SERIES 4, ISSUE 2 MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014

CULLMAN'S MONDAY NEWSPAPER

CULLMANSENSE

COMMUNITY MATTERS

$0.50 $0.50



Three-pointers & Four legs: CHS Softball hosts Donkey Basketball p7

Relay For Life Kicks off Jan. 16 p4



A not so Frosty 5K

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Frosty 5K was a huge success this year, although it was not so frosty. Cullman Parks & Recreation (CP&R) hosted this event at the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center this past Saturday on a strangely warm and sunny day.

Participants began to arrive around 8 a.m. on Saturday and the lobby of the Aquatics Center was quickly filled with runners eagerly stretching and preparing for the race. Everyone lined up at the starting line about five minutes before 9 a.m. There were runners of every age from six to 70, illustrating the fact that running can be a sport for anyone.

"You can run at any time, any season, any day. That's my favorite thing about running," said 17-year-old runner Ayleana Mami.

Runners Dwight Brown and Jeff Lee from Hartselle, Alabama were impressed with the race and the facilities. Brown was thankful for a run so early in the season.

"It's good to get a good baseline for the rest of the year," Brown said. "This is going to give me something to improve on. I love the way it's put on, too. They did a really good job."

"It's a great January race," Lee added. "And the facilities are really nice here."

Waid Harbison is the director of marketing for Cullman Parks & Recreation as well as the director for the Frosty 5K.

"This is our fifth year for the p6

The State of the Community

» Revamped forum to give elected officials the opportunity to share their plans and goals for 2014 with citizens

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - We may all live in Cullman County, but there is a vast communication gap present here and seemingly everywhere in that most people just don't know what's going on in their own community, let alone the state of these areas. It's nothing to feel bad about, but there are opportunities to better educate yourselves and further your own knowledge of issues and events occurring in your area.

That is the very reason for the annual State of the Community (STC) program. The purpose of the forum is to provide the county and each of the municipalities in Cullman County with the opportunity to share information on their community with Chamber members and the business community.

Cullman Area p6

THE WAR ON POVERTY



» Cullman's poverty level sits at 18.6 percent as the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty is marked p7

Myres selected President of Alabama Farmers Cooperative

By: Jim Allen

MONTGOMERY – Sam Givhan, Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC) Board chairman, has announced the Board of Directors has chosen Rivers Myres to serve as the next president and chief executive officer of AFC.

The rigorous search conducted by the Alabama Farmers Cooperative's board of directors included several talented individuals from the deep bench of administrative talent at AFC including corporate management, member store managers, division heads, and management at Alabama Farmers Cooperative subsidiaries.

Myres will be the sixth CEO of the company since it was founded in 1936.

He replaces Roger Pangle, who passed away in December.

Since 2005, Myres has served as president of Southfresh Aquaculture LLC, a majority-owned subsidiary of AFC headquartered in Tuscaloosa.

He has an extensive working knowledge of the intricacies of running and growing a large agricultural enterprise where he has seen Southfresh grow providing stockfish, feed, fish processing, and marketing to local catfish producers.

Myres is a native of Greenville, Miss., and p2

Local



Gentry enters race for Cullman County Sheriff p2

Rachel's Challenge comes to Fairview High; emphasizes kindness, positivity p6

State/National

New Ala. License Plate Pre-commitment System Now online p3

Sports

WSCC women's basketball pounds L.B. Wallace behind 15 3-pointers p4

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

PRINTED LOCALLY @ PRINTING Alabama Web Press

Gentry enters race for Cullman County Sheriff; joins incumbent Rainey and newcomer Tim Creel

By: Noah Chandler
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Political signs have begun sprouting up throughout Cullman County in recent weeks, marking the beginning of primaries for many local offices, including the position of sheriff.

On Saturday, a third candidate announced his intentions to run for sheriff, joining incumbent Sheriff Mike Rainey and newcomer Tim Creel.

"I, Matt Gentry, am announcing my candidacy for the Office of Sheriff for Cullman County. I am seeking this office for many reasons," Gentry state in a press release.

"The two most important are to ensure each citizen receives the very best protection possible and to see that the Sheriff's Office provides that protection by being proactive and professional in each community in Cullman County."

Gentry, a Good Hope High School graduate, has been a life-long resident of Cullman County.

"Cullman is my home, where my wife Susie and I are raising our two sons in a Christian home with Christian values," he stated.

"The safety of my family is important to me and I want to make Cullman County as safe as possible for all families."

According to Gentry, the desire to serve was one which was passed on to him from those closest in his life.

"My foundation for service was laid many years ago by my parents and grandparents who taught me what it means to work hard and serve others. This was the deciding factor behind my joining the United States Marine Corps, who more solidly instilled in me dedication, honor, commitment, and integrity," he stated. "Six years with the United States Marines only deepened my desire to serve others. Thus, came my decision to become a law enforcement officer."

Gentry's extensive law enforcement experience began 15 years ago at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, where he served as a Detention Deputy in the jail.

"A short time later I was selected to attend the Alabama Peace Officers Standards Training Commission Training Academy in Tuscaloosa, AL. After graduating with high marks, I was promoted to Patrol Deputy within the Patrol Division at the CCSO," he stated.

As a patrol deputy, Gentry found his niche, and a short time later was promoted to Narcotics Investigator within the Investigative Division of the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team, or CNET for short.

"During my CNET time, I was promoted to Sergeant and subsequently appointed as the Director of CNET by the Chief of Police of Cullman and the Sheriff of Cullman County," stated Gentry.

"In 2009, I was chosen by the Drug Enforcement Administration "DEA" to attend their Drug Unit Commanders Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This was an honor since the State of Alabama is allowed only one candidate per year."

Within two years, Gentry left CNET to become an Investigator for the Cullman County District Attorney's Office, at the assignment of the DEA Task Force in Birmingham.

"This experience with DEA has greatly enhanced my knowledge of drug enforcement, forged new partnerships across Alabama and the United States, and has given the citizens of Cullman County a new resource in State and Federal prosecution of large–scale drug traffickers operating in Cullman County," he stated.

Gentry said he believes his experience, combined with his educational background in law enforcement, will make him an ideal candidate for Sheriff of Cullman County.

"I believe law enforcement must educate the public to the ever changing drug trends and their challenges in our communities. As a Drug Unit Commander and DEA Task Force Agent, I have taught over 400 Drug Awareness and Trends classes to local schools, teachers, college professors, medical professionals, law enforcement agencies and community meetings across Cullman County and the State of Alabama," he stated.

"I believe in many instances today's law enforcement has lost focus on the 'Serve' aspect of the job. I believe we must reestablish community oriented law enforcement in which the main goal of the Sheriff's Office is to protect and serve the people," he continued.

Gentry's platform for sheriff has five points, which are:

- To set a new standard in Cullman County in drug enforcement by using my extensive training, experience and relationships with other agencies.
- To require increased accountability for registered sex offenders, maintaining vigilant monthly checks. Sex Offenders will no longer be allowed to operate on an honor system.
- To make the office of the Sheriff more responsive to the needs of the victims of crime by establishing a Victim Service Unit to assist in keeping victims informed about their cases and how to navigate the complex legal system.
- To maintain an open door policy creating an open line of communication that will allow the citizens to voice their needs and concerns.
- To rebuild the partnerships with local city and county departments and other law enforcement agencies



» Matt Gentry

"As Sheriff, my office will be one that is held accountable – from the top down. I will manage a more proactive and professional law enforcement agency, focusing on the needs of the citizens. I will lead the Sheriff's Office with conviction, pledging to return the "Office of Sheriff" back to the people," he stated. "Above all, I can promise you that, if elected, I will serve the citizens of Cullman County with dedication, honor, commitment and integrity."

Remembering to celebrate the 'Invisible Angels' of life

By: Barbara Ragsdale
Community Contributor

CULLMAN - Like the time honored tradition of the raising of the crystal ball in Times Square in New York, then the lowering of that glittering sphere at the stroke of midnight on the first day of each new year, 'what goes up must come down'!

The same applies for all our area churches, including Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cullman. The eagerly anticipated festive and colorful decorations of the Christmas season magically appear overnight in our Churches: the wreaths, lit trees, cherubic angels, and most importantly the Nativity creche and figurines. They're up – and then they're gone following the feast of the Epiphany! Almost like magic.

Do you ever stop to think about how this 'magic' is accomplished throughout the year?

How do the Altar linens get changed for the various liturgical seasons, what happens when the votive candles burn down and new ones are needed, how did the new Missalettes suddenly appear in the pews as the Church year marches on?

What about the freshly watered flowers on the Altar, clean Communion cups and a new supply of Hosts for each Mass, a fresh supply of bulletins ready for attendees after each Church service, contributions counted each week for the bank deposits, and a dusted and mopped worship center ready at any hour of the day or night for those who wish to visit with the Lord?

What 'magic' occurs to make these things happen? Naturally the most visible signs of volunteers who help the priests and deacons of any Church organization to run efficiently include the ushers, greeters, choir members, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, sacristans, youth leaders and youth groups, and members of the special organizations within each Church.

However, all parishes have those 'invisible angels' behind the scenes who quietly go about completing the many tasks previously listed. They don't seek praise or gratitude for their actions; indeed they prefer to remain 'invisible'.

Their time spent working in the House of the Lord not only benefits their Churches but gives them a unique prayerful connection to Him through their 'housekeeping' actions. They receive as much, if not more, than their Church does through this unseen ministry.

The next time you enter your Church, say a silent prayer for these 'invisible angels' who have performed their special 'magic' once again.

They just might be sitting in the seat right next to you! And if you want to offer your own assistance, don't hesitate to speak up and let someone know you, too, are willing to be part of the 'invisible angels' group, or any service organization for that matter!! There's always room for more helpful folks!

Myres (from Front)

earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi.

Givhan expressed his confidence that Myres will bring new energy and vision to Alabama Farmers Cooperative and the entire cooperative family of staff, member co-ops and the farmers who own them.

Alabama Farmers Cooperative Inc. is a member-owned and directed federated cooperative where all facilities operated by AFC are governed by local, farmer-owned cooperatives.

What's Online

DHS Releases Phased Enforcement Schedule for REAL ID

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...

qrne.ws/146

January is National Mentoring Month

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.

qrne.ws/147

A new brew at WSCC

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...

qrne.ws/148

New Alabama Online License Plate Pre-commitment System Now Live

Contributed by Alabama Department of Revenue

MONTGOMERY – If you are an Alabama vehicle owner wishing to pre-order one of the currently-approved new distinctive license plate designs, the Alabama Department of Revenue has some important news for you.

Beginning this January, the method for accepting pre-commitments for new distinctive license plate categories, approved by the Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates (LOC), will change.

"Pre-commitment purchases will now be handled online," announced State Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee. "No longer will owners, who want to support an organization's efforts to acquire the necessary number of pre-sale license plate commitments before the organization's license plate can be manufactured, have to visit their county licensing plate issuing officials' offices to do so. Vehicle owners will now be able to use their computers to purchase the license plate pre-commitments at their convenience—on any day of the week and at any time," explained Magee.

This is how the license plate pre-commitment process works. An organization submits a proposed license plate design to the Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates (LOC) for review and approval.

The design submitted determines the "quantity class" of the license plate design. A Class 1 design license plate requires at least 250 pre-sale commitments over a one-year period. A Class 2 design license plate requires at least 1,000 pre-sale commitments over a one-year period. Once the required number of pre-sale commitments is reached for the particular license plate design, either 250 or 1,000, the license plate is manufactured and available for issuance.

Currently, owners have to visit their county license plate issuing office to process the pre-commitment purchases. Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the process moves to an online, electronic process.

"We are very excited to offer this new online service to Alabama vehicle owners. The pre-commitment process will be so much easier, quicker, and more convenient for vehicle owners wishing to acquire a new distinctive tag offered by their charity or other organization," added Magee.

All organizations that are currently in the pre-commitment process will convert to the new online process effective Jan. 1, 2014.

The link for the new online system is https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov. To view a listing of the currently-proposed license plates, visit ADOR's Website at http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/. Click on "License Plate Information," then "Commitment to Purchase" and view the different categories, marked by the specific dated pre-commitment periods.

For more information regarding Ala.'s distinctive license plate program, log on to the Motor Vehicle Division's web page at http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/.

NASA, Obama Administration Highlight International Space Station Extension at Global Forum

Contributed by Alabama Department of Revenue

WASHINGTON – Speaking at a global space exploration forum recently, John P. Holdren, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, explained the importance of President Obama's decision to extend International Space Station (ISS) operations until at least 2024.

Holdren discussed the ISS extension plan at the International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF) in Washington, where leaders from more than 35 spacefaring nations gathered for the first ministerial-level meeting ever held to build political support for global cooperation in space exploration. The U.S. Department of State hosted the meeting.

"The exploration and utilization of space benefits all humankind," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a written statement.

"They further promote innovation and economic development, foster scientific advancement, and inspire the next generation of explorers to pursue studies and careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Government-level involvement in and support for human and robotic space exploration are critical to realizing these benefits. The ISEF provides us with an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation through discussions of policy issues relevant to the exploration, long-term sustainability, development, and utilization of this important domain."

Holdren touted the benefits of continuing to operate the orbiting laboratory for at least another decade in his remarks.

"The ISS is a unique facility that offers enormous scientific and societal benefits," said Holdren.

"The Obama Administration's decision to extend its life until at least 2024 will allow us to maximize its potential, deliver critical benefits to our Nation and the world, and maintain American leadership in space."

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden emphasized in a keynote speech the importance of the role space exploration has played in scientific discovery in space and on Earth, and the ways exploration has led to new technologies.

"NASA is committed to the space station as a long-term platform to enable the utilization of space for global research and development," Bolden said.

"We're committed to implementing a unified strategy of deep space exploration, with robotic and human missions to destinations that include near-Earth asteroids, the moon and Mars. And we are committed to our international partnerships and the continued peaceful uses of outer space and unlocking the mysteries of our vast universe."

Deputy Secretary of State William Burns spoke at the forum on behalf of the Department of State.

"We all share a deep stake in extending humanity's reach further into the solar system, advancing innovation further and faster, and extending the benefits of discovery to more people in more places," Burns said.

"The question facing us today is whether we can muster the courage and political will to advance space exploration and ensure that cooperation continues to trump competition."

Alabama's children to have new advocate during legislative session

By: Amber Crawford

MONTGOMERY – VOICES for Alabama's Children is pleased to announce Melanie Bridgeforth as its new executive director.

Bridgeforth has dedicated her entire professional career advocating for vulnerable populations, most recently with the American Heart Association as the Government Relations Director in Alabama where she played a pivotal role in the passage of numerous public policy victories to protect the health of all Alabamians.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of VOICES for Alabama's Children, I am delighted to welcome Melanie Bridgeforth as the new executive director and I'm confident that she is just what our organization needs to help move the needle, beginning with this critical legislative session," said Board President Judge John Rochester.

"Her experience, passion, energy, and demonstrated leadership in child advocacy will help build on our recent successes and pave the way for future ones."

In her role as Executive Director, Melanie presides as the organization's lead spokesperson and chief legislative liaison as well as serves on numerous statewide councils including the State Children's Policy Council, the state Early Childhood Advisory Council, and the Board of Directors for the Alabama School Readiness Alliance (ASRA).

Bridgeforth is no stranger to the organization.

Prior to working at the American Heart Association, Bridgeforth served as Policy Analyst for VOICES for Alabama's Children, overseeing public policy, research, grassroots and legislative activities.

"I am humbled and overjoyed to be back home and at the helm of an organization that has truly helped shape child advocacy as we know it in Alabama," said Bridgeforth.

"Children have no voice, particularly because they have no vote. Our organization gives them a voice, and having the opportunity to lead Alabama's longest-standing child advocacy organization is nothing short of a dream come true. I look forward to working with our partners and decision makers to secure a better future for Alabama by investing in our most precious asset – our children."

Established in 1992 through the vision of leading child advocates, VOICES for Alabama's Children is a statewide, multi-issue child advocacy 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and was the first, and remains the only, organization to document the conditions of children in each of Alabama's 67 counties in its annual Alabama Kids Count Data Book.

NEWS TIPS
news@cullmansense.com

Medicaid Pharmacy Commission submits final to report to Governor

Contributed by Medicaid

MONTGOMERY – A report issued by a state panel charged with studying ways to reduce Ala. Medicaid pharmacy costs notes that while the Agency's pharmacy spending and rate of growth are reasonable and among the lowest in the country, there are changes that could be implemented to improve program effectiveness.

The Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Study Commission submitted the report to Governor Robert Bentley December 31. The governor appointed the commission in June 2013 to explore initiatives that could potentially save money for the state, but to report its findings without making any specific recommendations.

During the fall, Commission members studied drug cost information from other states and also considered the impact on local communities of making changes to Medicaid's pharmacy program.

One proposal called for use of a private pharmacy benefit management program while another proposed solution would use the Alabama-based American Pharmacy Cooperative to manage the program.

A third proposal would allow Wal-Mart to serve as a preferred provider in exchange for lower costs to Medicaid.

To know the actual savings that could be achieved from any delivery system changes, the Agency would need to go through a Request for Proposal process to know true savings and to understand full program design and capabilities, the report said.

For more than a decade, Alabama's Pharmacy Program has implemented a variety of measures to control costs without reducing access, including a Preferred Drug List, prior authorization, various billing edits and controls and in 2010, use of Average Acquisition Cost methodology.

"Ala.'s Medicaid program is an efficient and effective program," said Steve Schramm, director of Optumas, an actuary retained by the state.

The Girls in Green

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

HOLLY POND – In the last CullmanSense team profile we concentrated on the Holly Pond Broncos, but they are not the only Broncos with championship aspirations. The Holly Pond Lady Broncos play just as hard as the boys and are laden with talent as well as having one of the best basketball coaches in the state in Scott Adams. The Lady Broncos practice like they play: fast.

Always believing they are going to win and never doubting the wisdom of their coach, the ladies from Holly Pond work hard and play hard, not as a team, but as a family and the result is success. The Lady Broncos are one of the most dominate girls teams in the state, sporting a 17-2 record.

Just a year removed from reaching the 3A state championship game, Holly Pond would like nothing more than to bring home the trophy this year.

Averaging 58 points per game by running their own brand of up tempo ball movement and deadly accurate shooting from outside, coupled with a blanket like defense that utilizes ball traps, and forcing turnovers. The Lady Broncos looked poised to do just that.

"They (Entire team) are all key players," coach Adams said when asked about his team. "Meg Gambril, Natasha Holcombe, and Rachel Findley lead us in scoring."

Not surprisingly, the three leading scorers for the Lady Broncos are returning players from the 2012-13 3A State Championship Runner-Up squad.

When Adams was asked about the Lady Broncos goals for this season he responded by saying. "We always want to try and win the county (tournament) and make it to the Final Four (state tournament)."

In closing Adams had this to say about his team, "They are a hard working team with great attitudes. Tough minded and competitive."

CullmanSense followed the Lady Bronco journey from county to area to state and it was one of the most impressive runs this sports editor has ever seen. I look forward to covering the Lady Broncos once more as they make a run at the 3A state title.

Kick off planned Jan. 16 for 2014 Relay For Life of Cullman County

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor

CULLMAN — Each year, more than 4 million people in 20 countries gather to raise funds and raise awareness to save lives from cancer through the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life events.

Cullman County will kick off its 2014 event at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, at First Baptist Church of Cullman.

The event is open to the public and will be held in the fellowship hall in the church basement.

"Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way," said Helen Allen, a longtime member of the local Relay For Life committee.

"For 100 years the American Cancer Society has worked diligently to lead the fight against cancer. We just want to help them finish that fight, so that our grandchildren and their children won't have to fear the word cancer."

Through research, ACS-funded studies have developed treatments that have prolonged the lives of cancer patients.

Research has also developed tests for early detection. The American Cancer Society educates the world about cancer prevention and the importance of early detection.

The ACS lobbies lawmakers to create laws that protect the public.

The American Cancer Society has also provided assistance directly to patients through such programs as Road to Recovery, by which volunteers provide transportation to and from treatments for cancer patients; Look Good Feel Better, which provides makeup and skin care tips for women undergoing treatments; Reach to Recovery, which provides support from breast cancer survivors to new breast cancer patients; and Hope Lodge, which provides free housing to cancer patients and their caregiver.

The hundreds of Cullman area residents who will participate in Relay For Life of Cullman County make up a small but important part of the whole.

"Every single person who participates and raises money for the cause is appreciated," Allen said.

"Whether they raise $10, $100, or $1,000, each and every penny will help the ACS and all it does to help cancer patients all over the world."

Anyone interested in participating or learning more about Relay For Life is encouraged to attend the kick-off. Relay For Life of Cullman County will be held May 2-3 at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

Team captains meetings for the remainder of the year will be held at noon and 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, and April 24 at the First Baptist Church fellowship hall.

For more information, call Allen at 256-709-4019 or visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal or http://www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal, where teams can also sign up for the 2014 event.

Never off season, Bearcats prepare for action on the baseball diamond

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - To baseball players there is no off-season and that could not ring truer than on the campus of Cullman High School.

Hardly a day goes by where the Cats, as individuals or as a team, are not working on hitting, pitching, or fielding. The hard work and persistence of head coach Brent Patterson and the Cullman squad pays off as Cullman threatens for area and state titles each and every year.

"On the field, we definitely feel we have the talent to compete for a state title," Patterson told CullmanSense.

But it is not just about the on field action at Cullman. "We want to develop our players both on and off the field to become better people in every way- athletically, academically, and socially," said Patterson.

The season is long and the season is full of pitfalls but if any team is capable of navigating these pitfalls, it's the Cats.

"There are always a lot of variables that come into play (during a season), but we compete each day to reach our full potential," spoke the head coach.

"We have a lot of guys who are going to be in much different roles than ever before, so getting them confident and comfortable in their roles will be a big task this year."

The Cats lost a group of well rounded, star players that included two time Alabama Gatorade Player of the Year, Keegan Thompsom but Cullman is still loaded with talent. Lance Cleveland, Auston Neal, Samuel Murphee, Clay Krout, Joseph Gable, Keaton Dean, Christan Martinez and success story Andrew Winfrey will be returning to the Cullman squad as seniors.

Although Patterson lost the leadership of Thompson, he has Cleveland ready and willing to fill the role and Cullman looks for him to be one of the best hitters in the state.

"He has put in the time and sweat it takes to be a leader," Patterson said of Cleveland.

"His personality is one where he can lead mostly by example, but he also has the experience and knowledge to back up his words when he chooses to talk."

Cole Collins will also be a big threat at the plate for Cullman as he hit an amazing .379 as a freshman for the Cats. Patterson also has 12 players competing for spots in the vaunted Bearcat rotation.

All in all the Cullman Bearcats look to be very strong again this year and have a chance to go deep in the playoffs again this year.

Weekly Local Basketball Scoring Wrap-up

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

January 7th

GIRLS VARSITY
Cullman Christian 35, Brooklawn 40
Vinemont 37, Hanceville 54
West Point 22, Fairview 40

BOYS VARSITY
Cullman Christian 63, Brooklawn 65
Vinemont 49, Hanceville 62
West Point 59, Fairview 56

January 10th

GIRLS
Danville 59 vs Hanceville 32
Cold Springs 66 vs Lamar County 13
Fairview 41 vs Locust Fork 59
Good Hope 52 vs Vinemont 13
Holly Pond 73 vs New Hope 28
Cullman 60 vs West Point 45

BOYS
Hanceville 47 vs Danville 43
Cold Springs 83 vs Lamar County 54
Fairview 59 vs Locust Fork 51
Vinemont 64 vs Good Hope 61
Holly Pond 91 vs New Hope 61
Cullman 88 vs West Point 62

N2COLLEGE

30-Day Sr. Scholarship Boot Camp

Email: info@N2College.com
Website: www.N2College.com
Phone: 256-736-5969

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

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

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

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



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

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

FIRST COMMUNITY BANK
256-734-4863
Member FDIC
Checking • Savings • Mortgages
www.fcbcullman.com
First Community Bank • 420 2nd Avenue, SW • Cullman, AL 35055

WSCC women's basketball pounds L.B. Wallace behind 15 3-pointers, Lady Lions ready for conference play

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's women's basketball team is ready to get the conference grind underway. The Lady Lions put a lid on their non-conference stretch Saturday, pounding L.B. Wallace 84-30 at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Wallace State (15-3), winners of 11 of 12 games, remained perfect at home by drilling 15 3-pointers as a team and yielding a season-low in points.

"We're ready to start the second part of our season," said sophomore guard Jaylan Snowden when referring to Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) play. "This game was a good one to get our rhythm back in order for us to be ready to play Gadsden State on Thursday. I love the confidence we have in each other. I have a lot of confidence in my teammates, they have confidence in me, we have a lot of shooters and we have a lot of fun."

As Wallace State did to most of its opponents at home in November and December, the Lady Lions put L.B. Wallace away early in the first half. Wallace State surrendered five points in the opening four minutes and then allowed only five more the remainder of the first half.



» Wallace State's Haven Albright (20) defends a L.B. Wallace opponent as teammate Ashley Rodgers (44) looks on during their game Saturday.

The Lady Lions faced an early 5-1 deficit before Cullman's Morgan Smith hit Wallace State's first field goal, a 3-pointer from the right corner, to tie things up at 5-5 at the 15:42 mark in the first half.

Wallace State then followed with a backbreaking run, outscoring the Lady Saints 14-0 over the next five minutes to grab a 19-5 advantage. The Lady Lions continued to pour it on late in the first half. Point guard Hannah Sharpe, a Red Bay native, nailed three 3's in a span of 50 seconds, helping Wallace State eventually push out to a 44-10 halftime advantage.

L.B. Wallace managed only 20 more points the rest of the way.

"I think we came out with a little hangover after losing a tough one Thursday at Northeast Mississippi. Once our first shot fell, the confidence and our old team came back. When you run off 10 wins in a row like we did, it's easy to think you're invincible. We got punched in the nose a little bit in Mississippi, and it took us a couple of days to get over it," said Wallace State third-year coach Ron Burdette.

Five Wallace State players finished with double figures. Amber Carey led the way with 12 points, using four 3's in the second half to account for all of her points. Sharpe scored all of her 11 points in the first half, Smith had 11 points and Haven Albright and Ashley Rodgers each contributed 10 off the bench.



» Wallace State sophomore guard Jaylan Snowden looks for an open teammate during the second half of the Lady Lions' game against L.B. Wallace on Saturday afternoon.



» Wallace State point guard Hannah Sharpe signals a play during the Lady Lions' 84-30 victory Saturday. Sharpe finished with 11 points.

BreAnna Thompson added seven points and seven rebounds off the bench for the Lady Lions, while Snowden had six points, eight assists and three steals.

For L.B. Wallace, Shawntal Byrd scored seven points.

The Wallace State men open ACCC action against Marion Military on Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Both Wallace State teams host Gadsden State on Thursday, beginning with the women's game at 5:30 p.m.

Burdette believes his team is ready to prove its worth inside the conference.

"We've been 15-3 in what we call the preseason, so I feel we're in good shape. We've got a big one Thursday," Burdette said. "I've been preaching to our team that they have a chance to be the best one to come through here in a few years. I think this team is better than our state championship team in 2010. I don't know if we've quite the heart that team had, but I think we're getting there."

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

CS Local Sports Week in Review

By: Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

With basketball on full swing and baseball season just around the corner, we here at the CullmanSense sports department have been very busy indeed.

From the hardwood to the diamond and back again I have had the opportunity to talk to some of the top coaches around the county and hear about their remarkable teams. Here are few highlights.

HOLLY POND VARSITY BASKETBALL (BOYS)

Head coach Mitch Morris on his team this year- "This is a different team from last year. We are pretty good right now but we need to improve in several areas to have a chance to play for any championships."

HOLLY POND VARSITY BASKETBALL (GIRLS)

Head coach Scott Adams on his girl's work ethic- "A hard working team with great attitudes. Tough minded and competitive."

CULLMAN VARSITY BASEBALL

Head coach Brent Patterson on his teams chance at another 5A state title- "On the field, we definitely feel we have the talent to compete for a state title."

For the full columns on each team, visit cullmansense.com.

COMING NEXT WEEK

An interview with Cold Springs Lady Eagle head basketball coach Tammy West about the success of her squad in 2A competition.

We will also talk more baseball as well as visit the soccer pitch as we get ready for soccer season.

$cholar$hip Jump$tart
Elementary ~ Middle School
High School ~ College Transition
"We Make College Cost Less"
256-736-5969 • www.n2college.com

CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters
PRESENTS
SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS Fundraiser
-**Subscribe** to CullmanSense Weekly **Print** for a Special Rate of $40 per year and we will give $20 to the local school you select. Must live in Cullman.
OR
-**Subscribe** to CullmanSense Weekly **Digital** for a Special Rate of $20 per year and we will give $10 to the local school you select.
___ **Print ($40)**
___ **Digital ($20)**
FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____
STREET: _____ APT/STE: _____ CITY _____ STATE: _____
PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
SCHOOL TO DONATE TO: _____
ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK AND REMIT THIS FORM TO
CULLMANSENSE • 101 1ST AVE NE • STE 230 • CULLMAN, AL 35055

Rachel's Challenge emphasizes kindness, positivity

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

Fairview High School students found themselves surprisingly inspired last Wednesday after an assembly about Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shooting in 1999.

The unforgettable school shooting that rocked our nation to its core in the late 90s is the very inspiration of this group of students' ambition to learn about Rachel's challenge in order to spread the life and awareness to the late heroine's legacy.

Students' murmurs and reflections filled Fairview's auditorium before the program began, but they were quickly silenced by the multimedia presentation. The speaker dedicated the program to audience members who have lost family members and/or loved ones.

Rachel Scott was the first victim of the Columbine shooting in 1999. Before she died, Rachel was a caring student who was passionate about spreading kindness. She kept diaries and journals full of inspiration and desire to change her peers' attitudes. She wrote about being true to your character, giving people multiple chances instead of judging them, and never giving up on finding the best in people.

Rachel chose a compassionate approach to life and believed that kindness is contagious. Before her death she wrote,
"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same."

After she died, her father started a program called Rachel's Challenge to reach Rachel's goal, which was to help change the atmosphere in schools – to stop kids from bullying each other and to start spreading kindness and compassion. Her father felt that through her writings, Rachel's messages could continue to live on even though she had died, and this is precisely what Rachel's Challenge is about.

On the front of Rachel's last diary is written, "I write not for the sake of glory, not for the sake of fame, not for the sake of success, but for the sake of soul."

On the back of this diary reads the unbelievable words, "I won't be labeled as average," right beside a bullet hole from the shooter, which took her very life.

Speaker J.B. Braden alternated between speaking to the students and showing video clips of Rachel's friends, home videos of Rachel before she died, and clips about Rachel's Challenge.

"We are not an anti-bullying program," J.B. explained, "We go beyond that. There are kids in this school who are not being bullied but they are being ignored. We encourage everyone to go out of your way to show kindness."

Rachel's Challenge consists of five proposals: to look for the best in others in order to eliminate prejudice; to dream big, write down goals and keep a journal; to choose positive influences and to be a positive influence; to speak with kindness; and to start your own chain reaction of kindness.

At the end of the program, J.B. asked students who were serious about taking this challenge to sign a banner hanging outside of the auditorium in memory and in honor of Rachel Scott.

This was not a typical high school assembly. The students were involved, captivated and responsive. Senior Class President Sarah Harper was especially inspired.

"I think you can take a lot from the presentation. Everyone needs to go out of his or her way just to be kind. A little act of kindness can mean so much to somebody. Like Rachel said, I don't want to be average. It inspires me to try to be a better person and be the best I can be."

Student Council Treasurer Abbey Yeager was also hopeful about how Rachel's Challenge can help their school.



» J.B. Braden speaks about Rachel's Challenge at Fairview High School

"I think it gives us a step forward. It's not just one of us saying 'Hey, we should be nicer to each other, it's an actual program we can learn to move forward from."

Student Council President Elijah Garrison agreed with Treasurer Yeager stating, "It gets the whole school working toward one overall goal."

This article cannot truly captivate how inspirational this program was. Rachel's Challenge is not about how Rachel died but rather about how she lived. Rachel Scott should encourage us all. And just as Rachel did, we should all choose compassion.

"My codes may seem like a fantasy that can never be reached but test them for yourself and see the kind of effect they have on the lives of people around you. You may just start a chain reaction," the infamous Rachel stated in one of her last journal reflections.

5K (from Front)

Frosty 5K," he stated. "This was one of the things we started when we opened the Aquatics Center, and the first year we were open we did it here."

After the run, breakfast was served in the Aquatics Center. Scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes, coffee, and hot chocolate were all well deserved by this group of athletes.

The group headed out to the pool after breakfast for the Polar Bear Plunge where participants jumped into the freezing water.

Only the bravest could handle this challenge, but those who participated got a chance to receive a full year membership to the Cullman Wellness and Aquatics Center.

"This is the only time in the year we give out a full year membership," said Harbison. "The big reason we do this event is actually for the Polar Bear Plunge. It's always really entertaining. Even though it's about 60 degrees outside, you've got to think that the water is a lot colder. Right now, it's 42 degrees in the pool so it's always extremely entertaining to watch."

Finally, the group shivered back inside for door prizes and the results of the race. Cullman Savings Bank was the sponsor for this event and provided the gifts.

The Frosty 5K is known for its excellent door prizes, which included a 50-inch flat screen TV, a GoPro camera, and an iPad Mini.

The over all female winner was Laura Brock with a time of 21:40. The over all male winner was Jacob Carrigan coming in at 17 minutes flat. These winners, along with the winners of each age group, received cash prizes and each runner received a goody bag and a t-shirt.

This not so Frosty 5K was another successful event for Cullman. Next year's event is likely to see even more people run in the 5K, win door prizes, and dare to take the plunge.









» The 5th Annual Frosty 5k and Polar Bear Plunge wasn't so frosty this year as participants were greeted with 60 degree temperatures.

STC (from Front)

Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin said, "The State of the community allows our elected officials the opportunity to share their plans and goals for 2014 with the citizens of Cullman County. It also allows those citizens real face time with their Mayor and County Chairman."

The panel presentation will feature Cullman County's leading officials and will serve to better educate Cullman citizens and surrounding counties. It is a perfect opportunity for citizens to come out, listen, and understand what is going on where they live.

This new and improved State of the Community encompasses the former programs of State of the City and County and the same-named program State of the Community that was previously held at the January and February Fourth Friday luncheons, respectively.

For the first time ever, this newly updated event will be held at night as well.

"Businesses need to be aware of what's happening in their areas. Elected officials listen to their constituents when making their decisions," Bolin said.

"Your input is vital to the decision making process. Attending the STC will arm you with the knowledge of what's to come so you can make informed decisions as business people and community-minded citizens."

The State of the Community will be held Thursday, January 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Terri Pines Country Club.

The reception starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner and program from 6 to 8 p.m.

State of the Community is arranged by Chamber staff on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee.

The event is sponsored by Freedom Insurance – Gloria Williams Agency and Premier Bank of the South. For more information, call 256-734-0454. Prices are $15 for Chamber members and $20 for future members.

The War on Poverty

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a war on poverty during his State of the Union address. This act was in response to the national poverty level rising to around 20 percent. At that time, about one in every five Americans were living in poverty.

"We shall not rest until that war is won," he said. "The richest nation on Earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it."

These good intentions that were first thought to be successful quickly faltered.

Last Wednesday marked the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty. It is difficult to judge who is in poverty and who is not, but the official U.S. poverty measure was created in the 1960s and is based on how much it costs to feed a family. The national level of poverty is now around 13 percent.

Most of those in poverty are among the working poor, which means they have jobs but earn so little that they still live under the poverty line. Even more Americans are near poor, but live just above poverty. 5.8 percent of Americans live in extreme poverty, which means they live on an income that is less than half that of the poverty level.

The poverty level in Cullman is 18.6 percent. Even worse, about 21 percent of children in Cullman live below the poverty level. That's almost a fourth of the children in Cullman. Javon Daniel, the executive director at Cullman Caring for Kids sees poverty in Cullman first-hand every day.

"We do everything we possibly can to stop child abuse and to prevent children from going hungry," Daniel stated.

Cullman Caring For Kids provides food for families that are at or below the poverty level.

Poverty affects a person's hygiene, clothing, food, shelter, and the ability to receive an education for children. For those who are truly under the poverty line, it's a daily struggle.

Daniel has seen the dynamics of the age groups change in the past few years.

"A few years ago, we had more elderly people coming. What we've seen recently is younger families or single parents with their children coming in."

This change has occurred nationwide and has to do with the recent rise in single parent families.

Daniel notes that although Cullman is unique in that we do have a good base of organizations to help those in need, poverty is still a threat.

"Poverty is here," he said. "Maybe we just don't see it as much because we don't have people lying on street corners, but it is here."

With the decline of our economy over the past few years, agencies like Cullman Caring for Kids have taken a hit. It has affected their abilities to provide for families in need simply because they do not have the funding. This is why it's so important to help fight poverty in Cullman, and Daniel is continually impressed with what our community already does.

"I have tremendous respect for city and county leaders because they recognize the need for agencies like Cullman Caring for Kids. It takes everybody working together," he said.

Daniel encourages the community to continue to support agencies that have face-to-face contact with those in need.

"I think it's really important to know that money given to these agencies stays here to help people in Cullman. Help us help those in need."

With the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty here, it is important to remember what we're fighting for. Keep President Johnson's passion for ending poverty alive by helping those in need in our community. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can end poverty.

Three-pointers & Four legs: CHS Softball hosts Donkey Basketball

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Donkey Basketball was a huge hit this past Saturday night at the Cullman High School gymnasium. The Cullman High School softball team hosted the hilarious event and a portion of the profits raised will be donated to breast cancer research.

The night began with players anxiously strapping on their helmets and donkeys being prestigiously walked onto the court, just like any other basketball game. The Master of Ceremonies was the hilarious Jimmy Dale Burgess.

Riders at this event included: Dr. Elton Bouldin; Sen. Paul Bussman; Scott Lockridge; Coach Hayes; Coach Patterson; Mike Dean; Garland Gudger; Clint Hollingsworth; Johnny Cook; Tommy Duke; Richard Orr; Doug Barnwell; Jeff Moore; Jason Neal; Andy Heis; Travis Key; Taylor Britt; and Matt Carmichael.

The brave athletes were divided into two groups, one wearing black and the other wearing gold. These two groups were then split once more into two and a playoff style tournament commenced.

The first half of the tournament was thrilling. Basically, the rules of regular basketball were loosely applied, but the only rule that was truly enforced was that players had to be on a donkey to score. One of the most entertaining parts of the event was simply watching the players struggle to mount their donkeys.

Depending on the height of the donkey (and the height of the player), the rider would simply sit on his donkey low to the ground or would have to get a running start to eventually mount his steed.



» Participants struggle to make baskets while staying on their donkey

During half time, a variation of the pin the tail on the donkey game occurred. In this game, though, participants were blindfolded and challenged to put a diaper on a live donkey. This would have been fairly easy had the donkeys cooperated, but apparently donkeys do not like to wear diapers. It took the winner about ten minutes to complete this task.

The second half of the tournament was equally exciting. The crowd went crazy at the sight of these players struggling to stay on their donkeys. Some would get very close to getting on their donkey, only to slide right back off. One player even mounted his donkey backwards a few times. Others were bound to one side of the court because they could not get their stubborn donkey to move even one step.

Several times, a donkey would go bucking across the court with a rider on its back. It seemed that the crowd's favorite part of the night was when a player would fall completely off his donkey, mid-run; and the harder he hit the floor, the louder the crowd cheered.

The winning team included competitive players Andy Heis, Doug Barnwell, Jason Neal, and Johnny Cook. Of course, their donkeys won, too. They couldn't have done it without them. After all, it is donkey basketball.

The crowd-pleasing event was hysterical. Who knew basketball was a donkey's favorite sport? Thanks to the Cullman High School softball team for donating a portion of their profits to a great cause and for a night full of entertainment. These players showed a great deal of athleticism and sportsmanship, and of course, so did the donkeys.



– 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.

'Morning Blend' Informational Session at Chamber of Commerce
The Cullman Chamber of Commerce offers their 'Morning Blend' information session from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. in the Chamber's Commons Room. Come learn what's happening in the Cullman area and be on top of events coming up.

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

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

Thursday

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
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.

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!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

GED Classes at Desperation Church
GED learning classes are held each Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Desperation Church. For additional information please contact Ed Oaks at 256-737-9564 or 256-735-6811. These classes are open to the public and everyone who wants to obtain their GED is welcome to participate.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

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

Looking Ahead

Cullman 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 information.

RESIDENTIAL RECIPES

Super Skinny Enchiladas

By: Phillip C. Pryor • Local Contributor

Every year we tend to make a New Years Resolution to lose weight. This recipe will help you achieve that goal. I love this recipe because it is low calorie and low fat, yet still tastes wonderful.

Forget all the tortilla rolling, I've got a skinny twist that's easy to assemble and really good.

This casserole has many of the same ingredients as a classic enchilada and some updated skinny ones.

For example, instead of adding a large amount of high fat cheese, I'm adding fat free cottage cheese to the layers and only topping with the half a cup of shredded reduced fat cheese.

The cottage cheese adds a rich, cheesy flavor. In addition, I'm using fat free sour cream and very lean ground beef. Best of all, this Mexican-style dish is loaded with flavor.

Prep Time: 25 minutes (includes browning the beef)

Bake Time: 35 minutes
Serving Size: Makes 6 servings (each serving equals 1 slice)

Ingredients:
- 8 ounces (1/2 of a 1 pound package) – extra lean ground beef
- 1 cup – chopped onions
- 1 clove – minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon – chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon – ground cumin
- 1 (15 ounces) can – black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (4 ounces) can - fire roasted diced green chiles
- 1 cup – fat free sour cream
- 1/2 cup – fresh kernel corn (cut from 1 cob) or 1/2 cup frozen and thawed
- 1/4 cup – fat free cottage cheese
- 1 teaspoon – garlic powder
- 8 (6 inch) – extra thin mission yellow corn tortillas
- 1 (10 ounces) can – enchilada sauce

Ingredients for Topping:
- 3/4 cup – chopped tomatoes
- 1/3 cup – sliced scallions
- 1/2 cup – shredded reduced fat cheddar cheese

Instructions:
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9-inch square pan with cooking spray (glass or metal pan is fine.)
- In a large nonstick pan, cook the beef, onions, garlic, chili powder, and cumin over medium-high heat until onions are tender and the beef is no longer pink. Stir often, breaking up the beef. Stir in black beans and undrained chile peppers Mix well. Remove from heat and set aside.
- In a small bowl, stir together sour cream, corn, cottage cheese, and garlic powder.
- Place 4 tortillas on the bottom of pan, overlapping. Top with half of the meat mixture, half of the sour cream mixture, and half of the enchilada sauce. Reserve topping ingredients until baked. Repeat layers.
- Cover casserole with foil. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until heated through. Remove from oven and evenly sprinkle with tomatoes, scallions, and cheese over the top of the casserole. Bake uncovered for about 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.
- Remove from oven and let stand for about 10 minutes to set. Cut into 6 servings and remove with spatula

Note: It holds together even better if baked and refrigerated overnight. Just before serving, heat in a 350 degree oven or microwave until hot.

Food Fact:
White or yellow corn tortillas are pretty interchangeable in most recipes.

The main difference between the two is simply the color of the corn from which it is made.

In terms of taste, yellow corn tortillas tend to be a little more earthy and rustic, while white tortillas are a little lighter and finely textured.

GET YOUR RECIPE PUBLISHED

E-mail submissions to:
recipes@cullmansense.com

CHAMBER CHATTER

Seminars and special opportunities on Chamber docket

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to their members and the community. This year, they are unveiling a plethora of seminars and special opportunities for the residents of Cullman and surrounding counties to take part in – all for the betterment and growth of the business community.

Three special upcoming programs are January Morning Blend, a Phone Etiquette Seminar, and the Organize 4 Success Seminar. While very diverse and distinctive in their own right, each program does offer the same overall goal. The aim and intent is to arm businesses, both large and small, with valuable assets to better their efficiency, productivity, and ability.

Cullman Chamber Director of Business & Workforce Development Jackie Moore said, "We are doing these seminars because we want to add value to the community, and we want to be able to give our local businesses, large and small, resources that will help them be better or to fine-tune their working office. We are going to continue to offer these types of seminars on ways to help make us better individually and as a company."

The first program in this series is called the January Morning Blend. This will be where Chamber staff will welcome members and visitors to the Chamber building every month to discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas, and viewpoints. The program will happen Wednesday, January 15 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Chamber.

Moore said, "It will be a great session for people to sit around and talk about the way they think beneficial changes can be made, and again, it's another resource for small business and large business."

The Phone Etiquette Seminar is a refreshing change to the standard approach of phone interaction. The free seminar, hosted by the Chamber's Retail Committee, will address the convenience of cell phone usage and how there is still an art to using the phone properly in a professional setting. Lacy Beasley, vice president of Business Development with Retail Strategies, LLC will be the speaker. The seminar is scheduled for Thursday, January 23 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Chamber.



"This seminar will touch on things that are really common sense, but that we tend to forget on a daily basis. We are going to touch on ringtones, leaving voicemails, how to answer the phone, how to transfer a call, and how to handle complaints. It's going to run the gamut of using the phone, the how to parts and what we are supposed to do," Moore said.

The Organize 4 Success Seminar is a truly helpful program for those who need a little organization in their lives.

Karen Sladick is the owner of Organize 4 Success and is a premier expert in productivity and leadership training. She will be teaching the GO System, which stands for Getting Organized. The four-hour session will teach methods and tips to help improve output, increase speed in execution and save time at work. Attendees will receive a 64-page workbook that they get to take with them as well.

The program is scheduled for Thursday, January 30 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Chamber. The seminar is $129 for Chamber members and $159 for future members. For information about signing up for this seminar, you can e-mail Jackie Moore at jmoore@cullmanchamber.org or call 256-734-0454.

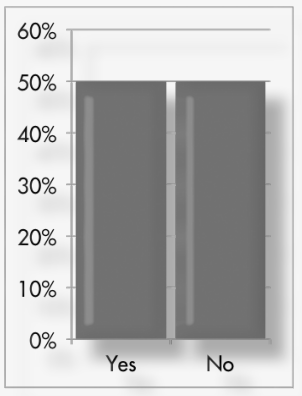
"The GO System is a plan and a resource that they have put together that helps productivity in the office. It helps us learn how to get back on task after an interruption. Karen will also be on call to speak with them should attendees have any questions, needs or want to put a plan in action for their office," Moore said.

All of these special programs are beneficial to members of the business community and residents of Cullman County alike. We all have room to grow and better ourselves.

Why not check out these insightful seminars and walk away with new friends, thoughtful concepts, professional phone etiquette training and enhancing tools to simplify and organize your life.

Poll

Do you have to work outside in the cold?

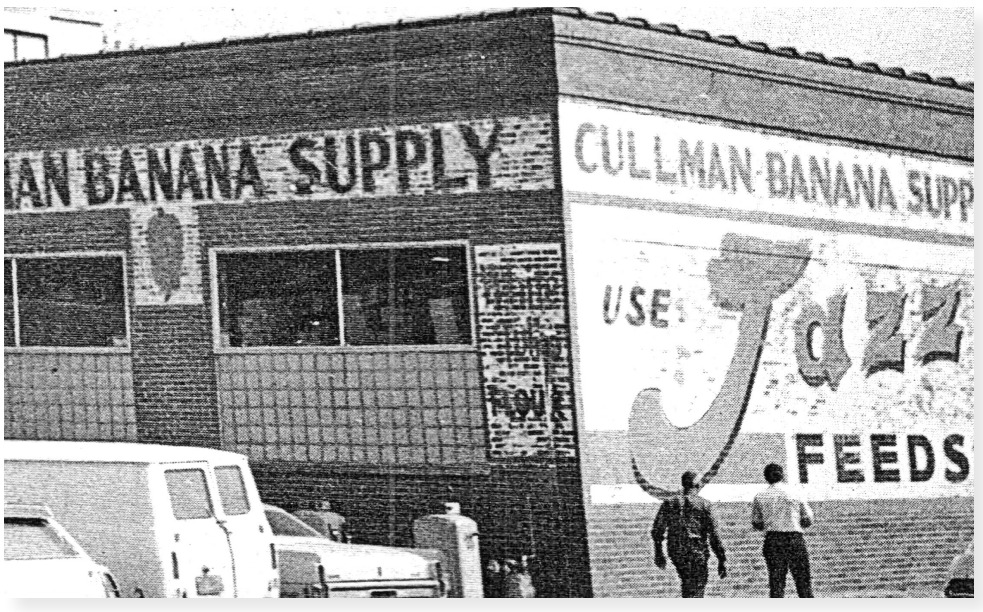


This Week's Poll

Have you noticed a difference in pricing since new regulations were implemented due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)?
Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

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



Cullman Bannana Supply — Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

This Week in History

January 13th
- 1854 – Anthony Foss patents accordion

January 14th
- 1956 – Little Richard releases "Tutti Frutti"

January 15th
- 1797 – First top hat is worn by John Etherington of London

January 16th
- 1777 – Vermont declares independence from New York

January 17th
- 1893 – Queen Liliuokalani deposed, Kingdom of Hawaii becomes a republic

January 18th
- 1644 – Perplexed Pilgrims in Boston reported America's first UFO sighting

January 19th
- 1937 – Millionaire Howard Hughes sets transcontinental air record (7h28m25s)

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.





Painting the Town Beautiful

Local artists inspire creativity

By: Kate Mullaney
kate@cullmansense.com

From murals and paintings to art teachers, Cullman is full of creativity. It is undeniable that Cullman artists are making the town beautiful with their artwork. And while the town is growing, these artists are pushing to make Cullman a more creative and enriching place to live, work, and play.

If you have noticed the beautiful murals popping up all over town, you can thank Bethany Kerr. This local artist is responsible for restoring the Jazz Feeds mural, painting the "Cullman's First School" mural on the side of the Community Shopper's Guide, painting the City of Cullman logo on the side of the Office Equipment Warehouse, and many more artistic endeavors. Because these murals are so beautiful, you would never be able to tell that for Bethany, art is a fairly recent endeavor.

"I've always loved to draw," Kerr said. "But I only started pursuing art after I got married in 1998. My husband was a huge encouragement to me. He saw something in my drawings, whereas I just thought of them as simple sketches."

Although these murals are Bethany's most noticeable works of art, they're not her normal form of art.

"I usually do family scenes and portraiture. The mediums I work with are typically graphite and acrylic. I recently started venturing into oil and I love it!"

Kerr's murals are a huge step towards Cullman becoming a more creative town. Another advocate for art in Cullman is Pam Willingham, a local artist and art teacher. Her art studio is a lively building booming with a gallery of paintings.

"If you should walk into my studio, you will see that I do not have a theme. My style is realistic, but I paint everything from chickens to apples, fine art, and fun art."

This self-taught artist has no formal training. She started drawing at a very young age and was inspired by her teachers.



» Murals drawn by local artist Bethany Kerr are part of Cullman's growing artistic initiatives

"When I was about 10 years old I was singled out by Dot Graff, a beloved local artist who gave me a private showing of some of the landscapes she had in her car. That made a profound impression on me, and I decided then and there that I would paint."

Willingham offers art classes in her studio to all ages including homeschooled students, and county school students whose schools do not offer art classes. Teaching art to others is an excellent way to spread creativity throughout this town.

"Although I never planned to teach," Willingham explained, "I find it just as rewarding as painting."

These artists are doing their part to promote art in Cullman, but the responsibility does not lie solely in their hands. Each one of us can take small steps towards making Cullman a more artistic town.

One way to do so is to support local artists by purchasing locally crafted art instead of art from a franchised store. Not only will this encourage artists, but it will also make a beautiful difference in your home, business, or wherever you're putting your new piece of art.

"When buying a painting to go over the sofa, most couples do not realize the difference in a print like you would buy at Hobby Lobby and a hand painted original," said Willingham.

Kerr hopes to see Cullman grow in creativity, but loves the creativity she has already seen here. She said that well-known artists such as Pam Willingham, Laura Walker, Donald Walker, and John Sachs continually inspire her. She also enjoys seeing people who express their creativity through sewing, knitting, woodwork, graphic design, music, beadwork, and many other forms of artistic expression.

"I think in order for Cullman to be more creative, it just needs to seek out and appreciate those individuals who already make Cullman such a wonderful place to be."

Willingham would also love to see Cullman become more creative and offers a final way to make this happen: learn to be an artist.

"I think most people think of artists as having a mysterious, unattainable level of talent," she said. "When in fact, drawing and painting are skills that most people – even adults – can learn."

Willingham's art can be viewed and purchased at The Shop Around the Corner located on Highway 31 North and at www.theartshoparoundthecorneral.com.

Kerr's work can be viewed and purchased at sketchesbybethany.net and southernarts.org.

There are so many perks to living in a creative town – the beautiful, inspirational, and interesting things, people and creations. Support our local artists, and together, we can make Cullman an even more vibrant place to live.

BURCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY
Martha Burchell, Agent

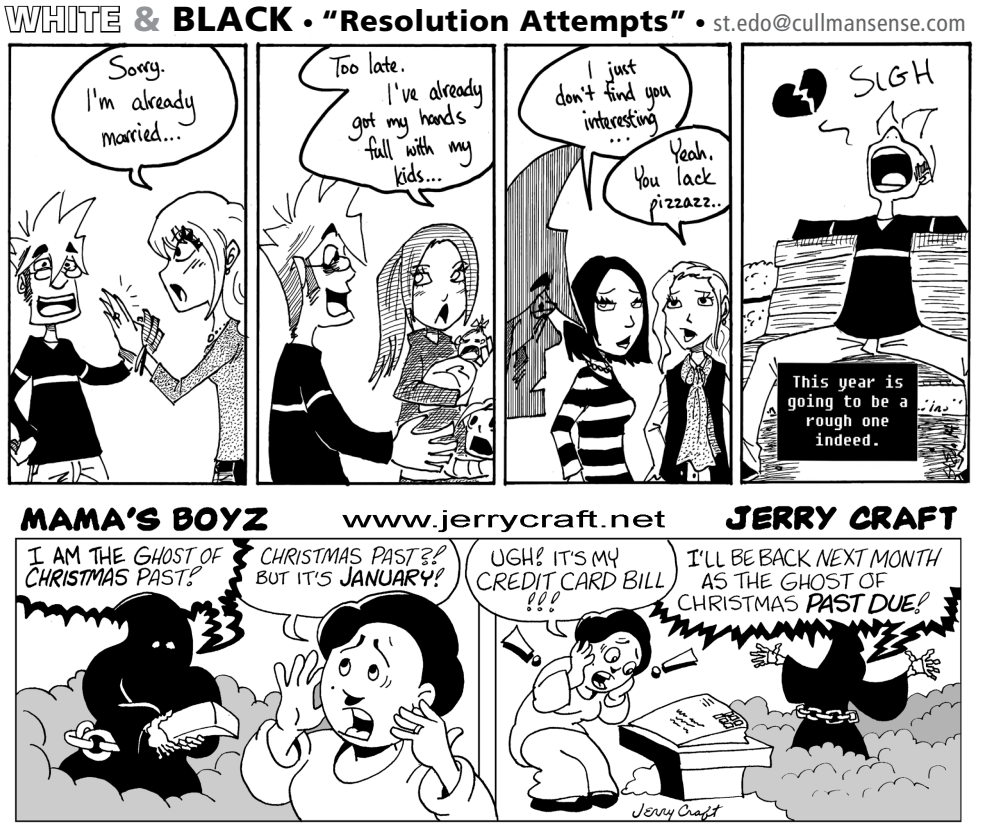
Nationwide
On Your Side

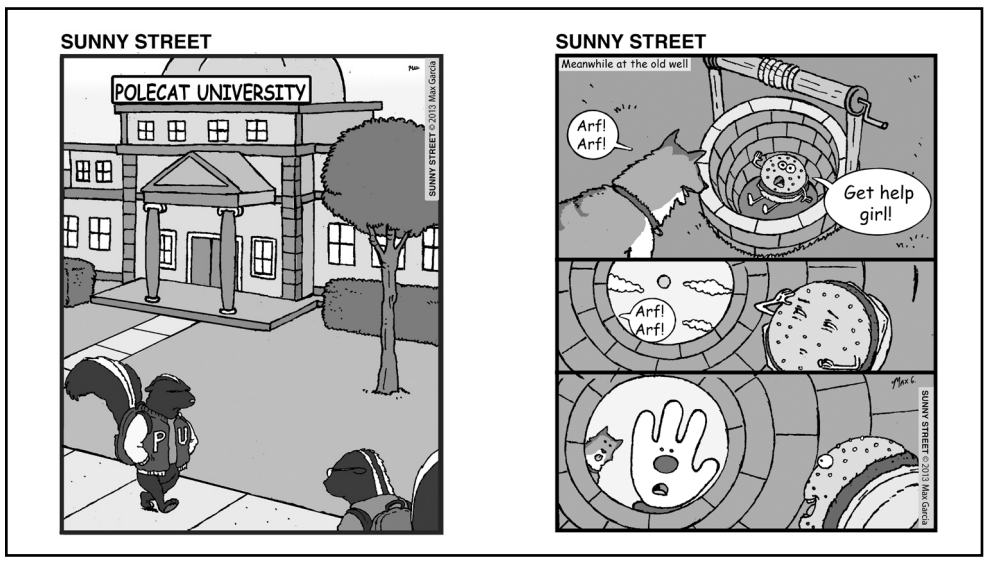
Auto • Home • Life • Commercial

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

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

Comics





Jim 'N Nick's prepares to open Tuesday

By: Natalie Bonner
natalie@cullmansense.com

It's the trending talk of the town. People have posted nonstop on all forms of social media, namely Facebook, inquiring the same question: When does Jim 'N Nick's open?

Well, Cullman, the answer is Tuesday, January 14, and it couldn't be any sooner.

This past Friday, friends and family of restaurant workers attended a pre-opening night special where varying menus were given out and attendees were encouraged to mix it up and order different entrees to challenge their servers.

Tables of four were sporadically scattered throughout the restaurant, which is modeled after the standard template of Jim 'N Nick's designed establishments.

The Friends & Family Night was, as to be expected, packed.

The full house of servers, bartenders, and managers worked especially well together considering the brand new workforce and the yet-to-be-officially-opened status.

Each group of four enjoyed one appetizer, their own different entrée each, and one dessert to share.

You might be thinking, "Who can share a piece of their coconut pie?"

The answer is no one. You'll want it all to yourself. The food was delicious and the servers were attentive and energetic.

The small plates (Jim 'N Nick's version of an appetizer) featured three options at my table: hand breaded onion rings, Nashville-style hot chicken, and queso & chips.

The entrees of choice were a hungry mix of favorites and newbies.

A chopped southern salad with fresh lettuce, fried chicken, grilled vegetables, and other toppings was the first item listed, followed by the tempting bar-b-q pork plate (my choice), and the half baby rib plate. And they weren't kidding – it was literally a half a rack of ribs.

The rest of the entrees were rounded out with a hot links plate, a bar-b-q quesadilla, and the hamburger steak.

My bar-b-q plate was slow-smoked and hand-pulled, sprinkled with the traditional barbecue sauce.

I was a little disappointed when they informed me I wasn't able to receive my ordered side items (or rather trimmings as Jim 'N Nick's calls them) of macaroni and cheese or my baked potato due to a shortage, but I quickly got over it when they brought out a crispy batch of onion rings.

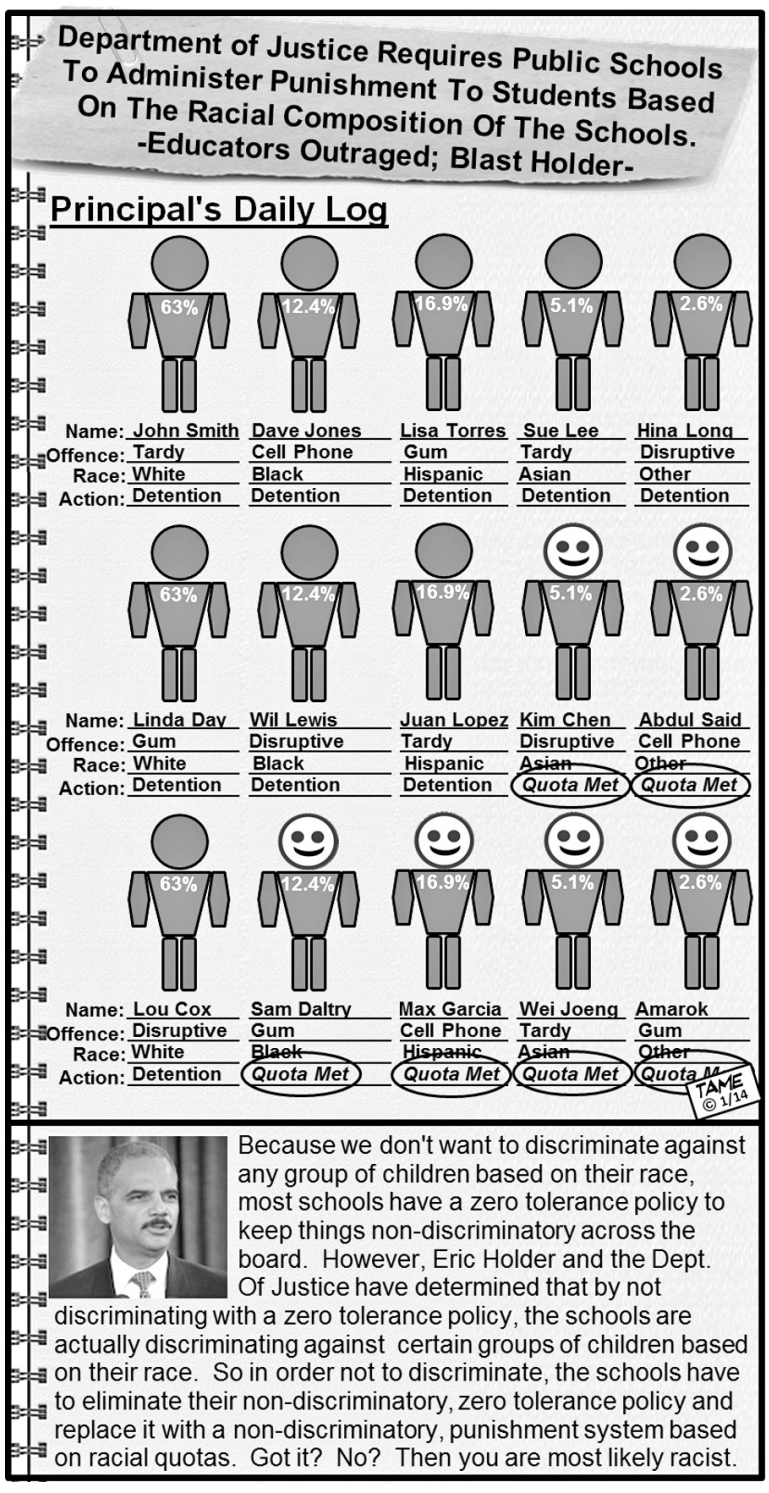
The desserts were an option of coconut pie, chocolate pie, or lemon box pie.

To quench your thirst they offer a steady supply of regular sodas and special cocktails.

The alcohol menu is full of colorfully named cocktails such as Pitman's Derby, Proper Punch, and the Manhattan of the South.

As we finished our meal and walked away with our to-go boxes in tow, I took in a last rich, smoky breath and thought, "Tuesday can't come fast enough."

Editorial Cartoon



GET LOCAL ALERTS ON YOUR PHONE

Follow us on Twitter @CullmanSense

– Voice –

Trust ... But Definitely Verify

By: Lee H. Hamilton

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

Of all the numbers thrown at us over the course of last year, one stands out for me. I hope we can avoid repeating it this year.

That number is 12. It's the percentage of Americans in a December Quinnipiac poll who said they trust the government in Washington to do what is right most or all of the time. It's a depressingly small number — especially compared to the 41 percent who say they "hardly ever" trust the government. This meshes with recent polls that echo a bleak truth: trust in government is at historically low levels.

That's not all, though. Americans are feeling vulnerable and highly distrustful of both government and private-sector prying. More worrisome, a few months ago an AP poll found that fewer than a third of Americans trust one another. The poll's message is clear: our society is in the midst of a crisis in trust.

This might seem like a touchy-feely concern, but it's not. Trust is essential to our political system and our way of life. The belief that people and institutions will do what they say they will do is the coin of the realm in our society. It is what allows people to work together — in their daily interactions with others and in their communities, legislatures and Congress. Negotiation, compromise, collegiality, and the mechanisms our complex and diverse society depends on are impossible without trust. Trust is one of the medley of virtues that have allowed our institutions to develop and prosper, along with honesty, competence, responsibility, and civility.

A breakdown in trust between Congress and the executive branch invariably brings problems: the turmoil of the Vietnam War era, Watergate, Iran-Contra, our current budget travails. A society-wide lack of trust imposes real costs. It makes the drafting of laws and their implementation extremely difficult: government becomes more expensive because it requires more emphasis on regulations and enforcement.

In fact, you could argue that we see all around us the results of our trust deficit. Government dysfunction, an economy performing below its potential, public officials' scandals and misdeeds, trusted institutions' willingness to skirt the law and standards of good conduct, our social safety net under attack because people mistrust recipients — all of these speak to a society struggling as trust weakens.

Yet here's a question. Do the polls match your experience? In my case, they do not. Trust still figures in my dealings with institutions and individuals, most of whom are good people trying to live a decent life and to be helpful to others. They deal with one another honorably and with care. I'm convinced that this is because, no matter what the polls say at the moment, the habits instilled by parents, schools, and a vast number of public and private institutions do not just disappear.

These habits include the experience of grappling with the challenges that representative democracy throws at us — and they serve as a reminder that we need trust in one another to make our national experiment in representative government work.

As idealistic or even naive as this may sound, we need to work toward more trust among our people and between people and their government. Some new laws might help, but the challenge is more basic than law can address. Higher standards of conduct at all levels of American life must become the norm. Trust may have weakened, but most of us do not see or experience a corrupt U.S. Even as we have become a larger, more diverse nation, a sense of community remains crucially important to make this country safe and secure for ourselves and our children.

We cannot take for granted our success at self-government over the centuries: the only invisible hand guiding and preserving our institutions is our collective will.

Events in recent years have given us plenty of reason to be distrustful. Clearly, healthy skepticism is warranted in the wake of the NSA revelations, the problems with the rollout of the Affordable Care Act, and other evidence of both government and corporate misbehavior. In the end, however, "trust but verify" is still the golden standard. Our ability to function and move forward as a society rests on trust. Think about it.

On School Quotas

By: Tom Esposito

The overt inanity inherent in our Government has never been better exemplified than by the new directive from Eric Holder and The Department Of Justice that seeks to moderate punishment to minority school children because they may be incurring discrimination with "zero tolerance" school policies.

The reason that most schools utilize zero tolerance policies is to eliminate any chance of discrimination. "Judgment calls" are taken out of the educator's bailiwick and enforced uniformly across the board.

By example, this means that regardless of race, creed, religion or sex, if you blow bubble gum in class you are getting a detention; So is the student sitting next to you if they are engaged in blowing bubbles.

This also means that because punishment is evenly meted out, the likelihood of any type of future litigation becomes minimized.

The DOJ feels that because minority children may be more likely to incur that detention (based solely on their race), the non-discriminatory, zero tolerance policy becomes discriminatory.

In order to fix this presumed miscarriage of justice, punishments will be doled out based on the racial makeup of the school.

It would seem that the administrators of each school will have to take the census information on their students and then determine when the amount of punishments to any racial group has been met.

Fair? Maybe. But Education experts have blasted Holder and the DOJ for the new directive.

In part, the directive itself reads as follows. "Schools ... violate Federal law when they evenhandedly implement facially neutral policies and practices that, although not adopted with the intent to discriminate, nonetheless have an unjustified effect of discriminating against students on the basis of race,..."

Think about that part of the directive for a moment. Basically, the DOJ is saying that even though schools have found a system that is evenhanded, neutral and non-discriminatory, those benign facts, as determined by the DOJ, are discriminatory. The Educators feel that this is not rational thinking.

Let's go back to the school Administrators and their census. Not only will they have to track the racial make-up of their school, they will also have to track who comes and goes from the school itself.

During the course of any school year, students enroll, drop-out or are possibly expelled.

The Administrators will, of course, have to track this on a daily basis.

So assume that a minority child on a Monday is disciplined for an infraction and is sent home for three days.

But on Tuesday, a non-minority child drops out of school. The ratios may now change and the minority child and their punishment may now exceed quota guidelines.

The minority child can say, with justification based on the system that they have been discriminated against. Time for little Johnny to lawyer up.

Of course, guidelines to ratios could include some type of grandfathering clauses that would preclude these types of situations, but that would require clear thinking on someone's part.

It will probably have to come from the Educators as it seems that there may be a deficiency of those types of thought processes coming out of the DOJ.

Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE



NEW YEAR SAVINGS!

GIFT CARD WITH PURCHASE

A word from Bill Smith



Bill Smith

Ok Cullman do not let anyone "sweet talk" you into a cheaper vehicle and make you pay them what you can pay us for the top of the line with all the options. That's how you make a $3,000 mistake.

I guarantee you will buy more vehicle and get better service for your money at Bill Smith Buick GMC or at Bill Smith used car outlet.

Just don't take a slick salesman's word for it when they beg you not to shop with us. There is a reason they don't want you to check with us. Because when people come see us they get professional grade high end vehicles for many times less than cheaper models at other stores. We are your Cullman Times readers choice new car dealer and we may not have the pushiest salespeople but we push customer service harder than anyone.

We come pick up your vehicle and deliver if you need us. We put you in a new vehicle for a loaner not some old scrub! Been here longer and doing it better than anyone else since 1956. Call us butter, cause we are on a Roll!!!!!!!!!

Bill Smith

2013 GMC TERRAIN

$27,145 LIST

-$1,000 DRAC REBATE

-$1,150 MY DISCOUNT

NOW ONLY $24,995



STK# 253646

2014 GMC SIERRA

$33,555 LIST

- $1,000 TRADE ASSIST
- $1,750 GMC LOYALTY
- $500 INC REBATE
- $2,060 MY DISCOUNT

NOW ONLY $28,245



STK# 197319

Bill Smith

BUICK GMC

DON'T MAKE A $3,000 MISTAKE

*All rebates applied, must have '99 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472