

Panola People

THE PANOLIAN / BATESVILLE, MS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009 B1

Taylor Made

By Taylor Ivy



Valentine cards assure reader of happy ending

My wish was granted! How gorgeous was last weekend? I mean, wow. Right after I wrote that column, the skies opened up and the temperatures thawed everyone's frozen frowns. Sunshine makes everything seem better. Hopefully some hearts will be thawing as well this weekend, with the upcoming holiday.

I've always been a fan of Valentine's Day, whether I had a special someone or not. Actually, in the past, I have been a party to "Singles Awareness Day," as it is referred to on many girls' whiteboards on the 6th floor of Martin (truly strange, considering how many gorgeous girls live on my floor... Stockard guys are slacking).

However, I think that no one should be bitter on Valentine's Day. And I think everyone should go see "He's Just Not That Into You." It sounds like it would be a movie that made you hate your life (the reason that one of my friends said she planned to pass on that cinematic experience), but it's actually the opposite.

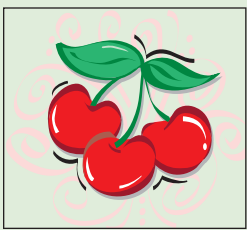
Also, everyone should read the book. I have had the book for a while and it is in my pile of treasured favorites, so I have been anxiously awaiting this movie for months. It wasn't like Harry Potter, where they loosely follow the plot of the book (I despise the Harry Potter movies). It was truly a good movie. Especially if you are like me, and only believe in happy endings.

By the way, another favorite book of mine is coming out on Valentine's Day - Confessions of a Shopaholic. I'm anxious to see if that one will meet expectations as well as He's Just Not That Into You, which far surpassed my expectations actually. I am so excited about all these happy ending chick flicks.

Anyway, back to Valentine's Day. Personally, I wait all year for the time when they put the Valentine's cards out. There is no greater amusement for me in January (an otherwise boring month) than to read the Valentine's cards. I wander off in Wal-Mart, in Walgreen's, in Target, to get my fix. You can't go wrong with Valentine's cards! No matter what the category, you get a happy ending. There are generally 5 categories of cards: funny/stupid, funny/racy, funny/sweet,

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Recipe of the week



Cherry-Yogurt Parfaits

from Pamela Redwine,
Miss. State University Extension Service,
Yalobusha County

- 2 teaspoon stick margarine
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans
- 8 vanilla wafers, coarsely crushed
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (20-ounce) can light cherry pie filling, chilled
- 1 tablespoon brandy (optional)
- 2 (16-ounce) cartons vanilla low-fat yogurt
- Fresh cherries with stems, frozen (optional)

Melt margarine over low heat in a small non-stick skillet. Add pecans; sauté 3 minutes or until toasted. Remove from heat; stir in cookie crumbs and cinnamon.

Combine pie filling and, if desired, brandy; stir well. Spoon 2 tablespoons pie filling mixture into each of 8 parfait glasses; top each with ¼ cup yogurt and 1 ½ teaspoons cookie mixture. Repeat layers; garnish with frozen cherries, if desired.

Serve immediately. Yield: 8 servings.



Marie Leland accepts a check for the Panola Food Pantry from the Panola County Community Foundation at the PCCF's meeting Tuesday night. William Pride, president of the foundation, presents the donation. Leland serves as director of the food pantry, which is located on the Batesville Square and open on Tuesday mornings to supply food for local families in need.

The Panolian photo by Rupert Howell



New community organization distributes funds to feed the needy in Panola County

By Rupert Howell

Explaining how a permanent endowment works while trying to collect money to fund it may be the most difficult task board members of the fledgling Panola County Community Foundation have come across.

That foundation was created during the past year with a mission to improve quality of life in Panola for the long term with an emphasis on health, education and general well being of the community called Panola County, Mississippi.

This week the board of directors made a small but significant step by presenting the Panola Food Pantry with the first check. That money came from an endowment fund that the foundation will build upon and use a reasonable percentage for community causes while allowing the endowment to grow.

Current board members include: William Pride, Michael Dunlap, Dr. Katie Bearden, Don Brummett, Mona Pittman, John Rigdon, Sonny Simmons, Rupert Howell and Joe Azar, all of Batesville, and Sledge Taylor, Meg Bartlett, Karen Ott Mayer, all of Como and Jimmy McClure of Sardis.

Tom Pittman of Hernando serves as the Community Foundation of North Mississippi's (CFNM) CEO. He told the directors of the Panola Foundation Tuesday night that their endowment fund for the



Panola County Community Foundation board members shown are (from left) William Pride, Katie Bearden, Karen Ott Mayer, Michael Dunlap and Jimmy McClure.

The Panolian photo by Rupert Howell

first year was greater than his foundation's for its first year. That foundation now has \$5.8 million and gave away grants and services of over \$1.4 million last year to approximately 150 non-profit organizations throughout northwest Mississippi, including Panola.

The local foundation is considered a partner to the Northwest Mississippi foundation and has an advantage of having a 25 percent match each year for every \$100,000 of endowment money raised.

Local foundation president William Pride

has been responsible for getting the organization off the ground and raising most of over \$20,000 in funds from local businesses and individuals.

Pride felt a need to give back to the community while he was serving on the CFNM's advisory board. He was later voted to the board of directors of that organization, a spot formerly held by his father and former Panola County legislator, the late Leonard Morris.

The Panola organization is currently focusing on development and fund-raising while attempting

to make local residents, lawyers and accountants aware of possibilities and opportunities that exist through the foundation.

Board members anticipate current giving funds for immediate needs, scholarship funds and designated giving funds for those wishing to direct donations to a particular area. The foundation may also be used as a conduit for grants through its parent organization CFNM.

(Anyone interested may contact any of the aforementioned board members for more information.)