SERIES 6 • ISSUE 3 • JANUARY 18, 2016
CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY 2016 HELD THURSDAY EVENING P2


ST. BERNARD PREP SCHOOL

GARCIA WINS SPELLING BEE AT ST. BERNARD PREP, HEADING TO COUNTY BEE P5

COMMISSION PROCLAIMS JANUARY 2016 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN CULLMAN P2


JEREMY CROWE

PROFILES IN FAITH

JEREMY CROWE, FUTURE YOUTH PASTOR OF CULLMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST P7

CONCERT PROMOTER PREMIER PRODUCTIONS RANKED 16TH WORLDWIDE P10

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DANNY'S STORY

LOCAL MAN LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST WHILE STRUGGLING DAILY WITH ALS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – Many remember the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that stormed social media in the summer of 2014, but how many know what ALS is? Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal, neuromuscular disease that attacks and eventually kills the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscles. There is no cure.

ALS eventually claims a person's strength and their ability to move their arms and legs, to talk, to eat or to breathe without m e c h a n i c a l

P6


DANNY HARRIS

Danny and Diane Harris are dealing with ALS one day at a time.

ALDOT TO OPEN NEW I-65/COUNTY ROAD 222 INTERCHANGE JAN. 22



The new interchange, exit 305, will officially open on Friday, January 22.

PHOTO COURTESY DAVE WARREN PHOTOGRAPHY

P9

HISTORIC SNEAKER EXHIBIT, "CHARLOTTE'S 23 JAYS," TO OPEN NEXT SUNDAY AT WSCC

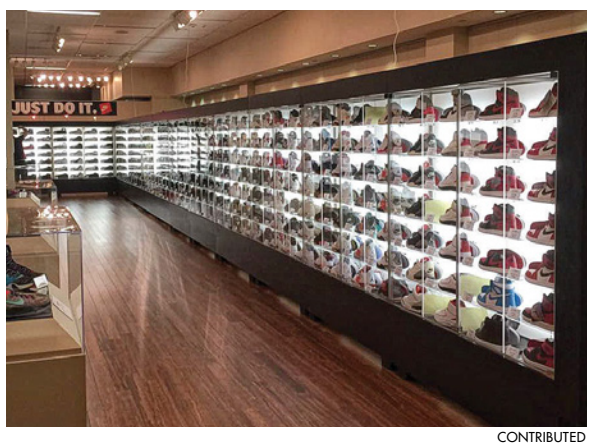
Will Hogue
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HANCEVILLE - Robin Cummings is set to realize his goal of carrying on his wife's passion next Sunday when his massive sneaker collection goes on display at the Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College (WSCC). The exhibit is called "Charlotte's 23 Jays."

On Sunday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m., doors will open to the museum, allowing people from all walks of life to see a truly incredible sneaker and sports memorabilia collection.

"While the grand opening is Sunday, Jan. 24, visitors can preview the exhibition starting Tuesday, Jan. 19," said a representa-

P9



CONTRIBUTED

REPUBLICAN COMMISSION CANDIDATES SPEAK AT ALABAMA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN EVENT

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CULLMAN - The Cullman Chapter of the Alabama Federation of Republican Women (CCRW) hosted a candidate forum on Tuesday night, Jan. 12. at Cullman's VFW Post 2214. Current Cullman County Commission Chair Kenneth Walker and his challengers, Eric Parker and Darrell Hicks, addressed the crowd.

Numbers were drawn, and Parker, owner of Payroll Services, LLC, was the first to speak.

"I would like to make a big difference in Cullman County," he began.

"What I would like to do when I am elected and go into office is I would like to try and figure out the budget a little better. I want to go through it, line by line, and cut wasteful spending. I firmly believe there is money out there we can make things better with from the roads to the water system and so on. I want to serve the people of Cullman County."

After answering a few questions, Parker took a seat and Hicks, retired agriculture teacher, took the podium.

Hicks said that, if elected, he plans to increase the miles

P6

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STATE OF THE COMMUNITY 2016 HELD THURSDAY EVENING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Thursday night, Jan. 14, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee hosted a panel presentation, the State of the Community 2016, at TP Country Club. The forum allowed the city and each of the county municipalities a chance to share information on their communities with Chamber members and the Cullman business community.

While most of the speakers talked about budgets and finances, they also highlighted various departments within their communities and plans for 2016. Some had specific goals set and were eager to share them.

"The Christmas Flood of 2015," Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker began, "according to my presentation here, we got 8.5 inches of rain, but I think we can add 8 more inches to that in a 24-hour period. The Cullman County damage fees are to exceed about $975,000. When I left the courthouse this morning, we were still repairing shoulders and roads and will probably be repairing more next week, so that will increase quite a bit."

Representing Good Hope, Councilman John Harris named some of the businesses new to the area in 2015, including Onin Staffing, Hosanna Florists, The Cotton Gin, R.E. Michel Company, Sunflour Bakery, Lakeside Sports & Recreation and MasterPro Audio. He also detailed a special project, beginning soon.

"I guess the next biggest ongoing project that we are fixing to bid on is the Bavar Creek Bridge," said Harris. "The existing 78-foot-long bridge has an efficiency rating of 31.4. Anything rated below 50 is considered unfunctional, obsolete and should be replaced. The bridge will be replaced with a triple barrel 14-foot-wide by 12-foot-high concrete box culvert. The latest construction estimate for this is $724,652.04. ATRIP (Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program) funds will cover 80 percent of the construction costs and 80 percent of the inspection fee. We, Good Hope, will pay for the remaining 20 percent of each cost plus the total cost of the engineering design."

Mayor Kenneth Kilgo of West Point praised all the mayors in Cullman County for working together. He listed his area's three new businesses as Magnet Paints, Double K Sales and Premier Bank.

"Magnet Paints is a nationwide specialty paint facility. They moved their operations from Manhattan, New York to West Point, Alabama. We couldn't be any happier; they put good people to work in the community. They have been in business since 1925, and they do underbody paints. They have 23,000 contracts in cities and companies throughout the United States, so they are sending paint all over the U.S. everyday."

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail's presentation featured current and upcoming projects, including a cleanup and remodel of "the old empty buildings in the middle of town." Top floors of some of the buildings are slated to be converted to apartments, with the possibility of making them available to Wallace State students as dorms. Sidewalks are being poured and the large ditches along Highway 31 are being filled.

"At Hanceville we try to be positive and progressive," Nail said. "To me, being progressive means we're not sitting on our rear ends doing nothing, we are going to be moving forward. We are very proud of that. We have a lot of projects going on, so we are just going to keep pushing forward."

Mayor Herman Nail of Holly Pond was up next. He kept his speech short and to the point.

"I just want to leave you with this right here," he said in closing. "Holly Pond is going to grow. More people are going to come to Holly Pond and I will tell you why. Things are going to happen in Holly Pond that is (sic) going to make a difference in people's lives, just give us about four or five months to see what comes about. It will be beneficial to the whole county and a lot more people will have a job to work."



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

The City of Cullman, along with Cullman County municipalities, shared information at Thursday night's State of the Community 2016 event.

The evening's final speaker was Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson. He said he wants Cullman to continue to be a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. He mentioned the city's plans to build a new fire station on Highway 157. He discussed the Christmas flood and its effects on the city's roads and bridges and the Duck River Dam and how quickly it was filled thanks to those same torrential rains. The city's retail expansion was also a big topic.

"The Chamber has been busy this year," Townson explained. "We have had the most ribbon cuttings ever! We are happy to have these new businesses. Publix was one of those new businesses this year. I stood out there when they first opened the doors. People were lined up and I shook everybody's hand that came in. I can't tell you the people who said, 'Mayor, we don't have to go to Decatur anymore'. That's what we are trying to do. We are trying to bring you new things into this community so you don't have to go to Decatur, Huntsville or Birmingham. Shop Cullman first, right?"

To find out more, visit the Chamber at cullmanchamber.org.

COMMISSION PROCLAIMS JANUARY 2016 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH IN CULLMAN

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the Cullman County Commission proclaimed January 2016 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Cullman. The proclamation was made during the regularly scheduled Cullman County Commission meeting at the courthouse and is in addition to Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson declaring Monday, Jan. 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day and the month of January being recognized nationwide as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

"I am truly grateful that both the city and the county have both recognized this as Human Trafficking Month," said Task Force Chair Kathy Wilson.

"Hopefully this will help bring awareness to the community and keep us with the quality of life that we have. That's our goal – awareness."

Associate County Commissioner Kerry Watson, Judge Kim Chaney (Task Force member), Wilson and Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker stood by and listened as County Clerk Charlotte Slatton read the proclamation.

"I wish I could say this didn't happen in Cullman County, but it's an issue that we have here," said Chaney.

"We've got some training that we are sponsoring; we have some practitioners training for law enforcement, teachers, nurses and juvenile probation officers. We have over 200 people, as of this morning, who have already signed up for that training. It is going to be at Daystar Church Jan. 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m."

Wilson stated that there is also a public training on Jan. 26.

The training is free to the public and will be from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Daystar Church. The church is located at 200 Daystar Drive in Cullman.

"Jan. 26 is going to be for individuals and families that want to learn how to keep their children safe," Chaney continued.

"The average age of a (human trafficking victim) is 13-years-old; so you have young people who make connections online who are lured away with promises. Those promises soon turn to exploitation.

"We certainly appreciate the opportunity to tell you about our trainings and certainly appreciate the forum the Commission has given to our proclamation as we call awareness to this situation," he concluded.

The Commission thanked Chaney and Wilson for all the work they have done to bring awareness about human trafficking to the community.

EMA TO HOST NATURAL DISASTER TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY

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CULLMAN – On Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. - noon, the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will host Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders at its facility at 2020 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman.

Lead by a speaker from the University of Hawaii, the event will teach those in attendance how a natural disaster is managed, what goes on at every level of response and how community leaders should treat an emergency situation.

"This is to paint a whole picture of what a natural disaster looks like," said Phyllis Little, director of the Cullman EMA. "[It is to] show people the process; it's an effort to engage the general population." Little said training like this has been held before for elected city and county officials. Now the training is being offered once more, but for a different group of leadership.

"This is for volunteers, general public, church leaders, civic group leaders, you know. We want everyone to know how decisions are made at the top in a natural disaster situation. If there are two parts of the county that need a piece of equipment, but there is only one of those pieces of equipment to use, this shows them why one area would get it before the other," she said.

This federally-recognized training is a part of a national initiative, known as Natural Disaster Preparedness training. It is co-funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security.

"We try to have at least four of these events a year, but scheduling is difficult," Little said. "Texas A&M has a group of speakers, but I wasn't able to get on their list soon enough, but the University of Hawaii I could get on."

While the four-hour course is free, registration is required. Register here.

"We won't cover things that don't affect us," Little said. "This will be an overall course. We hope to have several more that go in depth for those that attend this one, and then have another overall course for a new group."

The next class will be on June 10, and will cover tornado preparedness, science, forecasting and tornado safety. "Keep checking our calendar," Little said. "We put everything on there, and when there is another training event you can see it there."

For more information, visitcullmanema.org or call 256-739-5410.

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SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE APPROVED FOR COFFEE, JEFFERSON, MONTGOMERY, MORGAN AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES

Office of Gov. Robert Bentley
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Robert Bentley on Friday announced that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved a request for disaster assistance for Coffee, Jefferson, Montgomery, Morgan and surrounding counties. The approval is based damage assessments from severe storms and flooding that occurred from Dec. 24 - 31, 2015. Gov. Bentley made the request to SBA Monday.

"Cleanup continues in many communities, and assistance from the SBA will go a long way in helping our communities recover from the tornadoes and flooding experienced in December," Gov. Bentley said. "There is help available for homeowners, businesses and nonprofit organizations that suffered damage from the storms. From the time the storms and flooding hit our state, to seeking today's disaster declaration from the SBA, we have been working with affected communities and connecting them with resources available."

The disaster declaration covers the primary counties of Coffee, Jefferson, Montgomery and Morgan counties. It also covers counties that are contiguous to these primary counties. Those counties are Autauga, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Lawrence, Limestone, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Pike, Shelby, St. Clair, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties.

In all counties covered by the SBA disaster declaration, homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations that qualify will have the following options from the SBA.

Home Disaster Loans: Renters and homeowners alike may borrow up to $40,000 to repair or replace clothing, furniture, cars, appliances, etc., damaged or destroyed in the storms. Homeowners may apply for up to $200,000 to repair or replace their primary residence to its pre-disaster condition.

Business Physical Disaster Loans: Loans of up to $2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, nonprofit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans: If a small business or private, nonprofit organization has suffered economic injury, regardless of physical damage, and is located in an SBA-declared disaster area, they may be eligible for financial assistance of up to $2 million from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Alabamians interested in applying for SBA low-interest rate loans can receive more information by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or 800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. The SBA Disaster Customer Service Center may also be reached by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Additional information, including SBA disaster loan fact sheets, can be found on the SBA's website at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

"We appreciate the Small Business Administration for working quickly to approve Governor Bentley's request," Alabama EMA Director Art Faulkner said.

"AEMA will continue to work with citizens and local elected officials to identify resources that may be available."

GOV. BENTLEY REQUESTS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR 39 COUNTIES IMPACTED BY DECEMBER STORMS

AEMA
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – At the request of Gov. Robert Bentley, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) on Wednesday announced the state has formally requested federal disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The approval of this request will authorize the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program to aid jurisdictions in Autauga, Barbour, Blount, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coffee, Colbert, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Cullman, Dale, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Lamar, Lawrence, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Pike, Perry, Russell, St Clair, Walker and Winston Counties as they recover from the effects of severe weather that occurred from Dec. 24 - 31, 2015.

"The damage caused by the tornadoes and flooding significantly impacted Alabama communities," Bentley said.

"We are working to rebuild from historic flooding, and the FEMA Public Assistance will be a tremendous help to communities. I appreciate the quick work by damage assessment teams in order for Alabama to make the request to FEMA. Together with our federal partners, we will recover from the damage."

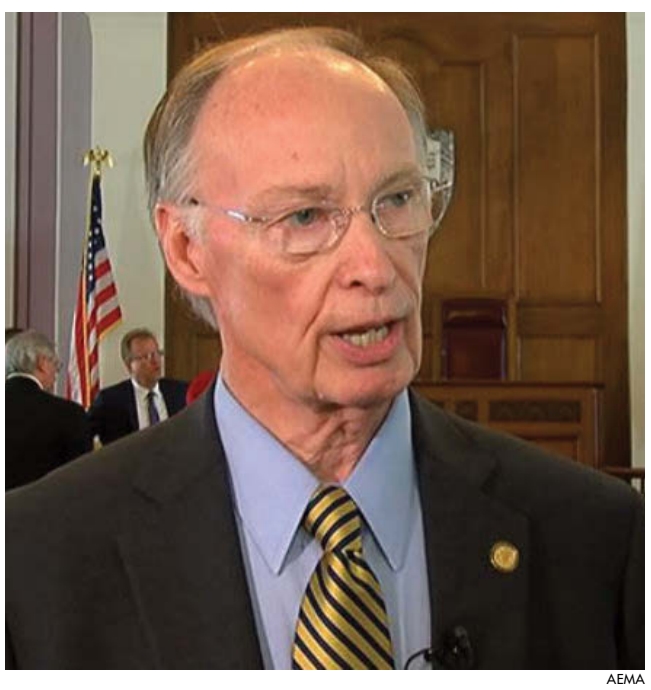
The request follows recently concluded damage assessments performed by local, state and federal personnel.

Assessments indicated that governments at all levels have collectively incurred millions of dollars in combined costs for expenses such as debris removal and damage to infrastructure.

The Public Assistance Grant Program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities and infrastructure.

"I am very thankful for the joint effort of local governments and FEMA to assist Alabama EMA in conducting damage assessments statewide over the last week. Now that we have compiled the data and Gov. Bentley has made the request, we are very hopeful for a quick response." said Alabama EMA Director Art Faulkner. Approval of this request is very important to repair the major damage to our public infrastructure throughout the state."

For more information, visit www.ema.alabama.gov.

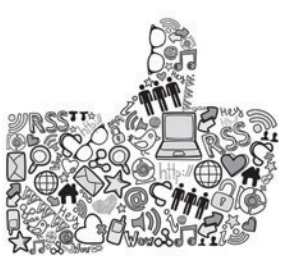


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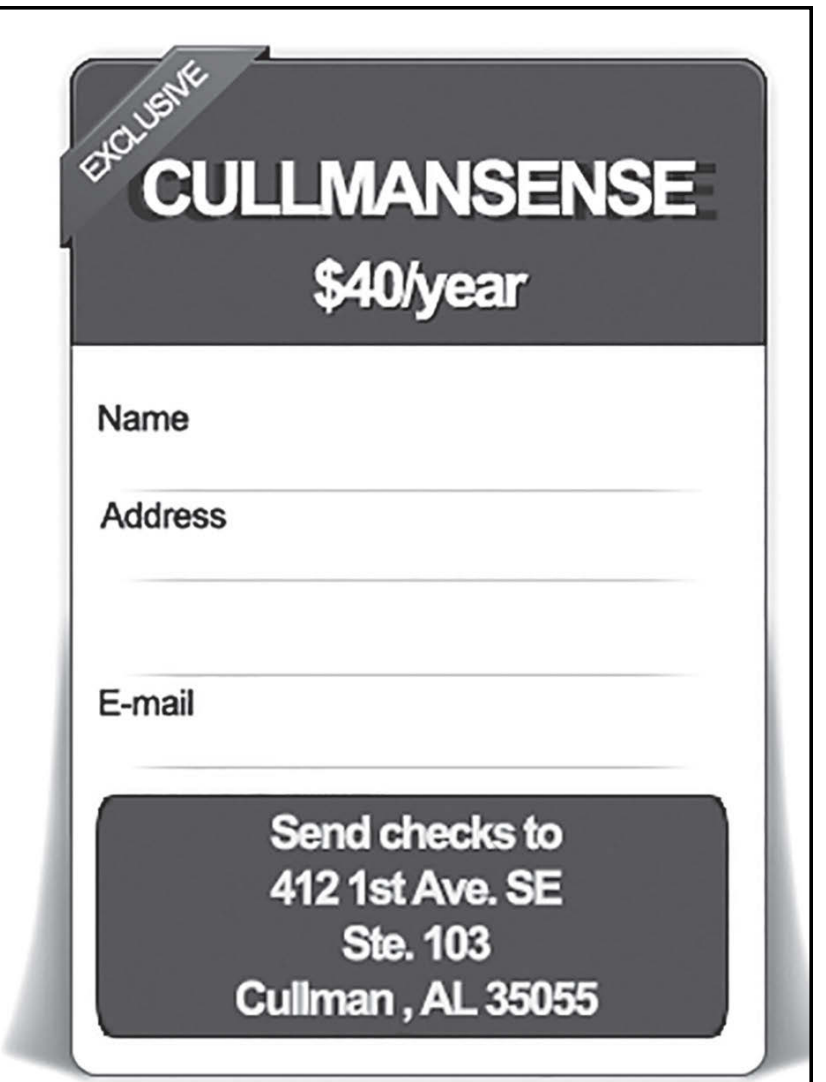
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2016 CULLMAN COUNTY HOOPS TOURNAMENT GETS UNDERWAY

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

HANCEVILLE – Quarterfinal games in the junior varsity and freshmen divisions got the 2016 Cullman County High School Basketball Tournament at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum off and running Saturday afternoon.

Those who came to the Coliseum early got a chance to see collegiate hoops with the Wallace State Lady Lions knocking off Chattahoochee Valley 72-66 to snap a two-game losing streak in the Alabama Community College Conference.

No. 5 seeds went 3-0 on the day against the No. 4 seed. It started with the Good Hope Lady Raiders coming from behind to top Holly Pond 29-18 in junior varsity play.

The major comeback was displayed by the Cold Springs Eagles.

In their JV game with Hanceville, the Eagles rallied in the fourth quarter with a 17-6 run and eliminated the Bulldogs 48-44.

That set the tone for excitement in the freshmen division.

Fifth seed Hanceville fought off fourth seed Holly Pond 45-42 in overtime.

The last two games in the quarterfinal round of the JV were dominated by West Point.

The Warriors romped over Vinemont 43-6 and in the finale that ended at 8:22 p.m., the Lady Warriors advanced to the next round by a 47-8 conquest of Vinemont.

Erika Woodall led Good Hope to its comeback win over Holly Pond for the JV girls with nine points. Good Hope trailed the Lady Broncos 11-8 at the half, got control of the game with a 10-4 spurt in the third period and finished with an 11-4 advantage in the final stanza.

Makailey Speegle and Haley Runge added six for the winning Lady Raiders who will face No. 1 Fairview in the semifinals Thursday at 5 p.m. Holly Pond was led by Maddie Heatherly with six.

Cold Springs got double-digit scoring from Hunter McClendon with 13, Noah Henderson with 11 and Carson Garmon with 10 to overcome Hanceville, who led the Eagles 15-13 after the first, 29-24 at the half and 38-31 at the end of the third quarter.

Cameron Brockman tossed in 12 for the Bulldogs, getting scoring support from Evan McMillan with 11 and Josh Stanley 10.

Cold Springs returns to the Coliseum for a Monday semifinal against top seed Fairview beginning at 6 p.m.

The Holly Pond freshmen shook off a 29-19 halftime deficit to Hanceville and stormed back to tie the game at 40-40 in the closing seconds of regulation on a basket by Kyler Chaney.

But in the extra four minutes, Hanceville's Damien Johnson broke the tie with a three-pointer and added a couple of free throws to send the Bulldogs on to the semifinals vs. No. 1 Fairview Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Fred Ellis got 18 points for Hanceville on eight of 10 shooting with Alex Campbell scoring 11. Chaney led Holly Pond with 14 and Issac Ludwig tossed in eight points.

West Point had little trouble with Vinemont, leading 22-3 at the half and 38-5 going into the final period.

Austin Dubberly's 13 points and Coby Sullins' 11 led the No. 3 seed Warriors on to the semifinal round. They face No. 2 seed Holly Pond Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The Lady Warriors used their speed and quickness to gain control of the game after the first period with Vinemont by the score of 24-3. It was 32-6 at the half and a comfortable 46-6 lead following the third quarter.

Lexi Farley anchored the win for the Lady Warriors with 12, Carson Talley tossed in 10 and Meredith Calvert scored eight. Talley was six of eight from the foul line with Farley knocking down five field goals.

West Point now has the No. 2 seed Cold Springs Lady Eagles in the JV Final Four Friday at the Coliseum at 5 p.m.

The varsity teams get their first opportunity to enjoy playing at the Coliseum with quarterfinal games on Monday.

Three-time county champion Holly Pond Lady Broncos battle Vinemont at 7:15 p.m., followed by the Cold Springs Eagles vs. the Fairview Aggies at 8:30 p.m.

The Eagles enter the tournament currently third in the state's Class 2A basketball poll.

WSCC LADY LIONS OUTLAST CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY BEHIND NEW-LOOK STARTING LINEUP

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

HANCEVILLE – A new-look starting lineup yielded profitable results for the Wallace State Lady Lions in a 72-66 victory over Chattahoochee Valley Community College at Tom Drake Coliseum on Saturday.

Sophomore guard Hannah Vest, who nailed five 3-pointers, finished with 18 points for Wallace State, Morgan Higgins scored 15 in her first start in two months and Jasmine Hollis added 13 off the bench.

After a pair of tough conference losses earlier this week, Wallace State women's coach Ron Burdette was glad to see his Lady Lions prevail.

Burdette penciled Higgins into the starting lineup for the first time since Nov. 11, and Jemaiya Lee, a freshman from Spain Park, made her first career start. Burdette also shifted Vest, the lone sophomore on the team, from shooting guard to point guard.

"We decided to jumble things around a bit. Some players were beginning to get complacent or down on themselves. Hannah Vest played great at the point. She's the most battle-tested on the team, and I thought she did a tremendous job distributing the ball and leading her teammates. I'm hoping that's the spark that gives our team some confidence. Morgan Higgins has also had a killer week. She's working hard and it's paid huge dividends," said Burdette, who led the Lady Lions to the NJCAA Division I national tournament last season.

Wallace State, which dipped out of ACCC North Division play on Saturday, posted a big fourth quarter to outlast the Lady Pirates.

The Lady Lions (7-13) led 53-51 after three quarters and after a 53-all tie early in the fourth, Wallace State put together a 10-1 run for a 63-54 advantage with 7:07 left in the game.

Velencia Johnson began the deciding surge with a layup, and Vest drained 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to push the Lady Lions' cushion to 61-54 with 7:40 remaining. Higgins capped the run with a jumper in the lane at the 7:07 mark.

Hollis added a 3-pointer of her own with 3:30 to go, extending Wallace State's advantage to 68-60.

Chattahoochee Valley (8-10) never threatened over the final three minutes.

Wallace State led 22-11 at the end of the first quarter -- its biggest cushion of the game. The Lady Pirates rallied in the second quarter, tying the game at 39-all at the half.

For Wallace State, Lee finished with nine points, while Johnson and Janese Richardson each contributed seven points.

Bre Bussey led Chattahoochee Valley in the loss with 17 points.

Wallace State plays a non-conference game at Carver Bible (Ga.) College on Thursday. The Lady Lions return home on Jan. 25 to host rival Shelton State.

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

PREP BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

JANUARY 18 - 23

All games to start at 6 p.m. for girls and 7:30 p.m. for boys

All County Schools will be playing in The Cullman County Basketball Tournament this week at Tom Drake Coliseum on the Campus of Wallace State Community College.

TUESDAY
St. Bernard @ Lindsey Lane
Cullman vs. Lawrence County

FRIDAY
Cullman vs. Decatur

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

Tuesday
BOYS
West Point 54, Good Hope 36
Lawrence County 54, Fairview 50
Hanceville 85, Oakman 61
Cold Springs 84, Addison 33
Cullman 51, Austin 74

GIRLS
West Point 39, Good Hope 51
Fairview 37, Lawrence County 45
Hanceville 61, Oakman 49
Vinemont 23, Susan Moore 60
Cold Springs 62,Addison 41
Cullman 50, Austin 78

Thursday
GIRLS
Fairview 50, Holly Pond 44

Friday
BOYS
Cold Springs 47, Tanner 54
St. Bernard 44, Lynn 14
Hanceville 83, Susan Moore 37
Locust Fork 45, Good Hope 41
Cullman 68, Hartselle 56

GIRLS
Lynn 39, St. Bernard 32
Susan Moore 45, Hanceville 35
Locust Fork 44, Good Hope 40
Hartselle 48, Cullman 40

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GARCIA WINS SPELLING BEE AT ST. BERNARD PREP, HEADING TO COUNTY BEE

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN - Thirteen seventh grade students from St. Bernard Middle School competed Jan. 14 for the opportunity to represent the school at the Cullman County Spelling Bee Tournament next month.

After six rounds, Luis Garcia, of Cullman, remained standing to claim the title of Spelling Bee Champion, correctly spelling the words 'serpentine,' and then 'inclement.'

Classmate Kathleen George of Hanceville was runner-up.

Also competing were Alex Lewis, Lola Ijebor, John David Grey, David Dejesus, Logan Crawford, Jackelyn Arteaga, Daniel Bamberry, Francis Mami, Sara Barck, Anna Beth Guthery and Hudson Puckett.

Garcia is the son of Luis and Sandra Garcia of Cullman.

He will represent St. Bernard in the county tournament at Fairview High School on Feb. 1.



Luis Garcia wins Spelling Bee at St. Bernard Middle School.

PHOTO COURTESY ST. BERNARD PREP SCHOOL

GOOD HOPE SERVICE CENTER LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER FOR GOOD HOPE SCHOOLS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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GOOD HOPE – From now through the end of February, Good Hope Service Center will donate a portion of their sales to Good Hope Schools and their athletic department-up to $7 per oil change and 10 percent of the total invoice for all other repairs.

"All of us at Good Hope Service Center are committed to helping out our community and schools in effort to give our kids and youth every opportunity possible in academics and athletics," said Good Hope Service Center Owner Robert Taylor.

"So please join us in making this fundraiser a success for our children and their future. Come in to Good Hope Service Center for all your vehicle needs and mention Good Hope Schools and let us know if you'd like the donation in your name. That's it, we'll do the rest."

Taylor says that the technicians at Good Hope Service Center have over 40 years of experience in all types of automobile and boat repair.

"We do transmission repair, motor repair and everything else from a simple fix to a major overhaul. So help us help our kids, either by coming in to Good Hope Service Center or just by helping us get the word out to all your family and friends," he said.

> "So please join us in making this fundraiser a success for our children and their future. Come in to Good Hope Service Center for all your vehicle needs and mention Good Hope Schools and let us know if you'd like the donation in your name. That's it, we'll do the rest."
>
> – Robert Taylor, owner

The center is open six days a week and staffs four full-time technicians. All work completed comes with a 24-month/24,000-mile warranty and a 1-year nationwide roadside service plan.

Good Hope Service Center is located at 848 County Road 437.

They are open Monday - Saturday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, call 256-735-4696, email servicecentergoodhope@gmail.com or visit them on Facebook atfacebook.com/good.hope.1293.



GOOD HOPE SERVICE CENTER

Stop by Good Hope Service Center and help the students of Good Hope Schools.

CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER TO HOST SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Meredith Easterwood
CRMC

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional Medical Center will host a Surgical Symposium, "'Sewing' the Seeds of Knowledge," on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. - noon in the Colonel Cullmann Room of Professional Office Building II.

Featured Speakers include:

- Dr. Randy Yarbrough, "Genetic Testing and Gynecologic Cancers"
- Dr. Kevin Cottingham, "Wound Management Overview"
- Dr. Josiah Dailey, "Emerging Pathogens and Travel Associated Diseases"
- Vivian Watson, RN, CNOR, "Re-energize: Be the Ultimate Professional"

Breakfast will be provided; registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Cost for the symposium is $15 for students with a student ID, $20 for non-licensed CRMC employees, $25 for licensed CRMC employees, $40 for non-CRMC employees and $50 for registration at the door.

Non-CRMC employees can register by calling 256-737-2383.

For more information, contact Kim Rooks, OR Educator, at 256-737-2383 or Wendy Taylor at 256-737-2892.

Professional Office Building II is located on the CRMC campus at 1912 AL Highway 157.

For more information about the hospital, visit crmchospital.com.



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CLARKSON COVERED BRIDGE PARK REOPENS AFTER CHRISTMAS FLOOD

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Clarkson Covered Bridge Park reopened to the public on Jan. 13. The park, built around the historic bridge, was damaged during the 2015 Christmas Day Flood, and while no harm came to the bridge itself, walkways and paths around the park were damaged. The park was closed to the public for repairs that were expected to be take until the end of January.

Instead, repairs went more quickly than expected and the park is now officially reopened to the public.

According to officials with the par, walkways and bridges have been repaired along with the washed-out driveways.

The flood caused quite a bit of damage, but park employees worked hard to get the park back open as soon as possible.

There are still small issues to be addressed, but they do not require the park to be closed.

Cullman County Parks & Rec Marketing Manager Sara Teichmiller and Director Doug Davenport spoke to the details regarding the repairs at the park. "All damage to the park has been repaired," they said. Although the two could not comment on the cost of the repairs because they did not "have the true numbers" at the time, the expense was surely cheaper than replacing the bridge in 1921 after a flood carried it away. But, according to Davenport, this is the worst damage to the park since that 1921 flood.

The park is located at 1240 County Road 1043. For more information, visit facebook.com/ClarksonCoveredBridge or call 256-739-2916.



CONTRIBUTED

Candidates (from Front)

of roads paved each year and will support communities and senior centers.

He will work to complete Hwy. 157 and the St. Bernard four-lane.

He also wants to begin planning for a new judicial building and finish the shooting range to meet standards.

"The Lord has blessed me and my family tremendously," Hicks said.

"Cullman County has provided a lot of opportunities for me and my family. You've heard the old saying, actually paraphrased from St. Luke, 'Much has been given to you, and much is expected in return.' I feel like, even at my age I still have some contribution that I can make to Cullman County."

Last up was Walker. He began by updating everyone on current projects underway throughout the county.

He spoke at length about current road conditions and the various ways to repair and repave roads in the county.

He also explained a few ways he has saved the Commission money during his term.

"When I ran last time, I wanted a 90-day reserve," Walker stated.

"Well, I got some good news today. When I took office in November 2012, we had a 60-day reserve. We got our November sales tax today and I got a report that shows I got a 90-day reserve with a million extra dollars going to the Road Department on the budget in 2016.

"I want to continue to move Cullman County forward. I ask for your prayers, your support and your vote," he added.

"I thought tonight went great," said Diane Brown, CCRW president.

"I really think the citizens need to go out and hear who they are voting for before they vote. You can't just go with a name, you need to hear them and hear what they have to say; compare them with the others. I would also like to encourage people to come out on the second Tuesday of next month and listen to what the school board candidates have to say."

All three candidates lingered and spoke one-on-one with attendees.

The CCRW's next forum, with candidates for the Cullman County School Board, will be on Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at the VFW, located at 112 Veterans Drive SW.

ALS (from Front)

assistance. In the later stages of the disease, the entire body may become paralyzed while the mind and senses remain unaffected.

Most people with ALS die from respiratory failure within 2 - 5 years from the onset of symptoms, but there is one person, right here in Cullman County, who is beating the odds; it has been nearly seven years since his symptoms first began, and he wants to help and encourage others with ALS.

This is Danny's story.

"My name is Danny Harris and I am 67 years old. I live in Crane Hill, and I was diagnosed with ALS on April 28, 2011. I had symptoms for two years prior to that with a long road of doctors, tests and worry. My wife Diane and I traveled 200 miles to Emory Hospital in Atlanta, and that is where I was diagnosed.

"I wake up in the mornings and lie in bed and wonder if I can talk, if I can swallow and is my body going to ache all over. Then I try to talk and find the answer; I can't. Then I wonder what lies ahead for my life because there is no cure, no reverse of damage already done and no one to tell me what is going to happen next.

"I had never heard of ALS before, but I had heard of Lou Gehrig's disease. I knew he was a great baseball player and the disease took his life at age 37. I always tell people I have ALS because I believe everyone needs to know how it affects you and your loved ones.

"I now go to Huntsville to the ALS Clinic at Crestwood Hospital where the doctors and nurses are real good and caring to me. Our ALS Association is very supportive and provides us with the help we need to navigate this disease.

"I do not want your sympathy, because I am in better health than a lot of people. I am here because not enough is being done to find a cure, not enough is being done to help people and there is not enough being done to educate people about this monster of a disease."

According to the Alabama Chapter of the ALS Association's website, their mission is: "leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy while also empowering people with Lou Gehrig's disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support."

The Alabama chapter supports people living with ALS and their loved ones in the entire state of Alabama through services and education.

"When we were diagnosed the doctor did not give us any hope," Diane Harris smiled.

"But she did do something that turned out to be a huge blessing; She gave us a card with information about the ALS Association. I don't believe we could navigate this disease without the ALS Association's help. The staff at the Alabama chapter has become our 'go to' people. They are always there with a smile, support, advice, information and friendship. They are our partner in fighting ALS."

The ALS Association needs help to continue with all the wonderful things they are doing. Danny's family is committed to the cause and are doing all they can to raise awareness, as well as money, for The ALS Association.

Fishing for a Cure 4 ALS, LLC was formed in honor of Danny Harris by his family. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds to find a cure for ALS and support those families affected by this disease.

Their main fundraising project is their annual Bass Tournament which is normally held in April.

Be sure to look for more information about the Bass Tournament in the next few weeks by following the group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FishingforACure4ALS.

According to the ALS Association, every 90 minutes, a person is diagnosed with ALS, and approximately 6,400 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year. ALS occurs in two per 100,000 people, and it is estimated that more than 20,000 Americans may be living with ALS at any given time.

For more information about ALS, visit The ALS Association's website at http://www.alsa.org. To learn more about the ALS Association Alabama Chapter, visit http://alsalabama.org.



PROFILES IN FAITH

JEREMY CROWE, FUTURE YOUTH PASTOR OF CULLMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Cullman Church of Christ will soon have a new youth minister. On Feb. 1, Jeremy Crowe plans to "hit the ground running." Crowe says he already has lots of wonderful things scheduled for the kids at the church and is really looking forward to this new chapter in his life.

Crowe and his wife Jesica have been married for almost five years. The couple has a 2-year-old son named Lincoln. A graduate of Arab High School, Crowe went on to college at Freed-Hardeman University (FHU) in Henderson, Tennessee. While a student at FHU, he majored in Biblical Studies with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. He graduated from FHU in 2007.

"After my freshman year at FHU, I applied for many internship youth ministry positions," he explained. "I started my internship at the Hebron Church of Christ in Joppa, Alabama in May 2004. After the summer ended, the eldership asked me to stay on staff full-time," he smiled. "I continued to work for Hebron throughout the remainder of my college career. In December 2011, I was afforded the opportunity to move to Tullahoma, Tennessee to work with the Church of Christ at Cedar Lane. During my time at Cedar Lane, I have found my deeper calling of outreach to those working through brokenness and poverty."

Crowe says that he never thought he would be a minister.

"I honestly never thought I would become a minister in the church," he chuckled. "Not that I didn't intend to be a part of the church, but it just never occurred to me as something I would want to do. Leading up to my senior year in high school, I had wanted to attend the University of Alabama and eventually go to law school.

"It wasn't until I had the opportunity to work alongside a man who I've grown to greatly respect that I desired to work with teen ministry," he added. "Bobby Thomas, minister at the Eva Church of Christ, was hired on to work with youth ministry at the Arab congregation. Until that point, I had never been substantially involved with a youth group. Through my interactions with Bobby and his family, I came to realize I could have an influence on teens just as Bobby had influenced and supported me."

True to his calling, Crowe says he really loves working with young people. Once in Cullman, he plans to keep the teenagers at Cullman Church of Christ quite busy.

"I intend to hit the ground running at Cullman," he said with a smile. "On the immediate horizon, in February we will be attending a youth conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and in the spring we will be attending the Lads to Leaders convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Lads to Leaders is a program designed to help our children become future leaders and teachers of the church."

Crowe says that some activities this summer may include Decatur Work Camp, Uplift at Harding University and Maywood Christian Camp.

"We will be growing in the word of God by studying together in our Sunday night Connect Groups. We will also seek opportunities to serve others in our community."

Crowe expects some of these opportunities to come through joint efforts with organizations like The Link of Cullman County.

"I would like to steal a tagline from my current work here at Cedar Lane," he continued. "We have a motto: Serve, Grow, Belong. I want Cullman Church of Christ to be a place where we can watch our teens learn to serve the needs of others, grow in their understanding of who God is and what God is at work doing in this world. I want it to be a place where they can belong as a desired and active participant."

Cullman Church of Christ is located at 4345 AL Highway 157. For more information, call 256-734-2172, email churchoffice@cullmanchurchofchrist.org or visit cullmanchurchofchrist.org or facebook.com/cullmanchurchofchrist.



JEREMY CROWE

On Feb. 1, Cullman Church of Christ will have a new youth pastor, Jeremy Crowe. Pictured are Crowe, his wife Jesica and son Lincoln.

CPC Cullman Primary Care
Multi-Specialty Group



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE
CENTER FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT
1800 Ala. Highway 157, Suite 201
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Open Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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√ Facet Joint Injections
√ Kyphoplasty
√ Joint Injections
√ Botox for migraines
√ Spinal Cord Stimulator Trial



CULLMAN PRIMARY CARE WELCOMES
BALJINDER BRAR, M.D., FAAPMR

Dr. Brar began her services at CPC Center for Pain Management in January 2016 after relocating to Cullman.
–
Dr. Brar completed her fellowship training in Interventional Pain Management at Alabama Orthopedic, Spine and Sports Medicine Associates in Birmingham, Al.
–
Dr. Brar received her Doctorate of Medicine in 2002 from Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland.
–
Dr. Brar completed her residency training in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. During her residency, she served as a department representative for both the Committee on Graduate Medical Education and the Committee of Interns and Residents. She interned in general surgery at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons at Harlem Hospital in New York.
–
She is an advocate for continuing education, therefore Dr. Brar dedicates considerable time to learning about advanced pain management techniques and breakthrough therapies. She has also trained in using ultrasound guidance for multiple procedures.

Monday

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com.

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Overeaters Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. For more information, contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

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 meeting at noon each Monday at St. John's Church Christ Hall. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman's Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group meets every Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the old County Board of Education Building (310 Third Ave. SE) Childcare is available. Call 256-775-2600 for more information. Crisis Line: 256-734-6100.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Tuesday

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com.

Board Games at the Library
Each Tuesday the Cullman County Public Library will host a gaming program from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. A variety of board games, cards and dominoes are available for play at the library for teens and adults.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Yoga Classes
The Cullman City Parks and Recreation Senior Spirit Program will offer free yoga classes from 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. for men and women 50 years and older. The classes will be held at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. Fabian Holland will conduct the classes. Participants may use a mat or chair. To register, contact Angie Jochum or Catherine Hasenbein at 256-734-4803. The center is located at Ingle Park at 1621 Cleveland Ave. SW.

Cullman Knifty Knitters
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to 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 are also invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more information at 256-734-2720 ext. 23.

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 7:00 pm each Tuesday night, with admission of only $5 per person. Concessions are available, and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

Special Needs Bowling Night
Individuals with special needs and their families are invited to the Cullman Area Special Needs Bowling Nights, every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Please RSVP before 12 noon the days of the events. The charge is $3 per person. For more information, contact Rhonda at 256-962-2208.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Celebrate Recovery
Meets at Holly Pond Methodist Church on Tuesday nights. Free meal at 6 p.m. Program starts at 6:30 p.m. Two court stamps available. Open to everyone with a Hurt, Habit or Hang-up. 37851 AL Highway 91 in Holly Pond.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Wednesday

January Morning Blend
Cullman County Chamber of Commerce staff will welcome members and visitors to Karma's Coffee House at 103 First Ave. NE each month to discuss the hottest topics in business and share tips, ideas and viewpoints. January's meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 20 from 8 - 9 a.m.

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Kid Konnect
Spirit Life Church of God offers a way for young people to meet at Kid Konnect. The group is for children 12 and younger and meets at 7 p.m. For more information, please call 256-739-3326.

Saint Monica's Group
Saint Monica's Group is for those who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. each week in the Rectory basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. For more information, please contact either Brian at 256-595-5015 or Rita at 256-507-0358.

Wii Bowling at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
Wii Bowling at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starts at 1 p.m. and everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical) and fellowship with friends. Wii Bowling is every Wednesday and Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. The center is located at Ingle Park at 1621 Cleveland Ave. S.W. Call 256- 734-4803 for more information.

Wednesday Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Thursday

FREE Health Screening at CRMC
Do you Know Your Numbers? Cullman Regional Medical Center will be hosting a FREE health screening on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 8 a.m. – noon in the Colonel Cullmann Room in Professional Office Building 2. Come by at your convenience – no appointment needed - and have a FREE health screening. We will be checking your cholesterol, glucose, bone density, blood pressure and body mass index. You will get your results same day. What a great way to start off the New Year... Knowing Your Numbers!

NARCOG's Happy Medicare Birthday Celebration
On Thursday, Jan. 21, NARCOG's State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) will host a Happy Medicare Birthday celebration from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Cullman Commission on Aging at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW. There will be treats, games and lots of great information to help you understand Medicare. Call 256-724-1241 to make reservations to attend. Find out more about NARCOG at www.narcog.org.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. N.E. to learn more.

Overeaters Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. For more information, contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Cullman Senior Center Live Band and Karaoke
The Cullman Senior Center will have a live band or karaoke every Thursday from 8 a.m. - noon. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW

Relay For Life of Cullman County 2016 Kickoff Event
The event is at 5:30 p.m. at Cullman First Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Helen Allen at 256-709-4019 or visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal. Cullman First Baptist Church is located at 501 Second Ave. SW.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Southwest Cullman Historical Society
Meeting at 6 p.m. at Brushy Pond Community Center at 2729 County Road 143 in Bremen. Call Joan at 256-615-9249 for more information.

Information Meeting for Group Trip to Australia
Evelyn Burrow Museum at WSCC at 5:30 p.m. for those interested in learning more about the trip, July 1-12. For more information, call Kristen at 256-352-8118.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Friday

2016 January Community Luncheon – State of the State
State of the State - January Community Luncheon - Cullman's Legislative delegation will give an overview of what's happening in Montgomery. Reservations required! Friday, Jan. 22 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the All Steak Restaurant, 323 Third Ave. SE. Members $15, Future Members $20. Visit http://qrne.ws/2016 to register.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com.

Dulcimers Lessons
Senior Spirit Program now offering lessons at the Donald E. Green Senior Center on Fridays at 1 p.m. Lessons given by Craig Mann. The cost is $10. Call Angie or Catherine at 256-734-4803 for more information. The center is located at Ingle Park at 1621 Cleveland Ave. SW.

Cullman Senior Center Gospel Singing
The Cullman Senior Center will have a Gospel Singing beginning at 9:30 a.m. every Friday. Special guests share devotions at 10:30 a.m. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Wii Bowling at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
Wii Bowling at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starts at 1 p.m. and everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical) and fellowship with friends. Wii Bowling is every Wednesday and Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. The center is located at Ingle Park at 1621 Cleveland Ave. SW. Call 256- 734-4803 for more information.

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7-10 p.m. The cost is $5 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.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Ray Vander Laan Seminar at Cullman Church of Christ
Jan. 22-24 (Jan. 22, 7 - 9 p.m.; Jan. 23, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Jan. 24, 10 a.m.- noon) Seating is limited. Register online: http://rayvanderlaan-seminar-registration.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Kathy at 256-962-0421 or email 0116rvlseminar@gmail.com.

Vinemont Park & Rec Ball Signups
5 - 7 p.m. at the Sports Complex, concessions stand on second floor. Registration fees: T-Ball, ages 4-6, $50; Girls' Softball, ages 7-12, $55; Baseball, ages 7-12, $55. For more information, call 256-737-5411.

Saturday

Saturday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's 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 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Ray Vander Laan Seminar at Cullman Church of Christ
Jan. 22-24 (Jan. 22, 7 - 9 p.m.; Jan. 23, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Jan. 24, 10 a.m.- noon) Seating is limited. Register online: http://rayvanderlaan-seminar-registration.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Kathy at 256-962-0421 or email 0116rvlseminar@gmail.com.

Vinemont Park & Rec Ball Signups
5 - 7 p.m. at the Sports Complex, concessions stand on second floor. Registration fees: T-Ball, ages 4-6, $50; Girls' Softball, ages 7-12, $55; Baseball, ages 7-12, $55. For more information, call 256-737-5411.

Sunday

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

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Announcements

Aluminum Can Donation Drive
The Cullman County Animal Shelter is asking anyone with aluminum cans to please make a donation to their recycling bin, located at 935 Convent Road NE. For more information, please call Candie at 256-734-5448.

First Source for Women
The First Source for Women Center provides free pregnancy tests, pregnancy and abortion and counseling Tuesday- Friday from 9:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. If you need to speak with someone, but are unable to do so during normal hours, you can make an appointment. Please call 1-800-712-HELP.

WSCC Alumni Foundation 2016 Trips
The WSCC Alumni Foundation is planning a number of trips to popular tourist destinations throughout 2016. Please contact LaDonna Allen at 256-352-8071 or ladonna.allen@wallacestate.edu.

Church's New Gathering Place
East Battleground Baptist Church will now be hosting services in a mobile chapel on the home site. Members and visitors will be in this location until the new church is completed.

Church's New Gathering Place
Due to a fire in the Bread of Life Church in Holly Pond, members will now attend services in the old New Life Worship Center building, located at 721 Brooklyn Road in Holly Pond until further notice. Please contact Brenda at 256-507-2650.

Bob's Grief Support Group
On the last Thursday of each month, Bob's Grief Support Group meets at the Chapel at Smith Lake Park. For more information, please call 256-595-7331.

Relay For Life of Cullman County: 2016 Calendar Announcements
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 7, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Survivors' Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wednesday, May 4, Cullman Church of Christ; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life of Cullman County, 6 p.m.-midnight, Friday, May 6, Cullman County Fairgrounds; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal

Senior Trips
Cullman Parks and Recreation is sponsoring two trips for seniors in 2016. Destinations are Orlando, Florida in February and Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico in May. Contact Angie at 256-734-4803 for details.

Project Closet
At Longview Church of God, on the second Wednesday of each month from noon - 6 p.m., the public is welcome to come and shop for clothes at no charge. Donations of clothing are accepted, and shoppers can swap donations for any clothing in the closet. Call 256-734-2566 for more information.

Archery Classes
4-H and J.O.A.D. (Junior Olympic Archery Development) classes are being offered in Hanceville. Call Barbara at 256-339-4787 for more information.

Alabama Career Center
The Alabama Career Center at Wallace State offers assistance if you are looking for a job, need help with your resume or are looking for assistance to go to college. Call 256-352-5538.

Free Online Tutoring
The Cullman County Library is offering students of all ages free one-one-one help live online from professional tutors. Sessions are offered from 3-10 p.m. For more information, visit homeworkalabama.org and click on the K-College Student Centers button. Online tutoring is available Sunday-Thursday. Visit the library's downtown branch at 200 Clark St. NE to learn more.

Cullman Senior Center Creating Cookbook
Cookbook will be created this summer. The center is asking for seniors age 60 and older to submit their favorite recipes. You can also submit a recipe in memory of a loved one. Mail recipes to: Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Please include your name and phone number.

Clothes Closet
Open as needed at Blair Congregational Methodist Church. Contact Myrl Wynn at 256-747-2483 for an appointment.

Food Assistance
Every second Saturday at Harmony Word of Life Church. NEW HOURS: 1 - 3 p.m. Take Highway 157 to Battleground, turn right onto County Road 1212, go half mile to County Road 1204, turn left and drive a half mile. 256-739-2956.

Cullman County Republican Breakfast
Everyone is invited to attend on the first Saturday of each month. Elk's Lodge at 7:30 a.m.

Cullman Senior Center Weekly Programs
Activities, fellowship and a nutritious meal every Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - noon for ages 60 and over. Local homebound meals offered to seniors who qualify. Bingo on Mondays and Wednesdays, live band or karaoke on Thursdays, gospel singing or devotion on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Exercise, computer rooms and library. Center located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW. Call 256-734-0145 for more information.

Special Needs Bowling Nights
Individuals with special needs and their families are invited to the Cullman Area Special Needs bowling nights, every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Please RSVP before 12 noon the days of the events. The charge is $3 per person. For more information, contact Rhonda at 256-962-2208.

Commission on Aging- Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed for community service meal deliveries. Call 256-734-1241 for more information.

Cullman Parks & Rec Community Classes at the Cullman Civic Center
Yoga- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Ballroom, Latin and Swing Dancing - Thursdays, $10 per class; Oil Painting and Acrylics - Mondays from 6:30 - 9 p.m.; Nia Dance Fitness / Ageless Grace - Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Rock Climbing (at Hurricane Creek Park) - Saturdays at 10 a.m., $25, call to register at 256-734-2125; Wilderness Survival Course - Sundays with reservation, call to register at 256-734-2125. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

Pumpkin & Watermelon Meeting for Commercial and Hobby Growers
Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whether you are interested in growing pumpkins & watermelons to sell or want to try your hand at growing giant varieties for fun, everyone is invited to attend. There is no cost to attend this meeting. It will be held at the North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Center, 1714 Tally Ho St., in Cullman. https://www.smore.com/efrc5-pumpkin-watermelon-meeting

Human Trafficking Awareness and Investigation Presentation
This presentation, open to the public, is sponsored by the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, District Attorney Wilson Blaylock, Judge Kim Chaney and Cullman Savings Bank. Guest presenter will be Scott Santoro, senior training advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign. The event will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Daystar Church, 200 Daystar Drive in Cullman.

Little Black Dress Charity Bash 2016
Benefitting the WSCC Alumni Association Outstanding Women Scholarship. Will take place at the Cullman Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 6 - 11:30 p.m. Dinner, dancing to The Flashbacks, door prizes and much more. Tickets on sale now! Visit http://www.wsccalumni.org/lbd2016 for more information.

CP&R Youth Baseball, Softball and T-Ball
Registration starts Jan. 15 at the Cullman Civic Center and ends on Feb. 15. Open to boys and girls ages 4-14. The cost is $90 and includes a hat, jersey and trophy at the end of the season. Volunteer coaches are also needed. Those interested are asked to register at the Civic Center from Jan. 15 – Feb.15 as well. Visit www.cullmanrecreation.org. Call 256-734-9157 for more information.

Ms. Senior Cullman County 2016 Pageant at WSCC
The new Ms. Senior Cullman County will be crowned on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Wallace State Community College. The annual pageant, sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA), will be at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater from 2 - 4 p.m. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, Jan. 19. Contestants can register at the COA office at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. Contestants must be age 60 or older.

CRMC Surgical Symposium- 'Sewing' the Seeds of Knowledge
Cullman Regional Medical Center will host a Surgical Symposium, ""Sewing' the Seeds of Knowledge," on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. - noon in the Colonel Cullmann Room of Professional Office Building II. Breakfast will be provided; registration and breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Cost for the symposium is $15 for students with a student ID, $20 for non-licensed CRMC employees, $25 for licensed CRMC employees, $40 for non-CRMC employees and $50 for registration at the door. Non-CRMC employees can register by calling 256-737-2383. For more information, contact Kim Rooks, OR Educator, at 256-737-2383 or Wendy Taylor at 256-737-2892.

Natural Disaster Awareness Training
On Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. - noon, the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will host Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders at its facility at 2020 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman. While the four-hour course is free, registration is required. For more information, visit http://www.cullmanema.org or call 256-739-5410.

Red Door Coat Project
The Red Door Art Cafe's "Warm Coats for Neighbors" Project is to collect donations of new or like-new coats you may have outgrown, or are a wee bit out of style, for those in need. Drop them off at The Red Door Art Cafe, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Located at 324 Fourth Ave. SE in Cullman.

American Red Cross in Need of Volunteers
Disaster Action Team, call 256-734-0921 or visit redcross.org/Alabama for more information.

Pilot Light Home Collecting Used Cell Phones
Deposit sites: Cullman Museum, BCA, Hospital Discount Pharmacy, Central Communications, Paradise Cellular, First Baptist Church, St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church and The Shopper's Guide.

Baby Bottle Blast
Project to benefit substance-exposed newborns. Purchase baby bottles, fill them with change and turn them in. Benefits The King's Cradle. For more information, call 1-888-722-2426.

Become a Volunteer
Be a court-appointed advocate for a child who has been abused and/or neglected. For more information, contact Cullman Caring for Kids at 256-739-1111 or email cullmancountycasa@msn.com.

Free GED Classes
Sponsored by Wallace State Community College Adult Education Program. Call 256-352-8077 or 1-866-352-WSCC for more information.

Hanceville First United Methodist Church
Will pick up anyone living between Cullman and Hanceville who wishes to attend worship services at Hanceville First United Methodist Church. Contact Tonia at 256-531-3083.

Medical Arts Apothecary
Living Well Natural Store
124 7th Street, S.W.
256-734-4933
"Serving Cullman Families for over 50 Years!"
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Living Well natural store
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CONTRIBUTED

A CELEBRATION OF AGE AND ELEGANCE

New Ms. Senior Cullman County to be Crowned Feb. 13

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE - The new Ms. Senior Cullman County will be crowned on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Wallace State Community College (WSCC). The annual pageant, sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA), will be at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theater from 2 - 4 p.m. Ms. Senior Cullman County 2015, Vicki Rhodes Pendergrass, will bestow the honor upon this year's winner.

As of Friday afternoon, 11 contestants have registered. The deadline to enter is next Tuesday, Jan. 19. Contestants can register at the COA office at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman.

"There are a few qualifications one must meet to register," said Angie Carter, COA representative and pageant director.

"You have to be 60-years-old or older. You must currently live in Cullman, and you have to have lived here in Cullman for at least three months. Oh, and you have to be female."

Carter said that this event is important for the community's senior citizens because it celebrates them at their most elegant.

"It is the age of elegance for these ladies," she said. "It is a great way to celebrate them."

Ms. Senior Cullman County is eligible to participate in the Ms. Senior Alabama pageant later in the year, with the winner of the Alabama crown going on to represent the state at the Ms. Senior America event in Atlantic City, Jersey in the fall.

"Most of the ladies just compete for the title. You can only try three times, and I think this year we have two ladies who will be each trying to win for their third time," Carter said.

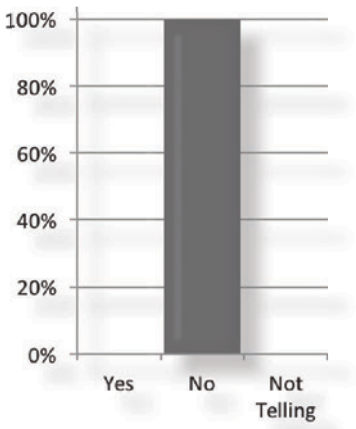
Along with the title and crown comes a cash prize for an undisclosed amount, which goes to the winner and the alternates.

"The ladies always have a good time and make new friends," Carter said.

The COA has several senior centers throughout the county. There are daily activities and the centers provide lunch on weekdays to everyone in attendance. Meals can also be delivered to homebound seniors. Visit http://www.cullmancoa.com to learn more, or call 256-734-1241.

Poll

Have you purchased a firearm in the past 30 days?



This Week's Poll

Have you had car trouble due to the cold weather?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

HAVE AN OPINION ON ONE OF OUR STORIES?

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

E-mail your submission to opinion@cullmansense.com

Follow us on Twitter @CullmanSense

Interchange (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE - The long-awaited opening of Good Hope's new I-65 interchange at County Road 222, a $10-million-dollar project, will take place on Friday, Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will open the new exit, number 305, to traffic after a ribbon-cutting ceremony sponsored by the City of Cullman, the City of Good Hope, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and the Cullman County Commission.

County residents have waited more than 10 years for the new exit, which is expected to ease traffic congestion and encourage economic development in the area, including restaurants and stores.

Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope, said, "I am proud to announce that the new interchange at I-65 and County Road 222 is scheduled to open sometime on Jan.22. I can't take credit for this project, but I'm proud to be a part of it. I would like to thank all of the people that worked so hard over the past 15 or so years to get to this day! I think that this will be an asset for Cullman County and open many doors for business and job growth."

The interchange has other benefits as well.

Assistant Chief of the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, Maurice Reynolds, said, "This will be a tremendous help for our department as we will no longer have to go all the way to Good Hope to turn around to catch calls south of U.S. 278, but on the northbound side of the interstate."

Reynolds says that Bethsadia's Station One is only a couple of miles from the new exit, meaning the response times from that location could be cut in half.

"Last night (Tuesday), we responded to a wreck on I-65, and it took us 10-15 minutes to get there. With this new interchange, we could make that in 5-7 minutes," he said.

Dale Greer, assistant director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency, said that the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, the City of Good Hope and the City of Cullman all partnered on the community match, which was $2 million dollars.

"When community leaders work together and have the support of the local legislative delegation, there is greater potential for the state to invest dollars in infrastructure projects like the new interchange at County Road 222. I am convinced our partnership made this interchange a reality," said Greer.

Harbison added, "I think it will open up the door for a lot more commercial property. It will help with access to Smith Lake. I think it will help relieve some of the traffic congestion at the 304 (exit). I am proud to be a part of this. I don't think any one person deserves credit, but rather a lot of people over the years."

Exhibit (from Front)

tive from WSCC. "The Burrow Museum is regularly open Tuesday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 am.-2 pm. We hope you'll visit this amazing exhibition!"

Cummings' reason for having the event, and the collection itself, is his late wife, Charlotte.

The Cummings family owned Cummings Sporting Goods in Cullman for many years, and Charlotte Cummings began setting aside some pairs of sneakers back in 1985 - sneakers that were the newest from Nike, the same kind of sneakers that a certain NBA rookie named Michael Jordan was wearing on the basketball court.

After 31 years, Robin Cummings has grown the collection to 536 pairs of shoes, 450 of which will be on display starting this Sunday.

The collection features specially-made display cases, customized for this specific collection. Along with the sneakers, there will be enough paraphernalia to make a sports fan's jaw drop.

Items include Michael Jordan game-assigned jersey and shorts and vintage Nike promotional posters and displays, including the legendary Moses Malone poster. Also included are a bat that Jordan used when he played for the Birmingham Barons, Bo Jackson and Charles Barkley gear and much more.

The event may receive national attention because of the rarity of items the collection boasts.

The Evelyn Burrow Museum is located on the campus of WSCC at 801 Main St. NW in Hanceville. For more information, call 256-352-8457.



PREMIER PRODUCTIONS

Premier Productions is the largest producer of Christian concert events in the nation.

CONCERT PROMOTER PREMIER PRODUCTIONS RANKED 16TH WORLDWIDE

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - Concert promoter Premier Productions, co-owned by Cullman's Shane Quick, was recently ranked 16th on Pollstar's list of Top 100 Promoters of 2015, based on worldwide ticket sales. The company ranked seventh in the United States.

"To be mentioned in the same breath as Live Nation, AEG and Madison Square Garden is very humbling and exciting all at the same time," said Shane Quick.

"We've built a team that has continued to innovate and grow for 10 plus years, even through one of the worst recessions in our nation's history. To grow such a team in my hometown of Cullman, Alabama is something that I'm most proud of."

Although the top two promoters sold significantly more than the rest, it is a massive accomplishment to be on the same list as Madison Square Garden, the "World's Most Famous Arena," and AEG, a company that promotes the likes of Carrie Underwood, Kanye West and George Strait (maybe the only time George Strait's name is mentioned alongside Yeezy's).

"Knowing that over a million people worldwide went through our office here in Cullman is something that's hard to fathom. Especially when you consider only 18 people in the world sold a million tickets in 2015," Quick said.

Premier Productions was started in 1996. Since then, according to Quick, the company has enjoyed steady growth and growing success due to the approach that Premier takes to concert promotion.

"Premier Productions' innovative approach of exclusively handling all dates and performances for the artists we work with is a major reason for our growth and effectiveness. It allows us to have more of a holistic approach and focus for the artist," said Quick.

However, the homegrown company has seen its fair share of difficulties in the past 17 years, mostly, according to Quick, as a byproduct of its successes.

"It's been about managing the growing pains. Making sure our work load matches our staff and time," he said.

"We are very driven at Premier. We always have new ideas and opportunities."

Quick says he would be in this line of work even if he couldn't make money doing it.

"Promoting is something that I would do even if I couldn't make a living doing it. And I know that I was created to do this work. One of the things that excites me the most is to create things that don't exist. To provide things that people don't even know they want yet. To see the need and fill it."

Premier Productions is the largest producer of Christian concert events in the nation and the co-founder of the Christian music's largest annual tour, the Winter Jam Tour Spectacular.

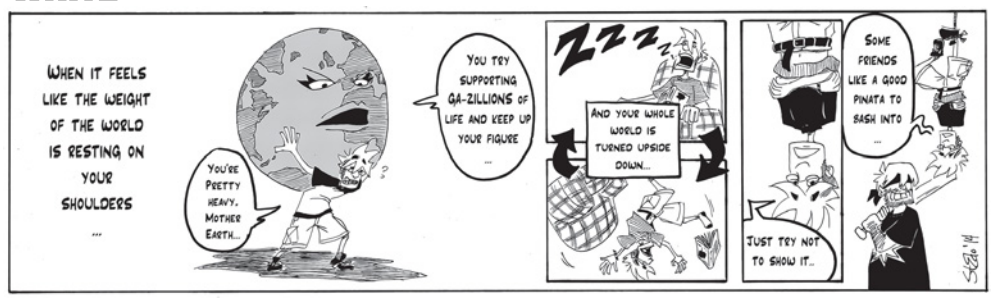
Some of Premier's promoted artists include: TobyMac, Skillet, Casting Crowns, Hillsong Live, Hillsong UNITED, Bill Gaither & Friends Homecoming, Jesus Culture, Lecrae, Kari Jobe and Matthew West.

Quick is also the co-founder of Cullman's Rock the South music festival, along with country artist Sara Evans and her husband, former University of Alabama quarterback, Jay Barker.

For more information, visit premierproductions.com.

COMICS

WHITE & BLACK • "Piñata" • st.edo@cullmansense.com



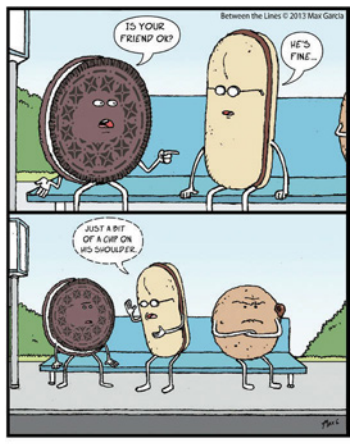
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OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 11 - 17

SPONSORED BY CULLMAN FUNERAL HOME

George Melvin Schaefers, Sr.
Freeman Bennett
Jeffery Lee Moehring
Dustin Lopez
Rosa Zamora Moon
Joseph Edward Tucker
James William McDowell
Dorothy Irene Boone
Martha Louise Woodard
Tillman Henry Stewart
Roy L. Briscoe
Dennis Edward Harding
Greg "Gopher" Sandlin
Clyde "Bud" Linton
Nellie Lorene Huffman

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Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanSense.com/obituaries.

Human Trafficking Awareness and Investigation

CULLMAN COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
AWARENESS EDUCATION ACTION

Presenter: Scott Santoro

Scott provides training for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He is the senior training advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.

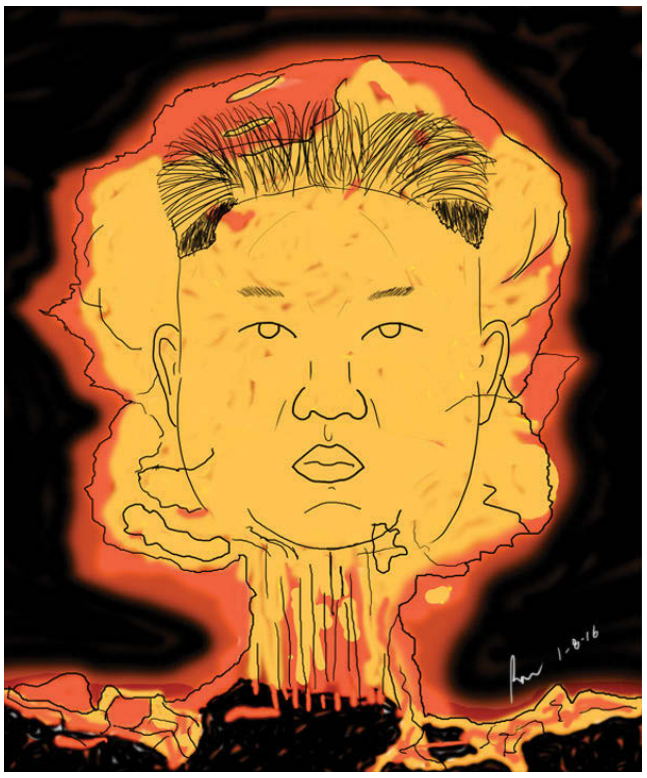
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: Daystar Church
200 Daystar Drive Cullman, AL 35057

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by: Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, District Attorney Wilson Blaylock, Judge Kim Chaney & Cullman Savings Bank

EDITORIAL CARTOONS





theinsolentlemon.blogspot.com

OPINION

ANOTHER LOOK AT BUILDING 7

Winslow Myers
PeaceVoice

The shock of President Kennedy's assassination back in 1963 on my impressionable 21-year-old mind led me to the usual articles, fictional films, and documentaries about who did it and why. Did Oswald act alone? Was there something on the grassy knoll? More than 50 years later, definitive answers are as elusive as ever. Then in 1968 we lost both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy. Again, conspiracy theories became legion, but nothing has ever been nailed down.

John Kennedy's mysterious death began decades of mistrust between citizens and government, intensified by evasions and outright lies on the part of many subsequent U.S. administrations—Johnson with the Gulf of Tonkin fabrication, Nixon with Watergate lies, the Pentagon Papers, the lies that led us to invade Iraq in 2003, to the realization that a gigantic secret bureaucracy is trawling who we email and telephone.

Our leaders often urge us to become civically engaged beyond mere voting, as Obama did in his latest State of the Union address. But there has been a divisive tension between a presumed need for secrecy and an informed citizenry—a tension that encourages conspiracy theory at its most paranoid.

A further grave wound to our civil cohesion came on September 11, 2001. The dust had barely settled before the conspiracy theorists were once again hard at work. Such theories, considered farfetched by most Americans, gained some traction by way of the Bush administration's perverse response to 9/11. While 15 of the conspirators who brought down the twin towers were Saudi, George W. Bush and colleagues began to beat the drums for an invasion of—Iraq.

Like millions around the world, I could see no connection to 9/11 and no good reasons for war. Aluminum tubes? Uranium in Niger? Weapons of mass destruction? Saddam was bin Laden's buddy? The evidence seemed flimsy. But the U.S. attacked anyway, cobbling together a "coalition of the willing" to employ "shock and awe." The result was the greatest foreign policy disaster in our country's history. The Iraqis didn't greet us as liberators. There were no weapons of mass destruction. Every rationale the cocksure Bush administration gave for the invasion has been proven bogus. And the blowback, all the way forward to the contemporary rise of ISIS, is still unfolding.

Though it was obvious that what Bush and Cheney told us about Iraq wasn't true, when the 9/11 Commission Report was published in 2004, I registered the gravitas of the Commission members and accepted their findings. However, at the urging of a friend in the construction business, I recently watched the 15 minute film narrated by Ed Asner, about one huge loose end in the events of 9/11: the collapse of World Trade Center Building No. 7.

Leaving conspiracy aside, the hard facts are very troubling. Everyone remembers the horror of the twin towers collapsing on the morning of 9/11 shortly after being struck by two hijacked planes. But a third skyscraper, Building 7, collapsed at 5:20 that afternoon. The impact of the two jet airplanes and the large quantities of burning fuel were given as the reason for the fall of the twin towers, but there was no airplane or jet fuel involved in Building 7's collapse. Strangely enough, the 9/11 Commission Report published in 2004 didn't even mention Building 7. A 47-story building collapsed straight down into its own footprint for no apparent reason, and there wasn't a word about it in the initial 9/11 official story.

Finally, after loud protests, the government produced a lengthy report in 2008 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that claimed office fires were responsible for the collapse of Building 7. The 2,000 architects and engineers of AE9/11Truth, however, don't buy the NIST explanation. In the Asner film, some of these experts in their respective fields present credible explanations in the areas of structural steel, demolition, fire fighting, fire protection, metallurgy and explosives. Their evidence is overwhelming that the building came down in a controlled demolition.

As someone who would prefer to avoid conspiracy theory, I find it congenial to stay with the established scientific facts. I'd like to see experts on opposing sides of the issue go toe-to-toe and argue openly about who is right. The issues are based in established principles of science and engineering. It shouldn't be that hard to determine the truth.

Pondering the implications of the collapse of Building 7 ought to remain a separate step altogether, avoiding the temptation to wonder about inside jobs, Al Qaeda, and all the other suspicions native to our experience of deception from whatever quarter. But if a further step leads downward into that darkness, it will be easier to face it armed with the truth about how the collapse actually occurred. Kudos to those persistent architects and engineers calling for a new independent investigation of what happened to World Trade Center Building No. 7.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Tell us what we're doing right and how we can do better.

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POWER IN THE WORD: THE GOSPEL THAT WORKS!

2016: "THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S RELEASE"

Dr. Henry W. Roberts II
Contributor

Deuteronomy 15:1-6
15 At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release.
2 And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the Lord's release.
3 Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again: but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release;
4 Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it:
5 Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day.
6 For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee.

As the New Year 2016 begins, I would like to encourage you that things are about to be turned in the favor of the believer. Some people have a problem with numbers, but they are very significant to us and God. Numbers are so important to God until He has dedicated a whole book to them called the Book of Numbers.

Just to site a few examples, in the Book of Genesis, God does something different on each day and by the time we get to the sixth day, God creates man, so six is the number of mankind. On the next day, which is listed as the seventh day, God rested from all His labors so seven is noted as the day of completion. However, the eighth day, things started all over again. Eight is the number of new beginnings. 2014 was seven twice. Seven plus seven is 14 (fourteen), and 2015 is a combination of seven plus eight, so for some it seemed as if you were in a holding pattern.

It was a time of stabilization and balance; not too much changed for you in 2015. You didn't go under, but you didn't get to receive all you were expecting in 2015. God was trying to allow you to rest in Him, meaning building your confidence in His ability to take care of you.

Now you have made it to the end of the year, and there were always times you didn't think you were going to make it, but nonetheless you are here. It is time for you to take in a deep breath and exhale, because 2016 will be one of the best years of your life. You may say, "Why do you think that, Dr. Roberts?" It is because I believe God. And at the end of every seven years, God sends a release. Yes, the world is going to get darker and darker, but on the other hand, the people of God are going to get brighter and brighter.

In 2016, there will be times of supernatural debt cancellation, a restoration of things the enemy stripped from you will be restored with increase, family members will be set free from mental, spiritual, physical and natural bondages, weights will fall off in the spirit as well as the natural, new homes, businesses, even old relationships will have a freshness restored, and then all people will be seeking God and a refreshing and renewal of spiritual commitment to God will be restituted. For those believers (saints, Christians) who have been faithfully serving, tithing, giving of their time, talent and treasures, they will walk in a season of great reward and manifestation of the goodness of God.

In verse 6, it states that the Lord God will bless you as He has "promised thee." 2016 is the year of the fulfillment of His promise. Prepare your heart to walk in your Season of Jubilee. Have a blessed, safe and prosperous New Year!

In His Service,
Dr. Henry W. Roberts II
Founding Pastor
Word of Life Community Church

For teaching materials, please call 251-456-2652, or write to us at Power in the Word Publishing, 351 South Craft Highway, Chickasaw, AL 36611.

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FAIRVIEW HIGH CLASS OF 1963 CELEBRATES 53 YEARS OF LIFE SINCE GRADUATION

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Members of Fairview's Class of 1963 reminisced about the good ole days during their 53rd high school reunion Saturday night.

PHOTOS BY SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMANSENSE

CULLMAN – On Saturday, Jan. 16, members of Fairview High School's class of 1963 held their 53rd reunion. The group met at Ryan's restaurant in Cullman and filled it with conversation, laughter and lots of wonderful memories. There were 81 students who graduated from FHS all those years ago, but sadly, 23 of those members have passed away. The remaining classmates took a moment of silence at the beginning of the evening to remember their friends who could not be with them.

Life was a lot different in 1963 than it is now. The room was filled with big smiles as people sat together, sharing a meal and reminiscing about the good ole days.

"1963 was a wonderful time to be in school; there was a whole different value system back then," said Class Vice President, Gary Reid. "The Vietnam War was going on then; beyond that we grew up in a time where most people could realize the American dream. We all wanted to aspire. We were a good bunch of kids and had some wonderful teachers and administrators. It was good times.

"I taught school for 31 years," he continued. "I started in 1967; I was four years out of high school. The kids back then was (sic) a lot like my generation, they were raised to respect authority. It's a whole different thing now."

Football was really different in 1963, especially in the county schools!

"I tell you what, our class played the meanest two-hand touch football ever played," said Charles Kenneth Bowen. "Kids nowadays, with their pads, we would have sent them home to momma crying. We could have played them in their pads and would have whooped them," he chuckled.

"We graduated before football went to the county schools. We played two-hand touch football and had tackle rules. We worked hard, long hours and we played rough. Kids nowadays, they are just not tough anymore."

The Vietnam War touched the FHS class of 1963 personally.

"We had our groups we ran with," Bowen added.

"Our class was hit hard with the draft for Vietnam. We lost two guys in Vietnam from our class. One of the guys quit school and joined the Army. He was killed in 'Nam. He was like a brother to me."

> **"I tell you what, our class played the meanest two-hand touch football ever played. Kids nowadays, with their pads, we would have sent them home to momma crying."**
>
> - Charles Kenneth Bowen

The bonds of friendship were formed way before senior year, and those same bonds are still holding strong.

"For nine years, several of us went to school at Baileyton and had to go to Fairview for 10th, 11th and 12th grades," said Melba (Stidham) Clark.

"When I first went to Fairview in 10th grade, I thought it was such a big school and I was so nervous at first," she giggled.

"I found out a lot of people had come from Welti and we all became friends. It was enjoyable. Our class was one of those that everybody just fit right together, like family," she smiled.

Visiting with old friends is always fun. Luckily the class of '63 has a chance to get together on a monthly basis.

"Our class meets here at Ryan's on the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m.," said Joyce (Williams) Rodgers.

"We usually have a pretty good crowd. It's a great way to keep up with each other and maintain contact. We meet every month except for November and December because of the holidays and bad weather. Everyone from the Fairview Class of 1963 is welcome to come," she grinned.

At the end of the evening, the classmates posed for pictures before they said their goodbyes, with everyone vowing to see each other again "real soon."

To find out what's going on at Fairview High School now, visit http://qrne.ws/fhs.



