SERIES 4, ISSUE 1 MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

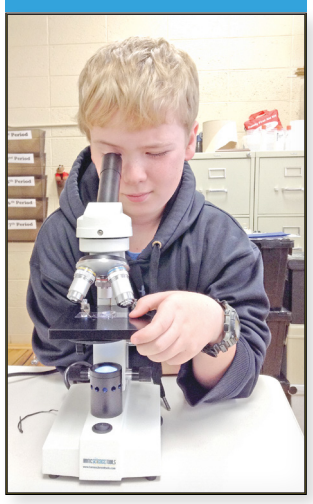
CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

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DHS Releases Phased Enforcement Schedule for REAL ID

»States Already Successfully Implementing 70% of the Standards

Contributed by DHS

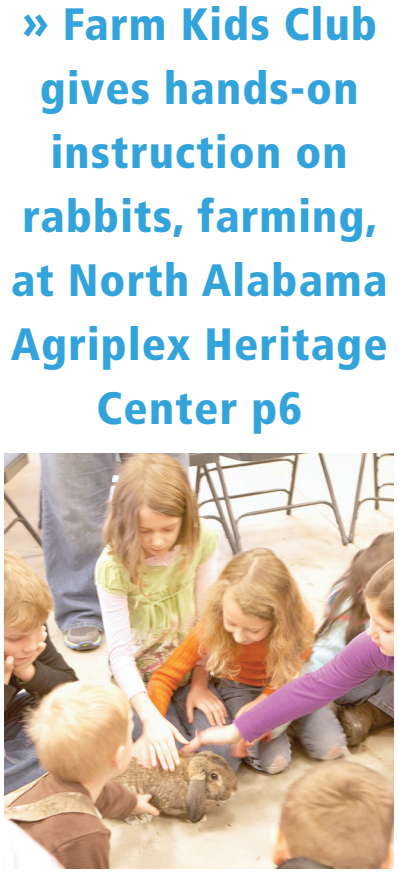
WASHINGTON— In line with the previously announced timeline, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today released an achievable schedule for the phased enforcement of the REAL ID Act of 2005 ("Act") for driver's licenses and identification cards, taking another step toward a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

Every state has a more secure driver's license today than they did before the passage of the Act.

Currently, DHS has determined that forty-one states and territories are either fully compliant with the REAL ID standards or have made sufficient progress to qualify for an extension. States have already successfully implemented more than 70% of the standards, demonstrating the p6

An Armful of Knowledge

» Farm Kids Club gives hands-on instruction on rabbits, farming, at North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center p6





January is National Mentoring Month

(SPM Wire) You don't need special skills to become a mentor to a young person in your community; you just need an ability to listen and to offer friendship, guidance, and encouragement. And now is a great time to get started, as January is National Mentoring Month, which first began in 2002.

Potential mentors are being encouraged this month to begin offering their services in their local communities, in schools, at faith-based organizations, in local businesses, and even through the Internet.

To get started or to learn more about different opportunities in these different settings, you can visit mentoring.org, which is maintained by The National Mentoring Partnership, one of the key nonprofit organizations that is involved in National Mentoring Month.

Not only does working with young people help them to achieve academic success, it also can lead them to make responsible decisions in different facets of their lives, say experts at the Harvard School of Public Health and The National Mentoring Partnership.

Alabama experiences significant H1N1 influenza activity this season

By: Karen Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P.

MONTGOMERY – While the flu season is just getting started in much of the country, activity is already high in Alabama, along with Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Reports from Alabama's network of providers who report influenza-like illness and send influenza samples for testing to the Department of Public Health indicate the geographic spread of influenza in Alabama is widespread for the third week in a row.

Influenza type A, H1N1 (also known as 2009 H1N1, the pandemic strain, or pH1N1) has been the predominant strain circulating virus so far this season. One characteristic of pH1N1 is that, similar to the pandemic of 2009, young and middle-aged adults seem to have a greater chance of severe influenza.

Flu is a very contagious respiratory illness. Some of the symptoms of influenza can be fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, headache, muscle aches, and extreme fatigue. Influenza can be a serious disease for anyone, even children, pregnant women and previously healthy young adults.

An annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older. The flu vaccine this year includes protection against H1N1. Flu vaccines are available as shots and nasal spray. Physicians, nurses, and pharmacists can advise patients which type of flu vaccine is right for them.

In addition to taking the flu vaccine, other measures can reduce or prevent the spread of influenza. These include p7

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

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CCSO needs public assistance in identifying possible murder suspect

Courtesy CCSO

CULLMAN - The Cullman County Sheriff's Office is requesting your help in identifying this subject. He is wanted for questioning in reference to a homicide that occurred in our county on approximately 12/19/2013.

If you have any information about this subject please call Investigator Justin Tyus at 256-735-2715 or 256-734-0342. If you wish to remain anonymous you can contact the Anonymous Tip line at 256-734-0210.

For more information, visit CullmanSense.com. Updates will be added as they are available.



Agriplex's first Heritage Skills seminar to teach trapping and tanning

By: Kate Mullaney

If you've ever wanted to learn about old agricultural and farming skills, this Thursday is your chance.

Dr. Bill Peinhardt will be leading a class January 9th on trapping and tanning.

The class will be located at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center at 1714 Talley Ho St SW, Cullman; just across the street from the Cullman Bowling Alley.

The cost is $5 per person, and is perfect for anyone ages 8 and up (children must have an adult present).

This is the first class of a Heritage Skills class series the Agriplex is going to offer.

This series will include a winemaking class on January 23rd at 6 p.m., a leatherwork class where participants will make their own leather belts on February 9th at 2 p.m., and a class on growing fishing bait on March 6th at 5:30 p.m.

Early farmers knew how to maximize everything on their farms to provide for their family, and these manual skills are being gradually lost.

The North Alabama Agriplex wishes to promote both past and present agricultural skills to North Alabama, and are determined to teach these heritage skills to young people as a way of learning about and honoring our past.

Taking a closer look...

By: Dawn Klinger

CULLMAN - Cullman Middle School students in Mrs. Bama Turner's 8th grade Science class are using three new microscopes funded by Cullman City Schools Foundation to view California blackworms.

The California blackworm is used as an aquatic food source for freshwater fish. Students are learning about the flow of fluids in the blackworm's body and is part of the AMSTI curriculum.

Mrs. Turner was one of thirty-three Cullman City School teachers who received funding for innovative ideas within their classrooms with funding provided by Cullman City Schools Foundation.



GENERATION CHANGE

Local twenty-somethings share their thoughts on success

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - From business owners to pastors to comedians, Cullman is booming with successful twenty-something year olds that are thriving in this weak economy. There is no doubt that it is difficult to find a job right now, and young people are being forced to find creative ways to become successful. Nick Canaday age 27, John Bussman age 27, and Tyler Schuman, age 28 are just three of the many successful young people in Cullman, and their stories can serve as a source of encouragement for others.

More and more jobs are requiring several years of experience, so you can't get a job without experience, and you can't get experience without a job. Comedian Nick Canaday found a way around this catch 22, though.

"I scrubbed the toilets at Rick and Bubba. I worked my butt off and it led to my own show. Find somewhere you want to work then work there. Nick is now a comedian on his own talk show, Nick at Night on 104.7 WZZK. "You now have to create opportunities for you to get experience," he adds.

Reverend John Bussman took a different route to his success. He landed his job through years of studying.

"Once I finally decided to become a pastor, I spent my last 2 years of undergrad in Nebraska finishing my degree, three years in St. Louis at Concordia Seminary to complete a 128 hour Masters degree, and one year of internship in Tullahoma, Tennessee, he says. "It wasn't an easy road to where I am."

Another path to success comes from Tyler Schuman, owner of Moe's Original BBQ in Cullman.

After working at a Moe's in Vail, Colorado, Tyler decided that he wanted to go into business for himself, and that he wanted to buy into Moe's.

Though these stories differ, they all have one thing in common: hard work. Opportunities are not endless, though, and sometimes hard work is not enough.

It can be difficult to keep yourself motivated when faced with setbacks, but Nick is sure that being persistent in your daily life is one of the keys to success.

"I believe that your daily habits, the things you do every day, are the most important part of being successful," he says. "What are you doing every day? How are you spending your time? For me, personally waking up early and having a devotional with the Lord has been life changing. There is no better way to get your day started and your mind and heart in the right place."

Reverend John's daily habits include an active prayer life as well as continuing his studies.

During school he became fluent in reading and studying the original Biblical languages, Hebrew and Greek. He also learned Aramaic, which can be found in a few sections of the Old Testament.

"My philosophy is: How can I teach and preach texts if I cannot read what it says? I am still an ardent studier of the languages as well as other ancient texts."

For Tyler, another key to success is to surround yourself with uplifting people.

"My business partners, our employees, friends, and family have played a major role in our success. We have been blessed to have their help and continued support to get us where we are at this point."

All three of these young people also agree that having mentors can lead to success. These can be parents, professors, or anyone who can guide you, help you, or simply offer you advice.

For Nick, the most difficult aspect of his career has been accepting the fact that he is unable to please everyone.

"Comedy and entertainment is so subjective," he says. "Naturally you have people who pull against you and want to see you fail. This used to really bother me cause it's human nature to want to be liked. Over time I have learned not to pay those people any attention, you don't have success without haters."

Reverend John and his wife, Emily have a son due in May. Between being a husband and father and leading a congregation, Reverend John struggles with time management.

"We have 980 members at St. Paul's and we also have our school that goes through 6th grade. I try my best to see everyone and meet all of my other responsibilities while maintaining a healthy relationship with my wife."

The most challenging thing for Tyler, on the other hand, has been learning as he goes. Since this is his first business venture, he has had to learn everything quickly.

"We have made some mistakes," he admits, "but we are learning and getting better every day. Learning from our mistakes is making us a better and more efficient restaurant."

Nick advises other young people to listen to their parents.

"Seek their advice and wisdom," he says.

Reverend John encourages others to stay connected to their pastors and their godly teachers.

"This will not make them 'better people'," he says, "but it will provide them with better role models than the Kardashians or Justin Beiber."

Becoming successful in our economy takes more than simple effort, but these young Cullmanites have found creative ways to excel in their careers.

Nick, Reverend John, and Tyler serve as a source of encouragement to young people and a reassurance to the economy, and Cullman is where they call home.

What's Online

Big Hobby, Small Town Love

In a small town, Anthony Vincent has a big hobby. He has a vast collection of historical Cullman items that stretches across the back of his furniture store called Vincent's Furniture. Cullman High School annuals from 1915, saddle bags from the civil war, and...

qrne.ws/143



2013 – A Retrospective Look

Just as we are sweeping up the leftover tinsel and bits of wrapping paper that have gone astray from our Christmas celebration, we are getting ready for New Year's Eve. It seems like the same thoughts enter my brain every year at this time. How did yet another year pass by...

qrne.ws/144

Governor awards grant to assist victims of drunken drivers

Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded a grant to an organization that helps Alabamians who are victims of drunken drivers. The $27,678 grant will help Alabama Mothers Against Drunk Driving provide victim services including court...

qrne.ws/145

Tax Cuts, Tax Reform to Resurface in 2014 Statehouses

By: Stephen C. Fehr • Stateline

At least four governors will push to revamp their states' tax systems in 2014, keeping the momentum going from this year when five states adopted major changes.

Voters also will have the opportunity to weigh in on taxes in 2014. In August, Alaska voters will consider a ballot measure repealing legislation approved earlier this year giving tax cuts to the oil and gas industry. In November, Nevada voters will be asked to change the constitution to allow lawmakers to remove a cap on mining industry taxes, which some Nevada officials consider to be a first step towards a comprehensive tax overhaul.

Alaska, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia were among the states enacting major tax changes in 2013, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, and several others approved smaller reforms to one tax or another.

In recent weeks, governors in Kentucky, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon have said they intend to make significant changes to their state tax codes to make them fairer and to provide a more reliable source of long-term revenue to pay for services and programs. The number could grow as other governors prepare their budget proposals for the coming fiscal year.

As New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Tax Reform and Fairness Commission put it, "Good tax policy, including a more equitable tax code, would limit exemptions and tax expenditures for the few and lower taxes for all taxpayers."

Cuomo, a Democrat who is up for re-election, wants to cut New Yorkers' property taxes, among the highest in the nation, as well as make the tax code less complicated. A separate tax relief commission recommended using half of New York's projected $2 billion budget surplus to finance a two-year freeze on property taxes tied to local governments controlling costs.

Both commissions urged New York lawmakers to lower and simplify business taxes; the tax relief panel proposed the smallest corporate income tax rate since 1968. The commissions also said lawmakers should update the state estate tax by exempting more middle-income New Yorkers. The exemption would be raised from $1 million to $5.25 million, and rates would be lowered, if approved.

Like Cuomo, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber is seeking another term next year and has said he plans to persuade voters and lawmakers to change the tax code. Oregon does not have a sales tax and relies on income taxes to pay for education, public safety, human services, and other programs. Kitzhaber, a Democrat who is running for a fourth term, does not have a Republican challenger so far.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, a Republican, has said he will spend his last year as governor asking lawmakers to approve a tax package that would reduce state income and property taxes. Earlier this year, he withdrew a similar proposal after lawmakers said they wanted more time to evaluate the plan.

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat who is barred from a third term, said he hopes to convince the legislature to approve an overhaul of the tax system in the 2014 session. Kentucky faces a $370 million budget shortfall.

Uncertain Prospects

Predicting the fate of the governors' recommendations is difficult. Reform efforts usually wind up raising some taxes while lowering others, and lawmakers often are reluctant to make such changes in an election year.

Several New York lawmakers have embraced Cuomo's tax panel report, though the Senate GOP leader has said he prefers deeper tax cuts and labor unions and business groups have questioned aspects of the recommendations. Oregon residents consistently have rejected state attempts to impose a sales tax. In Nebraska, a legislative committee studying tax reform recently concluded that major changes are not necessary. A similar panel Beshear convened in Kentucky a year ago offered lawmakers a menu of 54 tax increases, on which they deferred action in this year's session.

Lawmakers are also proposing their own tax overhauls. Arizona lawmakers are planning to take up a proposal made by a tax reform panel to reduce the number of income tax brackets from five to three. Indiana's Republican-led legislature might consider changes to the state's personal property tax in the upcoming session. Missouri's GOP-led legislature, backed by the state's Chamber of Commerce, might try another push to cut income and business taxes though lawmakers were unsuccessful overriding Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of tax cuts this year.

Taking It Slow

Other states are proceeding more slowly. Newly elected Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, offered a plan during the campaign to restructure local taxes which he said would improve the state's business competitiveness. McAuliffe, who takes office in January, said as a first step he would name a task force of government, civic, and business leaders to come up with proposals.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple, a Republican, has asked a task force to recommend proposals for reforming the state's property tax system but the legislature does not meet again until 2015. Wisconsin GOP Gov. Scott Walker said he will convene a series of meetings around the state for residents to offer tax code changes.

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

Secretary of State Announces Change in Qualifying Date

By: Tamara Cofield

MONTGOMERY – Secretary of State Jim Bennett announced recently that the close of qualifying for major party candidates in the 2014 election cycle will be February 7th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

This is much earlier than usual as the Secretary of State's office is working to comply with federal laws concerning military and overseas voters. This change is part of ongoing litigation with the Department of Justice over military and overseas voting deadlines.

The original date for the end of qualifying for major party candidates would have been April 4, 2014.

This change will not affect the June 3, 2014 qualifying deadlines for independent candidates and candidates of parties that did not receive more than 20 percent of the entire vote cast in the last general election.

"Though we do not have yet an order from the court, we have agreed with the Department of Justice to move our deadlines up considerably to get ballots to the Absentee Election Managers in each county," said Bennett.

"This will allow ballots enough time to be sent to military and overseas voters well before the federal deadline, which is 45 days before the date of the election."

The Secretary of State's office has been in constant contact with both chairs of the Alabama Democratic and Republican parties to let them know that this change would occur. Secretary Bennett said he has urged the parties to open qualifying for candidates early in order to account for this change.

"We are doing everything in our power to make sure that our soldiers have their ballots in hand and can mail them back in time for their vote to be counted," said Bennett

The Secretary of State's office tried to pass a bill last year in the legislature that would alter the elections deadline schedule to reflect this end date for qualifying. That bill passed unanimously in the House, but failed to pass the Senate due to time constraints.

"We are bringing the bill again this year. I know that the legislative leadership has every confidence that this will be passed for future elections and that we will all do our part to ensure that every vote counts, including military and overseas voters," said Bennett.

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- Seniors with exceptional circumstances, let us show you how to help ensure that all of your additional opportunities are utilized!



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Former Good Hope coach to enter into Morgan County Hall of Fame

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Reporter

DECATUR – A star on the hardwood in the late 1960s, Danny Welborn is being recognized for his skills from his high school days in Morgan County.

Recently, it was announced that Welborn will join five others to be inducted into the Morgan County Hall of Fame. The awards ceremony will take place June 14 in downtown Decatur.

Welborn is already in the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame for a great coaching career at Good Hope High School. His success was recognized when he received induction into the Hall in 2008.

As a member of the Danville Hawks, Welborn excelled in his senior season in 1967, leading the state in scoring with a 29.8 average per game.

The All-State performer was given a chance to continue his career on the collegiate ranks at Athens State before he got into coaching the sport at Meek High School in 1970.

Welborn arrived at Good Hope in 1974, but success didn't come early.

The first winning season Welborn experienced for the Raiders was 1978-79 when the team posted then a school record 23 victories against four losses.

That club won the Holly Pond Thanksgiving Tournament and the Addison Holiday Tournament and finished second in Class 2A, Area 12.

A record that still stands with Welborn coaching is 56 field goals that the Raiders scored on February 22, 1979 in a 119-76 rout of Addison. Back then all field goals were two points.

The three-point shot didn't come into play in the Alabama High School Athletic Association until 1984.

The 119 points remained a school and Cullman County record for 10 years until the 1989 Good Hope Raiders broke it with 126 points, thanks to many baskets from three-point territory.

Welborn coached basketball at Good Hope for 20 years, compiling 317 wins with Cullman County championships in 1988, 1990, and 1993.

The '93 tournament was played at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum for the first time ever.

His Raiders also made the state tournament a couple of times.

Welborn also coached golf at Good Hope, guiding the Raiders to a series of Cullman County titles and numerous trips to the Alabama High School 3A State Tournament.

Now retired, Welborn follows his kids who are basketball coaches.

Tammy Welborn West has established a great program at Cold Springs High School since the late 1990s with three AHSAA championships while his son John is coach for the middle school program at West Point.

Three of Welborn's former players share honors with him in the Cullman County Hall of Fame. Johnny Thornton followed Welborn into the Hall in 2009, William Calvert in 2010, and Jeff Speegle in 2011.

Calvert is now track and cross country coach and athletic director at St. Bernard Prep School while Speegle has enjoyed a long time successful career as a sports anchor and reporter for ABC 33/40 in Birmingham.

Welborn is very humbled by the induction into the Morgan County Hall of Fame as many people extended congratulations to him over the weekend while he watched his daughter and her Cold Springs team go 2-1 and finish fifth in a classic played at Decatur High School.

Cold Springs Lady Eagles crush Decatur, finish 5th in tournament

By: Johnny Thornton
Sports Reporter

DECATUR – Getting challenged by three Class 6A programs, the Cold Springs Lady Eagles raised their level of intensity and had a respectable finish in the Decatur Orthopedic Clinic Classic.

In being the smallest classification among the field of 16 teams, the No. 3 squad from Class 2A finished 2-1 in the tournament, ending it Monday night by ripping past Decatur 58-37 to claim a tie for fifth place with Lawrence County.

The Lady Eagles opened the event Friday with a 42-33 win over James Clemens from Huntsville.

In the quarterfinal round Saturday, the Lady Eagles faced No. 8 Spain Park from the 6A Top 10 and fell 52-41.

The game was close in the final minutes before Spain Park went on a run to gain some breathing room and send Tammy West's team to the consolation bracket.

Meeting the tournament host who was knocked into the fifth place game with a quarterfinal loss to Oak Mountain, Cold Springs came out and stormed to an 18-5 lead.

It began with sophomore guard Bailey West landing two shots from three-point range along with three made shots by forward Haley Freeman and four of five from the line and a field goal by Chloe Harbison.

The rout was on. In the second period, the Lady Eagles had a 17-2 spurt and led 35-7. By the time the game went to the half, Cold Springs led 37-12.

The Lady Eagle defense allowed the Lady Raiders two field goals in the first 16 minutes while Decatur's offense came from the line with eight conversions in 12 attempts.

Cold Springs was slow on the scoring side in the third period. By the halfway point of the quarter, Harbison had two field goals and the Lady Eagles' huge halftime cushion was cut to 42-23 with Decatur on an 11-5 run.

Then after a time out, the Lady Eagles went back to work as back-to-back treys by Freeman and Harbison slowed down Decatur just enough. Cold Springs was ahead 49-25 with one quarter left in its assignment in the River City.

The big lead allowed West to go deep into her bench early in the period and finish off the host to improve to 14-5 on the season.

"Our intensity level was high all weekend," West said following the game. "We are right where we need to be right now."

Harbison earned leading scoring honors with 23, West tallied 12, Freeman nine, Kaitlyn Hall five, and Hannah Watson, Emme Willoughby, and Camryn Crider two points apiece.

Decatur, 4-11, didn't have a double digit performer. Mashayla Harris led the Lady Raiders with six points in a reserve role.

The 2-1 record for Cold Springs completed a good weekend of girls basketball by the county. Holly Pond was 3-0 and winners of the Yule Tide Classic at Wallace State, Cullman finished 2-1 and was second to the Lady Broncos, and Good Hope got a 2-1 mark in its regular tour of the Hayden Christmas Tournament and finished 5th.

The last three wins for the Lady Eagles have been against larger classification.

Prior to this tournament, Cold Springs had won at Walker 55-51 and added victories against teams from Huntsville and Decatur to have the second best record in the county heading into January.

Green with Envy

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND - Championship aspirations are rapid in the gymnasium at Holly Pond High School. Both the boys and girls squad caught the fever last year with the boys making it all the way to the semifinals and the girls to the finals in the 3A state championship at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. Basketball coach Mitch Morris and the Holly Pond squad will settle for nothing less than a state championship this year.

The Broncos have a 13 and 5 record but that is not indicative of their body of work this year. They are allowing just 60 points a game for their opponents while averaging 80 on offense.

"We like to run an uptempo style of offense and push the ball up the floor, taking quick shots," Morris said of the Broncos' brand of offense.

The Broncos are just as strong on the defensive side of the ball, applying full court pressure and forcing turnovers that lead to quick transition buckets.

Leading the Broncos charge are seniors Colby Adams and Gunter Morris. Complementing Adams and Morris are juniors Cody Jones and Austin Smith. The four standout players average double digit points a game.

With the holiday tournament in the rearview mirror, the Broncos now look forward to the second half of the year, and the meat of their schedule. The Broncos are in position to control their own postseason destiny heading into the county, area, region, and state tournaments. Laying claim to the championship in each tournament is a goal that Holly Pond has set for themselves, and they refuse to settle for anything less.

Reaching the semifinals for the first time in school history has lit a fire under the Broncos squad but head coach Morris knows there is still a lot of work to be done .

"This is a different team from last year," said Morris "We are pretty good now but need to improve in several areas to have a chance to play for the championship."

Holly Pond has their work cut out for them but with the work ethic and the amount of time the Broncos put in the gym, they are poised to make another lengthy run through the playoffs and return to Birmingham once again.

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THE STREAK CONTINUES

WSCC's women win against Selma in Comfort Suites New Year's Classic for 9th consecutive win

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's women's basketball team opened 2014 in the same dominating fashion it handled most of its games in November and December.

The Lady Lions nailed 14 3-pointers and used its suffocating defense to roll to a 74-42 victory over Wallace-Selma in the opening game of the Comfort Suites New Year's Classic. Wallace State (13-2) won its ninth game in a row, holding an opponent to under 50 points for the sixth time this season.

Wallace State's women's team is enjoying one of its hottest stretches in recent years, mainly because of its quality depth.

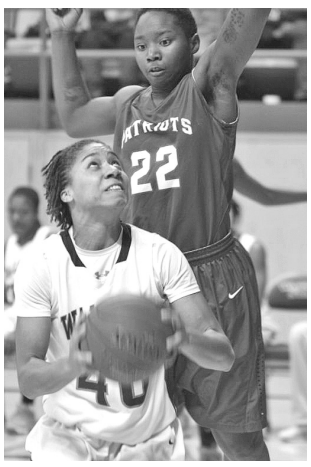
The Lady Lions don't miss a beat with either the starters or the reserves.

Eleven Lady Lions scored against Wallace-Selma on Friday, including seven who scored six or more.

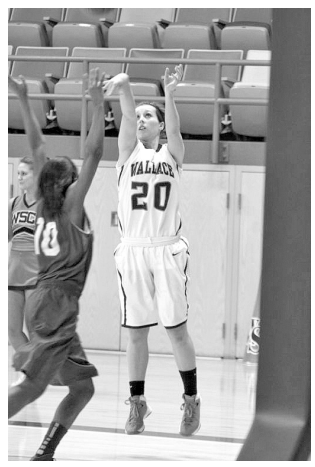
"We are probably 11 deep who I can depend on in a pressure situation. That is huge for us. It may not show in the box score, but come February we'll have fresh legs when other teams may not. I don't really think we'll see the dividends of our depth until we near the end of February and into the conference tournament," said Wallace State third-year coach Ron Burdette, whose team also won a pair of games earlier this week in Memphis against Southwest Tennessee CC and Three Rivers (Mo.) CC.

Morgan Smith and Brandee Busenlehner paced the way for Wallace State against the Lady Patriots, each scoring 12 points. Busenlehner scored all 12 of her points in the first half.

Sophomore Morgan Pearson scored 10 points off the bench, Amber Carey added nine, draining three 3s, Haven Albright scored seven and BreAnna Thompson and DeAndrea Carter scored six points apiece.



» Wallace State sophomore forward Jasmine Coleman (40) attempts a shot against Wallace-Selma's Valencia McCain (22) in their game Friday in the Comfort Suites New Year's Classic at Tom Drake Coliseum.



» Haven Albright (20), a freshman guard for Wallace State, shoots a 3-pointer over the outstretched arm of Wallace-Selma's Kendra McCovery in their game Friday. Albright's shot was successful.



» Wallace State's Kaneisha Mixon, right, drives the baseline against Wallace-Selma's De'Undria Boggs (44) in their game Friday at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Wallace State imposed its will on Wallace-Selma over the final 11:54 of the first half, utilizing a 27-7 run to turn a three-point lead into a 41-18 halftime advantage. Carey and Albright got the impressive surge started with 3-pointers each on consecutive possessions.

Busenlehner scored five straight points and Pearson added a three. Later in the run, Smith drilled 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions, extending Wallace State's lead to 38-18, and Snowden followed with a trey of her own to cap the run.

"We didn't come out as crisp and weren't working the ball against their zone like we normally do, but we settled down. We know we're a good shooting team and know shots are going to fall," Burdette said.

Wallace-Selma never threatened the rest of the way. Jaminesha Caver led the Lady Patriots with 20 points.

Wallace State, which is perfect at home this season, next will travel to Birmingham to play Birmingham Southern's JV team.

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

Johnson, Lewis propel WSCC men to sixth straight win, capping brief Comfort Suites New Year's Classic

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's men's basketball team capped off the first Comfort Suites New Year's Classic with a 76-64 triumph over Wallace-Selma at Tom Drake Coliseum on Saturday night.

Wallace State's sophomore guards Marcus Johnson and Jestin Lewis put on a show, combining for more than half of the team's offense. Johnson led the way with a game-high 24 points and Lewis added 21 points, helping the Lions (13-4) win their sixth consecutive game.

Among the wins during their winning streak, the Lions have notched impressive tournament victories against Cape Fear (N.C.) CC, Brunswick (N.C.) Community College and USC-Salkehatchie.

Meanwhile, the Wallace State women have won nine games in a row.

Wallace State's men's coach John Meeks feels his team is prepared for conference play, which begins on Jan. 13 vs. Marion Military.

"You use games like tonight (Saturday) the best way you can in order to tune up for the conference grind. It's hard not to look forward to the conference schedule. It's hard not to get that itch," Meeks said. "We didn't play as well as we should have against Wallace-Selma. We watched them lose handedly the night before and thought we could roll over them. That's didn't happen, so I hope that serves as a lesson for us."

The game was tied 8-8 with 11:11 remaining in the first half before Wallace State grabbed control. The Lions constructed an 18-4 run over the next five minutes, reclaiming the lead and pushing their cushion to 26-12 at the 6:03 mark. Wallace State led 35-23 at the break.

Wallace State sophomore forward Quinterian McConico had an impressive run of his own in the opening minutes of the second half. The Woodlawn product scored his first bucket with 15:56 remaining in the game, extending Wallace State's lead to 44-29. McConico followed with seven consecutive points for the Lions, accounting for all nine of his points, and pushed the lead to 51-34 with 13:16 left.

Wallace-Selma trimmed the deficit to as little as nine points in the closing seconds, but Lewis extended the lead back to double digits with four free throws.

Lee Moore and Cody Farley contributed seven points apiece for Wallace State.

Kerry Mitchell led Wallace-Selma in the loss with 12 points. Darrell Strozier added seven.

Wallace State opened its play in the tournament Friday by pounding USC-Salkehatchie, 70-45.

The Lions travel to Northeast Mississippi on Thursday, visiting the Tigers at 7:30 p.m.

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



» Wallace State freshman guard Marcus Hayes, right, defends a Wallace-Selma player during the Lions' 76-64 victory Saturday in the Comfort Suites New Year's Classic.



» Jestin Lewis (5), a Wallace State sophomore guard, drives to the basket against Wallace-Selma's Perry Rudolph (32) in their game Saturday at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Prep Basketball Wrap Up

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

In what was a holiday shortened week of prep basketball, few games were in the docket leading into the new year. Here are the results and upcoming schedule.

SCORES

December 30th

BOYS
Pinsin Valley 71 -Holly Pond 70

GIRLS
Cold Springs 58 - Decatur 31

January 4th

BOYS
Holly Pond 71 - Good Hope 51
Cullman 79 - Muscle Shoals 61
Sulligent 61 - Cold Springs 47
Fairview 51 - Oneonta 42

UPCOMING GAMES

January 7th
Hartselle at Cullman
Cold Springs at Good Hope
Vinemont at Hanceville
West Point at Fairview

January 10th
Cullman at West Point
Vinemont at Good Hope
Hanceville at Danville
New Hope at Holly Pond
Lamar County at Cold Springs
Locust Fork at Fairview

Farm Kids Club (from Front)

By:Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Excitement filled the room at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center last Saturday morning for the latest Farm Kids Club event. These programs are held monthly for ages 5 and up, and are meant to teach kids and adults about where our food comes from as well as farming in general, and this month's program was about rabbits.

The day began with arts and crafts as the children worked on rabbit paintings and drawings, but the highlight rested in the corner of the room as four live rabbits awaited the eager children.

Program director Rachel Dawsey has found that the most popular of the Farm Kids programs include live animals.

"We try to do a different agriculture or historical topic every month. We've done programs on sheep, cows, goats, and horses, but we've never done anything on rabbits. And I try to change up the programs because we have a lot of the same families coming back every time."

Following the arts and crafts session was a short informational lesson about rabbits. Rachel taught it just like it was a class, and the kids were genuinely interested.

They discussed the characteristics of rabbits, their history, and how rabbits make good pets. They also discussed the agricultural use for rabbits, including how and why to farm them.

"I just wanted them to learn about rabbits and get to see them up close, and to make the kids more aware of wild rabbits and the nature around them. Also, if some of the kids were interested in owning pet rabbits, maybe they could learn about what it takes to take care of them and about their life cycles."

The kids were eager to answer questions, and when asked about the unique characteristics of rabbits, one boy's hand shot up into the air.

"They're the only animal in the world that is called a rabbit," he answered.

Finally after the lesson, the kids got into a circle on the floor and were able to pet, hold, and play with four adorable rabbits.

Ellie Erret, a young participant, was excited about this month's Farm Kids Club.

"My favorite part was getting to hold the rabbits," she said, "I also like getting to meet new kids here."

Her mother, Corinna Errett loves bringing Ellie and her three sisters, Maddie, Katie, and Anna to the Farm Kids programs.

"We've been coming about two years. It exposes kids to ideas. We home school, and some things you just don't cover as well at home."

The Erretts proudly own three of the rabbits that were at the Agriplex Saturday. They live on a farm, so the four girls know a lot about farming already, but Farm Kids Club gives them a more hands on experience, and also lines up well with their home school program.

"It just broadens our curriculum. It works really well. We did a study at home about raising plants from seeds, and then we came to a class here



and they learned how to propogate a plant. They learn a lot of new things here."

This is Farm Kids Club's third year. The program is meant to teach kids where their food comes from, where to grow it, and historically how food was grown.

Rachel thinks this is important to teach to young people now, because so many of them are disconnected with where their food actually comes from.

"They just get it from the grocery store, and don't know about the farms and the work that went in to it, and I think it's important that kids know that so as they become adults they'll appreciate the farmers and try to source their food locally. Hopefully they'll be future gardeners and grow a lot of their own food too. They might be our future farmers."

Farm Kids Club is an opportunity for both children and parents to learn about the importance and the history of farming. Bring your child to the next Farm Kids Club event and together you will learn about the importance of farming.

The Year of Alabama Food

By: Natalie Bonner

CULLMAN – Ah, the year of food. Is there anything better? I think not.

The Year of Alabama Food is a movement sweeping across our great state.

It's a reminder to eat locally, indulge in the farm fresh foods piled outside of your favorite farmers market, and a reason to brush up on your skills in the kitchen as you prepare delicious meals from talented chefs.

As described on their Facebook page, "If you love incredible meals, innovative chefs, and farm-to-table freshness, you won't want to miss The Year of Alabama Food. From gulf coast seafood to gourmet cuisine and BBQ, we're celebrating all that Alabama Food has to offer."

Everything from famous dishes and new restaurants to farmers markets to trails and recipes can be found on the online celebration of all things Alabama and food at www.yearofalabamafood.com.

If you are in the mood to try something different, you may want to try your hand at a new dish.

Trying out a new recipe will break up the routine of your schedule and give you confidence in your cooking abilities.

Don't want to stay inside? Paint the town red while you go check out some of Alabama's amazing restaurants.

With a comprehensive index of some of the finest places to dine, sorted by city, you won't run out of places with this choice collection.

Under Cullman's index, our featured restaurant is the historically rich and always-delectable All Steak, whose staple is their creative entrees and award-winning orange rolls, for which they are known.

Of course, farmers markets are on the rise and rightfully so, such farm fresh produce is a must-have in the kitchen. From April to October, you can shop at Cullman's Farmers Market located at the Festhalle. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, the market is open and locals congregate to make their fresh selections of local produce, specialty goods, and even arts and crafts.

Farmers markets go with the flow of the season. Farmers grow and pick only the freshest, ripest produce available and pride themselves on locally grown food.

It is no wonder Cullman County is number one in agriculture.

With nearly 130 markets across 67 counties, Alabamians everywhere can have their pick on which farmers market to attend.

In addition to finding some of the best farmers markets and restaurants around, The Year of Alabama Food website has an amazing array of trails and recipes for you to do.

Want to follow a trail for a unique food experience? With a North Alabama Trail, a Taste of the Magic City Trail, an Alabama Heartland Trail, and a Coastal Cuisine Trail, you can explore whichever avenue you want with the assurance of divine food along the way.

And that's not to mention delicious, one-of-a-kind recipes such as collard greens casserole, baby bleu salad, barbecue chicken with white sauce, and black bottom pie.

The names alone induce a mouth-watering anticipation. The Year of Alabama Food is all about a revolutionary movement of food transforming from the farm to our forks.

Our most literal event of such was last year's Farm Y'all program where several renowned chefs prepared dishes in front of an audience. The farmers market was booming, and all things farmer and food related were brought under one massive helm and celebrated.

2014 is no different. The Year of Alabama Food isn't going anywhere. The movement is just beginning.

REAL ID (from Front)

achievability of the law.

The Federal Government will begin phasing in enforcement of the REAL ID Act as required by law, in a measured, fair, responsible, and achievable way. The first phase will begin on January 20, 2014 and is limited to DHS headquarters in Washington before expanding to other Federal facilities later this year.

The fourth phase covers acceptable IDs that can be used for boarding a federally regulated commercial aircraft. Before a date for Phase 4 is set, DHS will conduct an evaluation to inform a fair and achievable timeline. The date for implementing Phase 4 will be set after the evaluation has been complete; this phase will occur no sooner than 2016.

"States have made considerable progress in meeting the need identified by the 9/11 Commission to make driver's licenses and other identification more secure," says David Heyman, Assistant Secretary for Policy.

"DHS will continue to support their efforts to enhance the security in an achievable way that will make all of our communities safer."

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, enacts one of the key recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and requires that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses."

The Act establishes minimum security standards for state issued driver licenses and identification cards and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official purposes those documents unless DHS determines that the state meets the minimum standards.

The Department especially commends the 21 states, who already meet the Act's minimum standards, for their leadership in improving security for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards (Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming).

DHS has granted extensions to twenty states and territories that have provided information demonstrating that they are on the pathway towards achieving full compliance, including Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Virginia. DHS will continue to work with states in support of efforts to reach compliance and, in the interim, to qualify for extensions.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will continue to accept driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards from all jurisdictions until at least 2016. DHS will ensure the public has ample advanced notice before identification requirements for boarding aircraft change.

Detailed information on the Phased Enforcement Schedule and answers to Frequently Asked Questions may be found on the DHS website located at http://www.dhs.gov/secure-drivers-licenses.

Rumor's Deli gets a new grind at Wallace State

By: Kate Mullaney





CULLMAN - Big changes are ahead for Rumor's Deli, and they're no secret. From a new coffee shop at Wallace to adding a bar inside the deli, owners Annette and Ralph Harris have their hands full during this exciting transformation.

After selling all of their equipment, these deli owners have decided to get back into the coffee business, and open a new shop at Wallace State Community College.

"We were presented the opportunity to submit a proposal to Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics, the president of WSCC." Annette says, "We talked about it and thought it might be a good idea and decided we would just check it out. After submitting our proposal and having an interview with Dr. Karolewics and a tour of the site, we were able to come to an agreement that we were both happy with and as soon as the contract is drawn up, we will be moving on in. We are very excited."

This new addition will be called Rumor's Cafe. Though it won't have the same look as Rumor's Deli, it is sure to be stunning.

"It is beautiful and modern. It's the best set up I've seen for a coffee house. It is sleek, clean, and will have some glass tile accents."

The menu will be very similar to Rumor's original coffee shop. They plan to use the same products and offer the same lattes as they did before. However, they will be making some changes to their breakfast and lunch menus. Rumor's Cafe will offer healthier options such as bran muffins, yogurt parfaits, salads, and wraps.

"We will have a few hearty sandwiches and a couple of panini grills there that are, by the way, state of the art grills (just like the amazing espresso machine) and we will offer cold and grilled items."

Rumor's Cafe will be located in the new nursing building that is nearing completion.

They are not exactly sure when it will open, but they hope to premier this new coffee shop in the next few weeks. Though this will be located on Wallace's campus, Annette encourages everyone to visit Rumor's Cafe.

"We are hoping that students from surrounding high schools, such as Hanceville will come by." She says, "This will be a great place for the teachers and employees nearby to have breakfast, lunch, or an awesome latte. We are also excited about being among all the students buzzing around campus and hearing how excited they are to have us on board. We are honored that we were asked to be a part of WSCC."

All of this excitement happened after Ralph and Annette decided to close their current coffee shop, which was located inside Rumor's Deli.

So, why close one coffee shop just to open a new one? What you've heard is true: Rumor's is excited to add a bar to their existing deli.

Ralph and Annette have been thinking about this for a long time and after seeing the positive changes Cullman has been through since going wet, they've decided to add to their business.

"We like the idea of adding ourselves to the nightlife downtown and hope to help build this end of the Warehouse District." Annette says, "It's just time."

These soon to be bar owners are not doing this half way, though. They are taking the "all or nothing" approach, being tedious about everything from aesthetics to the time consuming paper work.

"We are doing our homework." Annette says reassuringly. "We are educating ourselves and our employees about every part of selling alcohol."

This new addition will feature craft beer on tap as well as other beers and wine. They are still unsure if they will be selling liquor. Of course this transformation will cause a few changes to Rumor's Deli.

They will be adding appetizers to the menu for evenings, and they will be changing their hours.

"Right now the plan is to be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10 am to 9 pm, Thursday from 10 am to 10 pm, and Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 11 pm."

Rumor's will no longer serve breakfast at 7 am when they start opening at night, but for now, their hours will stay the same.

Ralph and Annette realize some people in the community are concerned about the recent increase of alcohol sales. But these business owners are not cutting corners, and are determined to make Rumor's a safe and enjoyable option for nightlife in Cullman.

"We will be rule followers." Annette said. "Selling alcohol is too much work to mess it all up by cutting corners. We want to do things the right way and make a place for people to come and have a good time, knowing that Rumor's is a great place to be."

The hardest part of this process has been waiting. From making plans and borrowing money to construction and remodeling, Ralph and Annette are playing a waiting game. This is why the anticipated opening of this bar is the million dollar question.

"Things take time." Annette adds, "Did I mention how impatient I am? Just ask Ralph. I want it done yesterday."

However, the couple is hoping to premier their new bar this spring, and even though the opening date is unsure, the quality of the bar is not, and it is certain to be spectacular.

But don't worry, the Rumor's Deli you know and love will look the same. Annette feels the way that Rumor's is currently decorated is a part of the business, and any changes made will only add to this.

"Anything we add will only improve on our reputation and quality." She states with confidence, "The bar area is going to be so great! I don't want to give it away, but let's just say we hope to make everyone's mouths drop when they see it... in a good way, of course. You know how rumors spread."

Mitch Smith Chevrolet Awarded Small Business of the Month

By: Natalie Bonner



» Jim Osborne, Heath Smith, Nic Gibbs, Jackie Moore – Chamber of Commerce, Paul Schaffer – Mitch Smith Chevrolet General Manager, Laurie Walker – owner of The Spot Beverages and award sponsor, Mark Hall – Mitch Smith Chevrolet General Manager, Cory Gibbs, Randy Lamb, Jonathan Yeager, Heath Mauldin, and Michael Dean.

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Mitch Smith Chevrolet the Small Business of the Month award this past Friday at 11 a.m. Laurie Walker from The Spot Beverages was the January sponsor of the Small Business of the Month.

Mitch Smith Chevrolet has been around for decades and is known as a top choice for Chevrolet dealerships. The dealership is managed by two General Managers, Mark Hall and Paul Schaffer, each having 24 years experience in the automobile business.

Mitch Smith Chevrolet keeps an inventory of 300 new cars and trucks and 125 pre-owned vehicles.

Laurie Walker from The Spot Beverages said she enjoyed being this month's sponsor and working with the Chamber. "Owning a business in Cullman has been a hard-earned privilege for me. I truly appreciate my customers and I think they know that," she said. "This is my first year to be a member of the Chamber and I look forward to more opportunities to give back to the community and benefit my business as well. It's a win-win situation."

Influenza (from Front)

staying at home when sick, covering the mouth and nose with a tissue/cloth when coughing or sneezing, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer frequently.

Dr. Karen Landers, Assistant State Health Officer, said, "Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. It's not too late to get a flu shot to protect against this serious disease. People become protected about two weeks after receiving the vaccine."

There are no reports of influenza vaccine shortages this season.

Contact your private provider, pharmacy, or local county health department to receive an influenza vaccination. For more information contact the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 334-206-5023 or toll free at 800-469-4599.

– 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

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.

Square Dancing lessons
The Friendship Square Dance Club of Cullman will be holding free lessons on square dancing from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Contact Rip Johnston at 256-347-7266 or Hulda Schaefers 256-734-3566

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.

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
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Thursday

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.

Heritage Skills - Trapping and Tanning
All students ages 8 and up are invited to attend a learning seminar about 'Heritage Skills - Trapping and Tanning' from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex Center. The $5.00 fee per student covers the cost of the event - pre-registration is required call 256-297-1044 or cullmanag@gmail.com.

Friday

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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

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!

Donkey Basketball
Come out and watch prominent local people ride these stubborn, tricky donkeys in the funniest game ever played! Partial list of riders: Elton Bouldin, Garland Gudger, Scott Lockridge, Coach Hayes, Coach Patterson and Mike Dean. Master of Ceremonies is Mr. Jimmy Dale Burgess. Proceeds go to Cullman High School Softball. Event will be held from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Next Monday

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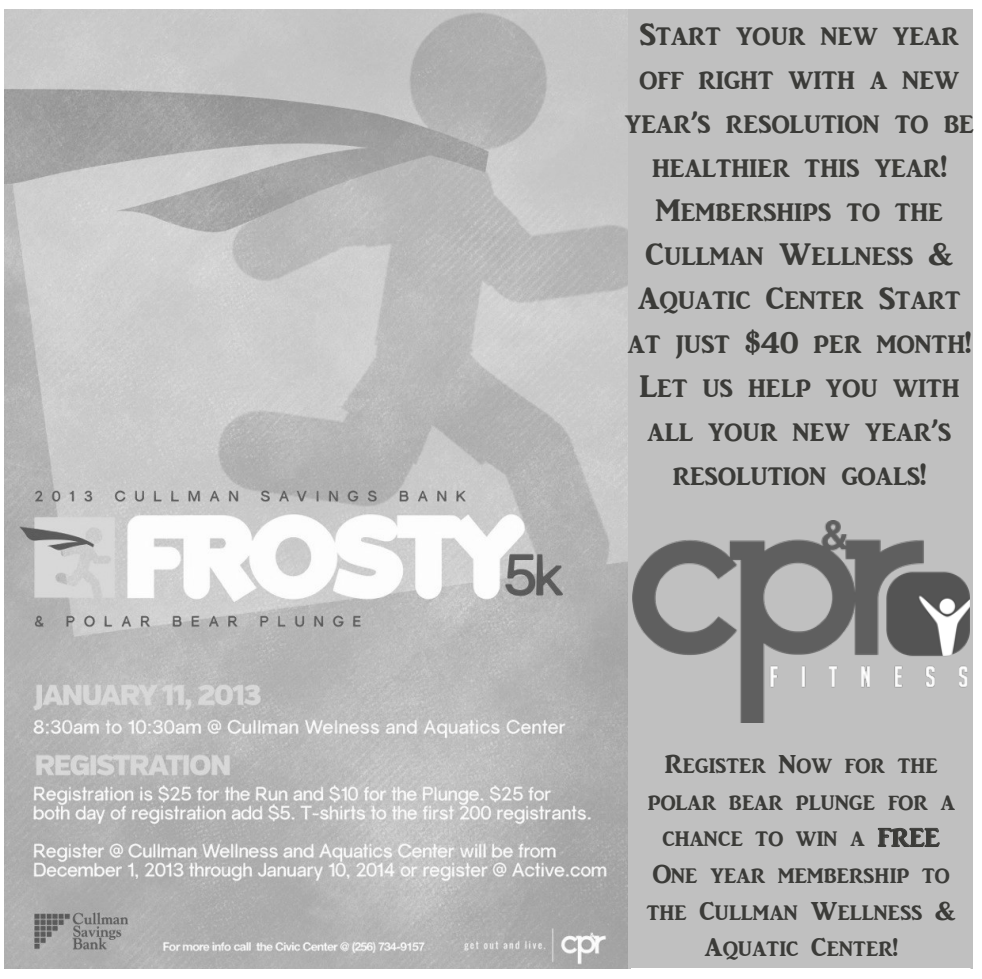
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Looking Ahead

Cullman City Schools Foundation Meeting
Cullman City Schools Foundation will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 from noon until 1 p.m. at Central Office, located at 301 1st St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055 in the Bearcat conference room. Lunch will be provided. All CCSF board members should plan to attend. Contact Dawn Klinger at 256-590-3159 for more.



START YOUR NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT WITH A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO BE HEALTHIER THIS YEAR! MEMBERSHIPS TO THE CULLMAN WELLNESS & AQUATIC CENTER START AT JUST $40 PER MONTH! LET US HELP YOU WITH ALL YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION GOALS!

cpr & FITNESS

REGISTER NOW FOR THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A **FREE** ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO THE CULLMAN WELLNESS & AQUATIC CENTER!

Legal Advertisement

The City of Cullman's Alcohol Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room of City Hall, located at 204 Second Avenue NE.

Comments will be received on the proposed approval for the sale of alcohol in the City of Cullman by the following applicants:

- **Supreme Properties LLC**
  212 4th Street SW
  Special Events Alcohol License

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CULLMANSENSE
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Publisher: Noah Chandler

Editor: Dustin Isom

Sports Josh McBrayer

Entertainment Dillon Lee, Jackson Hogan

Cartoonist Anthony Saint

Phone 256-297-1847

Tips: news@cullmansense.com

Address: 101 1st Ave NE, STE 230 Cullman, AL 35055

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CHAMBER CHATTER

Ready for growth: many advancements on Chamber agenda

By: Natalie Bonner

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is ready for 2014. With new tools and innovative insight, they are ready to guide the city of Cullman into a prolific year. Members and residents alike can benefit from the several workshops, meetings, and opportunities available to the Cullman area and surrounding environments.

"Last year, we focused on weed pulling and preparing the soil. This year, we are planting. Cullman is ready for growth in every area: industry, business, education, healthcare, and tourism," President of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Leah Bolin said.

This will be Bolin's first full-term year serving as President & CEO of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and she is excited to fulfill this role.

"We support local commerce by providing tools and education to maintain long-term growth. Our goal is to put a strategic plan in motion that will set the Cullman area as the top destination in Alabama for living, working, and playing."

If you are a Cullman resident, you can agree that we do, indeed, have something special here. From the way our community supports one another to the important business and commerce opportunities available, we are continuing to support one another and grow in a monumental fashion.

Jackie Moore, Director of Business & Workforce Development said that the Chamber would continue to provide business resources for members and future members.

This month, there will be seminars on phone etiquette and organizing "you" for success. In the future, there will be seminars on QuickBooks, in addition to business webinars that can be viewed at the business owner's discretion.

"The Chamber welcomes suggestions and comments on services that would be of value to the business community," Moore said.

The advancement of Cullman city and its surrounding counties is at the forefront of the picture. The Chamber wants to ensure the proper growth, business, and commerce that will solidify Cullman on the map.

Cecelia Smith, Tourism Director of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, said that one of the overall goals this year is to plan and advance the economic welfare of Cullman as it relates to the tourism and travel industry, and to publicize, advertise, promote, and encourage further development of the natural, historic, religious, and man-made tourist attractions and the recreational facilities and resources of the region through cooperative efforts.

"Cullman has so many wonderful things to offer tourists when they visit," Smith said. "I would love to see the Cullman community visit or revisit some of the establishments and attractions that we have right here in our backyard, as well as have tourists visit the diverse collection of recreation, arts and culture, shopping, dining, and lodging destinations for which Cullman is known."

It's no surprise that Cullman was voted the number one place to raise children according to Bloomberg BusinessWeek. Our city is a thriving, beautiful testament to growth and progress, and this year is no different.

"This is our year to shine for all the world to see. Join us as a community partner. Become a member in this movement. Without you, we will do good things. With you, we will do great things!" Bolin said.

Top 100 Baby Names of the Year Announced

(StatePoint) What's in a name? Apparently a lot, as popular baby names from year-to-year can reveal broader cultural trends.

According to BabyCenter's recently released annual Baby Names Survey and the Top 100 Baby Names of 2013, more than half of moms say they found name inspiration in people they know.

"We're seeing a growing desire among new parents to choose names with personal meaning. Grandparents are the number one source of inspiration," says Linda Murray, Global editor-in-chief of BabyCenter, the number one pregnancy and parenting digital resource.

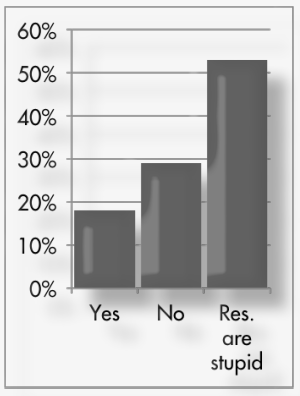
Despite new naming inclinations, contemporary favorites still reign supreme. Jackson moved up one spot to claim the top boy's name, ending Aiden's eight-year reign, and Sophia held tight as leader of the girls.

While family influence is on the rise, pop culture still has major effects on naming trends. For example, Duck Dynasty, the most-watched nonfiction series in cable history, is making a splash, with names like Korie, Mia, Sadie, and Phil rising in the ranks. Likewise, many Americans glanced across the pond, taking a cue from the royal family -- "George" and its variations were extra popular this year for boys and girls.

For more information on trends, and for online tools to find your ideal baby name, visit www.babycenter.com/top-baby-names.

Poll

Have you made a New Year's resolution?



This Week's Poll

Do you have to work outside in the cold?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

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



Unknown Portrait — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

This Week in History

January 6th
- 1497 – Jews are expelled from Graz (Syria)

January 7th
- 1975 – Led Zeppelin fans riot before Boston concert, causing $30,000 damage

January 8th
- 2013 – U.S. scientists claim 2012 weather as the hottest year ever recorded

January 9th
- 1799 – Income Tax introduced in UK

January 10th
- 1991 – Japan ends routine fingerprinting of all adult ethnic Koreans

January 11th
- 1861 – Alabama becomes fourth state to secede

January 12th
- 1879 – British Zulu War begins: Lieutenant-General Chelmsford invades Zululand
- 1961 – U.N. genocide pact goes into effect

cpr cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **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 for participants in the Polar Bear Plunge. Call for details at 256-775-SWIM.
- **Youth Baseball & Softball Reg:** Spring youth league baseball and softball will register Jan. 15-Feb. 15 for ages 4-14. Games will start in March at Heritage Park and the Field of Miracles. Cost is $90 and includes a hat and jersey. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Missoula Children's Theater:** Missoula Children's Theater will be making a stop in Cullman on Monday, Jan. 20 for auditions for Rapunzel. Practices for the show will take place all week long at the Cullman Civic Center after school, and the performance will be held on Sat., Jan. 25. Auditions will be held on Monday, Jan. 20 at 3:30pm at the Civic Center; there is no cost to audition. For details, call 256-734-9157.
- **Miracle League Basketball Reg:** Miracle League Basketball registration is now open through Jan. 20. Games will be played at Ingle Park Gym starting in February. All ages are encouraged to play, cost is $30. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **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.





THE BEST OF 2013

One Critic's Opinion

By: Dillon Lee
Entertainment Editor
dillon@cullmansense.com

LISTENING: 2013'S FINEST ALBUM

My most listened to album of the year was that made an appearance of many best of the year list throughout the industry- Shoals native Jason Isbell's masterpiece *Southeastern*.

Tinged with requisite sadness, filled with the clarity of sobriety, and balanced with the joy of a man in love, *Southeastern* has all the tropes of Jason Isbell's rock and alternative country stylings. He melds a surprising hopeful tone with dark semi-autobiographical lyrics.

I have extolled the virtues of Isbell in my column before and though I didn't cover it officially, Isbell and his band the 400 Unit played a mid December show at Iron City in Birmingham. Of the five shows, I've seen his IronCity show was by far his best.

He was joined with the 3 piece horn section featured on his 2012 *Live from Alabama album*. More importantly, he was accompanied by his wife, violinist Amanda Shires.

Her classic violin often became a country fiddle and her harmonies with Isbell and the 400 Unit gave texture and electricity to the performance. In the same year as the acclaimed *Muscle Shoals* music documentary, Jason Isbell keeps that tradition of great Alabama music alive.

READING: SOME OF THE BEST READS OF THE YEAR

My reading fluctuates from classics to nonfiction to graphic novels, its not always current. However, I have a few selections from 2013 releases. While Marvel comics faltered with the *Age of Ultron* miniseries, writer Jonathan Hickman spent 2012 and 2013 building to one of the most sprawling comic stories in many years... and its still not over.

The pinnacle is the miniseries recently completed Infinity (due in hardcover format in February of 2014)

Rarely does a miniseries in a comic universe claim to alter the status quo and actually succeed. Not since 2006-2007's *Civil War* has a Marvel event had the potential to have such a lasting impact on the Marvel World. Likewise, DC Comics has release a crossover event,

The Trinity War, and a mini-series *Forever Evil*. Neither of these events has fully wrapped up, but they too are full of promise and legendary characters, though lacking the overall sophisticated writing of the Marvel stories.

Vampires in the Lemon Grove is a collection of short stories by Karen Russell, winner of the 2013 MacArthur Genius Award delivers quirkiness, horror, and brilliant prose. Of the fiction releases this year, *Vampires* was an amazing read. Only two of the stories fell short of the brilliance usually found within the pages of this collection. Given that its a highly readable short story collection, I'd recommend it for anyone.

WATCHING: SOME OF THE YEAR'S BEST FILMS BY GENRE

This has been a tremendous year for film, ranging from small independent work, major blockbusters, genre films and harrowing documentaries. No single reviewer can see everything worth seeing, but here are a few recommendations.

For horror fans, the anthology found footage film *V/H/S/2* offers truly unique short films spanning genre's and themes. Moreover, the sequel surpasses its predecessor in inventive film first person film tricks. Have you ever wondered what it would look like from a zombie's point of view? Look no further than an infected biking enthusiast with a Go Pro mounted on his helmet.

The highlight is the cult film short "Safe Haven." For sci-fi and blockbuster films, *Star Trek Into Darkness* continues the successful Star Trek reboot, reintroducing the warmongering and slightly misunderstood villain Khan in to the altered timeline of the new films. The outrageous comedy *The World's End* blended a film about aging childhood friends and over the top action in a ridiculous but side splitting fashion.

It directly contrasted the wonderfully flashy, yet heartrending adaptation of *The Great Gatsby*. Paul Greengrass's nail-biting bio-pic thriller *Captain Phillips* is riveting and effective on many levels. Covering a true life event involving Somali pirates boarding the Mersk Alabama off the coast of Africa, *Phillips* brings up salient points about the gap between the rich and poor of the world. Tom Hanks, as the title character, delivers a powerful performance. The last 10 minutes of the film in particular is perhaps the most convincing acting Tom Hanks has ever achieved.

Superhero movies like *Iron Man 3*, *Thor: The Dark World*, *The Man of Steel*, and *The Wolverine* all made an impact in screens around the country. While all met with some derision from fans, all were acceptable additions to their franchises, or in the case of *The Man of Steel* a reboot rife with potential. The standout of the superhero movie had to be *Iron Man 3*. It was one part James Bond, one part Iron Man tale directed and co-written by the critically acclaimed Shane Black.

SOCIALIZING: CULLMAN'S BEST NIGHTLIFE IN 2013

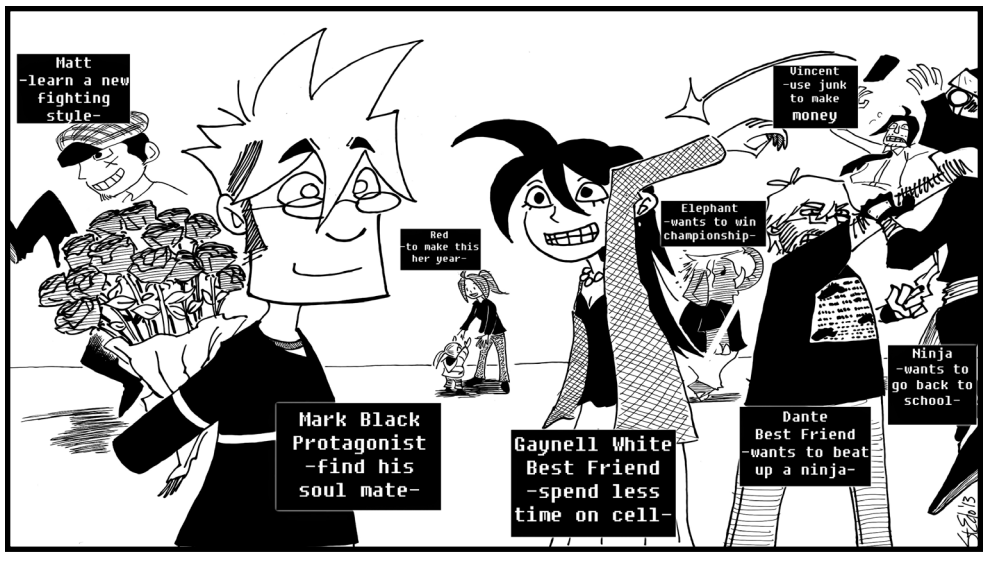
The array of music, exclusive microbrews, unique food menu, and craft beer on tap offered at The Blue Moose Café has become a truly unique night spot for Downtown Cullman. It has become the de facto heart and soul of Cullman's neophyte brewing scene and a wonderful place to go to see friendly faces.

The Wood's teaming with brewers Mike Mullaney and Gary Teichmiller to break a 100 plus year dry spell in Cullman by brewing something unique and local. From what I've heard from the Blue Moose crew, 2014 has more than a few surprising new developments. Stay tuned to CullmanSense for more updates.

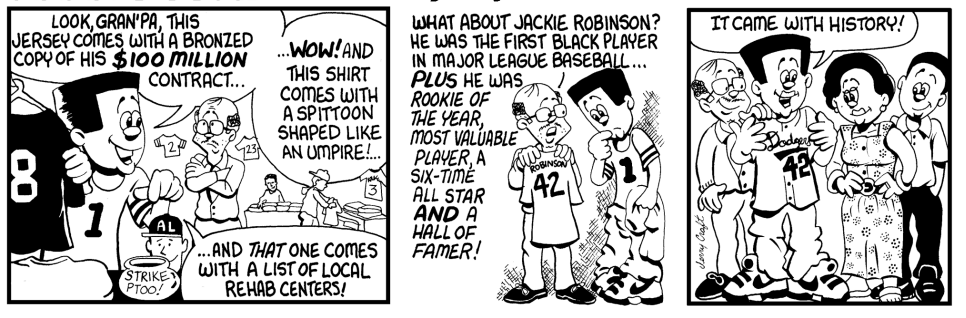
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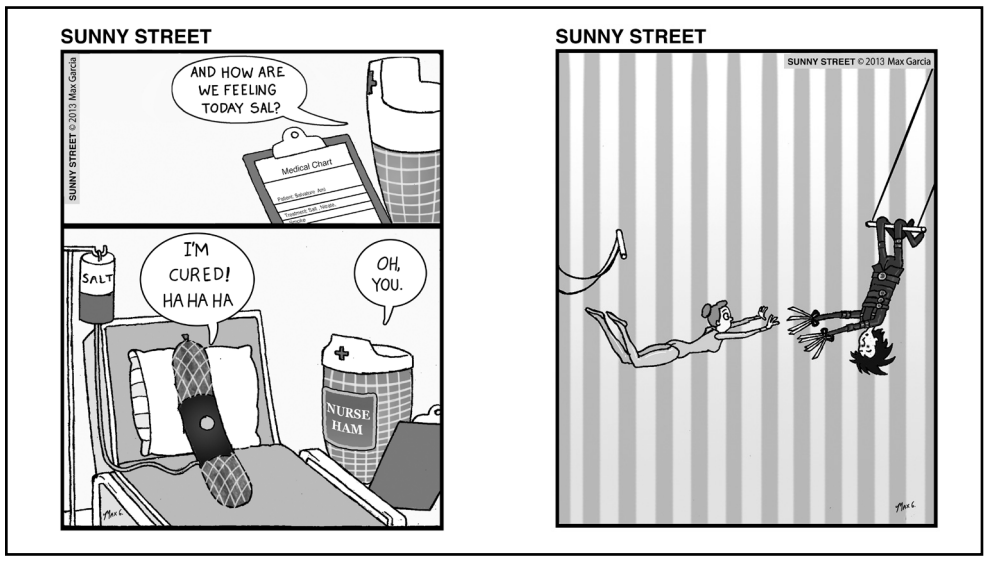
Comics

WHITE & BLACK • **"Resolutions for the New Year"** • st.edo@cullmansense.com



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





RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Drop Biscuits

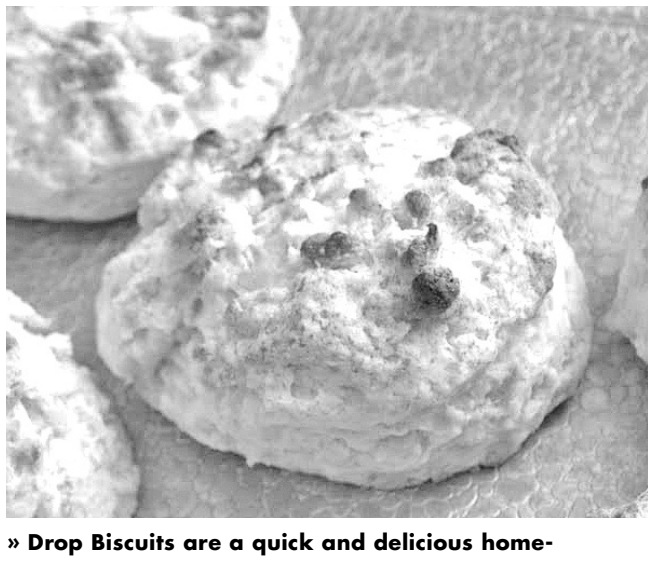
By: Phillip C. Pryor

One of my favorite foods has always been the biscuit any many others agree. Whether it is slathered with butter and jam, smothered with sawmill gravy, or stuffed with a nice sausage or chicken patty in the middle, the biscuit has become a breakfast staple in the South. This recipe is simple and will be sure to hit the spot.

Makes two dozen.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups - all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup - sugar
- 2 teaspoons - baking powder
- 1 tablespoon - salt
- 3/4 cup - unsalted butter (cube it)
- 2 1/2 cups - buttermilk
- 1/4 cup - unsalted butter (melted)



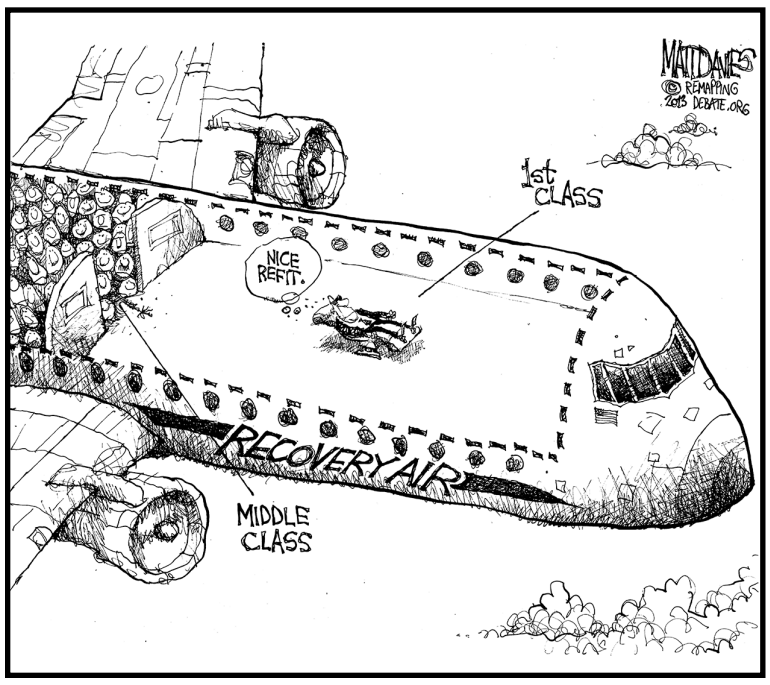
» Drop Biscuits are a quick and delicious homemade bread that go with just about anything.

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line two baking sheets with wax paper.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and the 3/4 cup cubed butter.
- Use a mixer to blend the ingredients until you see pea-sized chunks of butter.
- Add buttermilk, mixing until it is incorporated.
- Use a large spoon or spring loaded serving scoop to divide mixture into 24 mounds on the two baking sheets.
- Chill on baking sheet until you are ready to bake.
- Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown.
- About halfway into the baking, brush the 1/4 melted butter on top of the biscuits.
- Let stand for 3 to 5 minutes, then serve and enjoy.

Editorial Cartoons





What's Worse than a Nuclear War?

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.

What could be worse than a nuclear war? A nuclear famine following a nuclear war. And where is the most likely nuclear war to break out? The India-Pakistan border. Both countries are nuclear armed, and although their arsenals are "small" compared to the U.S. and Russia, they are extremely deadly. Pakistan has about 100 nuclear weapons; India about 130. They have fought three wars since 1947 and are contending bitterly for control over the Kashmir and for influence in Afghanistan. While India has renounced first use, for whatever that is worth, Pakistan has not, declaring that in the event of an impending defeat by India's overwhelming conventional forces it would strike first with nuclear weapons.

Saber rattling is common. Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that a fourth war could take place if the Kashmir issue wasn't resolved, and the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh replied that Pakistan "will never win a war in my lifetime."

A nuclear China already hostile to India could also quickly become involved in a conflict between the two enemies, and Pakistan is on the brink of becoming a failed state¾a development unknown and thus highly risky for a nuclear weapons nation-state.

Experts predict a nuclear war between India and Pakistan would kill about 22 million people from blast, acute radiation, and firestorms. However, the global famine caused by such a "limited" nuclear war would result in two billion deaths over 10 years. That's right, a nuclear famine. A war using fewer than half their weapons would lift so much black soot and soil into the air that it would cause a nuclear winter. Such a scenario was known as far back as the 1980s, but no one had calculated the impact on agriculture.

The irradiated cloud would cover vast portions of the earth, bringing low temperatures, shorter growing seasons, sudden crop-killing extremes of temperature, altered rainfall patterns, and would not dissipate for about 10 years. Now, a new report based on some very sophisticated studies reveals the crop losses that would result and the number of people who would be put at risk for malnutrition and starvation.

The computer models show declines in wheat, rice, corn, and soybeans. Overall production of crops would fall, hitting their low in year five and gradually recovering by year ten. Corn and soybeans in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri would suffer an average of 10 percent and, in year five, 20 percent. In China, corn would fall by 16 percent over the decade, rice by 17 percent, and wheat by 31 percent. Europe would also have declines.

Making the impact even worse, there are already almost 800 million malnourished people in the world. A mere 10 percent decline in their calorie intake puts them at risk for starvation. And we will add hundreds of millions of people to the world population over the next couple of decades. Just to stay even with we will need hundreds of millions more meals than we now produce. Second, under the conditions of a nuclear war-induced winter and severe food shortages, those who have will horde. We saw this when drought depressed production a couple of years ago and several food exporting nations stopped exporting. The economic disruption to the food markets would be severe and the price of food will go up as it did then, placing what food is available out of reach for millions. And what follows famine is epidemic disease.

"Nuclear Famine: Two Billion People at Risk?" is a report from a world-wide federation of medical societies, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Nobel Peace Prize recipients, 1985), and their American affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility. It's online at psr.org/resources/two-billion-at-risk.html. They have no political axe to grind. Their sole concern is human health.

What can you do? The only way to assure ourselves this global disaster will not happen is to join the global movement to abolish these weapons of mass destruction. Start with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, icanw.org. We abolished slavery. We can get rid of these terrible instruments of destruction.

Maintaining Your New Year's Motivation

By: Natalie Bonner

2014 is not even a fresh week's dismissal in the past and already some have fallen off the New Year bandwagon. What do I mean? I mean all of those New Year's resolutions you may have callously made and then tossed into the hamper like yesterday's outfit.

Why is it that we can only maintain our focus and motivation for such a short period of time? Why are we so quick to give up?

Motivation is a fleeting, fiery feeling. When fully engaged, we feel it to our core, ready to take on the world at a moment's notice. Other times, we dabble in the feeling, successfully accomplishing a few things but nothing of note. How do we harness the true power and energy exhibited in motivation?

It's hard to say, but I have a few tips to share with you about maintaining your motivation, keeping your focus, and ultimately accomplishing those goals you have set for yourself. If you have already fallen short of your proclaimed goal for the year, cut yourself some slack.

Sometimes, when we put too much pressure on ourselves, we fall short of our goal because of unrealistic expectations. I do have some handy tips to help keep you in check of your goals for this year so that you don't have to look back on the close of 2014 and wish you had done things differently.

1. **Remember progress over perfection.** You may not be where you want to be, but at least you are not where you used to be. Any type of progress is something to cheer about. The fact that you are bettering yourself at some level is something to celebrate. You are maintaining your motivation and working towards your overall goal. Do not expect perfection the first day of your new goal and understand that things take time.
2. **Write down your goals.** It's a proven fact that if you write something down, you are more likely to accomplish it because you have a written reminder of your original pursuit. Buy a planner. Write your thoughts, goals and daily inspirations in this book. It will serve to uplift you and keep you rooted in your efforts to change for the better.
3. **Break it down.** It's like the old saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day." And you are not going to turn over a new leaf in just a mere 24 hours. Understand the time requirement that goes into effect upon setting and reaching a goal. Break down your overall goal into feasible, smaller baby steps. Once you can check off a baby step in anticipation of your overall goal, you will finally understand what it means to work towards the big picture. Every decision you make builds up to the big picture. So, remember these baby steps may not feel big, but they sure do add up quickly.

Changing for the better through goal planning and maintaining motivation is not easy but a truly worthwhile endeavor. "To fail to plan is to plan to fail." Have a plan, stick to it and no excuses. Remember these three small steps to help you achieve your goal and by the end of 2014, you might just be looking back and thinking, "That was a piece of cake."

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Bill Smith

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WAS $23,900 **NOW $20,975**



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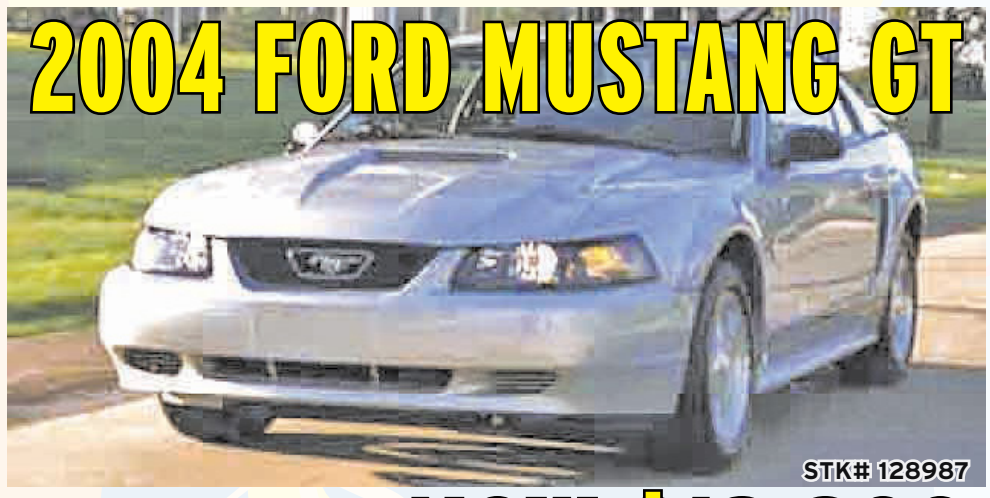
WAS $14,900 **NOW $12,550**



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2004 FORD MUSTANG GT

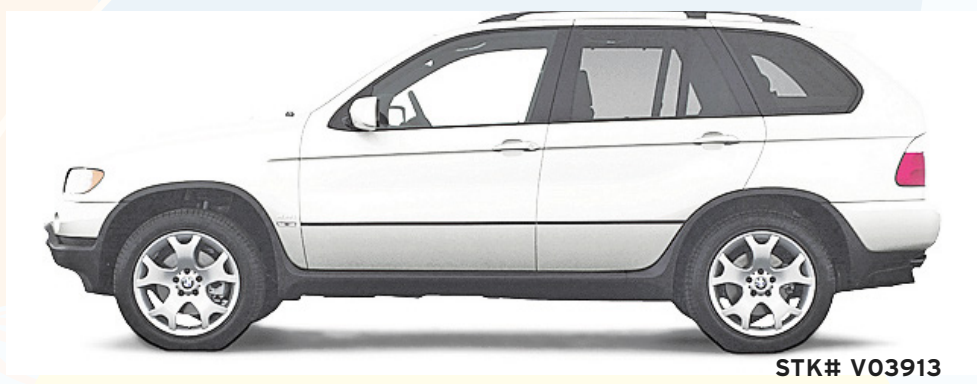
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