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CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

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CCSF awards $12,480 to 33 City School teachers p2

Holiday Cheer no matter the weather

By: Noah Chandler • noahchandler@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – Hundreds of onlookers filled sides of the streets on Saturday for the Good Hope Christmas Parade.

Shouts of "Merry Christmas" and "God Bless us all" were heard from nearly each float as they made their way from Good Hope High School to City Hall.

For more on this story visit CullmanSense.com



Santa Claus Comes to Ray Park



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Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey Joins Effort Urging Supreme Court to Reverse Lower Court Abortion Law Ruling

Contributed

MONTGOMERY – As a member of the Susan B. Anthony List National Pro-Life Women's Caucus, Lieutenant Governor Kay Ivey signed on to a U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief appealing the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision to overturn Arizona's law stopping abortions after 20 weeks.

"Scientific evidence supports a baby is able to feel pain by 20 weeks, halfway through the pregnancy. The 9th Circuit was wrong to overturn Arizona's common sense law to ban late-term abortions, and I am hopeful that with the support of strong women leaders across the country, the Supreme Court will reverse that ruling to protect the dignity of life," said Lieutenant Governor Ivey.

In addition to Lieutenant Governor Ivey, signers include more than 30 Pro-life Women's Caucus members, Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, Susan B. Anthony List Vice President of Government Affairs former Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, and Concerned Women for America President Penny Nance.

Three disability rights groups have also sent an amicus brief to the Supreme Court support-

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Don't Forget to Ring Up the Tax on Holiday E-Purchases

By: Carla Snellgrove

MONTGOMERY — If you're one of the many shoppers who will be using your computer to "click" your way through your holiday gift list this year, don't forget the tax.

The Alabama Department of Revenue reminds Alabamians shopping the Internet, TV home-shopping networks, or catalog sales to report and pay use tax on their purchases if no tax has been collected by the online or catalog retailer.

Shoppers owe a 4 percent state use tax on their out-of-state purchases if no tax has been collected by the out-of-state seller.

Local taxes also apply if you live in a city or county that levies a local sales or use tax.

If your purchase receipt shows that you have paid a sales tax to another state equal to the Alabama tax rate, you will not be taxed again.

The state use tax rate is 4 percent, the same as the state sales tax rate. Like the sales tax, the 4-percent use tax is specifically earmarked for the state's Education Trust Fund.

The use tax is not a new tax; it has been a part of the Alabama tax system as long as the state sales tax.

The use tax is a complementary tax to the state sales tax and prevents Alabama merchants from being placed at an unfair competitive disadvantage to out-of-state online or catalog merchants who may not be required to collect tax on sales to Alabama residents.

Items subject to use tax are the same items that would be subject to sales tax if purchased in Alabama, such as computers, books, electronic

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PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Cullman City Schools Foundation recently awarded $12,480 to 33 Cullman City School teachers

By: Contributed by CCSF

CULLMAN – Cullman City Schools Foundation recently awarded $12,480 to 33 Cullman City School teachers, including one grant for $368 from the '84 Tony Ray Brock Music Enhancement Fund. Thanks in part to a $5,000 grant from the Cullman County Community Development Commission. Congratulations to Cullman City Primary School teachers Ashley Garrison (leveled readers), Casey Grier (first grade sight word readers and activities), Fran Watson (double-sided dry erase student lapboards), and Lanie Williamson (chapter books for school library). In addition, CCPS and Cullman City Head Start will receive all building/teacher access to www.more.starfall.com thanks to a grant proposal submitted by Tammy White.

Congratulations are in order to West Elementary School teachers Keenan Fowlkes (historical and biographical non-fiction read-along books for third grade), Tere Kelly (Science Study weekly for fourth grade), Elizabeth Shaddix (classroom set of The Seven Habits of Happy Kids by Sean Covey), Melinda Willingham (classroom AR books and materials for third grade), Vicki Parker (plant and animal slides for fifth grade Science), Kristy White (nonfiction books for sixth grade), Sue Bouldin ("Open-Ended Coach" for writing responses to open-ended questions), Deena Carden (task cards and activities for second grade), and Deborah Cummings (Science World magazine for sixth grade).

Congratulations, are also in order, to East Elementary School teachers Paige Faulk (fourth grade "Author Study" support), Lindsay Harris (fifth grade leveled readers), Tracy Marsh (trade books for Science and Social Studies), Briana Bauer (classroom reading support), Jessica Lowry (Pocket Talker Pro portable amplifier for Speech Therapy), Danielle Taylor (Special Education classroom activities), Beth Collins (supplemental Social Studies texts for research support), and Tamika Powell (trade books for literature circles and small group instruction). From Cullman Middle School, Tasha Meyer (nonfiction Accelerated Reader titles for the CMS library), Susan Sellers (practice buzzer system for Math Team), Bama Turner (three classroom microscopes), and awarded from the '84 Tony Ray Brock Music Enhancement Fund to Debbie Johnston (curriculum support for the new Music Appreciation class at CMS). Congratulations CMS teachers.

Also, six grant recipients were chosen at Cullman High School: Cindy Pass and Dillon Lee (Fine Arts materials), Sara McCutcheon (Scholars' Bowl NAQT practice questions), Stephanie Barlow (classroom materials for Algebra A and B, Wendy Stephens (mobile library check-out services), Jackie Donaldson (Wolfe cordless, digital, binocular microscope), and Janice Burrows (Geometry and ACT Prep materials). Congratulations CHS teachers!



Debbie Johnston and Linda Bean also from Cullman Middle School. Both received special funding for music enhancement this year from the CCSF '84 Tony Ray Brock Music Enhancement Fund.



Bama Turner and Susan Sellers from Cullman Middle School. Both received funding from CCSF.

Serra Visser Nissan Opens New Location

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday, members with the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Cullman City Council, Mayor Max A. Townson, Tony Visser – owner of Serra Visser Nissan, and staff joined together to usher in the new era of car sales in Cullman as a ribbon cutting was held for the new dealership.

For more on this story visit CullmanSense.com



Catching the Rodeo Bug

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

SOUTH VINEMONT – The 2013 Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo got off on the right step as the men and women at the CCSO, along with volunteers from the Cullman Pilot Club, came together for the annual Special Needs Day at the rodeo.

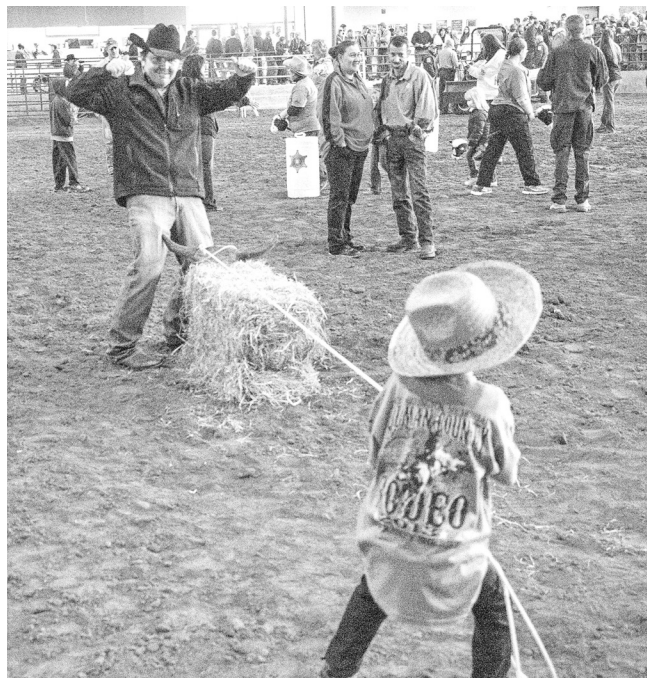
Hundreds of children of all ages and from schools across the county joined together Thursday for some dirty fun. Those brave enough to step out onto the arena floor to learn the finer points of calf roping before taking a leisurely hayride around the complex.

"When you see their eyes light up, I'm telling you, that's what makes all this worth it," Sheriff Mike Rainey said while watching the children barrel race.

"I mean the rest of this could disappear, but the Special Needs Day is one we will always have around."

Rainey said the sheriff's department has looked at possibly adding another day for the area children in the summer.

"We all love this event and we've been discussing whether or not to host another event in the summer," he said. "I think it's a great idea, so we'll see what happens."



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What's Online

Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony touching to all in attendance

The 22nd Annual CRMC Foundation's Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony was held this past Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 in the Colonel Cullmann Room at CRMC.

qrne.ws/134



Candy Cane Lane and The Dinckelberg Market open for a short time

The folks at St. John's Evangelical Church and Christ Lutheran Church have partnered together to bring a very special first-time event to the community of Cullman.

qrne.ws/135

Cold Springs dominates Oakman

The Lady Eagles did what they do best; score tons of points, Tuesday night against the Lady Wildcats of Oakman. Recent 1,000 point scorer Haley Freeman continued to pour in the points, scoring 22 in the winning effort.

qrne.ws/136

State Fiscal Picture Brightens but Uncertainty Lingers

By: Elaine S. Povich • Stateline

The fiscal picture in most states is brighter, with projections of higher revenue and spending growth in fiscal 2014 that started for most states in July, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers. But lingering recession effects and a revenue growth slowdown from fiscal 2013 levels keep the states precariously positioned.

"While the fiscal recovery has been slow, this report shows continued revenue and expenditure growth for most states," said NASBO Executive Director Scott Pattison. "But growth is modest and fiscal challenges remain." The report released recently shows that in most states, fiscal 2013 tax collections outperformed projections, and revenues were up 5.7 percent.

While revenues are expected to go up again in most states in fiscal 2014, states are projecting an average increase in tax collections of only .8 percent.

Much of the fiscal 2013 gain happened when states got a one-time bump in revenues as some taxpayers maneuvered finances to avoid higher federal tax rates that began Jan. 1, 2013. That is not likely to recur, the report said, due to federal action to get rid of the volatility in federal tax rates. Pattison speculated that the rapidly growing stock market and recovering economy might boost the small 2014 projected growth slightly higher. "That .8 percent for 2014 is so low that I won't be surprised ... that it would be higher than expected," Pattison said.

The slowdown in revenue growth may mean fewer dollars to spend on health care, higher education or aid to local governments, the survey said.

But the continuing fiscal challenges from the sluggish economic recovery are not expected to cause the same amount of budget volatility that states have been experiencing over the past few years, the report said. According to NASBO, 43 states enacted higher spending levels in fiscal 2014 over fiscal 2013. Many states ended fiscal 2013 with a budget surplus.

But it's not all good news. The slowness of the recovery and lingering effects of the recession meant that a number of states have not returned to prerecession spending and revenue levels when adjusted for inflation. Many states are also facing pent-up needs that were not addressed during the down years, including repairs to infrastructure, underfunded pensions and anemic health care spending.

George Naughton, NASBO president and Oregon's chief finance officer, said Tuesday in a conference call with reporters that his state is walking the line between the modest increase in revenues and large budget demands.

"We are having to make some very tough choices," he said. Some items cut in the recession have been restored, he said, and "we did initiatives in health care and education to make a better investment for the resources we bring in." Naughton noted that uncertainty at the federal level around the impact of sequestration and the government shutdown continues to keep states on edge. "In the short term, what they might do about Medicare and Medicaid (is worrisome)," he said. According to NASBO, fiscal 2014 budgets show aggregate general fund expenditures reaching $721.8 billion, an increase of $26.3 billion or 3.8 percent over fiscal 2013.

But fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013 spending increases remain below the historic average growth rate of 5.6 percent, NASBO said. Fiscal 2013 spending surpassed prerecession highs for the first time, reaching $695.5 billion, and 45 states increased spending in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012. State general fund spending totaled $666.8 billion in fiscal 2012. Despite budget increases over the last two years, some states enacted fiscal 2014 spending plans below their prerecession peak when inflation is considered, the report said.

In addition, state spending in fiscal 2013 for the 50 states combined was still below the fiscal 2008 prerecession peak after accounting for inflation. NASBO noted that inflation has slowed, however, and most states enacted fiscal 2014 budgets with a real spending increase.

Another report from the Rockefeller Institute of Government agreed that many states' earlier robust revenue growth is slowing.

Preliminary July to September 2013 figures from 47 states suggest revenue gains have been softening significantly, the survey said.

Overall collections showed growth of 6.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013 compared to the same quarter of 2012, a slowdown from the 9 percent growth of the second quarter of 2013.

According to the preliminary data, personal income tax collections grew by 5.3 percent and sales tax collections by 5.6 percent.

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New Chief Executive Officer for Alabama Red Cross Now on the Job

By: Chris Osborne

HOOVER – The Alabama Region American Red Cross is excited to announce that Mark Beddingfield has been selected to serve as the new Alabama Region Chief Executive Officer.

Beddingfield possesses more than 17 years' experience in leadership with the American Red Cross Biomedical "Blood" Services Division and will now lead the Humanitarian efforts for the state of Alabama.

"We are very excited to have Mark Beddingfield as our Regional Chapter Executive for the Alabama Region. During his time at Blood Services, Mark has been a true leader and a hard working steward of our mission. I am confident Mark is the right choice for our Region's future," said Michael Schilleci, Board Chair, Alabama Red Cross.

Beddingfield started his Red Cross career as a Donor Resources District Supervisor and was promoted to Regional Manager after three years.

Throughout his Red Cross career Beddingfield served as Director of Production Planning, Chief Operating Officer, and most currently as Chief Executive Officer for the Alabama Biomedical Region. Beddingfield is married with four daughters.

He was born and raised in Huntsville and graduated from Athens University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

"I am so humbled to be joining such a dedicated group of staff and volunteers in the state of Alabama to further the great mission of the American Red Cross," said Beddingfield.

The American Red Cross Alabama Region provides services to the residents of all 67 counties of Alabama with more than 20 office locations throughout the state.

The Alabama Region:

- Responds to individual disasters in Alabama mainly in the form of single family fires.
- •Provides local school children with free community education.
- Provides emergency military communications.
- Trains individuals in First Aid, CPR, AED, and other lifesaving courses.
- Attends military deployments and provides comfort kits and goody bags for our local soldiers and provides family support services for families at home.
- Is a 97% volunteer organization.

If you are in need of assistance, interested in volunteering, or taking a class, please feel free to call 256-439-7800 or visit www.redcross.org/alabama.

State Lawmakers Urge Support for Early Childhood Education

By: Adrienne Lu • Statelne

More than 500 state lawmakers from 49 states have signed a letter urging Congressional budget writers to increase federal spending on early childhood education.

The letter, delivered to Capitol Hill Thursday, urges Congress to prioritize early childhood education to "provide greater access to children in need, and produce better education, health and economic outcomes."

The letter does not call for a specific amount of spending, nor does it suggest a source for the money.

"We believe that maintaining and expanding high quality early childhood education is an effective and efficient expenditure even when budgets are tight," the letter states. "We urge you to make these investments in young children a priority in your deliberations."

The letter, coordinated by the First Five Years Fund, an early childhood education advocacy group, includes signatures from 437 Democrats, 67 Republicans and one Independent. The lawmakers come from every state but Indiana.

According to recent poll, early childhood education is a rare issue that enjoys bipartisan public support.

President Barack Obama has proposed making high-quality preschool available to every four-year-old. To pay for it, he has suggested increasing the federal tax on cigarettes by 94 cents a pack (from $1.01 to $1.95), which would generate an estimated $78 billion for preschool over 10 years. Obama has said he is open to alternatives to that approach, which has not attracted much support.

The Strong Start for America's Children Act, which is being pushed by Democrats but has a handful of Republican supporters, would create federal-state partnerships to provide prekindergarten to low- and moderate-income children. The measure would send federal money to states to help them pay for prekindergarten for 4-year-olds from families earning below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or $47,100.

"Increasing federal funding in early childhood education, as proposed in the bipartisan Strong Start for America's Children Act, is the way to help states and families create opportunities for young children," said Kris Perry, executive director of the First Five Years Fund. "Such federal investments will support states as they grow their programs, serve more children and families and develop robust early childhood systems which will more than pay for themselves."

Supporters of early childhood education point to research that shows it is a good investment. James Heckman, an economist at the University of Chicago, argues that every dollar invested in early childhood education results in a $7 return based on increased school and career achievement and reduced costs in remedial education, health care and the criminal justice system.

Critics, such as Grover "Russ" Whitehurst , director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at the left-leaning Brookings Institution, argue the evidence is mixed at best.

Meanwhile, states have forged ahead with a wide variety of policies on early childhood education.

A recent report by the Education Commission of the States looking at 38 bills from 25 states during the 2013 legislative sessions found that state legislatures this year strengthened oversight of early childhood programs, expanded access to high-quality early childhood programs and redirected funding to early childhood education.

Minnesota created a new prekindergarten scholarship program for low-income families and Hawaii and Mississippi established statewide voluntary prekindergarten programs, for example.

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

Head Football Coach Nick Saban Agrees to Long-Term Agreement

Contributed by the University of Alabama

New agreement will keep Coach Saban as the Crimson Tide's head coach until the end of his career

TUSCALOOSA – University of Alabama Director of Athletics Bill Battle is pleased to announce that head football coach Nick Saban and the University have concluded a new long-term agreement.

"We are very pleased to have this agreement completed," said Saban.

"Terry and our family are very happy in Tuscaloosa. It has become home to us. This agreement allows us to continue to build on the tremendous success that we have enjoyed to this point - successes that have transcended the football field. We are excited about the future and the University of Alabama is where I plan to end my coaching career."

"We are committed to continuing the work that we have been doing in the community as well as at the University. We are also excited about the opportunity awaiting us on Jan. 2 in the Allstate Sugar Bowl against the University of Oklahoma and hope to send this year's tremendous senior class out in the proper way."

"We are pleased to announce that head football coach Nick Saban has agreed to a new long-term agreement," said Bill Battle, University of Alabama Director of Athletics.

"Coach Saban is the best in the business and has led our program to the pinnacle of college football. This agreement is a strong indication of our mutual commitment to building on the foundation he has established."

"The entire University of Alabama family is thrilled that Coach Nick Saban will continue to be the head coach of the Crimson Tide," said Dr. Judy L. Bonner, University of Alabama President.

"We appreciate the commitment that he and Terry have to our players and their success on the field, in the classroom and throughout their lives. Coach Saban's passion for excellence combined with his hard work and integrity are hallmarks of his teams, who are champions in every way."

"The University of Alabama has finalized a contract agreement with the finest football coach in our country and this contract will keep Nick Saban at the University of Alabama for the remainder of his career," said Dr. Robert E. Witt, Chancellor of the University of Alabama System.

The agreement is subject to approval by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System.

Joe Shults Night recognized at Fairview High School

By: Josh Mcbrayer
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FAIRVIEW – A tradition that has been a part of Fairview High School basketball for many years, continued recently as the Aggies played host to the Holly Pond Broncos.

Joe Shults Night recognizes the former Fairview coach who led the Aggies to 289 wins in 15 seasons before a stroke cut his career short in 1970.

The gymnasium, which was renovated this summer as part of a $14,000 project, is named in honor of coach Shults and bears his name on the floor of the facility.

Former players of coach Shults, many from the 1960s, were on hand to salute their former coach who passed away in the summer after a bout with illness.

His wife and other family members including his daughter Sharon Shults Drake were on hand. As a matter of chance it was also Miss Shults' birthday and she was honored with a happy birthday wish from the crowd.

Coach Shults attended Fairview First Baptist Church for an extended time, with David Chambers serving as his pastor for the past 12 years. Chambers spoke for a moment to recognize Shults and talk about the impact he was on and off the floor.

A former player, Randall Shedd, now District 11 House of Representative, presented a resolution to the Shults family from the Alabama House of Representatives.

What was a tradition for coach Shults continued that night with the Fairview players wearing red socks while the boys' coaching staff wore red ties.

Another tradition Shults initiated was to have his red tie cut by his players when they won big games, which they did by winning the Cullman County Tournament six times and making a couple of visits to the high school state tournament.

Holly Pond has been the common opponent for Fairview each year at Joe Shults Gymansium.

Former Bronco coach Felton Easterwood who faced Shults many times was at the latest edition of the rivalry along with another former Bronco coach Bill Lay.

The evening of basketball wound up in favor of Holly Pond as the Broncos pulled away from the Aggies 78-57 thanks to a 43-25 scoring spree in the second half.

Colby Adams delivered a game high 20 in the victory for the Broncos who are now 8-3 and 4-0 in county regular season games. Austin Smith followed with 17 while Gunter Morris scored 13 and Cody Jones netted 11.

Shooting guard Elijah Garrison accounted for 17 points on this night to lead the Aggies with Tyler Yearwood giving support by scoring 13 and Dylan Smith with seven.

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos scored a 62-35 win with Meg Gambrill having the hot hand by pumping in 26 points for the visitors. Gambrill scored 10 of her points in the second period to guide the attack with Holly Pond on top 35-16 at the break.

She finished with an 11-point third period, getting three baskets from three-point range as the Lady Broncos held a 58-24 advantage at that point.

Rachel Finley added nine while Melissa Clingman came off the bench to score eight and Natasha Holcomb seven.

The Lady Broncos are now 9-2 with a 4-0 record in county play and winners of three straight.

A 12-point performance from eighth grade point Taylor Yeager topped the Fairview scorers with Dalys Mullican scoring seven and Desiree Wilhite hitting for six.

The Holly Pond junior varsity gained a 71-51 win with freshman guard Drew Jones putting on a shooting clinic, hitting 10 of 12 long distance field goals and ending the game with 34 points.

Fairview's junior varsity girls claimed a 42-29 victory in the first assignment on Joe Shults night.

A team effort set the tone for this victory with the Lady Aggies under the services of first year coach Mary Lauren Hartline who also handles the sideline for the varsity group.

With Joe Shults Night in the history book, the Aggies go on the road for the rest of the week.

They play at Hanceville Thursday and head to Odenville Friday for an area game with St. Clair County. Holly Pond gets Brindlee Mountain to come to Felton Easterwood Gym Friday for area action.

Weekly Local Basketball Wrap Up

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

December 9th

GIRLS
Holly Pond 56 - Hanceville 25
Fairview 52 - Dora 19
Falkville 60 - St. Bernard 25

BOYS
Holly Pond 87 - Hanceville 80
Dora 68 - Fairview 62
Falkville 69 - St. Bernard 32

December 10th

GIRLS
Cold Springs 78 - Oakman 13
Good Hope 52 - Vinemont 12
Hartselle 59 - West Point 28
Decatur Heritage 49 - St. Bernard 18

BOYS
Good Hope 63 - Vinemont 61
Hartselle 69 - West Point 68 (overtime)
Cold Springs 72 - Oakman 54
Decatur Heritage 59 - St. Bernard 46

December 12th

GIRLS
Fairview 59 - Hanceville 26
Falkville 45 - Vinemont 32

BOYS
Hanceville 55 - Fairview 44
Falkville 48 - Vinemont 44

December 13th

GIRLS
Good Hope 46 - Hanceville 29
Cullman 61 - West Point 38
Holly Pond 57 - Brindlee Mountain 40
Fairview 59 - St. Clair County 15
Cold Springs 80 - Carbon Hill 37
St. Bernard 38 - Southeastern 24

BOYS
Hanceville 63 - Good Hope 42
Cullman 78 - West Point 60
Holly Pond 90 - Brindlee Mountain 43
St. Bernard 52 - Southeastern 38
St. Clair County 68 - Fairview 60

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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!



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Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2014 announced

By: Bill Miller

BIRMINGHAM – The Board of Directors of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the Class of 2014 for induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

The accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers tabulated the votes by the Statewide Selection Committees.

The newly elected inductees for the Class of 2014 are as follows:

- **Ruthie Bolton**
- **Red Cochran (posthumously)**
- **Bill Cody**
- **Eli Gold**
- **Travis Grant**
- **Walter Jones**
- **David Magadan**
- **Major Ogilvie**

The eight newly-elected inductees will bring the total of all inductees since 1969 to 321.

The 2014 Induction Banquet will take place in the Birmingham Ballroom, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, on Saturday, May 17, 2014.

Reception and banquet tickets can be purchased by contacting the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum.

RUTHIE BOLTON/BASKETBALL - Born May 25, 1967 in Lucedale, MS. She played collegiately at Auburn University. During her career she scored 1,176 points, ranks fifth all-time in assists with 526. She played in a record 132 games at Auburn and holds the record for games started in a season (35) and steals in a game (10). She helped lead the Tigers to three SEC Championships and two consecutive runner-up finishes in the NCAA Tournament. She had a 15 year professional basketball career including being a part of 10 U.S. National teams. She is a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist (1996 and 2000) as well as a WNBA All-Star. She scored over 2,000 points in her career and is fourth on the WNBA's all-time three pointer list. She was the 1991 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year. She was elected to Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2011.

RED COCHRAN/FOOTBALL - Born August 22, 1922 in Fairfield, AL. He played collegiately at Wake Forrest. For three years he fought in World War II serving in the Army Air Corps. He played his final college year in 1946 and participated in the Blue-Gray All-Star game. He was drafted by the St Louis Cardinals of the NFL as a defensive back and punt returner. At that time he set a Cardinals record for punt-return average and at one time was ranked third in the NFL punt return average category. He played on the Cardinals NFL Championship team in 1947 and the runner up team in 1948. He played in ten NFL Championships games and was a member of seven championship teams. After his retirement from playing professional football, he went back to his Alma Mater to coach the running backs. After leaving Wake Forrest he had coaching stints at Detroit, Green Bay, St. Louis, and San Diego. He was a member of Vince Lombardi's staff during Green Bay's glory years of five NFL titles and a runner-up, plus Super Bowl I Championship in 1966. In 1997 he was inducted into the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame. He passed away on September 5, 2004.

BILL CODY/FOOTBALL - Born August 2, 1944 in Greenwood, MS. He played collegiately at Auburn University. He was an All-SEC linebacker two consecutive years (1964 & 1965), an Academic All-American selection in 1965 and was named to the All-SEC Academic Team in 1964 and 1965. He was named to the Birmingham Post-Herald Auburn Team of the '60s and was selected to play in the 1966 Senior Bowl. He was drafted by both the Detroit Lions and the New York Jets in 1966, signing with the Detroit. He was chosen in the 1967 expansion draft by the New Orleans Saints and played on the first-ever New Orleans Saints squad. While playing for the Saints he set a record at that time for fumble recoveries in a season (four) and was Captain of the Saints Special Teams 1968-1970. Traded to the Minnesota Vikings in 1971, he decided to retire from the NFL. He came out of retirement in 1972 to sign with Philadelphia Eagles and was again named their Special Team's Captain.

ELI GOLD/MEDIA – Born December 15, 1953 in Brooklyn, New York. He started his sports broadcasting career in 1972 working as a weekend reporter with the Mutual Broadcasting System. He has done play-by-play assignments for professional hockey, including the World Hockey Association (Birmingham Bulls) and the National Hockey League (St. Louis Blues and Nashville Predators). He was the first play-by-play announcer for the UAB Blazers basketball team and remained part of the broadcast team for eight years.

He spent four years as the voice of the Birmingham Barons Baseball team and was named the Southern League's Broadcaster of the year for 1983. Since 1976, he has been a member of NASCAR's Motor Racing Network which broadcasts NASCAR racing events and has been a network co-anchor since 1988. He has been the radio play-by-play voice of the Alabama Crimson Tide's football team since 1988. He is a four-time Alabama Sportscaster of the Year award winner.

TRAVIS GRANT/BASKEBALL - Born January 1, 1950 in Clayton, AL. He played basketball at Kentucky State University. He holds the all-time-all-division scoring record in NCAA basketball history with 4,045 points. His senior year he averaged 39.5 points per game. He led Kentucky State to three consecutive NAIA National Championships and was presented the NAIA Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award twice. He was the first small college player to be award the Lapchick Trophy – Sporting News College Basketball Player of the Year award in 1972. He was the 13th overall pick in the 1972 NBA Draft by the Los Angeles Lakers. He played one season with the Lakers and played the next three years in the ABA. His career field goal percentage was 53.6% making 934 of 1,743 shots. During the 1974-1975 season he averaged 25.2 points per game. He was the second leading scorer in the ABA that season. He was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009; and the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2011.

WALTER JONES/FOOTBALL - Born January 19, 1974 in Aliceville, AL. He played offensive tackle and tight end for Holmes Community College. He was named Mississippi Junior College Player of the Year in 1994. He played one year at Florida State University where he earned second team All-ACC honors. He gave up his senior year and entered the 1977 NFL Draft where he was the sixth overall draft choice of the Seattle Seahawks, where he played his entire career. He was first team All-Rookie (1997), nine time Pro Bowl selection, seven time All-Pro selection, was the NFL Alumni Offensive Lineman of the Year (2005), selected to the NFL 2000s All-Decade Team, and is a member of the Seahawks 35th Anniversary team. He is only the second player in Seahawk franchise history to have his number retired. In 2006, he topped the list of the 101 best NFL players by the Sporting News.

DAVID MAGADAN/BASEBALL – Born September 30, 1962 in Tampa, FL. He played collegiately at the University of Alabama. His senior year he set the SEC batting average record at .525, which is still the record (it is 5th best in NCAA history). His .439 career batting average is the SEC record and is 10th best in NCAA history. He also won the NCAA Batting Crown that year. He won the Golden Spike Award (which is the equivalent of winning the Heisman Trophy in football). In 1983 he was an AP All-American, Sporting News All-American and the College Player of the Year by Baseball America.

He was second round pick of the New York Mets in the 1983 Major League Draft. He played sixteen seasons for seven different teams. He appeared in 1,582 major league games and collected 1,197 hits. He finished his career with a .288 batting average; a .390 on-base percentage; and a .377 slugging percentage. He was on the coaching staff of the Boston Red Sox for their 2007 World Series Championship and was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2010. He is presently hitting coach for the Texas Rangers.

MAJOR OGILVIE/FOOTBALL - Born December 12, 1958 in Birmingham, AL. He played collegiately at the University of Alabama, where he was an All-SEC First Team performer in 1979 and Second Team All-SEC in 1980. He was an Academic All-American in 1979. He played on two national championship teams in 1979 and 1980, and three SEC Championship Teams in 1977, 1978 and 1979. He was selected as the Most Valuable Player in the 1980 Sugar Bowl; and was also the MVP in the 1981 Cotton Bowl.

He was Captain of the 1980 team and holds the distinction of being named to the All-Decade Team for both the 1970s and 1980s. During his career at Alabama under Coach Bryant, the Crimson Tide was 44-4.

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Community Matters

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Deb's Bookstore
Fairview Superette
Good Hope Grocery
Graves' BP 157
Hanceville Chevron
High Quality Fuels - Dodge City
Holly Pond Cafe
Holly Pond Supermarket
Jet Pep - Hwy 157
Joe's Freeway Exxon
Johnny's Bar-B-Q
Lowry's Discount Mart - Hwy. 157
Piggly Wiggly - Hwy. 157
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Santa Claus Comes to Ray Park (from Front)

By: Natalie Bonner





DODGE CITY - It seems Santa Claus really can travel the entire world in just one night. He is preparing to do so by visiting all of Cullman County in just one night. Santa made several appearances over the weekend – at Smith Lake, in the North Cullman Shopping Center, and even at small-town Ray Park in Dodge City.

Santa Claus visited Ray Park in Dodge City this past Friday and Saturday night from 6 to 8 p.m. Santa will be there every weekend leading up to Christmas. Hot chocolate and cookies are served to those attending the festivities. You may bring your own camera to take pictures. Kids of all ages are encouraged to attend as there is only one weekend left until ole St. Nick comes to your house.

Beautiful Christmas lights and decorations adorned Ray Park as several children played around, waiting on their chance to sit in Santa's lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

Dodge City Mayor Tawana Canada said, "This is our third year for this event and it just keeps growing. As you can see, we have a great crowd every year. Lots of local families have come out."

What does an event like this mean to the residents of Dodge City?

"It keeps them from going to Cullman and having to fight the traffic," she laughingly said. "It's just something that allows the locals to get together, each family knows each family, so it's like a neighborhood thing, but we do welcome anyone from any area."

The line to see Santa wasn't too long, but while waiting, each group could be seen chatting and laughing with one another. I could certainly identify the close-knit connection that the families of Dodge City shared with one another. That seems to be the appeal of Dodge City – where events like these can take place, but you still know your neighbor.

As Mayor Canada said, "We are growing. Jobs are more readily available here now, but it's still a neighborhood. It's a homey atmosphere here in Dodge City. It's not your big city type of town."

Even Santa was psyched to be out at Ray Park. Cullman resident Jason Woodard said it wasn't his first time to be Santa and that he really enjoys seeing the children and getting a chance to be a part of something like this.

"I've been Santa on several different occasions. And I was actually here last year. I'm originally from Dodge City. It's home to me," Woodard said. "I want to encourage all the children to come out and visit. We have cookies and cocoa for them, and it gives them the opportunity to have Santa here at home."

Of course, only having to travel five miles down the road opposed to 20 miles would have any parents smiling, but the fact that such a great event is right down the road and free of cost? Does it get any better than this?

Ashley Hock doesn't think so. She's a five-year-old angel-faced little girl who really enjoyed seeing Mr. Claus.

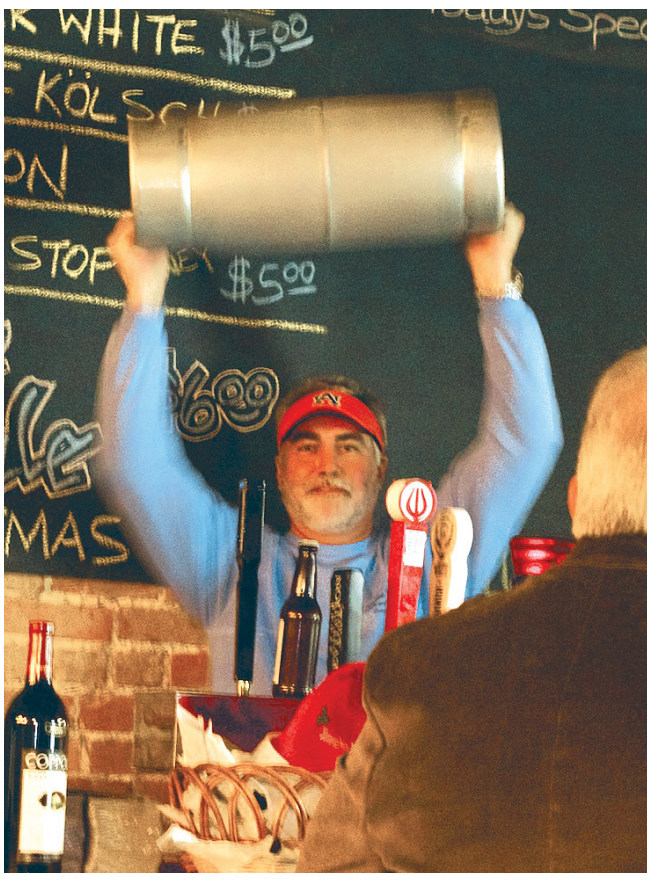
"I told him I wanted a Barbie computer and a TV. I enjoyed seeing Santa. I would come back," she said.

Ashley's Nana and Bremen resident Nancy Hock definitely agreed with her granddaughter's sentiments on the event.

"I want to thank Dodge City for having this. It's great. I've enjoyed seeing Santa and the lights. It's a great thing for the kids to do," Nana Hock said.

The beautiful lights, cozy atmosphere, free opportunity to visit Santa, along with cocoa and cookies should be enough to bring anyone out to Ray Park, Dodge City residents and the like. Santa Claus will be in town just one more weekend and then he's gone until next year.





A Taste of Palomino

By: Kate Mullaney
Entertainment Reporter

CULLMAN – Crowds of people poured into the doors of The Blue Moose last Friday, all thirsty for the same thing: beer. The Blue Moose is Cullman's first and only brewpub. It has a small lunch and dinner menu offering home cooked entrees and delectable desserts.

Its specialty, however, is beer. The Blue Moose features craft beer from Alabama breweries, including Avondale, Straight to Ale, Back 40, and Yellowhammer, as well as craft breweries from around the country.

The most alluring (and delicious) thing about the pub, though, is the beer brewed right inside The Blue Moose. Mike Mullaney and Gery Teichmiller are the brewmasters for this pub, and it was their beer that had people craving to go to The Blue Moose last weekend. Last Friday was the premier of their newest brew, Palomino Pale, the third beer since the 1880s to be brewed and served in Cullman.

The new brew is named after the Palomino Restaurant and Motel, Cullman's most popular place to eat lunch in the 50s and 60s. Owned by Evelyn and Ottis Burrow, the Palomino was one of the first motels in Cullman.

The couple never had children, but they loved collecting art, and they traveled all around the world looking for the next piece to add to their collection. They also loved horses. Ottis had a passion for raising Palomino horses, which served as an inspiration for the name of the couple's motel. Outside of the Palomino Motel stood a beautiful statue of a Palomino, a lovely tribute to the couple's love for culture, art, and horses.

Palomino Pale premiered last Friday night with local band Round Two kicking off the festivities.

They also had a special guest, Greg Clark, who sang a few songs, including one he wrote called "Motel Palomino". The song is a hilarious celebration of the Palomino Motel and Restaurant, to the tune of The Eagles' "Hotel California". Clark said he wrote the song in 1977.

"I was sitting at my desk in my dorm room in Abercrombie Hall at the University of Alabama. Once I thought about "Hotel California" and "Motel Palomino", I thought I could make a song out of it."

But it wasn't just Cullman locals who enjoyed his witty song. "I did that song all over Tuscaloosa," he explained, "they had never lived in Cullman and they still thought it was funny."

It was a wonderful combination of past and present with the memory of the Burrow's Palomino Motel and the exciting release of The Blue Moose's newest brew.

This gathering of family and friends was a great reminder of what is most important this holiday season: family, love, and, of course, beer.

Living Nativity Shares Christmas Message

By: Natalie Bonner

DODGE CITY - The pictures just don't do it justice. Walking through City on a Hill Church's Living Nativity in Dodge City is an indelible experience. Their recreation of the birth of Christ is the ultimate Christmas message through a whirlwind of senses.

The Living Nativity took place this past weekend on Saturday and Sunday night from 6 to close. Small groups of people were taken through the visual representation of the biblical story. The time and effort that City on a Hill Church spent in bringing this timeless tale to life is incredible.

The Church's grounds were revamped to resemble Jesus Christ's birthplace of Bethlehem. Complete with barnyard animals, time period wardrobe, roaring fires, and shelter of the era, you were physically taken back in time as you followed the story all the way up to the manger where Mary and Joseph welcomed baby Jesus into the world.

Robin Cook is the pastor's wife at City on a Hill church, and she said they started planning this program back in the fall. In year's past, the Living Nativity was held at Ray Park.

"We decided to move it from the park to the church campus this year. When you do the story through a walk-through, you see the story, hear the story, and with the live animals, you smell the story; but you can also touch the story, and then we have treats afterwards, so you can taste the story," she said.

"And it gives people a way to involve their senses in the Christmas story. Jesus left heaven, came to Earth, and died, as the Narrator said, to bridge that gap between God and us that existed because of our sins. We want people to hear that message."

Cook said that the Church has about 100 members and through their active and committed ministry that they were able to pull off this plan of action to showcase the real Christmas story.

"I think that between both nights, almost every person who comes will be involved in some way, either getting the word out and building or baking cookies and acting or just leading the program. We've been blessed. God has been good to us," Cook said.

So many people play a part in the construction and rendering of the storytelling. Carolyn Wiggins is one of these people.

Wiggins served as the costume maker of the event and she said it took her about 10 days to complete five separate outfits.

"I made the costumes. I guess I might have volunteered. Wayne, our pastor, he kind of came up with the ideas and picked out the fabrics, and I kind of came up with the rest. We had found some pictures off the Internet so we kind of went by that idea, but we changed some things and added some things," she said.

Wiggins said they tried to keep everything as authentic and accurate as possible. They wanted to keep true to tradition.

"This is our third year and it just gets better every year. It feels wonderful. It's just really amazing how this has come together in a very short time I may add," Wiggins said.

As I watched the crowd of onlookers who stared in awe at the scenery and were mesmerized by the story, it seemed City on a Hill Church's third rendition of their Living Nativity was the ultimate achievement. Having a visual representation to such an authentic degree leaves a fresh message with attendees.

Pastor Wayne Cook of City on a Hill Church hopes it left a lasting impression on visitors.

"We are doing a lot of things out here in Dodge City to make people aware that we are here, and we want to be able to present the gospel to people. We are anxious to be a light in this community. This is one way we can do it. We know people love to come out at Christmas. So, we do this and present it in a way so that maybe we can connect them to our church," he said.

Pastor Cook went on to explain just how selfless and committed his ministry is. He said that everyone joined together to make this production happen.

He explained that while it's not a huge presentation, it has taken a lot of time.

"Some people may pass our building and think 'What is that out there?' and they are not sure about it or whatever, but this is a real, live, hard-working church with a lot of really good things happening in it, and maybe they will stop by and see what we are doing. If we are doing this on a Saturday night, what are we doing on Sunday morning?" Cook said.





Ruling (from Front)

ing the ban on abortions after 20 weeks, "as a necessary safeguard against 'postnatal eugenics.'"

A growing number of states and the U.S. House have now voted to end late abortion past the point at which the child can feel pain and numerous national polls show this effort has widespread public support.

The Susan B. Anthony List, is dedicated to pursuing policies and electing candidates who will reduce and ultimately end abortion.

To that end, the SBA List emphasizes the education, promotion, mobilization, and election of pro-life women.

The SBA List is a network of more than 365,000 pro-life Americans nationwide.

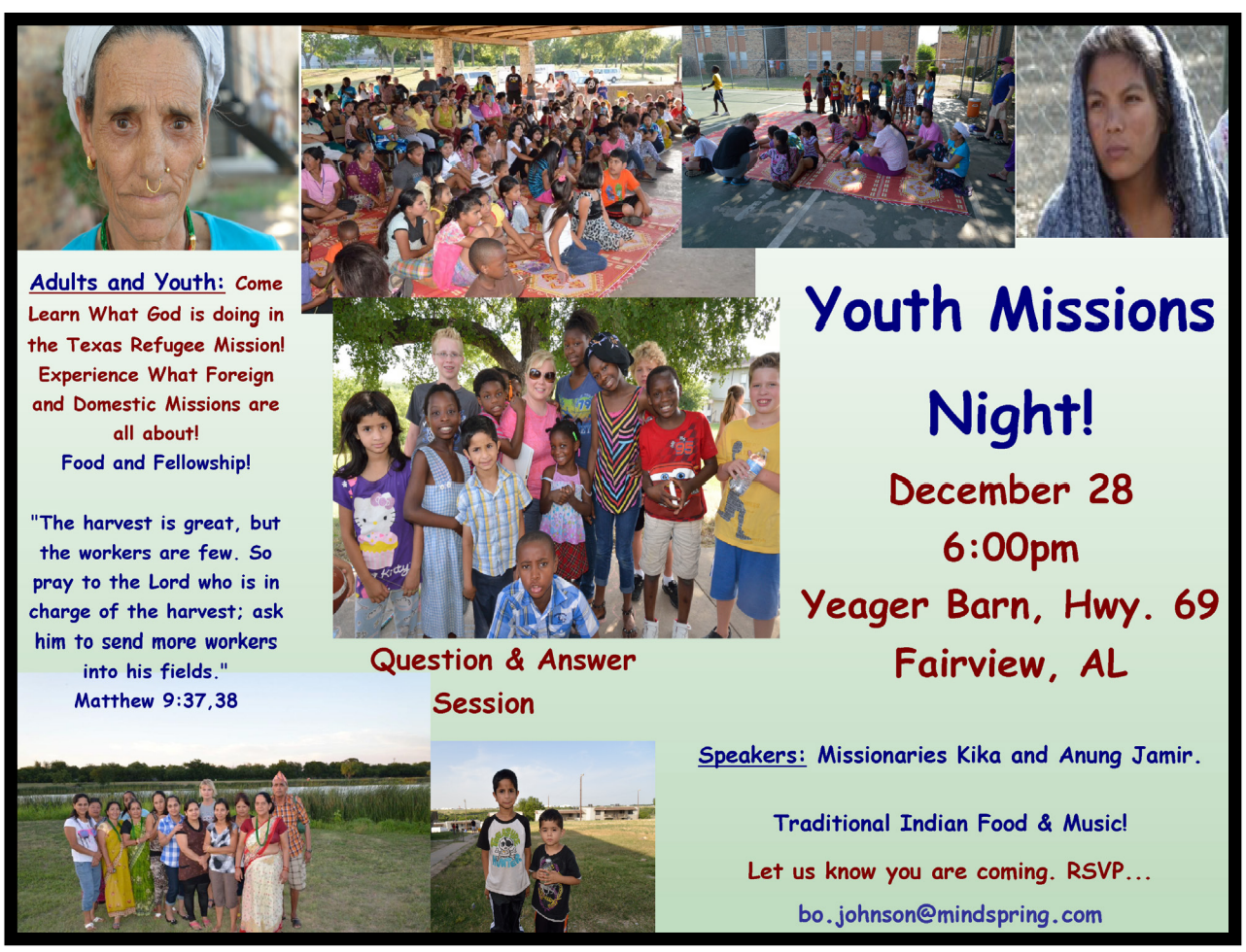
Tax (from Front)

equipment, toys, games, furniture, jewelry, clothing, etc.

Alabama taxpayers can pay their use tax at the time they file their Alabama individual income tax return by entering the amount of use tax owed on a line item included on the Alabama individual income tax return.

By doing this, the taxpayer simply either increases their balance due or decreases their income tax refund by the amount of the use tax owed.

For more information concerning Alabama's consumer use tax reporting requirements, contact the Alabama Department of Revenue Sales and Use Tax Division at 334-242-1490, or visit the department's Web site at www.revenue.alabama.gov.



– 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.

Cullman Community Band Concert
Everyone is invited to attend a free concert at Wallace State Community College put on by the local Cullman Community Band. This event is part of the 2013-2014 Cullman Community Concert series and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium. There will be classic band music as well as Christmas selections. Garry Taylor, director, has more information at 256-636-2754. Come check out our local talent and enjoy a great musical evening.

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

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.

Pilot Club Members Priester Pecans Fundraiser
Members of the Cullman Pilot Club are selling Alabama Priester Pecans to raise funds for their special projects brain related disorders, Project Lifesaver program, brain minder puppet shows, Alzheimer's Support Group, Margaret Jean Jones Center, Field of Miracles and the Pilot Light Home. This year's crop of pecans include pecan halves, pecan pieces, chocolate covered pecan halves, honey glazsed pecan halves, praline sugar halves and cinnamon sugar pecan halves. Bags are $12.00 for one pound of these delicious pecans. To obtain pecans please contact any Pilot club member you know or call Peggy Harris at 256-734-2831 or Ann Fox at 256-962-0910. Order some delicious goodies for the holidays while helping club members with their special projects. Win both ways!

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.

Knifty Knitters Weekly Meeting
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to come learn how to knit yarn and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters also are invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more info 256-734-2720, ext. 23.

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.

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.

Christ Lutheran Church's Advent Services
Everyone is invited to attend Christ Lutheran Church's Advent Service at the newly reconstructed Church which was destroyed in the 2011 tornado. Tonight's musical guests will be the Huntsville Lutheran Men's Quartet of Madison. A potluck dinner will begin at 6 p.m. followed by services from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. All are invited.

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

Cullman County Commission on Education Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission on Education will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a work session followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight. All members urged to attend.

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.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
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Santa at Ray Park Dodge City
The Christmas Tree in Ray Park in Dodge City will be lit and Santa will come see folks tonight, Friday, December 20 and Saturday, December 21 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the park. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to those attending the festivities. Bring the 'kids of all ages' to Ray Park on these two special nights and get into the holiday spirit.

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.

Candlelight Christmas at Daystar Church
Join us for Candlelight Christmas at Daystar Church. You will experience powerful music and an inspiring message. The kids will enjoy a high octane, fun-packed service with a great message woven into the action. Excellent nursery care will be provided as well. Services will be held at the Good Hope Campus at 6 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 22nd at 9:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., while services will be held on the Hartselle Campus on Sunday December 22 at 10 a.m.

Book Signings at Yates-Chance Christian Book Store
There will be two book signings at Yates-Chance Christian Book Store from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Authors H. L. Robertson will be signing his book 'Into His Presence", and Sheila Robertson will be available to sign copies of her children's book 'Fairhaven Forest'.

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
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You're Not Alone - A Doctor's Take on Common Gastrointestinal Symptoms

(StatePoint) Frequent and bothersome gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms are more common than you may think. While estimates may vary, five percent to 15 percent of adults in the United States may be affected by chronic GI conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) or chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC).

This could mean as many as 13 million adults may suffer from IBS-C, and as many as 35 million adults may suffer from CIC.

According to a survey, the majority of adults with these conditions may experience disruptive symptoms three to five days per month. Recurring abdominal pain and constipation, including hard stools, and infrequent and incomplete bowel movements, may indicate IBS with constipation or, if you have these symptoms with little to no abdominal pain, chronic idiopathic constipation (CIC). Adults report that these symptoms impact their daily activities.

Research also shows that only 40 to 50 percent of these sufferers plan to talk to their physician about their GI symptoms within the next year. Experts say that part of the problem is patients are uncomfortable discussing the specific symptoms of IBS-C or CIC.

"Patients often get embarrassed talking about their bathroom habits with a physician," says Dr. Steven Lamm, internist and author of "No Guts, No Glory." "There is no need to feel self-conscious."

You are not alone. Dr. Lamm recommends preparing for your appointment ahead of time to ensure a more effective conversation. Be ready to discuss the following with your doctor:

- Do you feel abdominal pain?
- How often do you experience hard stools associated with constipation?
- Do you have fewer than three bowel movements a week?
- Are your bowel movements satisfactory; with a sense of complete evacuation?
- How long have you experienced these symptoms (a week, a month, more)?
- How frequently do you experience these symptoms?
- What have you tried to relieve symptoms (drinking more water, taking fiber or laxatives, increasing exercise)?
- Do your symptoms keep coming back?
- Has your life been disrupted due to your symptoms?

Unfortunately, there is no cure for these conditions, but there are ways to help manage symptoms, including dietary and lifestyle changes and taking laxatives. Also, keeping a symptom diary may help identify triggers that exacerbate symptoms.

Keep in mind, over-the-counter laxatives and stool softeners may help with occasional constipation, but they are not approved for long-term use without physician supervision and are not approved for IBS-C. If you are a candidate, a physician may prescribe FDA-approved medications for these conditions.

With open and clear communication between patient and doctor, managing bothersome symptoms may be possible.

ADPH seeks assistance in comprehensive community health assessment

By: Stacey Adams

The Alabama Department of Public Health is seeking survey input from diverse organizations, agencies, businesses, programs, individuals, consumers, and others in identifying appropriate and relevant health issues that they would like to have considered for inclusion in a statewide and local health assessment.

Names of participants are not requested in the survey. The brief online survey can be responded to by visiting http://bit.ly/1cqyvEr. Please respond by Jan. 15, 2014.

"We need the assistance of interested groups and individuals from different backgrounds and parts of the state to respond to the survey," Stacey Adams, team leader said.

The assessment that is being developed through this survey and other related activities will help identify and prioritize the health needs of the state, establish a measurable starting point for tracking progress, and serve as a foundation for a statewide health improvement plan.

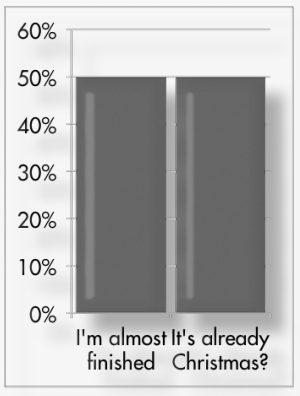
In addition to other benefits, the health assessment will position the department to apply for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Accreditation will advance the quality and performance of the agency.

It provides a means to identify performance improvement opportunities, improve management, develop leadership, and improve relationships with other community components.

Poll

Have you finished your Christmas shopping?

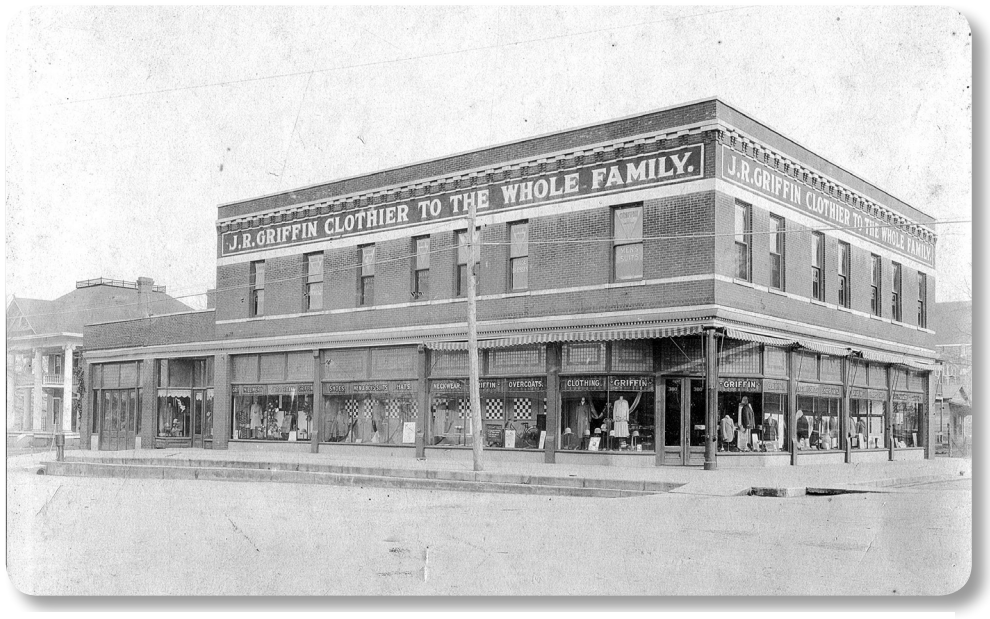


This Week's Poll

Who will you be cheering for during the BCS National Championship Game?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

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



J.R. Griffin - Clothier to the Whole Family

Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

This Week in History

December 16th
- 1918 – Jack Dempsey KOs Carl Morris in 14 seconds

December 17th
- 1924 – First U.S. diesel electric locomotive enters service in Bronx, New York

December 18th
- 1958 – First voice from space: recorded Christmas message by Eisenhower

December 19th
- 1823 – Georgia passes first U.S. state birth registration law

December 20th
- 1924 – Adolf Hitler freed from jail early

December 21st
- 1989 – Dan Quayle sends out 30,000 Christmas cards with word beacon spelled beakon

December 22nd
- 1870 – Jules Janssen, flies in a balloon in order to study a solar eclipse

cp&r

cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **FREE Phone Calls from Santa Program:** Sign your child up to receive their FREE phone call from Santa. Sign-ups begin on Dec. 2nd on a limited, first come-first serve basis. Your child will receive their phone call from Santa on Monday, Dec. 23 at your requested time. Be sure you are at home and do not miss out on your call! Call the Civic Center at 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Cullman Savings Bank Frosty 5K & Polar Bear Plunge:** Registration is now open for this event to be held on Jan. 11, 2014 at the Wellness & Aquatic Center. Cost to register is $25 for the race, $30 for the plunge and race, or $10 for the plunge. Register now at active.com, the Cullman Civic Center, or CWAC. Great door prizes and cash prizes to winners of to $200 plus a chance to win a FREE one year membership to CWAC. Call for details at 256-734-9157.
- **CWAC Holiday Hours:** The Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will be closed on Wed. Dec. 25 for Christmas, as well as open from 4:45am-12pm on Tues. Dec. 24 for Christmas Eve. The facility will be closed on Wed. Jan. 1 for New Year's.
- **Dog Obedience Classes:** Dog Obedience classes will begin on Tues. Jan 14, 2014 at the Cullman Civic Center. The class will be 7 sessions and go through March 11. Registration is open now at the Civic Center for puppy and adult classes, call the Civic Center for details at 256-734-9157.
- **Ballroom Dance Classes:** Ballroom dance classes will be held weekly at the Cullman Civic Center on Thursday nights with beginners at 6:30pm and advanced class at 7:30pm under instructor Mack Wilson. Cost is $10 per person per class. Call the Cullman Civic Center for details at 256-734-9157.
- **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.
- **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.





The Little Path: A Journey with the Documentary "Brother Joseph and the Grotto"

By: Dillon Lee
dillon@cullmansense.com

There is an almost magical quality in a visit to the Ave Maria Grotto, nestled in the woods around St. Bernard. At any age, it can be viewed with childlike wonder as holy sites, historical landmarks, and architectural triumphs the world over seem to have been reduced to toy-sized replicas deposited into this former stone quarry.

Red Clay pictures' Director/Writer Cliff Vaughn and Producer Carol Ann Vaughn Cross used that wonder and imagery to frame their fairy-tale documentary "Brother Joseph and the Grotto."

Vaughn and Cross were both on hand for a free screening Thursday, December 12 at the Burrows Center at Wallace State Community College. The modestly attended event was made all the richer by the connections made to the filmmakers and to the community members that have been impacted by Brother Joseph's work and St. Bernard.

The film is billed as a "true fairy tale" and Brother Joseph's work, his almost inadvertent artistic masterpiece, is ripe with the stuff of Grim brothers fantasy.

It even starts in the shadow of a looming Bavarian Castle in Landshut where Brother Joseph was born Michael Zoettl. Young Michael's sickly early life, journey to America, and, finally, life-long work at St. Bernard is told through soft-focused reenactments and narrative accounts provided by the documentary's "storyteller," Norma Baker Gabhart .

Do not let the fairy tale structure be misleading; this is no make-believe or embellished tall tale. The real beauty of this documentary is in the serious scholarship.

Producer and researcher Carol Ann Vaughn Cross holds a PhD in history from Auburn University. Cliff Vaughn, who wrote, directed, produced, and edited the work, also has a doctorate in American cultural studies.

It is from this firm footing in academia that the story of Brother Joseph unfolds.

The film is packed with archival photos and snippets of information about the reclusive, modest lay monk.

The filmmaker's hired researchers and documentarians from Brother Joseph's hometown of Landshut to flesh out the early life of the titular hero. From these fragments- images, post cards, musings, scant writings, internal church documents, and second-hand accounts- the most complete picture of Brother Joseph is brought to life.

Before this illumination, the Grotto's creator was a bit mythic himself- a small hunchbacked man, seldom photographed, private and shy. Even the internet, a bastion of esoteric knowledge, has very little information about "Brother Joseph the man" that doesn't directly relate to the Grotto itself. Though the camera often gives the audience a bleary-eyed, dreamy version of Joseph in reenactments, the actual portrait it paints in its narrative is crisp and sharp.

Stylistically, the professionalism of the reenactments is deceptive of the film's small budget. Especially touching is the wonderfully shot homage to Brother Joseph's funeral , providing a visual capstone for the last act of the film. For all its stylistic weight, elements of "Brother Joseph and the Grotto's" fairy tale framing reveal a technical weakness.

While the "storyteller" provides repetition of themes that the filmmakers want to push home, ultimately her dulcet, rehearsed Southern belle voice over conflicts with the genuine authenticity and striking insight of the interviewees.

The storyteller served to break the otherwise captivating narrative instead of transitioning and propelling it forward. Absent the storyteller, the moving and subtle score and archival research quality of the documentary rivals the work of master historical documentarians like Ken Burns.

Most impressive is the handling of its religious, historical, and philosophical elements.

They all become entangled through Joseph's long laborious life, yet each disparate element is drawn out by expert commentary. Abbott Cletus Meagher and Father Marcus Voss of Saint Bernard are fascinating to hear and see on screen.

They manage to explain the Catholic and Benedictine percepts that lie beneath Bro. Joseph's work concisely. Further bridging the gap is Wayne Flynt, professor emeritus of history at Auburn Univeristy. Flynt is a decisive voice in understanding the history and culture of the south and Alabama. As Baptist, he provides complementary insight on the Grotto's immediate and lasting impact.

While important social, religious, and historical connections are made, the philosophy discovered by the filmmakers and the intellectual and religious voices they interview is most fascinating.

The philosophy is, appropriately enough, called "the little way." Communicated most famously by St. Therese of Lisieux and adhered to by Bro. Joseph and the current Pope, Francis, the little way teaches serving God through small acts.

This is unsurprisingly appealing to the small Brother Joseph. He found comfort in simple work as a lay brother at St. Bernard and a few other Catholic monasteries.

But he found his greatest achievement in the tiny, inspiring grottoes and cityscapes he would shape out of scraps and concrete in his late years.

The connection between St. Therese's little way and the little paths, villas, castles, and stories created by Bro. Joseph's miniatures are intrinsic.

Through the smallest of works, Joseph served God to the best of his ability, discovering an innate artistry that Joseph himself was too humble to champion. This is gift provided by "Brother Joseph and the Grotto."

A legend becomes a real human being. The Grotto becomes so much more than a roadside attraction.

It is not eccentricity or a hobby out of control like so many other curiosities that litter the highways of Americana; it is in service to the Benedictine principle and the little way of Therese that the Grotto came to be.

For those in the public, those connections might not have been made if not for this documentary. Cliff Vaughn's past projects reveal a personal passion to profiling individual lives; that amazement and wonder can be found in the mundane.

Vaughn's path to this film and Brother Joseph's little way are remarkably complimentary. As Joseph served his faith and his order by his literally small works, Vaughn serves fans of documentary films and this community with his look into a little life that loomed large.

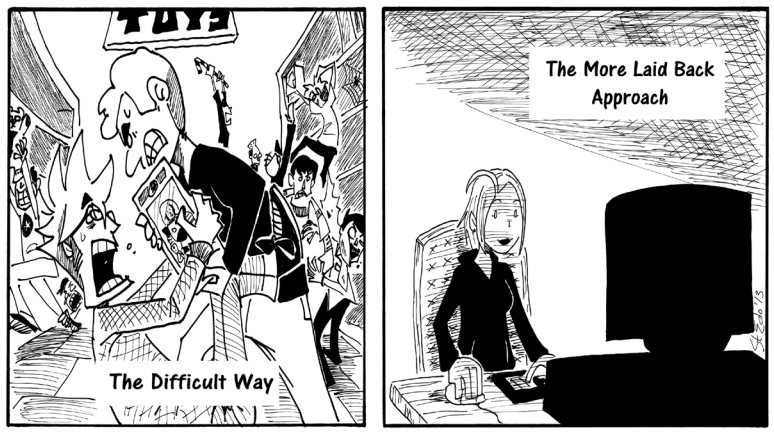
For more information or to purchase the DVD visit www.brotherjosephmovie.com or Red Clay Pictures on Facebook.

Comics

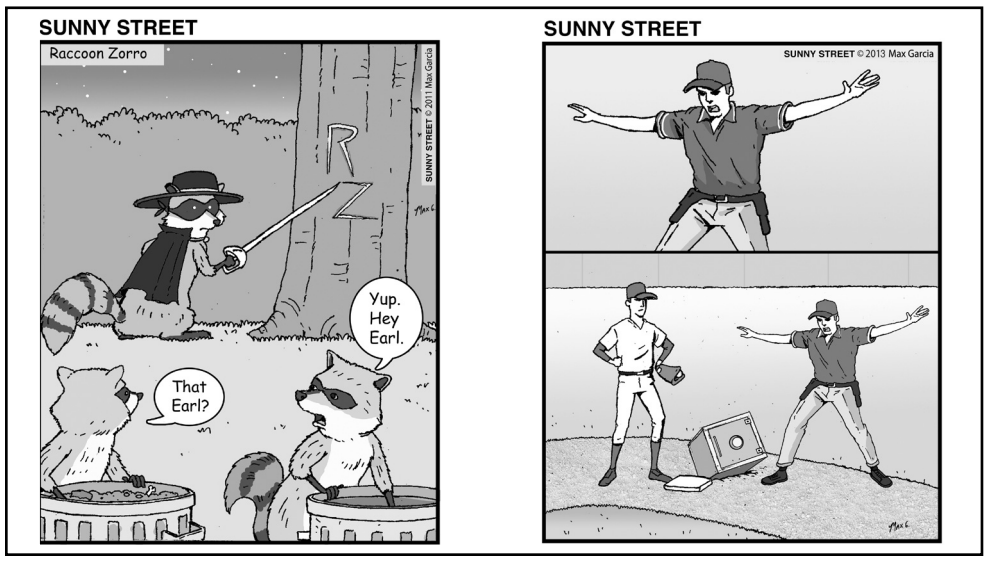
WHITE & BLACK

"Your Two Ways to X-mas Shop"

st.edo@cullmansense.com







A Christmas Kiss

By: Natalie Bonner

It's Friday night. You are home alone. It's the Christmas season. You know you want to watch that Lifetime Christmas movie. It's practically calling your name.

Some of the cheesiest movies emerge during the holiday season. There are too many to even name, but nevertheless we end up watching them, even liking them, and then endlessly talking about them.

With titles such as "Home by Christmas," "Christmas in the City," "The Christmas Consultant," "Crazy for Christmas" and "A Christmas Wedding Date," come on, we know we can't resist their cheesy titles and predictable plotlines.

I recently decided to indulge in my guilty pleasure when I opted to watch "A Christmas Kiss."

Perhaps the cheesiest plotline of all, an interior designer's assistant enjoys a spontaneous kiss in an elevator with a stranger who coincidentally ends up being her boss's boyfriend.

Upon meeting him, she instantly realizes who he is, yet he is none the wiser due to her incognito appearance the night they kissed.

Even worse, she has to decorate his home for a Christmas party.

Of course, this builds for quite the conundrum as you cheer on Wendy Walton, the assistant who does anything and everything for her overly demanding, sneering boss Priscilla Hall.

Priscilla not only orders Wendy around like a servant, but also steals her designs and takes credit for them.

And then there is Adam Hughes. He's hot, kind, rich, and sweet.

Wendy is head over heels and torn between telling him the truth about the kiss, the designs, and who Priscilla really is.

The movie is so much more than I thought it would be. Of course, I was semi-aware of who the not-so-famous cast was, but I enjoyed the heartfelt performances by Elisabeth Röhm and Laura Breckenridge and leading man Brendan Fehr.

Jerrika Hinton and Laura Spencer play Wendy's roommates Tressa and Caroline, respectively.

The witty duo add some much needed hilarity and humor to the film as they attempt to guide good-natured Wendy to her ultimate destiny.

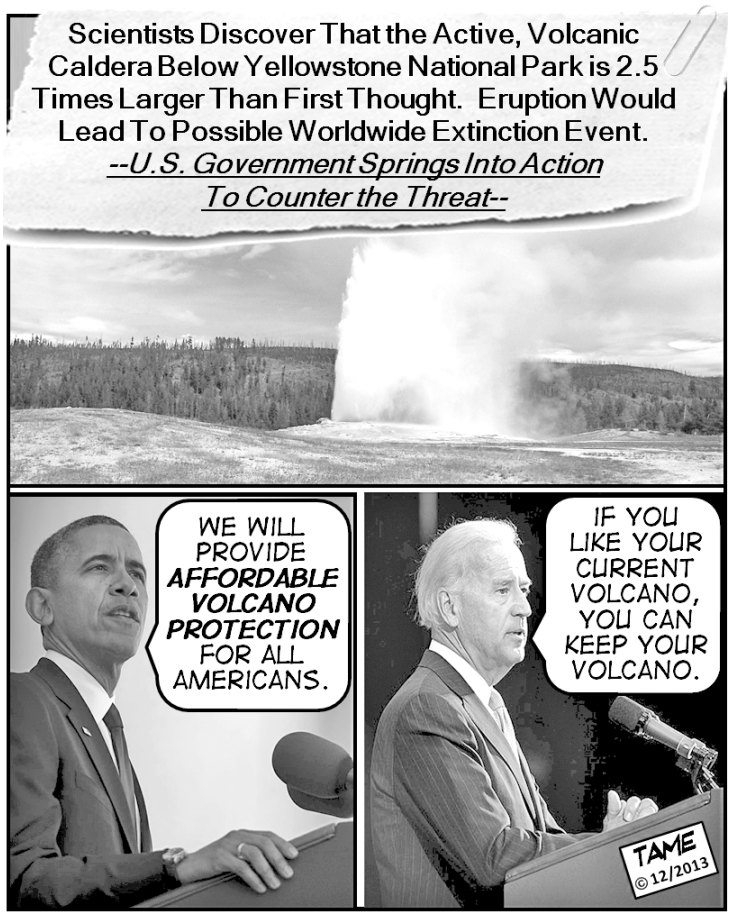
"A Christmas Kiss" was the cutest movie I could have hoped to watch on my solo night.

Not everyone will agree, but there is something about curling up on the sofa with some hot chocolate and shortbread cookies and saying yes to a cheesy movie that works for me.

"A Christmas Kiss" is a Cinderella influenced Christmas tale that shows one kiss really can make all the difference in the world.

It is one rom-com that will keep you cheering until the end of this cute classic.

Check your local listings for another chance to watch this movie and other holiday themed films, or find it on Amazon.com.





Archeology and the Atom

By: Kent Shifferd

Kent Shifferd, Ph.D., (kshifferd@centurytel.net) is an historian who taught environmental history and ethics for 25 years at Wisconsin's Northland College. He is author of From War to Peace: A Guide to the Next Hundred Years (McFarland, 2011) and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

We have all heard of the city of Idu. Right? Thousands of families living there, carrying out their normal lives, government housed in lavish buildings, written documents, trade, religion, etc. Well, it was lost. A whole city lost. Idu flourished in the 13th century B.C. We knew it had existed from some ancient Assyrian records, but had no idea where it was. Archeologists finally found it last year, buried in northern Iraq.

And then there is the case of Richard the Third, one of the most famous kings of England who died in one of the most famous battles in the year1485, just 528 years ago. You would think his tomb would have been a carefully preserved site viewed by thousands of tourists today. But in fact no one knew where he was buried until last year when archeologists found him under a parking lot! Let's consider nuclear power plants and weapons manufacturing in the light of Idu and Richard.

Nuclear power plants and weapons manufacturing produce a host of deadly radioactive waste (including the bombs even if they never go off). Tons of it each year. Radio nucleotides are among the most toxic materials on the planet. They are biocides which attack the higher forms of life more first and then work their way down the chain. At the lower end of the spectrum of complexity, some organisms like lichens seem immune. High dose exposure to humans causes prompt death by internal hemorrhaging. Lower doses can cause cancers. During the nuclear testing that occurred above ground up until 1962, the U.S. experienced an epidemic of childhood leukemia.

Some folks are touting nuclear power as a solution to the problem of global warming, noting that it does not produce carbon dioxide, one of the chief greenhouse gases. Well, when used in a power plant to boil water to steam to turn a turbine and generate electricity, it doesn't, but the mining, processing and transporting this material to the plant rely on fossil fuel, a major source of greenhouse gases. Still, let's ignore that. The deadly wastes last a long time. Radioactive material does decay over time at a rate which is measured in half-lives.

That is, if you have a ton of the stuff, half of it will into some other product (which might also be radioactive) over a given period of time, and then half of the remainder will do the same over another, same given period, and then half of the remainder, etc. At the end of 3 half-lives you still have an eighth of a ton.

The half- life of plutonium is 24,000 thousand years. That means it needs to be kept away from the public for 144,000 thousand years at a minimum. The half-life of uranium 238 is 4.5 million years. You get the picture.

Electric power in the U.S. that is produced by our existing nuclear plants and by weapons manufacturing together turn out 2,300 tons of waste each year, about 800 from the power plants. Over the past 40 years, it has added up to about 67,000 tons.

All this high level waste (as opposed to "low level waste" as is discarded from a hospital X-ray machine) produced to date in power plants is so hot when it comes out that it needs to be stored in deep pools of water for 4 to 5 years or even up to 10 years. Then it is removed and is stored in casks on site. The casks seem to have a life of about 50 years. In the U.S., nuclear plants currently produce about 20 percent of our power. If we were to rely on nuclear power for all of our electrical generation, the amount of waste generated would climb to 11,500 tons per year or 40 to 50 times over the expected life of a nuclear plant, about 50,000 tons. Note also that at the end of its useful life, a reactor producing electric power or plutonium for bombs is itself so irradiated that the whole thing is high level waste. It has to be dismantled and buried. All this to turn on the lights for our brief moment in history. Leaving aside the increased chances of another Fukushima (or a Three Mile Island, or a Chernobyl), and the fossil fuel burned in preparation, and thinking about Idu, and Richard, do we really believe that this deadly waste can be sequestered from human contact for longer than civilization itself has existed, indeed for as long as humans have existed on the earth?

There are other ways to make electricity, namely solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro dams, and there is always conservation. Why would anyone in their right mind risk going nuclear as a way to deal with global warming? And aren't we glad that the people who lived at Idu did not have nuclear power or nuclear weapons?

Masculinity Question Still Missing Post Newtown

By: Rob Okun

There's a man with a gun over there
Telling me I got to beware
I think it's time we stop, children, what's that sound
Everybody look what's going down
—Stephen Stills

As we prepare for the gut-wrenching first anniversary of Newtown on Saturday, I teeter back and forth between sadness and anger. Sadness that 20 six and seven year-olds were murdered—along with a half-dozen Sandy Hook Elementary School educators—and anger that public officials and most of the media still largely ignore the missing component in the Connecticut tragedy—the gender of the shooter.

Don't get me wrong. It's urgent we implement gun control legislation and increase mental health services. Some states—including Colorado and Connecticut—have passed new gun laws, doing an end run around the National Rifle Association and their minions in Congress. And kudos to Vice president Biden for shepherding $100 million in additional money for mental wellness programs. Still, like a two-legged stool, those efforts can't stand up to this type of violence if we don't add a third leg: male socialization.

Take this simple quiz. Don't worry; you're sure to get 100 since—spoiler alert—the answer isn't "woman." In the year since Adam Lanza began his rampage by murdering his mother, was it a man or a woman who killed innocent people at the Washington Navy Shipyard, the Boston Marathon, Santa Monica College, homes in Hialeah, Florida, Manchester, Illinois, and Fernley, Nevada, a barbershop in New York's Mohawk Valley, and at Los Angeles International Airport? Get it?

It's been nearly 15 years since two male students murdered 12 classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School. Since then there have been close to a hundred mass shootings; in all but one the killer was male. How can we expect to reduce the numbers if we don't put raising healthy boys and treating at-risk men at least as high on the national agenda as gun control and mental health?

Now is the time for gun control advocates, mental health professionals, and those working to redefine masculinity to form a new coalition that recognizes the irrefutable relationship between men and guns, men's mental health, and men and power.

Now is the time for educators to begin cultivating boys' emotional intelligence, making it as high a priority as is teaching math and reading.

Now is the time for the president to direct the Department of Education to create a curriculum that emphasizes boys' emotional wellbeing.

Now is the time for the Centers for Disease Control—perhaps in concert with the Department of Veterans Affairs—to coordinate a national "Men and Mental Health" campaign to reach men who underreport their depression and are averse to mental health checkups—all health checkups for that matter. The families of the Sandy Hook shooting victims deserve nothing less. As do all the other families in the club no one ever wants to join that stretches from Boston to Los Angeles.

While experts on gun control and mental health fill Congressional hearing rooms and dominate the opinion pages and the airwaves with analysis and commentary, it's time to share the microphone with those working to redefine masculinity.

Inspired by women, a growing legion of men has been working since the 1970s to prevent domestic and sexual violence and to transform traditional ideas about manhood, fatherhood, and brotherhood.

Today, men's organizations across the country have experienced staffs working to prevent domestic violence and rape; to coach fathers, and to assist sons on the journey to healthy manhood.

In the 1990s I facilitated batterers' groups working with lonely, isolated men who had been abusive to their spouses. While none was as mentally unstable as the mass shooters, all were products of the same male socialization.

Today no one may be shrugging, dismissively saying, "Boys will be boys" to explain away aberrant male behavior. Still, when "boys" kill their mothers, children, strangers—committing suicide by mass murder—isn't it time we took the crisis in masculinity seriously?

If we care about the parents of Sandy Hook the answer to this quiz question must be yes.

Rob Okun is editor of Voice Male magazine and writes for PeaceVoice. His new book, Voice Male: The Untold Story of the Profeminist Men's Movement will be published in January.

Bill Smith

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