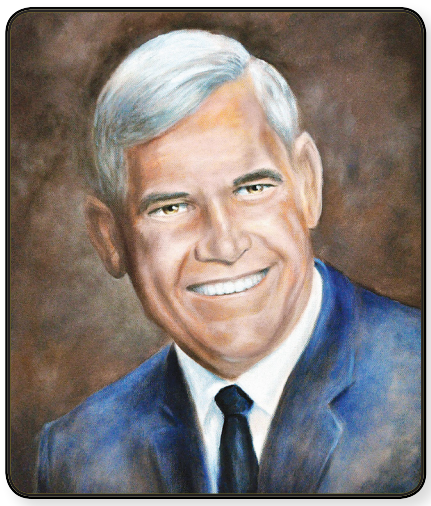
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When the City Meets the County



Farm-City Tour highlights symbiotic relationship between city and county p7

Cullman Reps. Buttram and Shedd appointed to important House Committees

By: Rachel Adams

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard (R - Auburn) announced recently that he has appointed State Representatives from Cullman, Rep. Mac Buttram and Rep. Randall Shedd, to serve on important House committees.

State Rep. Mac Buttram (R - Cullman) will serve as a member of the House Ways and Means Education Committee, and State Rep. Randall Shedd (R - Cullman) will sit on both the House Transportation, Utilities, and Infrastructure Committee and the House County and Municipal p6

Welcome Home, Brother: Veterans Day Celebration is a Success

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - Stars and stripes prevailed at this year's Veterans Day Celebration at Veteran's Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake in Cullman. With the largest turnout to date, everyone was excited to come out and support the local veterans and our troops. The celebration lasted from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and had a variety of ongoing events.

The opening ceremony featured guest speaker Colonel John Casper, a Vietnam Veteran and USAF Fighter Pilot. Lunch was served to all veterans and their spouses free of charge. Following lunch, there was an aerial demonstration by Colonel Casper, a parachute jump exhibition over the park by Skydive Alabama, and entertainment by the bluegrass band, The Potentials.

Sherry Norris from the Cullman Elks Lodge helped serve a barbecue lunch. She said, "It's awesome that the people of Cullman all show up to do this p6

Cullman is Ready for Christmas

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - The red-and-white swirled sticks were seen everywhere. The tasty treats were hung from decorative frames and Christmas trees alike. It seemed everywhere that this reporter turned there was a yummy treat to be eaten and an awesome item to be bought.

The 28th annual Christmas in Cullman Open House was this past weekend. There were plenty of retail treasures to go all around as the whole town pitched in to celebrate the anticipation of the holiday season by doing what they love to do – shopping.

"The goal for this year was to concentrate on retail business – where it all started. It welcomes people from the surrounding areas to share in Cullman's unique shops. The goal was to keep the "shop small, shop local" experience alive," Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Director Cecelia Smith said.

Smith explained that the Open House shows a commitment on the part of the merchants to provide customers with great service and merchandise. It's a celebration of Cullman and its special small-town shops.

Shoppers Margaret Hamman and Marci Pilling were excited to attend the Open House as they looked forward to the shopping.

"I was here a couple of weeks ago and we didn't get to go into all of the stores, and I was just drooling to come back to hit some of these little shops, p6

The Affects of Food Stamp Cuts on States

By: Jake Grovum • Stateline

The record number of Americans relying on federal aid to put food on the table will have to make do with less as a recession-era boost to food stamps officially has expired.

Benefits are being reduced by about 5 percent beginning Nov. 1 for all of the nearly 47.7 million Americans on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. A family of four will receive $36 less each month because of the reduction, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A household of eight would see p7

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Dr. Ben Johnson, first president of Wallace State, passes away

By: Gail Crutchfield • WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE — Dr. Ben Johnson, the man who served as the first president of what would become Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 6. He was 87.

In 1965, the Alabama State Board of Education appointed Johnson as director of what was then called the George C. Wallace State Trade School of Cullman County. That was two years after the State Legislature approved the school's formation and a year before the first classes were held.

"Dr. Ben Johnson played a significant role in establishing today's community college system that serves more than 130,000 students annually," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "That is quite a legacy."

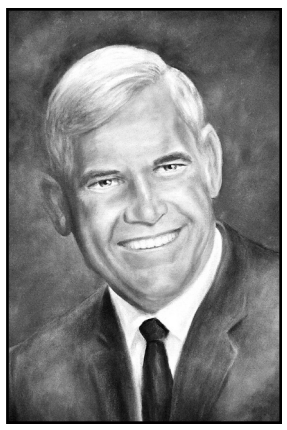
Johnson spent six years as the director of the trade school, helping to establish a program of technical education in Cullman County. "That task is complete to an amazing degree," he wrote when announcing his resignation in February of 1971. Enrollment at the school at the time of Johnson's departure was 295 students, compared to 59 when classes started in 1966.

Johnson served as president until the appointment of Dr. James C. Bailey. Johnson's death follows less than a month after Dr. Bailey's passing in October. Prior to his time at the trade school, Johnson served as principal at Cullman County area schools and as a professor at St. Bernard College.

Johnson noted at the time of his resignation that he planned to continue his own education to fulfill a goal of earning his doctorate, which he later did from Auburn University. He previously earned bachelor and master degrees from the University of Alabama.

"I firmly believe that my work is at a point to allow me the selfish pleasure of doing the thing that I love, and this is teaching," he said.

After leaving Wallace State, Johnson went on to work at Reed State Technical College and Gadsden State Community College. Upon retirement from the education system, he purchased The Cullman Tribune.



A painting of Dr. Ben Johnson

"He wrote a weekly column that was always associated with our family or politics and always with the goal of improving the lives of people in the community," said his daughter, Dr. Mell Johnson.

Along with his family and friends, education was an important part of Dr. Johnson's life.

"He loved life, his precious Ruby, family, friends, and the inexhaustible power of teaching and learning," Dr. Mell Johnson said of her father. "Education was a pathway for Dad personally, from his struggles in childhood. He realized that it would help him reach his personal goals."

The Johnson family was a large part of Wallace State over the years, starting with Dr. Ben Johnson and followed by his wife, the late Dr. Ruby Johnson, who taught English at the college for around 30 years. Their daughter, Dr. Mell Johnson, also taught English at Wallace State.

The family's reach extended further into the community college system, with son John Johnson serving at length as president of Alabama Southern Community College, previously Patrick Henry Junior College, where Karolewics, earned an associate degree.

Three other children — sons Ben and Thomas Evan, and daughter Maleigh — survive Johnson, as well as 10 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Funeral services for Dr. Johnson were held at 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013, at Seventh Street Baptist Church in Cullman.

REHAU to build first U.S. Research and Development Center in Cullman

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

MONTGOMERY – REHAU Inc., a European company that produces components used in automotive manufacturing and other industries, has chosen Cullman, for the location of its first research and development facility outside of Germany, the Alabama Department of Commerce announced recently.

REHAU's Alabama Technical Center will serve as the training and conferencing center for its business divisions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The $2.5 million, 20,000-square-foot technical center will employ an additional 160 people in Cullman within five years of operation. It complex will house an estimated 45 engineers.

The company's other technical centers are located in the German cities of Rehau and Feuchtwangen.

REHAU produces more than 40,000 polymer-based solutions used in construction, automotive, and other industries.

"Bringing more engineering and technical centers to support Alabama industry creates higher paying, higher skilled engineering jobs for Alabamians," said Alabama Governor Robert Bentley.

Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield added: "Having a high-tech company like REHAU choose Alabama for a U.S.-based research and development facility means new products will be born here in Alabama, which will lead to further growth of industry in our state."

Initial plans call for the new Cullman facility to house a robotic teaching cell supporting the paint application process that is independent of the production paint line.

A small prototype shop will allow design engineers to work on future automotive products right next to the workstations.

Engineers will be housed in the world-class facility with optimized working conditions for the development of part design integrated with production processes. REHAU also will construct a showroom for the company's products and production capabilities.

The new R&D center will be built on property adjacent to the manufacturing plant, which produces bumper assemblies for Mercedes-Benz. Founded in Rehau, Germany and now headquartered in Muri, Switzerland, REHAU began production in Cullman in 1995 and was the first Tier-1 supplier to follow Mercedes-Benz to Alabama.

The company now boasts more than 700 employees in the Alabama facility encompassing more than 750,000 square feet.

"With these continuous developments, REHAU secures its technological advancement within the marketplace and eventually its ability to provide jobs at locations worldwide," REHAU Cullman Plant Manager Albert Von Pelser said.

REHAU also recently completed a $119 million expansion in Cullman, making it one of the largest industrial projects in Alabama in 2012.

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Did you know that traditionally the most important deadline for 12th grade college funding is Dec. 1 nationally for them to receive priority, merit-based funding consideration for all (4) years of undergraduate work?

Did you know that seniors who want to transfer from a 2-year program to a 4-year need to go ahead and prepare for transfer scholaship eligibility now?

While there are many variables that affect a student being selected for a merit-based award over another similarly academically qualified student, typically, the student's gpa & test score are the standards by which the student is entered into his/her highest "eligibility selection window":

- Seniors with higher scores, let us show you how to maximize your auto-offers!
- Seniors with mid-range scores, let us show you how to maximize your remaining merit-based funding opportunities!
- Seniors with no/low scores, let us show you what you still can do to get as much funding as possible!
- Seniors with exceptional circumstances, let us show you how to help ensure that all of your additional opportunities are utilized!



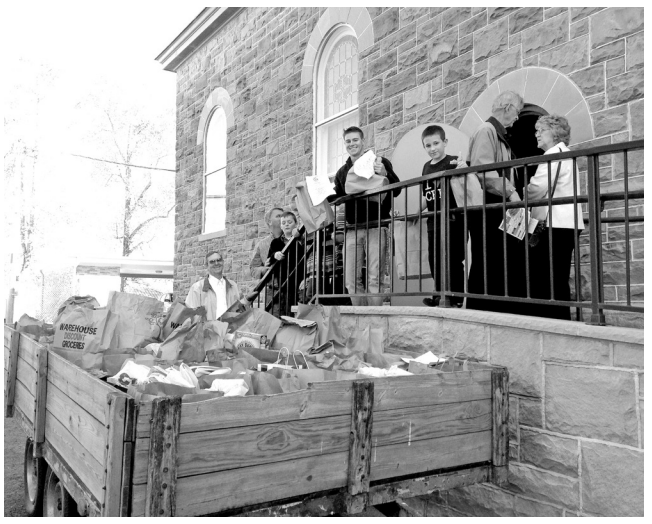
Jill Gudger Howell, M.A. Ed.
President/ Developer, PreK-12th Grade
"$cholar$hip Jump$tart"

Our locally owned & nationally known company that is featured on the Dave Ramsey Radio Show's 'Kids & Money segment' and recommended by certified Dave Ramsey coaches & Financial Peace University coordinators across the country since 2005, invites your family to give our results-oriented college funding team a call today to let us help you 'make college cost less'!

Stocking the Pantry

By: Barbara Ragsdale

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart of Jesus Church members help load Ken Kreps trailer with bags of canned and non-perishable food goods for the Church's St. Vincent dePaul Society's food pantry. This Church organization is open three mornings each week to help Cullman County families in need with food, some clothing, and other means of support. Sacred Heart School students also assisted with this community project.



What's Online

Space Station Crew Lands with Olympic Torch; Finishes 166 Days in Space

Expedition 37 crew members Karen Nyberg of NASA, Fyodor Yurchikhin of the Russian Federal Space Agency and Luca Parmitano of the European Space Agency have returned to Earth from the International Space Station...



qrne.ws/119

Chips and Ships Ahoy: *Reviews of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* and *Captain Phillips*

Aside from the presence of boats, there are really no other similarities between the true-life thriller *Captain Phillips* and the zany kids flick *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2*.

qrne.ws/120

Why States Need Social Media Policies

Soon after Indiana Gov. Mike Pence posted a statement on Facebook expressing disappointment in the Supreme Court's ruling on gay marriage, a long string of comments affirming his support for "traditional marriage" appeared.

qrne.ws/121

Study Finds Aging Inmates Pushing Up Prison Health Care Costs

By: Christine Vestal • Stateline

State spending on prisoner health care increased in 42 states between 2001 and 2008, with a median growth of 52 percent, according to a new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The primary driver of the cost spike is bigger and older prison populations.

"Health care is consuming a growing share of state budgets, and corrections departments are not immune to this trend," said Maria Schiff, director of the State Health Care Spending Project, an initiative of Pew and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Pew analyzed inflation-adjusted correctional health care expenditures collected by the U.S. Department of Justice from 44 states that participated. Overall, these states spent $6.5 billion on inmate health care in 2008, up from $4.2 billion in 2001.

Average per-inmate spending also grew in 35 of the states during the same period at a median rate of 32 percent.

Of the states in the study, prisoner health care costs in Illinois and Texas decreased. Those not included in the study are Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, Vermont, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.

Although sentencing changes have resulted in a recent decline in the prison population, the number of people held in state prisons ballooned over the last 30 years. During the study period, it grew by about 200,000, a 15 percent increase.

During the same period, the number of state and federal inmates age 55 and older grew from 40,200 to 77,800, a 94 percent increase. Since 2008, the number of elderly inmates has continued to grow to 121,800 in 2011.

The aging of the prison population is the result of a large number of inmates living out longer sentences and an uptick in the number of older people who are sent to prison.

Like the population on the outside, elderly prisoners are more likely to have chronic medical and mental conditions that require expensive treatments. The health care costs for inmates age 55 and older with a chronic illness is on average two to three times that of the cost for other inmates, according to the study.

Cutting Costs

States have developed a number of strategies to mitigate the rising cost of caring for prisoners, including increased use of telemedicine and the outsourcing of medical services to state universities and other providers, according to the report.

In addition, a small number of states have made limited use of Medicaid to help finance rising prison health care costs.

The potential benefits of Medicaid financing will increase substantially in 2014 when the Affordable Care Act takes effect, but only in states that expand their programs.

Currently, most state Medicaid programs cover very few childless adults, who make up the bulk of the prison population. In most cases, only pregnant women and disabled inmates are eligible for Medicaid.

By expanding Medicaid to all adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line ($11,490 for an individual), virtually everyone who is incarcerated will qualify for the federal-state program. The federal government will pay 100 percent of costs for newly eligible adults from 2014 through 2016 and gradually decrease its share to 90 percent by 2020.

For inmates, Medicaid pays only for health care services provided outside of prison walls. But those charges – for inmates admitted for 24 hours or more to a hospital, nursing home, or psychiatric center – are often substantial.

In Ohio, where Republican Gov. John Kasich recently circumvented the GOP-led legislature to approve the expansion, the state estimates it will save $273 million in prison health care costs in the first eight years. Michigan expects to save about $250 million on inmate health expenses in the first 10 years, and California expects to save nearly $70 million each year.

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

Veteran groups now eligible for purchases at state's Surplus Property

By: Jim Plott

MONTGOMERY— Veteran service organizations in Alabama are now eligible to purchase government surplus equipment like computers and vans from the state's Surplus Property Division at a fraction of what the items would cost new.

Congress approved the FOR VETS Act earlier this year which enables veteran service organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to purchase surplus government equipment.

In Alabama, those organizations can now purchase state and federal surplused equipment at little cost.

Surplus Property, a division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, has surplus warehouses in Montgomery and Morgan counties where it receives equipment no longer used by state and federal agencies.

ADECA Director Jim Byard Jr. said the new law will assist veteran organizations in providing more benefits for veterans, particularly for those just coming out of the service and those with disabilities.

"We can never repay the service and sacrifice performed by our men and women in military uniforms," Byard said.

"However this new policy helps in a small way to show our gratitude and it is my hope that many of our veterans will reap benefits from this exchange."

State Surplus Director Shane Bailey said some items likely to be obtained from Surplus are kitchen equipment and supplies, computers and desks to be used in veteran training programs, and handicap accessible vans to transport veterans to posts, classes and veteran functions.

State Surplus Property sells much of its inventory to local governments, schools and other non-profit groups.

Many items are sold to the public during several auctions conducted annually.

Supreme Court Considers Government Prayer

By: Jake Grovum • Stateline

The Supreme Court will soon consider the limits of government-sanctioned prayer as the justices wade into an area of American history and law that one expert called "a mess."

The case – Town of Greece v. Galloway – began as a challenge against the practices of Greece, N.Y., a small town outside Rochester, where official city government meetings included a prayer.

For a time, that prayer was exclusively Christian, a specific practice that the town's opponents said violated the constitutional ban on government-sanctioned prayer. A lower federal court agreed.

But in reaching the Supreme Court, the case has since turned into a potential opening for a broader ruling on government-backed prayer.

While government meetings and practices of all kinds – including sessions in state legislatures, the U.S. Congress and indeed the Supreme Court itself – often include prayers or invocations of God of some kind, the limits for what could and could not pass constitutional muster have been vague for years.

"It's one of those things that there are endless variations of what can happen on the ground," said Jessie Hill, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University, who wrote a preview of the court's arguments on the influential website SCOTUSblog.

"The court has really struggled with what to do with government speech that is religious in nature."

"Anyone will tell you that the law in this area is just a mess," she added.

The U.S. Constitution bans the establishment of an official state religion.

Yet over the years, some kinds of religious speech and symbolism have been allowed to permeate certain practices – from the use of "God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and U.S. currency to opening prayers before government meetings.

There are limits – but the problem is in defining what those are.

In most cases, lower courts have found the Supreme Court's 1983 ruling in Marsh v. Chambers to generally allow prayer before government hearings.

In that ruling, the court cited the historical prayer practice of legislative bodies as trumping the Constitution's ban on government-sanctioned religion, allowing the practice to continue.

But there was no test or limit laid out, and since then, countless government bodies have used the ruling to employ nondenominational, multi-faith, and even sectarian prayers, mostly without running afoul of the courts.

Courts have found some practices overly sectarian or said they aligned a government too closely with one religion, but the limits were never clearly defined.

Over the years, courts also adopted the "endorsement test" to limit government prayer, a stronger approach which critics often called too restrictive.

The test says government-sanctioned prayer violates the Constitution when it signals official sanction or disapproval of certain faiths, or even makes those not of a given faith feel like outsiders.

It was the endorsement test that the 2nd Circuit Federal Court cited in ruling against the New York town in the case now before the justices, rather than a narrow ruling citing the Marsh precedent.

That means that, in a sense, the test itself is at issue before the court. And in choosing to review that ruling, the Supreme Court has given an opening to those who have argued for a more permissive approach, one that would allow prayer as long as it's not "coercive" or proselytizing, for example, rather than sectarian.

That's the argument adopted by the Obama administration, which weighed in with a brief of its own in the case.

Thanks to the lower court's use of the endorsement test, the Supreme Court justices now have an opportunity to revisit – and potentially end – the endorsement test's limit on prayer once and for all.

While it might seem like a slight change in the legal landscape, Hill said such a ruling would be a "bombshell."

"A lot of folks have thought for a long time there are five votes to replace that," she said, referring to the conservative justices on the court.

"People have been expecting that for seven years since [Justice Sandra Day] O'Connor left the court."

Whether the court will go that far is unclear. There are many other options, Hill and others say, including some that would rule against the town and still save the endorsement test. The justices could order the lower court to take another look at the case under the Marsh precedent, for example.

The facts of the case also leave some room for a narrow ruling.

The fact that the town featured exclusively Christian prayer could bolster the argument that the town went too far, even by more permissive standards, and therefore isn't a case that should involve the broader issue of government prayer.

Others have said because it's a municipal government – where citizens could be required to appear for permitting or other issues, unlike a legislative floor session – the case is a special test of prayer allowance.

The fact that the U.S. Supreme Court took the case at all has left some to predict an interest among some justices for a more sweeping ruling, one that would clear up ambiguities in the law and, potentially, open the door for more prayer in government.

But how far to open that door could be a difficult question.

"This case is just another example of the difficulty we get into when the court starts sanctioning government religious speech," Hill said. "[This case is] clearly that problem coming home to roost."

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

High School Football Roundup: Playoff Edition

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The first round of the AHSAA high school football playoffs have come and gone. Unfortunately for the teams in and around Cullman, only one the made it through to the second round.

Cullman vs. Moody
By: Josh McBrayer

CULLMAN – It was a tale of two halves Friday night as the Cullman Bearcats edged out the Moody Blue Devils 20-14 in the first round of the 2013 high school football playoffs.

Cullman opened the game on their own 28 yard line but the Cats were only able to manage six yards and were forced to punt. Tadrious Campbell attempted to field the punt for Moody but he was unable to corral the punt and Cullman jumped on the loose ball and looked to have new life. However they were only able to move seven yards. The Bearcats had to settle for a 31 yard field goal attempt which missed leaving the game scoreless.

Moody took over on the 20 and chewed up the clock going on a 16 play drive down to the Cullman 11 but failed to convert on fourth down and gave the ball back to the Bearcats.

Play would sway back and forth until midway into the second quarter when Moody would finally get on the board, thanks to a three yard touchdown run by Dee Williams, who rushed for 37 yards on the drive. Thanks to Williams, Moody would take a 7-0 lead to the half.

Moody got the ball to start the second half and picked up right where they had left off, with a score. Quarterback Michael Barron hit a wide open Terrell Martin who made one Cullman defender miss and outraced the others for a 63 yard touchdown putting the Blue Devils up 14-0 a mere 75 seconds into the second half.

Cullman, down but not out, finally got on the board when Trey Moon carried the ball in from just inches out to bring Cullman to within striking distance, 14-7.

The Bearcats then forced a Moody punt and were driving deep into Blue Devil territory as time expired in the third quarter.

It would take Cullman just 22 seconds in the fourth quarter to tie the game as Glenn hit Auston Neal for a 15 yard gain and setting up a Garrett Crider four yard TD run to knot the game at 14.

After several punts and an avoided disaster, Cullman found themselves with the ball but 84 yards from the end zone with just over a minute left in the game. It was a challenge the Bearcats were more than willing to accept.

Glenn got the drive going with a 22 yard strike to Neal up to the 40 and followed that up with an 11 yarder to Seth Donaldson. Crider then rattled off a 21 yard run and Glenn then hit Donaldson again, this time for 21 and Cullman found themselves two inches away from victory and advancement in the playoffs.

With five seconds left on the clock, Glenn turned and handed the ball to Trey Moon who lost the handle and fumbled the ball into the end zone where a very surprised but alert Auston Neal fell on the loose ball for the touchdown and the 20-14 win.

"Get on it," Neal said with a laugh when asked what he was thinking when he saw the loose ball in the end zone.

Cullman extends their season and will hit the road next week for the second round of the playoffs.

Good Hope vs. Sacks
By: Jim Stinson

SAKS - Good Hope drew first blood on its second play from scrimmage, Sebastian Fendley scampered 63 yards to give the Raider's an early 7-0 lead.

But that is when Saks showed why they are the #3 ranked team in the state. The Wildcats scored 51 unanswered points, 45 coming in the first half.

Saks was able to run at will on the Raider defense, scoring on runs of 9,13,47,7,25,and 51 yards taking a 45-7 lead at halftime.

Saks first possession in the 3rd quarter saw Tre Smith hit a wide open Devin Harris for a 40 yard score, and increasing the Wildcat lead to 51-7.

In the 4th quarter the Raiders Freshmen QB Riley Eisner took over for an injured Fendley. Esiner threw 2 TD passes, a 32 yard screen pass to Jared McClure and a 4yard toss to Austin Crumbley.

Good Hope finishes the season with its first trip to the playoffs since 2008 and a record of 7-4.

Fairview vs. Haleyville
By: Zeke McBrayer

HALEYVILLE – Fairview traveled to Haleyville to take on the Lions in the first round of the Class 4A Playoffs. Fairview came into the game looking to rebound from a big loss to the West Point Warriors last week. Haleyville was riding a six game win streak into this game and looked to capitalize on the momentum in a first round home game.

Haleyville won the toss and deferred to the second half. Fairview came out and couldn't get the offense clicking, and was forced to punt after a quick three-and-out. Fairview's defense looked just as good, stopping the Haleyville offense and forcing an apparent three-and-out. However, the Lions had different plans. On a fourth-and-one, Haleyville ran a fake punt to get the first down and keep the drive alive. After two big plays by Lions' quarterback Conner Kiser, the Aggies defense stood strong and kept the Lions out of the end zone.

Haleyville was forced to attempt a field goal, but a low kick was picked off by Fairview and returned to the 32-yard line.

Fairview took this momentum shift and used it to drive down to the Haleyville 24 yard-line. After two big pass plays from Aggie quarterback Hayden Maples, both over 20 yards, Fairview looked to the air again on a 4th and 3. This time, however, the Lions were ready. Griffin McCarley picked off Maples and took it back to the 42-yard line. Haleyville only needed four plays to score, starting with a huge pass from Kiser to Bennett Richards for 41 yards. The drive was capped off by another pass, this one from Kiser to Colby Roberts and lit up the scoreboard for the first time of the night.

With Fairview getting the ball back, they knew they had to answer after the costly turnover. Fairview showed no hesitation to go back to the air, starting the drive off with a 14-yard pass and adding in another 25-yard pass just two plays later. The rest of the drive came behind the strength of sophomore running back Austin Harris. After three straight run plays, Harris took the ball from the 7-yard line and powered his way into the end zone, breaking multiple tackles on the way there. The touchdown would cut the Lions' lead to 7-6.

The rest of the game was dominated by the home team, on both sides of the ball. The Lions would score two more times before the half, another passing touchdown and a field goal. Haleyville was also able to overcome the first bad field goal and kick one from 28 yards. The Lions defense held Fairview to two three-and-outs and took a 17-6 lead into the half.

The third quarter had an eerie "quiet before the storm" feel. Both teams held each other scoreless and neither team could get their offense rolling. Haleyville reached the end zone early in the fourth quarter on a 21-yard run by Kiser and it was all downhill after that. Haleyville scored two more times before the end of the game, both on special teams. Jarrett Sherrill returned a punt for a touchdown, and on Fairview's next possession Maples would throw an interception to McCarley, who took it to the house.

The air seeped out of the Aggies, and on a last attempt to make the game competitive, Maples would throw his third interception of the game. Haleyville would take this opportunity and run the clock out.

The Lions were led by junior quarterback Conner Kiser. Kiser went 14/28, 208 yards and two touchdowns. He also added 60 yards on the ground and a touchdown. The Aggies quarterback, Hayden Maples, had similar stats. Maples finished with 116 yards, going 12/22. Maples' glaring problem was the three interceptions, two of which turned into touchdowns for the Lions. Austin Harris finished with 54 rushing yards and the Aggies' only touchdown.

While Fairview's season is finished, Haleyville will travel to J.O. Johnson in the second round of the playoffs.

Hanceville vs. Glencoe
By: Matt Glover

HANCEVILLE – It was win or go home Friday night at Ray Talley Stadium, on the campus of Hanceville High School. The first round of the AHSAA playoffs has arrived. On a cold, winter night, the Bulldogs squared off with Glencoe. Hanceville would start things off with a short drive, that gained a first down, but lost yardage overall. Glencoe would not waste anytime taking advantage with 56 yard pass for a touchdown on their very first play.

Hanceville would give the ball right back to Glencoe, throwing an interception on the third play of the drive. Glencoe again would not waste time; scoring in one play for the second consecutive time.

This one on an 81 yards run. This gave us a score of 13-0 Glencoe. Hanceville would throw two straight incompletions on the next drive, the crowd felt like it might be a long night. But on third down, Hurst found Reese for 15 and a first down. This seemed to get the offense going; they would drive 69 yards, capped by a 36 yard Harris TD run. Glencoe 13-7 after one quarter of play.

At the start of the second, Hanceville would again score, this time on a 55 yard drive. Punched in from 2 yards out by Harris. After trailing 13-0, Hanceville lead 14-13.

Glencoe needed less than two minutes, and four plays to retake the lead on a 17 yard TD pass, giving us a score of 20-14 Glencoe. Both teams would go three and out on their next drives, which lead to Hanceville starting a drive on their own 29, with under two minutes till the half. The Bulldogs would scratch and claw their way down the field to set up first and goal from the 3 yard line with five seconds left on the clock.

Hanceville would bring in the big boys, looking like they would try to run it right up the middle. Hurst faked the handoff, rolled to his right and found Harris in the edge of the end-zone for the score with all zeros on the clock. After and offside on the PAT, Hanceville took it in for two, giving them the momentum, and a halftime lead of 22-20.

Glencoe would get the ball first after the break. They would come out on fire, scoring in 6 plays, running the ball right at the bulldog defense. Of the 50 yards gained, 47 were on the ground. Glencoe 28-22. The Bulldogs were not willing to let the momentum slip away that easily. Hanceville would go a methodical 10 play drive, taking almost five minutes off the clock. This one would be punched in from 12 yards out by Green. They would however miss the point after, leaving us all tied up at 28.

Glencoe would throw an interception on its third play, giving the Dogs a great chance to take the lead, as they took over on the Glencoe 40 yard line. But it was not to be. Hanceville gained just one yard on three plays, and were forced to punt. Glencoe would take over on their own 41. After a first down, Glencoe would be held on three straight plays, setting up fourth and 3.

Glencoe would show punt, and then shift into a four wide outlook, with the up man acting as QB; he would take the snap and toss it to the punter on the option. This gained 5 yards and the first down. On the very next play, Glencoe found the end-zone from 32 yards out. Glencoe lead 35-28.

Hanceville feeling the pressure again, would deliver. Scoring on a 13 yard pass from Hurst to Dean to tie the score once again, this time at 35. Glencoe would need just three plays to retake the lead, thanks in large part to a 60 yard pass, to set up a one yard TD run. Glencoe would retake the lead 42-35 with 5:35 remaining.

Hanceville was quickly faced with a fourth down. Coach Miller elected to punt with under five minutes to go, gambling that his defense would be able to get a stop.

Glencoe would take advantage, on 3rd and 17 from their own 30 yard line, Glencoe would score on a 70 yard TD pass to ice the game away, with under two minutes remaining.

This would give us a final score of Glencoe 49 Hanceville 35. Another early exit for the Bulldogs should not overshadow the season they had.

The only regular season loss coming in and overtime thriller to cross county rival Good Hope. Hanceville finishes the season 9-2

Cullman will travel to Southside Gadsden Friday night for round number two. Make your plans to be there as the Bearcats look to continue winning on their way to a state title.



Butler outlasts Cullman in consolation game at WSCC

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Following a double digit loss Tuesday night, Cullman could have easily rolled over and given up. However, that would not be the case when the Bearcats faced the Butler Rebels Thursday night in a consolation game.

Cullman and Butler played a hard-fought first quarter, with both teams hitting big shots, including a pair of treys by Chase Slocumb. Cullman was able to open up a seven point lead midway through the second quarter thanks to a 10-4 run, six coming from the hot hand of Slocumb. The quarter would then finish out even with Cullman burying some big threes and Butler controlling the boards while also making their presence known inside the paint.

Cullman owned most of the third quarter, going on a 21-8 run but a late 8-2 run from the Rebels made the score 60-47 heading to the fourth and final quarter. Butler opened up the quarter on a 13-4 run with Carl Mastin carrying the Rebels on his back, dropping in nine early points to get Butler to within four, 66-62. The hot hand stayed with Butler and Mastin. Three free throws later, the Rebels trailed by a single point with 2:13 left in the game.

Butler took the lead on a three from Mastin and the Rebels were able to hold the lead and put the game on ice with four big free throws from Terrion Hobson. Butler took third place in the inaugural West Regional Classic Tip-Off, 75-70.

Leading the way for Butler was Carl Mastin with 31, including 15 in the fourth quarter comeback. Case Slocumb was the top scorer for Cullman with 21.

Wallace State basketball teams sweep Northeast Mississippi in home openers

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's basketball teams were both impressive during their home openers, sweeping Northeast Mississippi CC at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Wallace State's men opened the doubleheader with a convincing 90-52 win over the Tigers, and the 16th-ranked Lady Lions followed with a 76-69 triumph.

The teams shifted normal starting times to precede the high school boys' finals of the inaugural Regional Tip-off Challenge.

Four Wallace State men finished with double figures in its rout and all 14 players scored. Freshman Lee Moore paced the way with 17 points, Marcus Johnson poured in 16, X-keem scored eight of his 10 points in the first half, and Jestin Lewis added 10.

"We feel like we have a lot of depth. It's the first game we've had every player available. We wanted to utilize that and get everyone some minutes in the first half. We were afforded the chance to do it again in the second half," said Wallace State coach John Meeks, who's in his fourth season with the program. "This team is really, really deep and if we shoot the ball and defend like we did in the first half, I think we can be tough to beat."

Moore and Jones helped Wallace State (2-1) build its early cushion. Leading 16-13, both newcomers combined for the next 12 points and extended the Lions' lead to 28-13 with 6:12 remaining in the first half. Jones nailed a pair of 3-pointers and a baseline jumper during the surge, while Moore added a pair of shots in the lane.

Wallace State led 43-20 at the half, hardly allowing the Tigers any easy baskets the entire game.

"We've spent a lot of time in practice on protecting the paint. I thought our guys did a good job of executing that," Meeks said.

Darius Joell added seven points to Wallace State's output, Quinterian McConico finished with six, and Marcus Lewis and Dominique Taylor scored five points apiece.

For Northeast Mississippi, Marcus Hogan scored 14 points.

Wallace State women 76, Northeast Mississippi CC 69

Freshmen forwards Morgan Smith and Ashley Rodgers each made sure their home debuts in a Wallace State uniform were memorable.

Smith scored 10 of her 16 points in the second half, Rodgers contributed 11, and both girls helped the Lady Lions pull away in the final minutes after playing catch up for the majority of the game.

The Lady Lions (2-1) trailed 41-35 at halftime, but gradually chipped away at the deficit during the first 10 minutes of the second half.

Wallace State finally seized a 53-52 advantage on a Rodgers' layup with 9:01 remaining in the half. Rodgers and Smith then put on a show over the next seven minutes, combining for 15 of Wallace State's next 17 points and pushing the lead to 70-63.

Sophomores Brandee Busenlehner and Jasmine Coleman combined for the final six points to close out the win.

"Morgan and Ashley are coming around. They weren't even playing their first high school games this time last year. Freshman players get it at some point and time, and I believe they each had their break-out games," said third-year Wallace State coach Ron Burdette. "I told our team the winner was going to be decided by who wanted it more in the second half. I think we decided we were going to take it. I'm very proud of our effort over the final 20 minutes. It was a great 20 minutes. Once we grabbed the momentum, we never lost it."

Coleman finished with a game-high 21 points and collected eight rebounds for Wallace State. Jaylan Snowden contributed eight points, and Busenlehner added five.

Northeast Mississippi had four girls in double figures. Antionette Riddle had 18 points, Daisha Williams and Aushiana Ivy each scored 13, and Jasmine Allen added 12.

Both Wallace State teams play at Motlow (Tenn.) State on Tuesday.

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

St. Bernard Cross Country teams advance to state

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

COLD SPRINGS – Dreary weather did not hamper the Saints performance at the AHSAA 1A-2A Cross Country Sectionals held last week at Cold Springs High School.

Coach William Calvert was all smiles as both teams from St. Bernard crossed the finish line to advance to state competition at Oakville, Alabama on November 9.

Calvert said, "Our girls had a phenomenal performance. We won the Sectional for the 2nd straight year and placed six runners in the top 13 in a very tough field. This should put us in great shape for the state meet. "

Senior Logan Ayers won her 5th consecutive meet and repeated as Individual Sectional Champion.

Her time of 19:04 was a new course record.

She was followed closely by Leahrose Mami in 3rd, Ayleana Mami 5th, Ivy Edge 6th, Jaden Edge in 12th, and Cailin O'Donnell in 13th place.

Calvert said his boys knew advancing to the state meet in such a tough section would require bringing their "A" game.

"The guys really came together as a team and posted their top average time of the season to finish third behind two of the state's top ranked teams. I am really proud of their effort," continued Calvert.

The top three teams from the sectional advance to the state meet. Senior Oscar Perez had the best meet of his career finishing 4th with a time of 17:18. Steven Mami finished 6th, Thomas Russell place 14th, Nate Giffin 15th Isaias Robles 20th, and Will Sciaroni 25th.

The Saints travel to Oakville Saturday, November 9 to compete for the AHSAA 1A-2A title.

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Basketball schedules released

By: Josh McBrayer
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Gyms are currently being filled with the squeaks of shoes and the familiar echoes of a basketball bouncing off of a freshly waxed hardwood floor, which can only mean one thing: Basketball is back! Most local teams will tip off the season in the upcoming week and every team will have the full complement of players except Cullman, who will be missing some players because of the state football playoffs.

Below are the schedules from around Cullman so you can start planning YOUR basketball season. NOTE: The Good Hope schedule not available at time of print.

Cullman
11-15 Butler
11-26 @ Holly Pond
12-6 @ East Limestone
12-17 @ Butler
12-20 @ Hartselle
12-26 Boaz
1-3 @ Muscle Shoals
1-10 @ West Point
1-14 Dora
1-17 East Limestone
1-24 @ Lawrence County
1-31 @ Dora

Cold Springs
11-12 @ Vinemont
11-15 @ Holly Pond
11-18 West Point
11-19 Good Hope
12-6 Holly Pond
12-10 Oakman
12-17 @ Oakman
12-20 @ Walker
1-7 @ Good Hope
1-31 Vinemont
2-3 @ West Point

Fairview
11-12 Holly Pond
11-13 @ Addison
11-15 @ Good Hope
12-6 @ Locust Fork
12-9 Dora
12-10 Holly Pond
12-12 @ Hanceville
12-20 @ Holly Pond
1-10 Locust Fork
1-13 @ Dora
1-30 @ West Point
1-31 Hanceville
2-3 Vinemont

Hanceville
11-21 Susan Moore
11-22 @ Vinemont
11-25 Dora
12-3 @ Corner
12-9 @ Holly Pond
12-12 Fairview
12-13 @ Good Hope
12-20 @ Susan Moore
1-10 @ Danville
1-13 @ Susan Moore
1-27 @ West Point
1-31 @ Fairview

Holly Pond
11-12 @ Fairview
11-15 Cold Springs
11-19 @ West Point
11-22 @ New Hope
11-26 Cullman
12-6 @ Cold Springs
12-9 Hanceville
12-10 @ Fairview
12-17 @ Vinemont
12-20 Fairview
1-3 @ Good Hope
1-10 @ Brindlee Mountain
1-13 West Point
1-14 @ Pennington
1-28 Madison Academy
1-30 Good Hope

Vinemont
11-12 Cold Springs
11-14 St. Bernard
11-15 @ West Point
11-19 @ West End
11-22 Hanceville
12-3 @ Danville
12-10 Good Hope
12-12 @ Falkville
12-17 Holly Pond
12-20 Falkville
1-10 @ Good Hope
1-14 Danville
1-28 West Point
1-30 Curry
1-31 @ Cold Springs
2-3 Fairview

West Point
11-12 @ Good Hope
11-15 Vinemont
11-18 @ Cold Springs
11-19 Holly Pond
11-22 @ East Limestone
11-25 Hayden
12-6 Good Hope
12-10 @ Hartselle
12-20 East Limestone
1-10 Cullman
1-13 @ Holly Pond
1-14 @ Good Hope
1-17 Hartselle
1-27 Hanceville
1-28 @ Vinemont
1-30 Fairview
2-3 Cold Springs

Christmas (from Front)

and so this was our occasion to come back," Hamman excitedly said.



As an out-of-towner, Pilling expressed her love for the area, "I am very envious of the downtown district. I would love it for our town. It's a great shopping experience."

The community event drew in a lofty crowd as retail shops heard the constant shuffle of feet and had some impressive sales to show for the turnout. Of course, store owners and shoppers also heard the merry music of the Christmas season being broadcast from Top of the Town.

Kristin Roberts is an associate at the Living Well Natural Store and said, "It's been really busy. A lot of foot traffic. People have been surprised that there's something like this here in Cullman – that we've been here this long and they didn't know it."

As residents and visitors explored the downtown area, there were a variety of events happening around town to keep everyone's attention. From a festive Window Display Contest sponsored by the Chamber to children decorating Christmas cookies at Weiss Cottage, there was never a dull moment in this winter wonderland.

"I am truly impressed by the work that went into these storefront windows. They are all winners! We had so many locals and out of town visitors today tell us how beautiful and wondrous the windows displays were throughout town," Smith said of the contest. "The merchants should all feel so proud of the awesome displays and the hard work that went in to making Cullman look so inviting, festive, and beautiful."

The Chamber prepared for the event by decorating their lobby to reflect a scene from the beloved Christmas movie "Buddy the Elf," complete with actors. And, no, not Santa Claus, but Buddy the Elf and his assistant elf named Katie! The two were on hand all day to pose for photos; definitely a new twist on the Christmas family photo as many families stopped in to snap a photo of their little ones with Buddy and his helper.

A special board was even formed to plan this year's Open House. Smith said the board consisted of community members who had an interest in the continuation of the local tradition. Shopping local is a November staple, especially with Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30, so Christmas in Cullman capitalized on this idea a little early with the focus of kicking off the holiday shopping season.

"My favorite part of the day was seeing the community come together for such a great event. It amazes me how Cullman pulls together like a close family and works together to see things through and done right," Smith stated. "Today was a positive sign of what is to come for this year's Christmas season and the community support to shop local."

Holiday Bazaar Brings the Cheer

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN - It's only November, but the holidays are fast approaching. Commercials, decorations, and the days quickly dwindling from the calendar all serve as constant reminders to get out there and get your Christmas shopping list conquered.

First United Methodist Church recently held their annual Holiday Bazaar on the first Thursday in November per tradition. Everything from homemade goodies to handmade items were available to the public, all of which was handcrafted solely by the women in the church. The bazaar lasted from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. and had no outside vendors.



The 90 women of the United Methodist Women group spent countless hours baking goods, creating handmade items and building one-of-a-kind creations. The group is made up of about five different circles including the Colene circle, the Friendship circle, the Barbara Hecht circle, the Women Reaching Women circle, and the Heart and Sole circle.

Melissa Betts, church member and coordinator of Knapsacks for Kids, said there was a great turnout at the long awaited Holiday Bazaar.

"This is my first year to volunteer and it's been fun to see people from around the community come in," she said.

All of the goods sold at the bazaar were original creations. The UMW group at FUMC spent a few months in advance preparing for the big fall event held in Hearin Hall.

"To see everyone working together is my favorite part. You know, it's all about the missions. People working together for the common goal," Betts said.

The diverse little bazaar had a quaint, comfy feel with tons of colorful decorations and handmade items to bring the cheer to any room. The room was divided into several smaller "shops" with inviting items and tempting treasures vying for purchase all around.

The baked goods area offered everything from cinnamon rolls and cakes to homemade bread. The general store sold pecans, homemade jellies, and sweet potatoes, to name a few. The candy booth had a delicious variety of candies from pralines to Oreo bonbons.

Along with the delectable aromas encircling the room, the talents of the church were on display at every turn with a variety of wooden frames, hand-sewn items, and smaller knickknacks.

The woodworking booth was the most popular booth selling out of mostly everything within the first two hours. Handmade, woodworked items, crosses, and ornaments were sold here. These wood crafted items were made from wood salvaged from their sanctuary in the 2011 storms.

Another popular booth was the newly introduced Pinterest-inspired crafts area meant to draw in a younger market with command center message boards, chalkboards, and gift items for teachers, housewarming items, and the like.

Megan Cooley is a volunteer at the church and said she enjoyed her time spent at the bazaar.

"I feel like we are all using our talents where we can to the best of our abilities," she said.

The community wide effort was quite a hit and definitely a success. First United Methodist Church has their annual event down to a science. All proceeds from the 41st Holiday Bazaar will go to a variety of local, national, and global mission efforts.

Committees (from Front)

Government Committee.

"Rep. Buttram and Rep. Shedd have distinguished themselves as freshmen members of the House, and I am proud to recognize their efforts with these important committee assignments," Hubbard said.

"These members' unique skill sets and leadership skills make them ideal choices to serve on these important committees. The citizens of Cullman will be well served by these appointments."

The House Ways and Means Education Committee is tasked with appropriating almost $6 billion in funding to Alabama's K-12 schools, community colleges, public universities, and other education-related entities.

"I deeply appreciate the confidence that the Speaker has placed in me, and I'll work hard to ensure it is justified," Buttram said.

"Wallace State Community College is vital to our area's economy, so I will work with the other members of the committee to ensure the important education and job training programs it provides receive the funding they deserve."

The House Transportation, Utilities, and Infrastructure Committee addresses the state's infrastructure needs, working closely with the Department of Transportation and local officials to ensure that Alabama's road and bridge needs are being met.

The House County and Municipal Government Committee deal with issues related to the management and operation of local governments.

"I'm grateful for the Speaker's confidence in me and am eager to begin working in this new capacity," Shedd stated.

"My service on both of these committees will give me the opportunity to ensure that the needs of our local communities are being met."

The committee appointments will take effect for the 2014 regular legislative session, which is scheduled to convene on January 14, 2014.

Veterans (from Front)



because it's a wonderful thing."

The JROTC program from the Cullman Career Center was also in attendance. These young, dedicated up-and-comers were happy to be a part of the day's events. They cheerfully greeted people at the gate and handed out miniature flags.

Andie Elrod and Rebekah Knox are junior cadets and were unsure of what to expect for the day's celebration and activities.

"It's nothing like I expected it to be. I figured we would be more together and things might be uptight, but it's relaxed and really fun to be here," Elrod said.

As the first female in her family to enter into the armed forces, Elrod enjoys her training at the school and knows that the same standards applied to veterans and troops today will apply to her as well.

"My family expects more out of me because I'm a girl, but I know I can do it."

Knox also chimed in, expressing her happiness to be able to come out and show her support.

"It's really fun to meet the veterans and hear their stories about what they've done and where they've been," she said.

One of the program's highlights was the Wounded Warrior Project. This project helps wounded warriors readjust to civilian life after leaving the military. VFW Commander Randy McGraw shared his real life story about how the WWP helped him. As one of the first ones to benefit from the program, he is a huge advocate and successfully explained the project's mission with his heartfelt story.

McGraw said, "I was one of the very first ones to receive a backpack and it helped me so much. The program is still going strong and it's a great organization."

Those in attendance could purchase bricks in honor or in memory of a veteran. The ever-expanding Veteran's Memorial Park also greatly benefitted from the newly built pavilion and the one-of-a-kind, specially built concrete flag that lights up at night. These recent additions join the Vietnam Wall, the amphitheater, and the historic tank.

With all of the add-ons over the years, it is apparent that Cullman knows how to cherish our beloved veterans and wanted to give them a home away from home in the Veteran's Memorial Park.

"This is absolutely the biggest turnout we've ever had. I am so proud of our citizens. And I have talked to people from Athens, Huntsville, and Gurley, so there are vets here from all over," Cullman Mayor Max Townson said.

"This is a really special occasion because what we are doing today is really honoring all the Vietnam Veterans – 50 years later – as they are getting an official welcoming home. So, our motto is Welcome Home, Brother."

City meets County in annual Farm-City Tour

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Have you ever had one of those days which started with freshly dug peanuts for breakfast, followed by a display of cutting-edge automotive technology for brunch, before delving into a hearty steak for lunch, only to be followed up with fresh baked orchard fresh apple pies?

Probably not, but for those 40 attendees for this year's annual Farm-City tour the day was stimulating one for all the senses. This year's tour had three stops; the Auburn University Experiment Station, Topre America, and Steele Orchard.

"Farm-City's mission nationally is to develop a better understanding and appreciation of urban and rural communities, agriculture and industry, and how those different entities work together to support each other prosper," Brian Lacy, Farm-City Committee Chairman, said.

To begin the day, group members first boarded a hay-less hayride, or as some would say, a ride behind a tractor around the Auburn University Experiment Station. Station director Arnold Caylor explained the detailed nature of cultivating blueberry bushes, the best way to harvest peanuts, and shared tips on how to prevent invading pests from destroying your garden or large scale crop.

Once finishing up at the Experiment Station, the group headed west towards Topre. The Japanese run automotive manufacturer has been a staple in the Cullman industrial movement and continues to be a leader in job creation within the county.

Of course since a lot of the items inside of the manufacturing facility are off-limits to any sort of audio, video, or photographic imagery there's not much more to share, other than the facility is an incredibly fast-paced, yet controlled, and the focus is always quality.



After the automotive tour the group departed to West Point's own, Brandin' Iron Steakhouse. The steakhouse served as the pit stop for the day's event and allowed the group to discuss the previous stops.

The last stop of the day led the group to a hidden gem, just a short distance from the steakhouse. Steele Orchard is a family owned orchard which focuses on apples and peaches.

What began with just a few hundred trees has blossomed to over 2,000 apple trees and roughly 400 peach trees. It is hard to believe a place so delightful is still being discovered by Cullman County residents.

"We're the best kept secret in Cullman County," Steele said laughingly.

Throughout the day group members were overheard sharing stories of the days when they worked in the fields handpicking peanuts or first worked on an assembly line.

The group, for the most part, had a good understanding of the need for a strong bond between county agricultural trades and city manufacturing jobs.

The symbiotic relationship between city and county is one of the main messages Farm-City tries to emphasize throughout the year, and especially on the tour itself. Lacy said this relationship is easily identifiable in a county such as Cullman.

"We have a unique setting here in Cullman County. Being one of the agricultural leaders in the state of Alabama, yet having a lot of industry in our backyard, so we can see firsthand how those work together," he said. "Whereas other parts of the country, Farm-City may teach people more about one side or the other that they may not know much about."

The Farm-City Banquet will be held at the Cullman Civic Center on Thursday, November 21, 2013.

This year's annual Farm-City Celebration will feature presentations of the "Farm Family" for 2014 as well as the revealing of the Farm-City poster winners & youth leadership awards and a special recognition of outgoing "City Family" Dr. Tom (Big Doc) & Judy Williamson.

Tickets are $15.00 per person and may be purchased at Local Area Banks, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, or the Cullman County Economic Development Office.

For more on Cullman Farm-City, visit cullmanfarmcity.org.

Food Stamps (from Front)

benefits reduced $65 a month. The average monthly benefit per household for all 50 states and the District of Columbia last year was $278.

The cuts severely curtail the federal funds that have flowed into local communities and businesses through the states. Georgia, for example, will see total benefits cut by $210 million, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a left-leaning think tank. Illinois' share of the cut will be $220 million. For Ohio, it's $193 million. All told, $5 billion less in food stamp benefits will be paid over the next year.

The reductions will be acutely felt in states with a higher food stamp population, particularly in the dozen states where one in five residents is collecting benefits.

Vulnerable populations will be especially affected. In New York, more than 1 million elderly people or those with disabilities will feel the impact, according to the center's analysis. About 2.3 million children in both California and Texas will be affected.

The expiring benefits were always intended to be temporary, and some say calling the end of the benefits boost a "cut" is disingenuous. Congress approved a higher level of food stamp benefits for all recipients as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the stimulus bill enacted in 2009.

"It's a boost that was only meant to be temporary," said Rachel Sheffield of the conservative Heritage Foundation. "They're not cutting the program."

But despite an improved economy, demand for assistance remains at record levels — almost three times what it was in 2000. The cost of the program has ballooned as well. A decade ago, federal spending on food stamps topped $20 billion annually.

In the last fiscal year, the U.S. spent a record $78.4 billion. In Washington and in many states, Republicans have backed efforts to curb spending, cut benefits, and trim enrollment in SNAP.

The persistent demand and skyrocketing costs have prompted calls from some policymakers to cut spending on the program. Others say reductions are premature and will hurt those still reeling from the recession.

"We know that it's going to increase the people that come to us," said Page Crosland of the Capital Area Food Bank, which serves Washington, D.C. — where nearly one in four are on food stamps — along with parts of Virginia and Maryland. "We're working around the clock to meet this anticipated increased demand."

Monthly Benefit Reduction by Household Size

1. -$11
2. -$20
3. -$29
4. -$36
5. -$43
6. -$52
7. -$57
8. -$65

Each additional: -$8

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

States With Highest SNAP Population

1. D.C. — 22%
2. Mississippi — 22%
3. New Mexico — 21%
4. Oregon — 21%
5. Kentucky — 20%
6. Louisiana — 20%
7. Tennessee — 20%
8. **Alabama — 19%**
9. Georgia — 19%
10. Maine — 19%
11. West Virginia — 19%
12. Florida — 18%
13. Michigan — 18%
14. So. Carolina — 18%

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

The issue is one of the central disputes in the congressional debate over the farm bill, which ramped up again this week. House Republicans have proposed nearly $40 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next decade. The Congressional Budget Office has said such a cut could end benefits for nearly 4 million people next year alone. Senate Democrats have backed a $4 billion cut.

That larger dispute has contributed to a relative quiet over the reductions taking effect today. While Democrats and the White House blasted Republicans when they backed deep food stamp cuts in their farm bill proposal, there was no significant effort to stem the reductions now taking place.

Republicans and Democrats will continue to debate their respective farm bill measures, along with broader tax and spending disputes under the plan that ended the government shutdown last month.

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



– 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.

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.

Kill the Couch
In preparation for the January 11, 2014 Cullman Savings Bank 'Frosty 5K', Cullman Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a 'Kill the Couch' program to assist new runners in preparation for their very first 5K. Beginning at 6 p.m. there will be a 'meet and greet' gathering at the Wellness and Aquatic Center, with weekly sessions to follow every Tuesday night through January 7, 2014. Cost for this program is $85.00 for each runner. Sessions will begin with walking and progress to running, with the first 'walk' to start tonight. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information or email wharbison@cullmanrecreation.org. Make your New Year's resolution TODAY and end your 2013 in 'training mode'.

'Food for Fines' at Cullman Public Library
The Cullman Public Library is once again offering their 'Food for Fines' program this month. They will forgive $1.00 in overdue fines for every non-perishable food items (canned or boxed) brought in. Food cannot be used to pay for lost or damaged items. Call Lesia for additional information 256-734-2720, ex. 21, 22 or 23.

Beginner Line Dance Lessons
Beginner Line Dance Lessons for 6 weeks each Tuesday night starting October 15 at 6:30 p.m. These lessons will take place in the basement of the Col. Cullmann Museum. $5.00 per lesson per person, with Patricia Quick as instructor. Open for all.

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.

'Food for Fines' at Cullman Public Library
The Cullman Public Library is once again offering their 'Food for Fines' program this month. They will forgive $1.00 in overdue fines for every non-perishable food items (canned or boxed) brought in. Food cannot be used to pay for lost or damaged items. Call Lesia for additional information 256-734-2720, ex. 21, 22 or 23.

St. Monica's Group Meets Weekly for Addicted
Those who have an addiction to drugs or alcohol are welcome to attend the weekly St. Monica's group gathering in the basement of the Rectory at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. This meeting starts at 7 p.m. and open to all. For additional info, please contact Brian at 256-595-0515 or Rita at 256-507-0358.

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

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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.

Chamber for Children
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring their 'Chamber for Children' collection of new, unwrapped items such as toys, clothing and general needs with all donations going to Cullman area families in need. Play 'Santa' this year and help those less fortunate. Deadline is December 12.

'How To Grow Vegetable Transplants' Seminar
Everyone interested in invited to attend a seminar tonight from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on 'Growing Vegetable Transplants' at the North Alabama Agriplex. Designed for small farmers, market and/or those who grow gardens as a hobby! Please pre-register by calling the extension office at 256-737-9386. The $5.00 per person cost may be paid in advance or the night of the event. Additional information is available by checking www.aces.edu/cullman and then click on the 'meetings and events' link. This class is sponsored by the Cullman County Extension Office. Come learn something new or perhaps spread your knowledge around to those who need help!!! **

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
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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.

Rising Up Youth Rally at Holly Pond High School
The Rising Up Youth Rally is an opportunity for youth groups to come together and use the gifts and talents that God has blessed them with for His glory. This is a free admission event and begins at 10 a.m. There will not be a love offering taken at the event. The offering will be our praise and worship to Jesus. For more information please visit https//vcfhollypond.org/rising-up-youth-rally.html.

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CCCDC's Iron Bowl Fundraiser 2013
The Cullman County Child Development Center is sponsoring its annual Iron Bowl Fundraiser 2013 from now until November 26th and 27th. There will be both Auburn and Alabama baskets raffled off, with 6 tickets for $5.00 or $1.00 each. For $20.00 you may order 2 lb. pans of pulled pork BBQ from Mad Mike's in Berlin. Pickup dates are Tuesday, Nov. 26, and Wednesday, Nov. 27th. For tickets or additional information please call 256-739-0486. Help a good cause and get some great BBQ and possibly be the winner of the Alabama or Auburn baskets.

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.

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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.

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Reflections of History

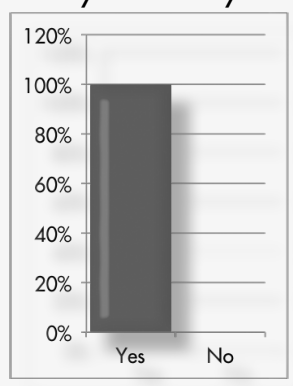
Share your historic photos with us!
E-mail history@cullmansense.com



The Hays House — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

Poll

Do you have a Veteran in your family?



This Week's Poll

Are you already in the mood for Christmas?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

CULLMANSENSE
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Practical Applications for Feeling Well

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State Board Certified Instructor #I-281
NCBTMB Approved Provider #298

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

As a Neuromuscular Therapist, I have been asked lately more about Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Let's explore the common causes of CTS and how a CNMT along with Herbal Supplements for inflammation and preventative self care can be practical for feeling well!

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, carpal tunnel syndrome is the "most common and widely known of the entrapment neuropathies in which the body's peripheral nerves are compressed or traumatized."

According to Medilexicon's medical dictionary:

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is the most common nerve entrapment syndrome, characterized by paresthesias, typically nocturnal, and sometimes sensory loss and wasting in the median nerve distribution in the hand; often bilateral and affects women more than men; due to chronic entrapment of the median nerve at the wrist within the carpal tunnel.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a painful, progressive condition that occurs when the median nerve in the wrist is compressed. The nerve may become compressed because it has swollen, the tendons are inflamed, or both.

A person with carpal tunnel syndrome feels tingling, burning, or itching numbness in the palm of the hand and the fingers, especially the thumb and index finger.

Sensations to the palm of the hand, as well as the thumb and three other fingers (not the little finger) are controlled by the median nerve.

The median nerve also controls some of the small muscles that allow the thumb and fingers to move.

The carpal tunnel, also known as the carpal canal, is a passage of bones and ligaments at the base of the hand. The median nerve and tendons are also in the carpal tunnel. The carpal tunnel can sometimes narrow as a result of irritated tendons or some other swelling; this puts pressure on the median nerve. Pressure on the median nerve can lead to pain, numbness, and weakness in the hand and wrist, which may make its way up into the arm.

What are the signs and symptoms of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?

A symptom is something the patient feels and describes, such as pain, while a sign is something others can detect, such as a skin rash.

Carpal tunnel syndrome symptoms tend to develop gradually over time.

Most patients say their first symptoms appeared during the night, or on waking up in the morning. According to The Cleveland Clinic3, patients commonly feel the need to "shake out" their hands when they wake up.

The three main symptoms associated with CTS are:

- Pain
- Numbness
- Tingling

These symptoms occur in the thumb and the two fingers next to it, as well as half of the ring finger. Sometimes the unpleasant sensations extend to the rest of the hand and even into the forearm. As CTS gets worse, symptoms may persist during the day. The person may lose grip strength and find it harder to form a fist or grasp small objects. Opening a bottle of soda, doing up your buttons, or typing on a keyboard, tasks that used to be easy, become a challenge.

If left untreated, the muscles at the base of the thumb may wither away. The ability to tell hot from cold with thumb and finger may be lost. Symptoms tend to get worse or emerge after using the affected hand. The sensation of tingling, burning, and pain may get worse if the arm or hand has been in the same position for a long time.

"How can a Neuromuscular Therapist help me with this?"

Neuromuscular Therapy is non-surgical treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome it addresses the cause of the problem at its root, by normalizing the muscles of the forearm.

It can ease pressure on the nerve from inflamed tendons within the carpal tunnel and excessive fluid in the wrist area.

Studies have shown that both general massage and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome-targeted massage treatment programs reduced Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Gains in grip strength, however, were only noted with the Carpal Tunnel Syndrome-targeted massage.

If you have CTS we can assist you in managing your pain without surgery, I have seen in the clinic, clients who feel 100% better after the first session because their pain was coming from the neck, not the tunnel. I have been surprised at "self diagnosis" clients who let me perform several release modalities on them and they are better immediately. If you have been diagnosed by a Physician for having CTS, please consider us before surgery. I have often seen clients who have undergone surgery and CTS returns due to scar tissue growth. To reduce the inflammation, I use Cucurimin from Living Well in Cullman (ask for Stephen Skinner and tell him I sent you). His staff is very educated in the vast array of natural supplements and can help get your inflammation under control which will alleviate the pressure surrounding the tunnel.

Prevention Tips:

There are several measures you can take to reduce your risk of developing carpal tunnel syndrome. Unfortunately, most people who have never had CTS ignore them.

- **Don't grip so hard** - most of us use more force than we need when performing manual tasks.
- **Don't overbend your wrist** - do not bend your wrist all the way down or up, go for a middle position. Sleep and work with your wrists straight. Avoid repeated flexing and extending of your wrists.
- **Posture** - wrong posture can lead to maneuvers that place undue strain on the wrist and hands.
- **Redesign your workstation** - good workstation design reduces unnatural and awkward wrist positions. Talk to your employer about this.
- **Remember to rest** - taking frequent breaks when performing a task will help protect you from the long-term effects, especially if it is a task you have to do frequently.
- **Temperature** - a cold environment (cold hands) can increase the risk of developing carpal tunnel syndrome. If you are in a working environment and your hands are cold, consider wearing gloves.

cullman city parks & recreation cpr&

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Kill the Couch: Get Out and Live!** CP&R will host a "Kill the Couch" program to help you train to run your first 5K beginning on Tuesday, Nov, 5 at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights at 6pm in preparation to run the Cullman Savings Bank Frosty 5K in January. Cost is $85 for the course; registration will be at the Wellness & Aquatic Center. Call 256-775-SWIM for details.
- **Christmas Arts & Crafts Show Deadline:** The deadline to purchase a booth for the annual craft show held at the Civic Center on December 6-7 has been extended to Wednesday Nov. 3. Call 256-734-9157 to register.
- **CWAC Thanksgiving Hours:** The Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2013 for Thanksgiving. The center will be open from 7am-5pm on Friday, November 29, 2013. We hope you have a great Thanksgiving!
- **Zumba Classes:** Held at the Civic Center Mon., Wed., and Thurs. 5:30-6:30pm. $40 for 10 classes or $6 per class with instructor Monica Kugler.
- **Nia Dance & Ageless Grace Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Nia class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the civic center, and Ageless Grace is held on Thursdays at 5:30pm.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Fall is the best time to visit Hurricane Creek Park!** Hurricane Creek Park has scenic hiking trails that are a great place to see the autumn leaves! Bring a picnic lunch and bring the whole family! Park is open from 12pm-sunset on Fridays and 9am-sunset on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Fall/Winter Activity Guides:** New Activity Guides featuring all of our Fall & Winter programming are now available at all of our parks & facilities! Get your FREE guide today to keep up with everything going on at Park & Rec!

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LIFE After Dark:

Rumors Has It

Rumors Deli to Serve Up Alcohol; New Hours

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

CULLMAN – Rumors Deli was one of the earliest and most successful of Cullman's downtown eateries. They were literally and figuratively a cornerstone in the revitalization of the Cullman's Warehouse District. By their own admission, owners Ralph and Annette Harris have been hesitant to fully embrace the growing downtown nightlife, restricting the popular deli's later hours to special events. The burgeoning night life and associated craft beer culture seems to be changing the Harris' opinion.



"We think it's time to grow again at Rumors," Annette Harris said. "We have seen how Cullman has grown since it has gone wet and it's a positive thing. I'll admit, I didn't know how it would affect our great little town and was kind of reserved about the idea, but from what we have observed, it seems to be helping rather than hurting Cullman."

According to Harris, starting in January 2014, Rumors is planning to extend into evening hours up to three nights a week- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. She said the extended hours will be able to accommodate those customers who've asked that Rumors be open later than 3 p.m. "By extending the hours, we can give the school kids a chance to come in and eat after school or before sporting events. For years we have been asked to be open so they can come. They love Rumors," she said.

"Also, people want our food at night. Many people work until 5 or 6 and never get to come here until Saturday. But even then some people can't make it. I hear that all the time. So I think we are going to see an increase in our business from those people as well."

In addition, the smoothie and coffee bar will be home to a new selection of beverages, namely wine and beer.

The plans currently include the inclusion of taps and "a focus on craft beer and Alabama brews." The addition also means Rumors must subtract an element from the equation, which means, out with the coffee house and in with craft beers and wines.

"We will close the coffee house so we can focus on a different look, turning that bar area into an awesome area to serve our delicious new brews and wine. We will still have regular and decaf coffee brewed daily for our coffee drinking customers. I am not sure where those will be located yet," she said.

"I am in the process of putting the coffee house equipment and remaining supplies in a package deal to sell for anyone interested."

Another change customers can expect are new hours and a change to the menu selection, especially for those seeking breakfast items.

"We will also be changing our hours from opening at 7 a.m. to opening at 10 a.m. instead. We aren't real sure just what our hours will be yet, but we will figure it out," she said. "Breakfast has been offered from day one but it is still never a big draw here like lunch seems to be. Maybe the fact that we don't have a drive thru and no way to make one probably hurts us, but the breakfast business and the coffee house just aren't as profitable as they need to be for us to continue the early hours. We have given it every effort and we have to make decisions based on better business sense."

Rumors will join the ranks of the Blue Moose and Busy Bee in providing Cullman with yet another truly unique afterhours spot downtown. Rumors' intention to focus on craft and small brews is also a boom to the growing community of Alabama brewers and microbreweries.

"We like the idea of being able to walk down First Avenue at night to enjoy the night life. It has really built up the downtown areas from the Blue Moose to Busy Bee, so we would like to continue that fun all the way down to Rumors to perk up that area as well," she said.

"We have some great ideas in mind to make Rumors an even more fun place to be. We are in the entertainment district after all, so you grow or you die."

One aspect the Harris' mulled over was the perception that Rumors is no longer a family-friendly establishment. Annette said that is far from the truth.

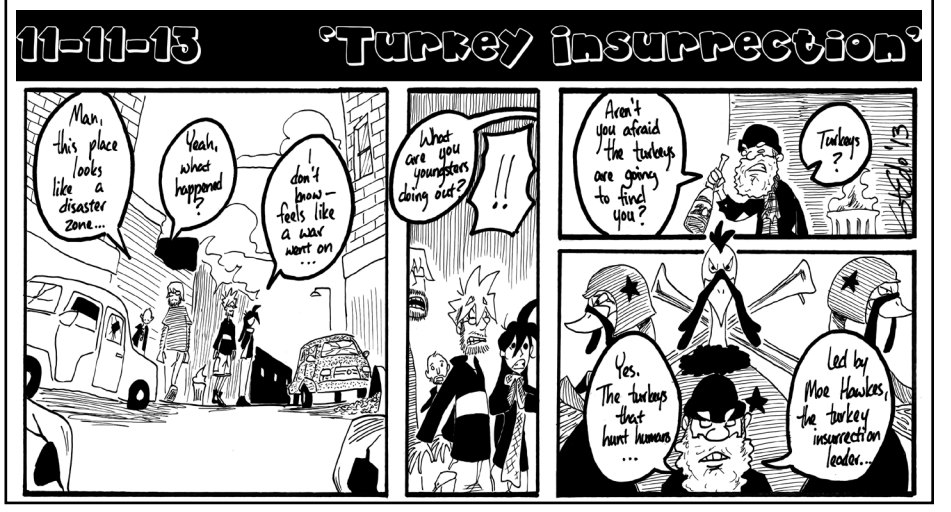
"Ralph and I know that there are people that are worried that our family atmosphere will go away by us adding beer and wine, but we disagree. We have seen how families have enjoyed the festivities of Oktoberfest and other events since Cullman has gone wet and if anything the family atmosphere downtown has increased," she said.

"We plan to keep the same great values we have always had and believed in. We have a strict hiring policy and we carefully screen our employees, treating them like family and teaching them to treat our customers the same way. None of that is going to change. Rumors will be what we make it. It's our livelihood, our dream, and we aren't about to do anything to jeopardize that. It is a family business, not a franchise or big chain, therefore we believe we are special and that Cullman is special. It's truly a perfect fit and we hope to be here a long time to come. Now spread the Rumors!"

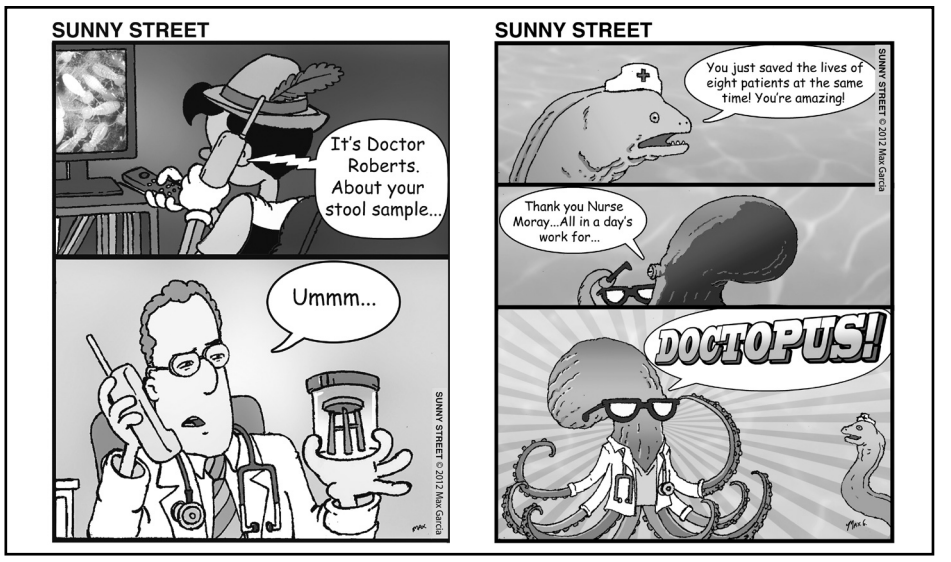
We will bring you more information when it becomes available. In the meantime, try to imagine what ale, brown, lager, amber, hefe, or pilsner might best compliment a Mouth of the South.

Comics

WHITE & BLACK • st.edo@cullmansense.com







Lynyrd Skynyrd to perform at Rock the South 2014

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Legendary southern rock group set to take stage on June 21

CULLMAN – Rock the South just added a bit more rock to the two-day lineup, as legendary southern rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd was announced to take the stage on Saturday, June 21 at the growing annual country music festival.

Concert promoter Shane Quick said the goal of RTS is to make it the hub for country and southern rock music in the south.

"The goal of Rock the South is to represent southern rock and country music, which we believe to be the two biggest genres for this part of the world," Quick said.

"Skynyrd naturally brings a lot to the table. They are synonymous with Alabama. I mean the song Sweet Home Alabama is internationally known; it helped invent southern rock and that song was the anthem."

Last week, RTS promoters announced country music sensation Little Big Town as one of the musical acts for Friday night' s portion of the festival. Quick said this year's festival will be a bit better-rounded than the two previous years.

"We're well rounded in our musical acts, which makes for a very diverse lineup," he said. "People are really excited, and for those who run the festival, it excites us to see how they've (fans) made RTS part of the family and made us a part of their lives all year long. So really we are just looking forward to building on the momentum."

The two-day festival will take place at Cullman's Heritage Park on June 20-21, 2014.

Tickets will go on sale December 13; however ticket prices have not yet been released.

Artists announcements will continue throughout the month of November, each taking place on Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

For more on Rock the South, visit www.rockthesouth.com, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RockTheSouth.

Time to Fish or Cut Bait on Tax Reform

By: Lee H. Hamilton



BRIEF BIO
Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

As Congress moves forward on budget negotiations, the word out of Washington is to expect nothing major: no grand bargain, just more stopgap, short-term fixes. Yet there's one ray of hope. The House and Senate chairs of the tax-writing committees, one a Republican, the other a Democrat, are preparing a comprehensive tax reform plan. They see the budget negotiations as their opportunity to enact much-needed changes to our bloated, off-kilter tax laws.

The last time lawmakers managed to find a way to simplify and reshape the tax code was almost three decades ago, in 1986, when Ronald Reagan was still president. Since then there have been over 15,000 adjustments and amendments, leaving a mess that just about everyone agrees must be cleaned up. Odds are against Congress managing the task, but its handling of the debate on tax reform tells us a lot about how members approach difficult issues.

That's because this latest effort to rewrite the tax code is saddled by a deep-seated problem that spans both parties and all ideologies: political timidity. Tax avoidance is a highly sophisticated and lucrative business in this country, and politicians address it at their peril.

This became clear during the summer, when the senators leading the tax-reform charge on their side of Capitol Hill, Democrat Max Baucus of Montana and Republican Orrin Hatch of Utah, laid out their initiative. They wanted senators to take a "blank slate" approach to the issue: no current deduction, exemption or credit would continue unless a strong case could be made for it. Then they invited their colleagues to identify what they'd keep and what they'd reject. That was a fine start, until Baucus and Hatch took an extraordinary step. They guaranteed senators 50 years of anonymity for their suggestions, thus allowing each senator to continue attacking the tax code mess without taking any specific public positions on how to improve it.

In other words, here's a public issue of enormous consequence, affecting every taxpayer in the land, and they were afraid to talk about it meaningfully in public. Sure, you hear plenty from politicians about tax reform, but it's all generalities. They talk about a simpler code or a fairer code or a flatter code, but in truth, almost every member of Congress talks in gross generalities about the monstrosity that is the tax code and comes out fervently for reform, without actually taking a stand on the tough issues.

Tax reform is meaningless without specifics.

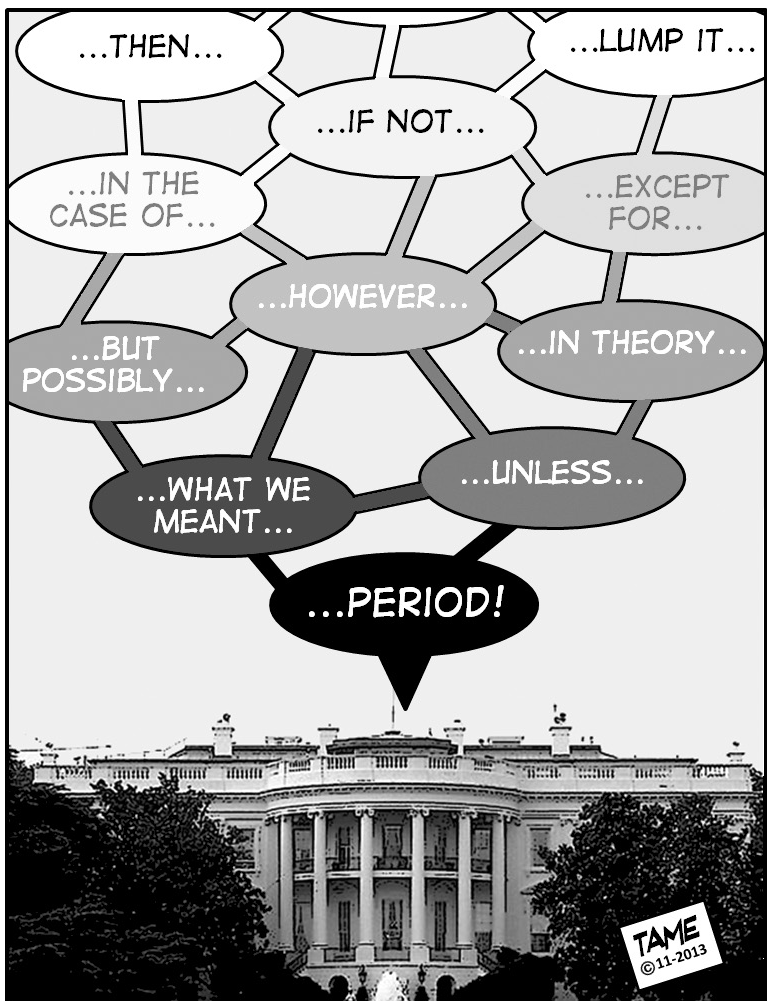
Continuing to exclude employer contributions for health care, for instance, will cost taxpayers some $760 billion over the next five years, according to Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation — but getting rid of it will surely anger employers and employees. We could recoup $379 billion over the next five years by cutting the mortgage interest deduction, but how many homeowners do you know who would go along with the idea?

The political power of the interests that benefit from reduced tax rates on dividends and long-term capital gains, which will cost the Treasury $616 billion between now and 2017, is immense. So, in its own way, is that of supporters of the deduction for charitable contributions ($239 billion). In all, tax breaks cost the Treasury some $1.1 trillion a year — which puts them well ahead of most other forms of federal spending.

Yet each has its own constituency — often a vocal, well-funded, well-organized one. Politicians who call for "tax reform" without going into specifics butter their bread on both sides — they ride the public outcry against the tax code in general, while avoiding the outcry from people hurt by the changes that tax reform would inevitably bring. After all, a "loophole" to one group is usually a "lifeline" to another. So nothing happens.

Everyone knows that tax reform will involve limiting tax breaks. It should be possible to avoid the political difficulties by capping the total without eliminating specific breaks. But even this will require political backbone. Until Congress shows us that its members possess the courage to detail publicly what's needed, talk of tax reform will be just that: talk.

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