly chewing up chunks of yardage and the big bruiser Trent Campbell capping off the drive with a one yard rush to make the score 14-7.

West Point seemed to have momentum firmly on their side that is until Crider got the ball. In just one play, Cullman went up 21-7 thanks to a 51 yard explosive TD run. Cullman effectively put the game on ice their very next possession when, once again, it took just one play to score. This time it was Mason Jones who went 49 yards for the touchdown. 28-7 Cullman.

Crider added his third TD of the night on a six yard plunge. West Point answered when the Warrior's Dubberly scored his second TD on a 37 yard run but it was not enough to overcome the third quarter outburst from Cullman. The Bearcats improve to 3-0 on the season with a matchup versus Hartselle looming large next week. The Warriors fall to 1-2 and will travel to Russelleville next week to take on the Golden Tigers.

Fairview 6 vs. Guntersville 41
By: Josh McBrayer

GUNTERSVILLE- Fairview took the early lead on a 10 play, 68 yard drive. Austin Harris did most of the heavy lifting on the drive, carrying the ball seven times for 40 yards. The drive was capped off when #12 floated a pass over the top of a Guntersville defender and to the back shoulder of #34 who waltzed into the endzone for the 27 yard TD. The PAT was no good but the Aggies found themselves on top 6-0 with 7:36 left in the first quarter.

On the first Guntersville drive, Sophomore sensation Jordan Bentley showed flashes of brilliance as he rushed for 61 yards on the drive including bursts of 38 and 10.

However the Wildcat offense could not find pay dirt and settled for a field goal attempt. The kick fell short and Fairview took over on their own 20.

After a first down rush of 11 yards by Harris, the Aggies ran three plays and were forced to punt, giving Guntersville the ball and giving Bentley a chance to go back to work and boy did he ever. It took the Wildcats just six plays to get on the board. Bentley again carried the offense, literally, as he rushed five times, three for over 10 yards, capping the drive with a 22 yard TD run just six seconds into the second quarter.

After a Fairview punt and a turnover on downs, Guntersville punched it in one more time before the half when Jordan Bentley raced down the near sideline, stiff arming and juking his was 61 yards for the score to go up 14-6 at the half.

The Wildcats received the second half kickoff and it didn't take them long to find pay dirt for the third time. Junior Nicky Erwin took the kick at his own 26 and bolted down the field 72 yards to set Guntersville up first and goal from the Fairview two. Bentley picked up the hat trick when he lowered his head and bowled his way in for the touchdown. A PAT later and the Wildcats were on top 21-6.

Following another Aggie punt, Bentley crossed the goal line for the fourth time of the night, cutting and slicing his way up field for the 53 yard score. 28-6 Wildcats. Bentley broke the plane for the fifth time just eight seconds into the fourth quarter when, on fourth and inches, he rolled in from the five yard line.

Guntersville's Logan Brooks got in on the scoring action, when he scampered 38 yards down the sideline for the score. Guntersville was up 41-6 with 8:23 left to play.

Neither team would sniff the endzone for the rest of the game and the Wildcats would go on to defeat the Aggies 41-6.

Jordan Bentley finished the game with 16 carries for 185 yards for a 11.5 average to go along with his five scores.

Vinemont 19 vs. Cordova 15
By: Zeke McBrayer

CORDOVA – The game started out with both offenses shining. Cordova scored on the opening drive of the game, led by quarterback Chase Trotter's arm. Trotter went 4-4 and 64 yards on the drive, ending it with a 26-yard TD pass to Kenderra Taylor.

See Next Page ➤



Roundup (Continued)

Vinemont came out and couldn't get things rolling but their defense stepped up and held Cordova to a 3-and-out on their next possession. When the Eagles got the ball back, Tyler Boland used the momentum to run in a 47-yard TD on the second play.

The defenses for both teams played their heart out from this point on, including a sack by Blake Melton and a combined sack by Holden Burrone and Marcus Clarke. The sacks would set up Vinemont's next scoring drive. Boland once again ran the ball in, this time from 46 yards out.

The second half started out much like the first, with Vinemont receiving the kickoff and starting on their own 39-yard line. After a nice pass from Kurtis Brawner to Boland to move the chains for the first down, Boland would take it in once more. The 44-yard TD put the Eagles up 19-7 early in the second half.

It would only take the Blue Devils four plays to answer, scoring on a 63-yard pass from Trotter to Skylar Thomas. Cordova had a false start penalty on the extra point attempt and opted to go for the 2-point conversion successfully on a pass from Chase Trotter to Taylor Trotter. Again the defenses stepped up and made life miserable for both offenses. The game came down to a huge goal line stand by the Eagles.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Cordova was in a 1st and 25 situation on Vinemont's 31 yard line. A big pass from Trotter to Woods put them on the 2 yard line.

The Eagles knew that a score here would make it hard to pull out the win. Led by Senior Sam Woods, the defense was prepared to keep Cordova out of the end zone at all costs.

After two stops an apparent fumble looked to turn the tide in favor of the Eagles but the officials ruled the Blue Devils' Charles Woods down. This pumped up Vinemont even more and gave them the strength to stop Cordova twice more and get the ball back on downs.

Vinemont used their next possession to run some time off the clock and give their defense a rest. The defense came out and once again stopped Cordova. Vinemont would get the ball back and run the final couple of minutes off the clock.

Vinemont was led by Tyler Boland, who had 165 rushing yards, 15 receiving yards, and 3 TDs. Kurtis Brawner went 1/3 with 15 yards and 3 rushing yards. John Michael Dye added 45 yards and Orey Woods put up 30 yards

Cordova's quarter back Chase Trotter went 17/36 with 256 yards and 2 TDs. The workload was split up among 6 recievers, with Skylar Thomas and Kenderra Taylor hauling in the TDs.

Good Hope 41 vs. Winston County 27
By: Jim Stenson

WINSTON COUNTY - Good Hope snagged their third win in a row, but the victory was bittersweet. Midway through the first quarter, Raider quarterback Sebastian Fendley suffered a broken arm. It has been reported that he will have surgery on his forearm in the early part of the week. The rest of his season is in doubt.

In the wake of the unfortunate injury to Fendley, Freshman QB Riley Eisner stepped up and took command by throwing 3 TD passes, leading the Raiders to a win.

Good Hope got on the board first on a four yard scamper by Jared McClure. Winston County answered right back with a touchdown when Seth Blanton connected with Logan Myrick for the nine yard score.

Good Hope punched it in again on their next possession when Eisner threw the first of three TD passes. He hit McClure on a screen pass and he did the rest, running it in from 20 yards out. However, the Yellow Jackets answered right back. Blanton once again found Myrick, this time for a 60 yard TD pass to knot the score at 14 all at the end of the first.

The next 12 minutes of he game unfolded just like the first with McClure scoring from one yard out and Blanton throwing his third TD pass of the game. The two teams headed to the locker room tied at 21 all.

Winston County started the second half with a three and out and Good Hope took advantage.

The Raiders marched down the field behind Eisner, capping the drive with a 16 yard pass to Chris Raper for the only score in the third quarter, putting Good Hope up 28-21 with 12 minutes left to play.

The fourth quarter saw the Raider defense force yet another three and out that they turned into points. The drive ended again with a touchdown pass from Eisner, finding Raper again for six. 34-21 Good Hope.

Again the Raider defense shined, when Alex Cofer snagged an errant Yellow Jacket pass and took it 35 yards to the house for the final Good Hope score on the night and pushing the lead to 20.

After a 35 yard TD pass from Balnton to Earnest, Good Hope's Justin Turner intercepted Blanton to put the final stamp on the 41-27 Good Hope win.

Hanceville 26 vs Hamilton 12
By: Matt Glover

HANCEVILLE – Torrey Green may have been sporting a new number at Ray Tally Stadium Friday night, but he more than proved he is still the same great player.

Green used his combination of speed, quick juke moves, and hard nose style, en route to a 26-12 win over regional foe, Hamilton. He set the pace early, carrying the ball 7 times in the first quarter, gaining 56 yards and a touchdown.

After only 3 carries for 18 yards in the second stanza, Green looked refreshed after the break carrying 6 times for 46 yards and another touchdown in the third period.

But Green saved his biggest run for last. After the Hanceville defense stopped Hamilton on fourth and one on the Bulldog 11, Green broke through the defense, running 74 yards to pay dirt, on what would be his final carry of the game. In doing so Green put his total for the night at 18 carries for 195 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Hanceville bounces back after suffering its first set back of the season to cross county and regional rival, Good Hope. Hanceville fans have much to be excited about in this young season.

They defeated every team remaining on the schedule last year to finish second in the region, and host a first round playoff game. Hanceville hits the road next week for the short trip to rival Vinemont.

This game has many playoff implications, as Vinemont is off to a 3-0 start with 2 region wins. Another region loss for Hanceville would put them in a tough up hill battle to reach the playoffs, while a win would keep hopes alive of once again hosting a playoff game.

Follow CullmanSense on Facebook and Twitter and check us out at cullmansense.com where the online news is ALWAYS free!

Fore a Great Cause

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Golfers converge on the greens of Terri Pines to help raise funds for CRMC Foundation

CULLMAN – A great day full of fundraising fun was the end result from the Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation 2013 Million Dollar Hole-In-One Golf Extravaganza.

"It was a great day for all involved and we were thankful for your involvement in helping share more about the Foundation," Maria Stanford, CRMC Foundation Director, said. "To date, we have over $92,000 in total contributions and will know the final Refresh-A-Room proceeds very soon."

Event results:

- Ball Drop Winner – Dr. Jeremy Stidham (6 inches from a hole-in-one)
- Putting Contest Winner – Fred Ponder
- Putting Contest Qualifiers – Gene Lee, Mark Brady, Anthony Quattlebaum, Jimmy Hanvey, Lance Frankham, Paul Stead, & Fred Ponder
- Million $ HIO Winner – Michael Vickers – Final shootout was on hole #12 – measurement was 28'1"
- Million $ HIO Qualifiers – JC Chappell, Bud Stallings, Joe Uptain, & Michael Vickers
- Longest Drive – John Guidroz

Tournament Winners:

- 1st Place – Kip Potter, Jerry Lawson, Chuck Kennedy, & Chase Kennedy
- 7th Place – Alan Wood, Chris Arnold, Jim Hanvey, & Brett Crider
- 16th Place – David Ferrell, Lance Frankham, Michael Vickers, & Dale Karrh
- 22nd Place – Austin Hall, Cliff Harris, Matt Anderson, & Kurt Apel
- 25th Place – Bob Swinney, Rayburn Bishop, Billy Wilson, & Bob Glasgow
- 27th Place – Todd Clark, Josh Ray, Amel Drake, & Justin Thurman



Photo by Emily Durden

cp&r
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.

BURCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY
Martha Burchell, Agent

Nationwide
On Your Side

Auto • Home • Life • Commercial

No one will ever perform a better human service to secure the needs of others

200 2nd Ave. SE • Cullman, AL 35055 • Phone: 256-737-7450 • burchem@nationwide.com

$cholar$hip Jump$tart

Elementary ~ Middle School
High School ~ College Transition

"We Make College Cost Less"

256-736-5969 • www.n2college.com

Girlfriend Gala: "Fabulous in the French Quarter"



By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - Greens, golds, and purples bathed the interiors of the grandiose Top of the Town this past Thursday, Sept. 12 as United Way of Cullman County presented its 2013 Girlfriend Gala with the theme "Fabulous in the French Quarter."

Sorry, boys, only the ladies were invited to this event. The Girlfriend Gala is an annual event that is held as one of United Way's biggest fundraisers of the year. Of course, GGs are held throughout the state operated by other United Ways but no two galas are alike.

This is Cullman County's third Girlfriend Gala with past themes including "Wild About Girlfriends" in 2012 and "Diva Las Vegas" in 2011. Every year, the venue is packed to the brim with women of the community coming out to support the cause.

With a silent auction full of enviable items, incredible live music, an impressive tablescape decorating competition, lots of gal pals, and a delicious dinner followed by a decadent dessert – there was nothing lacking at this event.

"I think anytime you get a bunch of ladies together, you are going to have fun! The tables were amazing, the food was amazing, and the music was amazing. I really can't pick what I liked most!" Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President, Leah Bolin said. "Sammie and her staff did a fantastic job putting this event together. Supporting United Way while having fun with your girlfriends is a formula for success!"

The annual event raises money for United Way's 13 partner agencies including: 4-H Clubs of Cullman County; American Red Cross; Commission on Aging, Meals on Wheels; Cullman Caring for Kids; Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled (CCCDD); Daystar House; Easter Seals; Foster Grandparents/Senior companion Program; Girl Scouts; Good Samaritan Health Clinic; Hospice of Cullman County; Pilot Light House; and Victim Services.

Marketing Communications Director, Amber Black, played an extensive role in the event helping plan, organize and coordinate this year's GG under the direction of United Way's Executive Director, Sammie Danford.

Black said, "I was fortunate to meet so many new people in the community and establish relationships with each of them. Planning an event like the GG is certainly a challenge to say the least, but the end results make it all worth it. After all, we are working to better the future for the Cullman community."

Black explained that the Girlfriend Gala is a great opportunity to get the community involved in United Way's efforts as well as raise awareness for what United Way of Cullman County does for the community.

There were drawings for door prizes, a grand prize winner, and a first and second place winner announced in the tablescape competition.



The table decorating competition known as a tablescape captured a lot of buzz with decoration themes such as: We Be Jammin' in the Big Easy; Mardi Gras Stars; Voodoo Dolls; Bourbon Street Blues; and Crescent City Charm to name a few.

United Way of Cullman County Executive Director, Sammie Danford said they received excellent feedback about the event.

"Even today, I'm still hearing over and over how amazing the tablescapes were. Everyone was so creative. Some were simple but very eloquent, others were very intricate but oh so beautiful – altogether amazing. I didn't vote (knowing most of the decorators) I couldn't choose just one," Danford stated. "Not just the tablescapes, but everything has been complimented: the music, the atmosphere, definitely the facility, and especially the food. It has all has received many kudos! Usually you hear what went awry, but honestly I have not heard one negative thing."

Danford explained that the Girlfriend Gala allows many ladies to have a "night out on the town" with an inviting atmosphere for them to relax, socialize, and meet new friends while supporting a great organization, that in turn, supports many of our local non-profits who serve Cullman County residents.

United Way would like to extend their gratitude to all who participated, attended, contributed, and donated to this year's Girlfriend Gala, with a special thank you to Cullman Savings Bank, John Riley, and caterer Mike and Judy Pitts of Designs by Grace.

Plans are already underway for next year's Girlfriend Gala proving that there is no off day for the United Way of Cullman County.

Danford said, "We are not a 'handout' organization, we are a helping organization. We focus on education, income, and health, as well as give, advocate, and volunteer – to live united – the United Way."



Cullman Fire Rescue earns "Life Safety Achievement Award"



Fire Marshal Chris Chaffin, Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt, Jr., and Council Member Andy Page, Chairman of the City Council's Public Safety Committee

By: Leanne West

CULLMAN – Cullman Fire Rescue has been presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for the year 2012 by the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation in partnership with the Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The award was announced by J. William Degnan, President of the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation.

"Experience tells us that fire prevention activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires," the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation said. "Prevention and education are very cost effective compared to the traditional approach of relying on fire suppression. The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention efforts and encourages them to continually improve those efforts."

Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson and Council Member Andy Page, Chairman of the City Council's Public Safety Committee, recognized this remarkable achievement at the September 9, 2013, City Council meeting by presenting an official Certificate of Recognition from the City of Cullman to the department. On hand at the meeting to receive the certificate were Fire Chief Edward Reinhardt, Jr., and Fire Marshal Chris Chaffin.

"Cullman Fire Rescue is one of only 5 fire departments in the State of Alabama, and one of only 117 in the United States, to receive this award," said Mayor Townson.

"We are very proud of all of our fire rescue personnel for their dedication and commitment to protecting life and property in our community!"

Since 1994, the Life Safety Achievement Award has recognized local fire prevention efforts that have contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential files. Cullman Fire Rescue qualified for this award in year 2012 because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures.

In addition, the department was able to demonstrate the existence of an active and effective fire prevention program and a clear commitment to reducing the number of fires in homes in the community.

Although residential fires in the U.S. account for only 20 percent of all fires, they result in 80 percent of all fire deaths. The NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation is a public interest group whose mission is to reduce residential fire deaths and injuries. The Foundation advocates the use of residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and teaching people fire-safe behavior. The Foundation also assists fire departments with implementing residential sprinkler/smoke alarm programs on a local basis.

The Foundation's partners include the United States Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and private industry/associations with an interest in the commitment to residential fire safety. More information on the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation can be found at www.firemarshals.org.

"We're very proud of this most prestigious award, and we're thankful that we have such an outstanding fire department in the City of Cullman," added Mayor Townson.

FUN at the FAIR



By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN – Games galore, a plethora of prizes, and a ride that turns so fast it makes me cringe just watching it. Yep, it's about that time.

Welcome to the fair, folks.

Let me begin by prefacing that I love what the fair brings to Cullman County and what the fair represents to our community – an amazing history enriched with family values, tradition, and honor.

The competitions, carnival aspects and carousel appear to be the staples of this annual venue. Everywhere you look is wild splashes of colors, designs, and lights. It's like the quintessential mine for all things youthful and fun. Never mind the fact that it's probably the only time you'll see a clown on stilts.

The energy present at the fair is a combination of nostalgia and lightheartedness. Teenagers talking amongst themselves, kids running around, the elderly chatting, and newborns sleeping – it seems the fair attracts all ages.

Faith Hopper, 11, of Hanceville said, "I liked the Feuerball and the Ferris wheel. I'm here with friends and family. I may come back again when we are off from school." For some, it reminds us of when we were younger, and how that love carries over to adulthood. Proud moms and dads talking about when they were younger, and how it felt just like 'yesterday.' It seems you're never too old or young for the fair.

"I love the fair. I love everything about them – the rides, the games, the carousel," Ellen Robertson from Compassion on Caring said. "And it's always the only time I can get a candied apple, funnel cake, and cotton candy. I love the lights too."

Not only is the fair top notch in exhibits and fun events for the whole family, but another reason families love the fair is because they feel it's a safe, friendly environment. Doug Goodwin of United Way in Birmingham said, "This is the only fair I'll bring my family to. I feel it's very safe. I feel safe walking away and leaving my family for a second. Everyone seems courteous and family-oriented. The kids and teenagers are well behaved. I really like the fair."

It's apparent the crowd is having fun at the fair. What about the people working it? It would seem they love it, too. Fuller Smith is a member of the Cullman County Lions Club and a volunteer at the fair working the front gate. He said he really enjoyed talking with everyone.

"I wanted to do something to give back to my community. It's been a lot of fun. I've seen a lot of people I know. It's been great to catch up."

The fair is open every night this week and will wrap up its festivities on Monday, Sept. 23.

COMMUNITY-WIDE
YARD SALE & CRAFT FAIR
HERITAGE PARK
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
15x15 SPACES
$10—YARD SALE
$15—CRAFT FAIR
cpr
cullman city parks & recreation
CALL 256-739-9931

Hurricane Creek Park
Rock Climbing • Hiking • Mountain Biking • Bird Watching
1st Time Rock Climbing & Survival Classes Available
Hours
Friday: 12:00 p.m. - sunset
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - sunset
For more information
Call 256-734-2125

– 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.

Little, Junior, and Teen Pageants
Gates open tonight at the Cullman County Fair at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m. the 'Little, Junior and Teen' pageants will begin on the Coca-Cola Stage.

Joanne P. Laganke MS Support Group Meeting
Members of the Joanne P. Laganke MS Support Group are offering an instructional course, 'Every day matters, living your best with MS'. This seminar will take place in the basement conference room of North Central Neurology Associates PC located next to POB II. Come for light snacks at 5:30 p.m. with the seminar to start at 6 p.m. All who are affected with this disease are invited to attend this event.

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.

Miss Cullman County Fair Competition
Gates open at 5 p.m. to the Cullman County Fair. The competition for Miss Cullman County Fair Queen will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Coca-Cola Theatre.

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.

Senior Day at Cullman County Fair
Come join your friends for the annual 'Senior Day at the Fair' at the fairgrounds. Doors open at 10 a.m. and the Kingsland Quartet will perform on the Coca-Cola stage. Several contests will have seniors competing in buck dancing; oldest woman and man in attendance; do-the-twist dance; best bonnet; oldest veteran; best hog caller; couple married the longest; watermelon seed-spitting contest; and Grandma in her apron and Grandpa in his overalls contest. Lots of fun, food and fellowship for all.

Origami Owl Fundraiser for Cullman Youth Jackson Ray
Amber Heaton is hosting an Origami Owl fundraiser in the basement of Col. Cullman Museum from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. This fundraiser is to benefit local youth Jackson Ray who is 9 and is fighting a battle against leukemia. Amber is hosting this event in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness month and funds raised will help Jackson's family. If you already are familiar with Origami Owl and wish to order items online at www.amberheaton.origamiowl.com, be sure to mark 'Jackson's Journey Fundraiser' when you checkout. All are invited to attend this event and further info is available by contacting Ms. Heaton at 256-339-3875.

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.

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. .

Gene Watson in Concert Tonight at Cullman County Fair
Come to the Cullman County Fair as the gates open at 5 p.m., and Gene Watson appears at 7 p.m. Jeff Partlow will open for Mr. Watson. Take part in one of Cullman's annual events where there is fun for everyone. Check out website www.cullmanfair.com.

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.

Ladies Day Out
Ladies, make your plans to take part in the "Ladies Day Out' activities going on at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center. There will be vendors such as Avon, Mary Kay, Oragami Owl, Jordan Essentials, Tupperware, Thirty-One, Be Blessed Jewelry, VK Originals, Handmade jewelry, It Works Body Wraps, and tons more!! FREE admission, door prizes, free facials and demonstrations, all just waiting for you to come thru the doors!! Bring your friends and plan a girl's day away. For further information, email cindysroi@gmail.com.

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.

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!

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 won the top prize at a carnival game?



This Week's Poll

Have you received the HPV vaccine?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

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



U.S. Army AF recruits in front of the Gulf & Ponder Building 2nd Ave. & West 3rd Street

Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

This Week in History

September 16th

- 1782 – Great Seal of U.S. used for first time
- 1908 – William Crapo Durant incorporates General Motors in Janesville, Wisconsin
- 1974 – President Ford announces conditional amnesty for U.S., Vietnam War deserters

September 17th

- 1859 – Man in San Francisco claims himself Norton I, emperor of America
- 1947 – James Forrestal sworn in as first U.S. Secretary of Defense

September 18th

- 1793 – President Washington lays cornerstone of Capitol building
- 1895 – Booker T. Washington delivers "Atlanta Compromise" address
- 1997 – Ted Turner gives $1 billion to the United Nations

September 19th

- 1928 – Mickey Mouse's screen debut; Steamboat Willie at Colony Theater New York City
- 1984 – Britain and China complete a proposed agreement to transfer Hong Kong to China by 1997

September 20th

- 1664 – Maryland passes first anti-amalgamation law to stop intermarriage of English women and black men
- 1863 – Civil War Battle of Chickamauga, near Chattanooga Tennessee, ends
- 1968 – Mickey Mantle hits final career homer #536

September 21st

- 1814 – "Star Spangled Banner" published as a poem
- 1913 – Turkey and Bulgaria sign peace treaty in Constantinople
- 1966 – Jimmy Hendrix changes spelling of his name to Jimi

September 22nd

- 1789 – Office of Postmaster General is created under the Treasury Department
- 1893 – First auto built in U.S. (by Duryea brothers) runs in Springfield
- 2012 – A new wing dedicated to Islamic art is opened at the Musee du Louvre in Paris, France; the area contains 3,000 from the seventh to the 19th century

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

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters
256-297-1847 | news@cullmansense.com | Independently Owned & Operated

Get CullmanSense Weekly for the rest of 2013 for only **$10**

Must live in Cullman.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Mail form back to:

CullmanSense • 101 1st Ave NE • Suite 230 • Cullman, AL 35055

LOCATIONS...

Berkeley Bob's Coffee House
Berlin Plaza Quick Stop
Brandin Iron Steakhouse
Busy Bee Cafe
Calley's Jet-Pep - Hwy. 278
Catoma Mart
Cullman Civic Center
Cullman County Courthouse
Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center
Deb's Bookstore
Fairview Superette
Good Hope Grocery
Graves' BP 157
Hanceville Chevron
High Quality Fuels - Dodge City
Holly Pond Cafe
Holly Pond Supermarket
Jet Pep - Hwy 157
Joe's Freeway Exxon
Johnny's Bar-B-Q
Lowry's Discount Mart - Hwy. 157
Piggly Wiggly - Hwy. 157
Rumors Deli
S&S Foods
Southmart Chevron - Hwy. 278
The Hutch
Vinemont Super Saver
Wendy's / Texaco
West Point Superette

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

CULLMANSENSE.COM

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

Laughing at Oblivion: A Review of the Film *The World's End*

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

Making an homage film is easy. Paying reverence to a style or even a specific film is an exercise and in craft and passion. The *CullmanSense* series on the films of Quentin Tarantino describes just how artfully homage pieces can be constructed and from that construction is born something new. What is more difficult is to create a unique piece of satire that not only pokes fun at a genre but also serves as an entry into the genre. The cinema is rife with parodies and spoofs, like the endless stream of *Scary Movie* sequels, and while amusing to a select audience few would call these films anything more than comedy movies.

Then there are the rare magical exceptions that transcend comedy, satire, and homage. Few are more masterful that the British creative team of Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, and director Edgar Wright. The trio made their first American splash with *Shaun of the Dead*, at once a suspenseful, hilarious horror film filled with an actual emotional center. They then took on the 80's action movie genre with the outlandish *Hot Fuzz*, complete with an overly complex secret villain plot. In *The World's* End, writers Simon Pegg and Edgar Wright take on a tried and true film genre in their most unconventional fashion. The genre is the alien invasion film; the setting is a 24 hour British pub crawl.

The film begins with a flashback as a small homage to the coming of age movies so prevalent in the 80s and 90s, as five high school graduates are determined to finish their hometown's legendary 12 pub crawl in drunken celebration. The night is a middling success, but to the mind of their leader, ne'er-do-well Gary "The King" King, played by Simon Pegg, it was the greatest night of his life. Sadly, years later the down and out King has nothing to show for the 20 years that have elapsed since that night; nothing to show but disappointment, heartache, and addiction. Regardless, King is pluckly, arrogantly charming, and oblivious. Moreover, he's determined to reunite his five (far more successful) friends to relive that "legendary" night of their youth. Except this time, King is determined to make it to the final pub in the crawl- the eponymous World's End.

Actually, the depth, history, and diverse personalities of our five protagonists make the story interesting enough on its own. The audience could image watching these characters embark on this last gasp to reclaim their youth while dealing with the inevitable course of their adult lives. The humor is relentless, occasionally crude, and -much like the other films by these gentlemen- hiding an emotional center. But, as mentioned, this film is much more than it seems.

At the end of the first act, in a stunningly shot action sequence, it is revealed that the quiet town of Newton Haven has been overtaken by robot like replicants. So our unwitting central characters-turned-heroes are embroiled in something far more sinister and inexplicable. While the more sensible of the group attempt to plot an escape from their hometown, the pigheaded Gary King continues to lead them all on their planned pub crawl, rationalizing that altering from a "normal" course of action will only lead them further into danger.

Constraining such a seemingly incredulous scenario to something as simple as a night of reminiscence and drinking is almost unthinkable, but in *The World's End*, its superbly executed. Throughout Edgar Wright's skill at action, honed in his frenetic 2010 film *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World,* is on display. The audience never loses focus on the momentum of the sequence. Camera movement, angles, and selective, never overused, slow motion add a visceral and desperate sense of awe in each moment of violence. Still, the viewer is never far from the humor of the piece as a whole. Even in its last moments and in its final resolution, the film stays true to its unlikely plot and unforgettable characters.

Just as in *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*, there is real heart to the character relationships. Like the previous films, it in hinges on the comedy duo of Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. They bring a real sense of friendship bordering on brotherhood. Seeing these two struggles through their relationship is the emotional center of *The World's End.* In this, despite the incredulous events surrounding them, they anchor the story in a genuine realism that stretches beyond the superficial relationship in most "buddy movies."

Wright, Pegg, and Frost join a select pantheon of creative teams that satirize, memorialize, and transcend their chosen film genre. While these three entertainers will likely team together again, this particular experiment in homage and satire is at an end. Pegg and Frost, already well-established in the UK, will continue to garner high profile Hollywood film work. Edgar Wright is already working of the next wave of the Marvel film universe, slated to bring is action sensibilities and humor to the *Ant-Man* film in 2015.

Recommended viewing: *Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz, Cabin in the Woods, Scott Pilgrim vs. The World, and Spaced (BBC TV).*

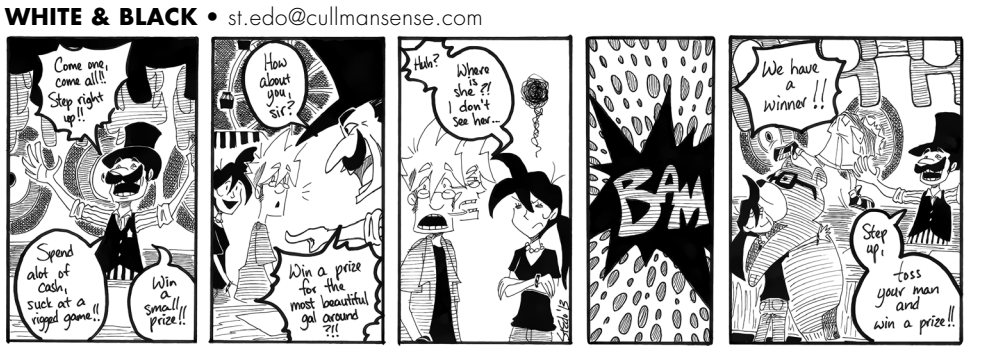
Comics

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

SUNNY STREET



WHITE & BLACK • st.edo@cullmansense.com



MAMA'S BOYZ www.jerrycraft.net **JERRY CRAFT**



Filmmaking Masterminds: Quentin Tarantino - *Kill Bill Vol. I*

By: Jackson Hogan
Entertainment Reporter

Every creator has his or her magnum opus, their greatest work. Victor Hugo had *Les Miserables*; Tolstoy gave us *War and Peace*; Beethoven delivered his *Ode to Joy,* and Van Gogh painted *Starry Night*. We have analyzed Tarantino's first film (*Reservoir Dogs*), the film that made him famous (*Pulp Fiction*), and will continue to review his more recent films. But the next two weeks we cover the film that transformed him from wunderkind to wonder weaver, from a hotshot to a master. In all its sound and fury and raging glory, we are reviewing his definitive creation, *Kill Bill.*

With the thematic gravity of Greek tragedy and the style of a comic book, Kill Bill burst on to the scene in 2003 after Tarantino's 6 year hiatus from filmmaking. In the style of a classical epic, the movie follows the narrative of a woman (Uma Thurman) consumed with the fire of revenge. On her wedding day she and her party are all massacred by a team of assassins of which she used to be a member of and which an enigmatic man named Bill (David Carradine) leads. Shot in the head and left for dead, she somehow survives but is left in a coma. After four years, a mosquito bite wakes her, and from there she walks a path drenched in blood and fueled by hellfire. Her only purpose left in life is to avenge herself, her loved ones, and her unborn daughter by eliminating those that betrayed her one by one, leading up to Bill himself.

This movie moves through this valley of death with a double face, at times a whimsical display of cinematic fireworks and at others a deeply moving cathartic experience that is gritty and grave. Yet no matter what side of the spectrum it chooses to inhabit, *Kill Bill* delivers in every scene, every second.

What must first be addressed is Tarantino's base for this movie. As our faithful readers will already know, Tarantino builds each of his movies off of a genre pool of movies that inspire him, rooting his cinema in cinema's past. This particular work grounds itself in the sometimes good, sometimes, cheesy, always over the top Kung Fu movies of the 70s and 80s. Added to this base are the thematic elements of several Japanese films, particularly *Battle Royale* (2000). This eclectic whirlwind of homage and originality gives the movie both spectrum and balance.

Tarantino calls back a *Pulp Fiction* favorite to lead his cast. Uma Thurman, who played Mia Wallace in that iconic movie, takes the reigning role as The Bride. The contrast between the two roles is stark; one is detached to the point of senselessness, and the other is ablaze with pointed pathos. This chasm Thurman bridges is to her credit, validating her versatility. However it is with the role of The Bride that she garners glory. Every line she delivers captures the intended effect, the feeling that Tarantino must have been shooting for as he wrote them. Some are so grandiose they harken back to the golden age of Kung Fu; other deliveries rock your soul with empathy pains. It is her performance that drives the entire movie, and the duty rests comfortably on her shoulders. Paired against her is the uncanny Bill, played by David Carradine. Without pause one can say his performance is flawless. Not seen extensively until the second volume, even his small portions that only include his hands and voice are poignant; the listener hangs upon every word.

Yet *Kill Bill* goes so far and above that. Not satisfied with perfect acting, Tarantino has to throw yet another color on the palate: style. He paints this movie up and down with style. Every outfit, setting, prop, and sentence is inundated with a particular fashion. Nothing is left mediocre, no space that is left unanalyzed from nook to cranny; all that you see is a deliberate choice, or at least feels as if it is. The weapons are a perfect example: $60,000 was spent on swords and sword related items alone. It is with this particular focus on a heightened level of style that *Kill Bill* makes the leap to classification as art. Every sight and sound is ascetic, beautiful, stimulating. At times, the film seems like a series of gorgeous hyper-related paintings strung together to form a story. Even reaching farther than just beauty, the style references back to the roots of the movie. For example, the iconic yellow jumpsuit worn by Thurman in the final chapter of volume one, as well as on the cover of the DVD, was originally worn by Bruce Lee in his final movie. The striking balance of the style mirrors the balance of its core.

The sound or lack of sound can be just as effective as a balanced blade in movies; Tarantino shows us the tang of his sword with his highest soundtrack achievement yet. Funk is mixed with Americana is mixed with Spaghetti Western is mixed with Oriental flute bursts to create a set of music that is tailored to each moment in the film. It is the music that is the icing on this spicy cupcake, sweetening what is already perfection.

At the heart of this argument is that core thesis: *Kill Bill* is a perfect movie. Not just great: flawless. It is all purposeful, ascetic, and meaningful. It blends form with function, plot with prose, and not a single thing could be improved. That isn't to say everyone can enjoy it; it is that rare high art can be appreciated universally. But that is the price that is paid for such a powerful and beauteous spectacle.

Next week, pick up a copy of the Cullmansense for a commentary on the plot of *Kill Bill* as an addition to this review.

New Law Expands Benefits for Military

By:
Lt.
Governor
Kay Ivey



BRIEF BIO
Kay Ivey successfully sought the office of Lieutenant Governor in the 2010 election. In doing so, she became the second woman and the first Republican woman in Alabama history, to be elected to the post of Lieutenant Governor.

As Lieutenant Governor, I feel a strong responsibility to support our military men and women and their families who make daily sacrifices to keep us safe. I have taken an active role in promoting, strengthening, maintaining, and expanding Alabama's military assets and improving the quality of life for our service members. As Chair of the Military Stability Commission, I worked with members of the Commission and lawmakers to pass legislation during the 2013 Legislative Session that will have an immediate and practical application for our military personnel living in Alabama. My hope is while military members and their families are stationed in Alabama, they feel welcome and at home.

I was very encouraged recently when a deployed member of the Alabama National Guard contacted my office to find out how his daughter, a Georgia resident and enrolled at Auburn University, might take advantage of legislation that was enacted earlier this year to expand benefits for active duty service members and their dependents.

The bill was drafted by the Military Stability Commission and sponsored by Rep. Barry Moore with a Senate version by Sen. Bill Holtzclaw. The new law provides in-state tuition rates for members of the military in Alabama on orders and their dependents.

Under the new law, the soldier's daughter will be able to apply the GI bill toward her tuition at the in-state rate, covering the lion's share of her college expenses this Fall.

He can now focus on the mission overseas and put his mind at ease knowing his daughter is cared for back home.

Legislation is often reactionary, but these are proactive efforts to cultivate a military-friendly environment and help better position Alabama to brace for changes due to BRAC or sequestration. Being proactive is key in this effort. If we wait until BRAC is upon us, it will be too late. That's why I have committed a great deal of time as Lieutenant Governor to military issues.

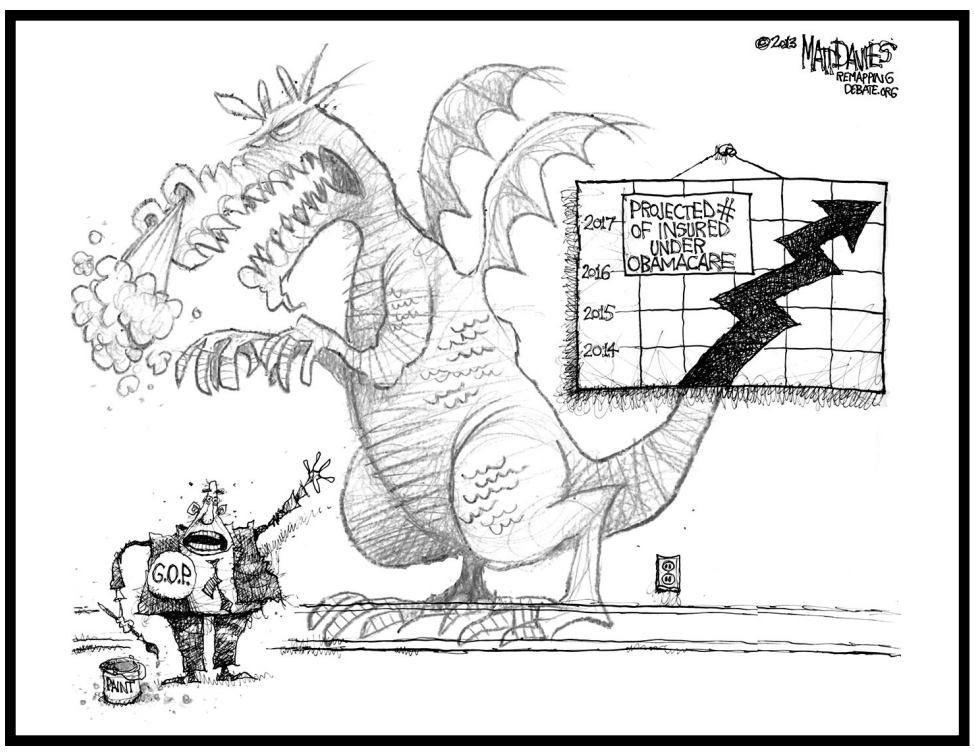
I am very pleased to take on another role in that effort. Chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb, appointed me recently to serve as Co-Chair of the State Strategies in Military Affairs committee. I immediately accepted. The committee unites my fellow lieutenant governors along with other state leaders and federal delegations to collectively advance the conversation and knowledge about the effect on states of federal actions related to the military. In Alabama, we have 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. We are making great progress in Alabama, but we can also learn from our neighbors. I look forward to continuing to serve those who selflessly serve our State and Nation.

The National Guard soldier who contacted my office thanked the Legislature for passing the bill that helps his daughter and said he felt it was bigger thanks for his service than any medal.

He, and all of our military personnel, deserve our gratitude and I feel privileged to play a role in expressing our appreciation in a tangible way.

Thank you for the honor to serve as your Lieutenant Governor and please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may ever be of assistance to you. God bless Alabama; God bless our troops; and God bless the United States of America.





The "Magic" is in the cards

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Anyone who has ever read one of my columns knows that I am obsessed with sports and collecting autographs but what you may not know is my obsession with collecting started in my teens and it wasn't sports.

I recall sitting in a 9th grade math class toward the end of the period so we were given a few minutes to talk amongst ourselves. These few minutes would shape the next 8 years or so of my life. In those few minutes a friend of mine introduced me to a card game called Magic: The Gathering.

Magic: The Gathering of MtG is a strategic, collectable card game created by Richard Garfield, a former mathematics professor who found huge success in the gaming world. It is a game that started out based on monsters, wizards, and dragons from the fantasy world.

I have always described it as chess with cards and a splash of Dungeons and Dragons thrown in. MtG was the first collectable card game (CCG) and the most successful. Although there have been popular imitators like Pokemon, Yu-Gi Oh!, and to a lesser extent Star Wars CCG, MtG was the forerunner.

The game is based on a "land to spell" ratio where each card cost a different amount of "mana". The lands each represent a different color that corresponds with the cards you are trying to play.

Swamps represent black which caters to the player who likes to control the playing field by making your opponent discard cards from their hand and destroying their creatures.

Forests represent green and cater to the player who wants to play a bunch of small creatures early, build a large manager base, and then attack with big creatures later in the game.

Mountains represent red and it is all about speedy creatures and direct damage that is done straight to your opponent.

Plains represent White. This color is all about protecting the player who is playing white from creatures and damage from your opponent.

Islands are the color of blue and my personal favorite. It's niche is controlling what your opponent can and can't play through various counter spells and "bounce" spells that allow you to return creatures and other permanents to your opponent's hand.

Now that the colors are out of the way, here is a rundown of the rules:

- Each player starts at 20 life and the object is to reduce your opponent's life total to 0 before they do the same thing to you.
- Each draws seven cards from their deck and draws one card each turn (unless a card or spell says otherwise).
- You are allowed to play one land each turn (unless a card or spell says otherwise). Lands are used to play your creatures and spells and they are vital to winning.
- You are allowed one combat phase per turn where your creatures can attack in an attempt to take your opponent to 0.
- After you play all the cards you can or choose to, you end your turn and then it is your opponent's turn.
- You alternate turns back and forth until one player is out of life or out of cards.

MtG is a very fun game once you get the hang of it. To best learn the game, watch a match as it is being played.

So next time you are in the mood for some fun, head on down to Battleground Gaming located in the back of the Wizard in Vinemont. The owner and regulars will be more than happy to teach you this extremely fun game.

Do YOU have something to say? We want to hear your Voice! Submissions may be e-mailed to voice@cullmansense.com.

Stars (from Front)

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Bright smiles and plenty of laughs were had at the 2013 Alabama Shining Star Pageant as area residents came together to celebrate the uniqueness of each talented contestant as they took to the stage at the Cullman Civic Center to show off their snazzy digs and share.



"This is a great pageant and we're just happy there is something like this for us," Rebecca Johnson said following her daughter, Maylenda Catherine, winner in the under 2 division. "I just turned her loose, so she could be herself, and it must have worked because she won for her division."

Trey and Chasity McRae organized the first pageant three years ago, in 2010. After searching for pageants whose focus was on disabled or handicapped participants the McRae's realized the best option was for them to create and host a pageant.

"Our daughter, Anna Lee, was born three years ago with a cleft palate. We had entered her into a beauty pageant, where she had won, but afterwards we approached the pageant coordinators to see if they'd be interested in hosting a special needs pageant."

The response the McRae's received was not the one the young family had imagined.

"They told us that there probably wasn't a big need for a special needs pageant," he said.

Judging by the crowd on Saturday evening, the number of contestants and number of interested sponsors, there is a need for such a pageant. McRae said he and his wife are happy knowing each of the participants leave the pageant feeling the best about themselves.

"The big thing that it means to us is that each of these participants feel special today, because it is their day to feel special," he said.

"It is really about making everyone know that they are truly special. Everyone received a crown and trophy for their participation, because it's not about winning, it's about being recognized."

For more on this story, including a vast photo gallery, visit CullmanSense.com.

Exhibit Hall is a Winner in the Cullman County Fair

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN – Who knew canned goods, produce, field crops, show animals, and crafts of all kinds could ever look so good? The Cullman County Exhibit Hall, of course!

The 59th Annual Cullman County Fair boasted its usual impressive overload of the aforementioned items, but the entries always seem a little more meaningful as our community fair was featured as one of five county fairs that exemplified the word "fair" in National Geographic.

Jerry Bonner, office manager for the Cullman County Fair Association, expressed his excitement for the entries this year. Bonner said, "To be an agricultural fair, you have to have all of this and for the folks of Cullman County to come in and bring all of this to us, year after year, it's something that really makes a difference."

Bonner stated that these exhibits are important because these people work all year long to enter their products and prizes. He said the Fair's entrants love what they do.

"I go back to these folks who have done this for years. Every year they participate because they love doing it. It's not about the money they get. They just love doing it. Now, they do want their blue ribbons and other ribbons," Bonner said with a chuckle.

A lot of hard work and honor goes into each entry. That is apparent from the laborious hand-sewn items to the desserts whose recipes have been fine-tuned all year long. The skill and craft is undeniable from one end of the exhibit hall to the other.

Noah Chandler, publisher of CullmanSense said, "It is a tremendous honor for CS to sponsor the Exhibit Hall at the Cullman County Fair. The exhibits are the backbone of any county fair, so when we were offered the opportunity to become the title sponsor for the exhibits, it let all of us at CS know that we are truly living up to the motto of Community Matters."

Gregory Bean, media spokesman of the Cullman County Fair and Certified Fair Executive (CFE is a 9-year long accreditation process) with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions has been in the fair business for almost three decades.

Bean explained that the mission of fairs is "to be an annual showcase of advancements in agriculture, horticulture, technology, and education for the community and by the community."

"This is an event that has not lost sight of the essence of the fair and still considers the competitive aspects of the fair very important from talent shows and pageants to livestock competitions, along with artwork and canning to school displays from 4-H, FFA, and local clubs, organizations, and businesses," Bean stated.

"The Fair is truly a Blue Ribbon Event and something for the community to be very proud of."

Over the years the Cullman Lions Club and its numerous volunteers and staff has been blessed with many special people who have kept the Fair true to tradition, Bean elucidated. Namely, Chester Freeman who dedicated his life to the fair and became the voice of this passion.

Bean recalled, "When asked by the author of 'The Book' how intense this spirit of exhibiting and competing for both ribbons and accolades was, Chester smiling, told the author, 'Every year, an hour after the judging has begun, phone calls start coming in from people wondering if they've won. Now, that we have a computer it's still not fast enough for them.'"

The Cullman County Fair will retain its tradition while moving forward with the newly named CullmanSense Exhibition Hall.

"Our CullmanSense partnership demonstrates that the marvelous traditions of the Cullman County Fair can connect with the technology and social media aspects of both today's fair attendee and competitor," Bean stated. "This partnership demonstrates the dynamic of modern meets tradition."

Tanked (from Front)

Hall's permanent site in Cullman, Ala. ATM is recognized as the worldwide leader in custom aquarium manufacturing and is known throughout the world as the subject of the hit Animal Planet television show "Tanked."

Under the partnership, ATM has agreed in principle to design and install a custom freshwater bass-themed aquarium of approximately 36,000 gallons inside the Hall of Fame's Education Center, the construction and installation of which will be featured on a future episode of "Tanked." The massive captive-water attraction, complemented by the series of outdoor natural ponds and streams planned for the Hall of Fame, will create a one-of-a-kind fishing-education and entertainment experience that will draw avid anglers and those new to the sport from around the world.

To help move the partnership into the next phase, Hall of Fame board members recently traveled to ATM headquarters in Las Vegas to meet the ATM staff personally and fact-find about the aquarium design, construction, and installation process. The group met with ATM general manager Dennis Wightman for several hours, as well as "Tanked" personalities Irwin "The General" Raymer and Agnes Wilczynski.

BFHOF president Sammy Lee said: "Our Hall of Fame board is very honored to be working with the world's largest custom-aquarium manufacturer – Acrylic Tank Manufacturing of Las Vegas. Their years of experience in designing and manufacturing custom, wow-factor aquariums will lead to the Hall of Fame having a one-of-a-kind freshwater aquarium attraction. We were privileged to have Dennis Wightman give us a tour of the facility, educate our group, and provide specifics on what it takes to build an enclosed aquatic environment the size of ours."

Zebco Brands president and Hall board member Jeff Pontius was also a part of the visiting group and noted how impressed he was with the ATM facility and the company's capabilities: "Along with learning more about their expertise, I'm glad the Hall board met with ATM early in the design process. It takes a lot of coordination with the architect and contractors to build a massive tank into a facility. With ATM's help we'll be sure to have a world-class trophy-bass tank that'll set a new worldwide standard," said Pontius.

About The Hall of Fame

The Bass Fishing Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization dedicated to all anglers, manufacturers, tackle dealers, media, and other related companies who further the sport of bass fishing. In February 2013 the board of directors announced the completion of a decade-long, exhaustive quest to secure a permanent home with the selection of Cullman, Alabama as the future site of the Hall, with work to commence immediately. The permanent Hall site will be constructed as a joint project with the City of Cullman, Cullman County, and the City of Good Hope – a project that includes an adjacent civic/convention center, all of which will be housed on the 110-acre parcel known as the Burrow property. The Hall will enjoy a dedicated 30 acres of the property, which will include ponds, gardens and an aquatic-education center. The entire project is estimated to cost in excess $17 million with structures that will encompass 101,000 square feet. Support the BFHOF by becoming a member. Call 888-690-2277 for more information.

About "Tanked"

Following the antics of two brothers-in-law as they run the largest aquarium-manufacturing company in the nation, Tanked dunks viewers into the high-decibel, family-owned business of Acrylic Tank Manufacturing (ATM). Led by business partners, best friends, and constant rivals Wayde King and Brett Raymer, this 33,200-square-foot facility, located in Las Vegas, produces some of the most outrageous, larger-than-life and one-of-a-kind tanks for some of the most striking fish and clients around. For more information on the company and the show, visit AcrylicAquariums.com.

2013 ANNUAL MEETING
Cullman Electric Cooperative
providing energy with care
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Saturday, Sept. 21 • Northbrook Church
8 a.m. - noon (Registration ends at 11 a.m.)
• FREE hot dogs, popcorn and drinks for all members and their guests
• FREE kids' games, balloons, spin art and bucket truck rides
• FREE health fair hosted by CRMC
• All registered members in attendance receive a $15 power bill credit and enter the grand-prize drawing for a 2002 Chevy 1500 full-size pickup truck


FREE CONCERT!
Southern Gospel legends
GREATER VISION
9 a.m. inside the Northbrook Church sanctuary