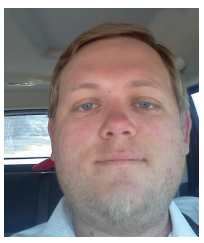
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# Twelve Games, Seven Teams, Five Days, One Goal

By: Josh McBrayer
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qrnews/jmcbrayer



*Photos by Josh McBrayer*

*The Vinemont Eagles pose for a quick picture following their victory at home in the 2012 Cullman County Baseball Tournament.*

VINEMONT- With around six weeks of regular season baseball left to play, the teams of Cullman County suited up to play a double elimination tournament to crown the best team in the county.

They were seeded using their records from last year as follows: Vinemont, West Point, Good Hope, Holly Pond, Fairview, Hanceville, and Cold Springs. Monday and Tuesday featured three match-ups each day. Two games were played per day on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Winners advanced through the top of the bracket while the losing teams had to fight to stay alive during every game that they played. The team that won the losers bracket had to play a doubleheader on the final day.

They had to win the losers bracket then play the team that won the winners bracket to try and force a winner take all final game. Here is the comprehensive coverage from the week brought to you first-hand by CullmanSense.

**Day One**

**Game One: Holly Pond vs. Fairview**

Both teams struggled to put the ball in play and scored runs early in the contest. Holly Pond had a man on third with no outs, but struck out with three consecutive batters in the second inning. Fairview had the bases loaded in the bottom of the same inning, but a come-backer to the pitcher put a lid on their best scoring opportunity early in the early innings.

Holly Pond struck first in the top of the fourth on a strong double to left scoring Jacob Cahoon after he reached on a single and advanced to second on a throwing error. This prompted a pitching change by the Fairview head coach to lift Joey Turnage for Justin Earwood. Holly Pond took advantage of the change by pulling off a rare double steal on the first pitch by.

Tarrent White then drew a walk to load the bases. Jared Hyde was forced out at home for the first out of the fourth. Nathan Duke then hit a sacrifice fly to score Mitchel Naler. White scored a couple of pitches later thanks to a wild pitch that went all the way to the backstop. Fairview hung tough and induced a ground ball to get out of a jam, trailing by only three.

The Aggies, not to be outdone, quickly loaded the bases on walk that were sandwiched between a pair of singles then used their outs effectively with Bryant Powers scoring on a sacrifice by Cody Edge and Austin Yearwood scoring on a sacrifice by Jake Chandler. Fairview closed the gap and headed to the top of the fifth trailing 3-2.

Fairview changed pitchers for the third time in less than two innings bringing in Bryant Powers to start the fifth. This seemed to be the answer as he set down the Broncos in order with two ground outs and a strike-out. Holly Pond pitcher Hunter Townsen kept the Aggies off the board as the game, after a fourth inning flurry of offense exhibited by both teams, shifted back into a pitching duel.

**See Page 2**





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# From the Front

Holly Pond clung to their one run lead, needing just three outs to close out the game, but Fairview had different ideas as a single and an errant throw quickly tied the ballgame and Fairview had the bases loaded with no outs. Holly Pond fought hard by striking out the next two batters and looked to send the game to extra innings. Fairview showed a great eye and discipline at the plate drawing a walk-off base on balls. Coming from behind and winning 4-3.

**Statistics**
**Fairview** 4 runs - 6 hits - 1 error - 12 men left on base
Luke Baliey 2-3, run scored
Jesse Cummings 1-3, walk
Bryant Powers 1-3, 2 K's, run scored
Joey Turnage 2-3, K

**Holly Pond** 3 runs-4 hits-1 error-6 men left on base
Hunter Townsen 2-3, stolen base
Jacob Cahoon 2-3 stolen base, run scored
Jared Hyde 1-3, 2B, 2K's, RBI

**Game Two: Hanceville Bulldogs vs. Good Hope Raiders**
The Raiders came out laying the lumber, or in this case aluminum, to the ball by plating two runs in the first by the way of a Madison Goodwin triple that scored Ty Randolph who had doubled to lead off the game. Goodwin later scored on a single by Nathan Doss.

The Hanceville Bulldogs went to work at the plate in the top of the third, braking into the run column to the tune of four runs on just a single hit, but that hit was a triple by Broc Malcom that scored one. Hayden Loggins and Isaac Hardin also grabbed RBI's in the inning. Good Hope was able to get one run back in the bottom half of the inning on a sacrifice by Miles O'Berry. Hanceville went back on the attack in the top of the fourth by scoring three more runs with the benefit of just one hit, but took advantage of three walks, a wild pitch, and scoring another on a perfectly executed squeeze play to take an 8-3 lead which would have been even larger if not for a diving catch made by CJ Ridgeway of Good Hope on a sinking line drive in left field.

A lead-off home run over the left field fence by Adam Billiott and back-to-back singles by Doss and Ridgeway forced a pitching change from Hanceville swapping Hayden Loggins for Austin Coker who just swapped positions at shortstop. An error by Loggins at his new position loaded the bases and JJ Williams would draw the bases loaded walk to start a seven run rally and re-energize the Good Hope Raiders giving them their first lead of the night 11-8.

Just like a seesaw, the momentum found its way back to the Bulldog dugout as they scored two more runs on a single and a balk. Good Hope answered in the bottom of the inning by scoring one which made the score 12-10 and put Hanceville within striking distance of going into the top of the seventh and final inning.

Colby Smith was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and Hanceville looked to capitalize, but was unable to as Smith was caught trying to steal second and Good Hope completed the comeback by getting the last two batters and winning 12-10.

**Statistics**
**Good Hope** 12 runs - 8 hits - 3 errors - 6 men left on base
Adam Billiot 2-3, 2B, HR, 3 RBI, 3 runs scored
Nathan Doss 3-4, RBI, run scored

**Hanceville** 10 runs - 8 hits - 2 errors - 6 men left on base
Broc Malcom 2-4, 3B, RBI, 2 runs scored
Christian James 2-4, K




**Game Three: West Point Warriors vs. Cold Springs Eagles**
West Point came out of the dugout Monday night thinking one thing, dominance, and they succeeded in that mission defeating Cold Springs 15-0 in five innings and holding them to a single hit that did not come until the final inning. The Warriors scored early and often scoring five runs on four hits while sending all nine men to the plate with Waters knocking in two of the five runs. Four more runs came in the second with Suits having a two-run single. Suits tallied two more RBI's in the fifth with another single.

**Statistics**
**West Point** 15 runs-9 hits- 0 errors-6 men left on base
Tate Duckett 1-1, HBP, walk, stolen base, 3 runs scored
Bryant Quattlebaum 2-2, 2 walks, RBI, 4 runs scored
Wesley Waters 3-4 2B, K, 3 RBI, 3 runs
Micha Suits 3-4, 2B, 5 RBI, run scored

**Cold Springs** 0 runs-1 hit-0 errors-2 men left on base
Zac Ellison 1-2, 2B

**Day Two**

**Game Four: Vinemont Eagles vs. Fairview Aggies**
Tyler Morgan of Vinemont tossed a gem Tuesday afternoon at the Mike Cupp Field in Vinemont. He pitched six innings of hit-less, shutout ball while striking out nine and allowing only two base runners via a walk and a throwing error by his third baseman. He was lifted at the start of the seventh inning for closer Josh Terry who gave up three hits including a RBI single to Justin Earwood, but then shut the door to preserve the win for Morgan and Vinemont to move them one step closer to the Cullman County title.

"(Tyler) Morgan is a bulldog for us," said Vinemont head coach Chad Shannon. "This is the fifth or sixth time out of nine games we have taken a no-hitter into the sixth inning. We should pitch well; we are senior laden on the mound." As dominate as Morgan was on the hill for the Eagles, Vinemont was equally as impressive at the plate scoring seven runs on six hits while committing just the one error. They started the offensive onslaught in the second inning with an RBI single by Ty Jones followed by a 2 RBI double by Chase Woods. Woods would score later in the inning on a wild pitch. This would prove to be all they needed to win, but they added three more insurance runs in the fifth on only one hit, but taking advantage of two throwing errors, a wild pitch, and a passed ball. The lone RBI went to KC Hopper on a sacrifice that scored Ty Jones who got on base by the way of a single.

**Statistics**
Vinemont 7 runs - 6 hits - 1 error - 6 **men left o**n base
Josh Terry 1-4, RBI
Ty Jones 2-3, K, 2 runs scored
KC Hopper 1-1, 2 sacrifice, RBI
Chase Woods 2-3, K, 2 RBI, run scored

**Fairview** 1 run - 3 hits - 2 errors - 4 men left on base
Duffy 1-1
Justin Earwood 1-2, K, RBI

**Game Five: West Point vs. Good Hope**
The Warriors from West Point went looking to scalp their competition in the second round of the Cullman County Tournament and for the second day in a row they ended a game in the fifth inning, this time dispatching the Good Hope Raiders 14-3. West Point had outscored their last two opponents 29-3.

"The past two weeks has been a struggle for us, especially offensively," said West Point head coach Mitch Witcher. "The last two games we have put it all together."

Millwood got the Warriors on the board early in the bottom of the first with a sacrifice that scored B. Quattlebaum who had singled to move to second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on a passed ball. Later in the inning, Looney hit a double that scored Waters, who had walked, and Cowert, a courtesy runner for the pitcher Suits who had been hit by a pitch.

Good Hope was able to scratch across a run in the second, but West Point added three more to their lead, two coming in the form of a Suits two-run single. The Warriors added four more in the third with the big blow coming off the bat of Waters when he hit a two-run homer over the left-center field fence. Waters added two more to his RBI total when he singled in two more in a three run fifth that gave West Point the 10 run cushion needed to end the game in five innings for the second straight day.

**Statistics**
**West Point** 14 runs - 12 hits - 1 error - 6 men left on base
Tate Duckett 2-4, 1 RBI. 2 runs scored
Bryant Quattlebaum 3-3, 2B, walk, 3 RBI, 3 runs scored
Wesley Waters 2-2, HR, 2 walks, 4 RBI, 3 runs scored
Trevor Millwood 1-2, walk, RBI
Micha Suits 1-2, HBP, 2 RBI
Dalton Looney 1-3, 2 RBI, run scored
Wesley Smith 1-2, RBI
Paul Quattlebaum 1-1
Jordan McKenenzie 1-2, HBP, 2 runs scored

**Good Hope** 3 runs - 3 hits - 1 error - 6 men left on base
Adam Billiot 1-3, K, RBI
Kendell Duke 1-2, run scored
CJ Ridgeway 1-3, HBP, run scored
Preston Calvert 1-2

**Game Six (Elimination Game): Cold Springs vs. Hanceville**
A five run inning put up by Hanceville, thanks in part to a three run error, helped erase the memory of a tough opening round loss and helped the Bulldogs live to fight another day while eliminating Cold Springs from the Cullman County Tournament.

After a tough loss Monday night, the Hanceville Bulldogs found themselves in a two run hole before they even got

**See Page 4**

## No(ah)-It-All: May I Take a Message?

By: Noah Chandler
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Last week we entered into a world of… Accountability. Yeah, big word, hard to say, and carries quite a bit of weight, but nevertheless it is a dandy of a word. This time we are going to look into what it takes to avoid questions without lying. Now some of my colleagues and friends in the industry may not agree with this particular piece, but hey, it is part of the job.

So let me share a few beautiful examples that have been tossed my way over the past five years.

Okay, first up is the trusty, almost never fail safe, "I am not fully aware of the situation, but I will look into immediately and get back to you as soon as I have the information." For most people this little blow off would seem harmless, almost helpful. Of course after hearing it a few hundred times my first year on the gig, it became quite evident that this was a trusted friend to those wanting to elude tough questions.

Now to combat this evasive statement is not that difficult. All it takes is perseverance, a kind tone, and a bit of time. If you fall victim to this overused, mainly abused, line just let the person know that you fully understand and you that you eagerly await their response.

If no response is acquired by the end of the day, simply send an e-mail detailing the information fully therefore there can never be a question of whether or not the subject was ever approached. Paper trails are good in this instance, so paper away!

The next day wait until mid-day then call them back. Most of the time the person I am searching for is 'unavailable' or 'in a meeting' which is understandable for those busy individuals, but don't let this trick fool you. Anyone can be in a meeting. You just need two people and boom, you have a meeting. Secondly, unavailable can mean anything from the person being in the restroom to the person being out of town, so don't rest on the vague statements that trick so many others.

Now that it has been several days and you've not yet to be responded to, then take the next step by going in person to see the individual you are seeking out. Customarily, if it takes half-a-week then it is time for that up-close and personal touch, so oblige them with your presence. Of course this is when you'll more than likely be told that they are in yet another meeting, but don't be discouraged. That's the reason you brought a book, so just sit back and wait.

In my experiences it has taken between two-three minutes, all the way to several hours sitting in a waiting room or cramped hallway before the person was able to speak. Trust me, it is worth the inconvenience if what you are seeking is truly noteworthy, so stick it out.

Now that you are face-to-face just remember to be clear, concise, and to the point. Just because you have secured the meeting doesn't mean it will last very long. If someone has gone to the extent to avoid e-mails and phone calls then chances are they are going to shuffle you out quicker than they dismissed your initial questioning. Have your questions written so you can fire them off without breaks between answers.

The reason for this…well, I can't reveal everything, but at least you have the simple basics of avoidance without lying. Next week we'll get into some more fun hijinks.

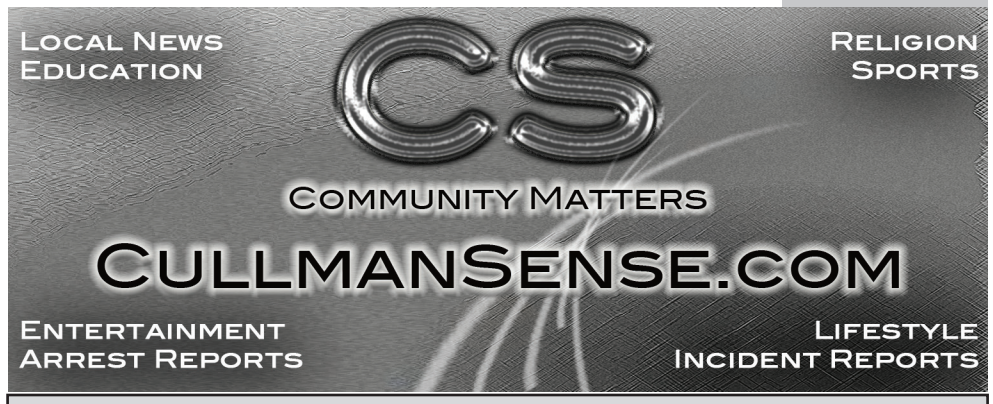
I hope you all have a great week and don't forget to cast your ballot this Tuesday, March 13, at your local polling station.

## Weather

Source: NWS

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Hi: 71<br>Lo: 59 | Hi: 76<br>Lo:56 | Hi: 76<br>Lo: 57 | Hi: 77<br>Lo: 57 |

**Monday**: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 1 p.m., then showers and thunderstorms likely after 1 p.m. High near **71**. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
**Monday Night**: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **59**. South wind around 5 mph.
**Tuesday**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near **76**. South wind around 5 mph.
**Tuesday Night**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **56**. South wind around 5 mph.
**Wednesday**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **76**.
**Wednesday Night**: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around **57**.
**Thursday**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **77**.
**Thursday Night**: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **57**.




## About Us

CullmanSense is a weekly print publication based out of Cullman, Alabama. The online site, CullmanSense.com, is a six-day a week publication, which includes arrest and incident reports from Cullman City Police and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Obituaries, and other timely information. The site is completely free and does include stories not found in our print edition.

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# SPORTS

Continued from Page 2

a chance at the plate in Tuesday night's elimination game verses the Cold Springs Eagles. If they were intimidated, the Bulldogs didn't show it as they proved their bite was just as vicious as their bark, quickly scoring two runs on two hits in their half of the first.

A diving catch by Bulldog center fielder Dontae Harris helped keep Cold Springs off the board in the second and let his teammates go back to work at the plate, which they did with Broc Malcom singling in Christian Jones who had also singled, to give Hanceville a 3-2 lead, a lead that they would never lose.

Cold Springs fought hard to stay alive in the tournament scoring three runs on three hits, but Hanceville answered with five in the fifth and two in the sixth, winning 15-5.

**Statistics**
**Hanceville** 15 runs - 11 hits - 2 errors - 8 men left on base
Broc Malcom 2-4, 3B, walk, RBI, 2 runs scored
Austin Coker 3-4, 2B, walk, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored
Isaac Hardin 2-5, 2B, 3 RBI
Keith Twitty 1-4, 2 K's, RBI, run scored
Dontae Reese 3-4, K, RBI. 3 runs scored
Roberson 1-3, K, run scored
Christian Jones 2-3, 2 RBI, run scored
Isaac Wiesand 1-3

**Cold Springs** 5 runs - 8 hits - 3 errors - 2 men left on base
Kyle Haynes 1-4, K
Tyler Rice 2-3, 2B, RBI, 2 runs scored
Austin Moore 2-3, 3B, RBI, 2 runs scored
Zac Ellison 1-3, RBI
Justin Jones 1-2, K, walk, RBI
Levi Harris 1-3

**Day Three**

**Game Seven (Elimination Game): Holly Pond Broncos vs. Good Hope Raiders**



Hayden Sandlin hurls a one-hitter for the Raiders as Good Hope advances in style winning 11-1 in five innings.

After moving to the losers bracket in a not so flattering manner by losing in five to West Point they do the same to the Holly Pond Broncos. Holly Pond grabbed a short-lived one run lead on a RBI single, the lone hit the Broncos would have, by Austin Hoffman that scored Hunter Townsen after he reached on an error. Good Hope was held in check until the third inning when bad luck struck the Broncos in the field. Good Hope took full advantage turning two errors, a wild pitch, passed ball, walk, hit batsmen and dropped third strike that allowed the runner to reach safely, into eight huge runs with just a single hit.

Holly Pond could not capitalize on a two-out walk in the top of the fourth. Good Hope kept the momentum on their side by scoring two more runs on two singles and a walk to push the lead to 10-1. The Broncos went three-up, three-down in the top of the fifth allowing Good hope to go back to work at the plate.

Ross Bailey was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and advanced to second on a wild pitch that set the table for Kendell Duck who responded by hitting a line drive double to straight away center field allowing Bailey to touch home for the 11th run that gave Good Hope the five inning victory.

**Statistics**
**Good Hope** 11 runs- 4 hits-1 error- 3 men left on base
CJ Ridgeway 1-3, 2 RBI, 2 runs scored
Miles O'Berry 1-3. K, RBI
Ross Bailey 1-1, HBP, 2 runs scored
Kendell Duke 1-2, 2B, RBI, run scored

**Holly Pond** 1 run- 1 hit-3 errors- 2 men left on base
Austin Hoffman 1-2, K, RBI

**Game Eight (Elimination Game): Hanceville Bulldogs vs. Fairview Aggies**

After swapping runs in the first inning, Hanceville broke out in the third by tallying three runs with the benefit of two hits to take a 4-1 lead in Wednesday's elimination game. Backs to the wall, Fairview came out swinging and knotted the game at four all on three hits with the big blow coming off the bat of Jesse Cummings who singled in Jake Chandler and Luke Bailey.

Fairview broke the tie and grabbed the lead scoring three runs on three hits, two of which scored on two wild pitches. The Aggies pounded out three more hits and tacked on an insurance run in the fifth. Bryant Powers came in to close the door on a rally started by a single by Isaac Hardin.

He was unable to as the Bulldogs came roaring back in their last at-bat scoring 10 runs on two hits, three walks, three errors and two wild pitches sending an astonishing 16 men to the plate in the inning. Fairview was only able to scratch across a single run in the bottom of the seventh and could not overcome the forgettable top half of the seventh as the Bulldogs went on to victory winning 14-9.

**Statistics**
**Hanceville** 14 runs - 9 hits - 0 errors - 9 men left on base
Broc Malcom 3-5, 2B, 2 runs scored
Austin Coker 2-5, 2K's, run scored
Isaac Hardin 1-4, K, HBP, 3 runs scored
Keith Twitty 1-4, K, walk, RBI, 2 runs scored
Isaac Wiessan 2-3, RBI, run scored

**Fairview** 9 runs - 12 hits - 5 errors - 10 men left on base
Cody Edge 1-3, 2 walks, RBI, run scored
Jake Chandler 2-4, K, 2 runs scored
Dexton Gregory 2-5, 2B, K,
Jesse Cummings 3-4, 3 RBI
Justin Earwood 1-4, K
Austin Earwood 2-3, walk, 3 runs scored

**Day Four**

**Game Nine (Elimination Game) : Hanceville Bulldogs vs. Good Hope Raiders**




In the second meeting of the two teams, the momentum swung back and forth the entire game with neither squad giving an inch. Good Hope jumped out to an early lead, plating three runs in the top of the first. Hanceville responded in the third scoring two runs. Good Hope made the most of a lead-off walk to Mason Johnson. He would be chased home on a single by Miles O'Berry. Ross Bailey would single home O'Berry later in the inning to give Good Hope a 5-3 lead.
Hanceville answered in the top of the fifth when Broc Malcom singled, stole second, and scored on two consecutive balks that moved him around the diamond. Isaac Hardin and Dontae Reese would tie the game at five, all on a pair of RBI singles.

Hanceville got the bats going once again when Malcom doubled and scored on a well-placed single by Hardin. The bags were full of Bulldogs when Reese came up big again singling in Isaac Hardin and Austin Coker. Colby Smith would cap the Bulldog scoring with a sacrifice that scored Keith Twitty and gave Hanceville a 9-5 lead heading to the final inning.

Good Hope, in an effort to stave off elimination, drew back-to-back walks to lead off the inning. The Raiders wasted no time getting in scoring position, moving up on a wild pitch and stealing second. Hanceville pitcher Austin Coker struck out the next batter and that set the stage for a match-up against Preston Calvert who won the battle but lost the war. He singled in one, but the second runner was called out in a close play at the plate and on a heads-up play by Hanceville, the catcher threw down to second and caught Calvert in a rundown where he was eventually tagged by Coker to complete the un-conventional double play giving them the victory, 9-6.

**Game Ten: Vinemont Eagles vs. West Point Warriors**

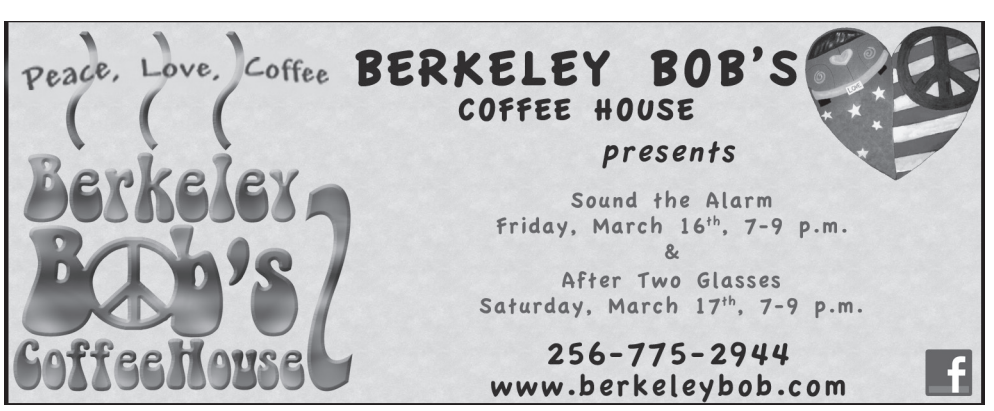
With rain falling at first pitch, Vinemont sent their ace to the mound in the form of Izaac Yarbrough and West Point countered with their ace, Wesley Waters. Both pitchers lived up to the billing.

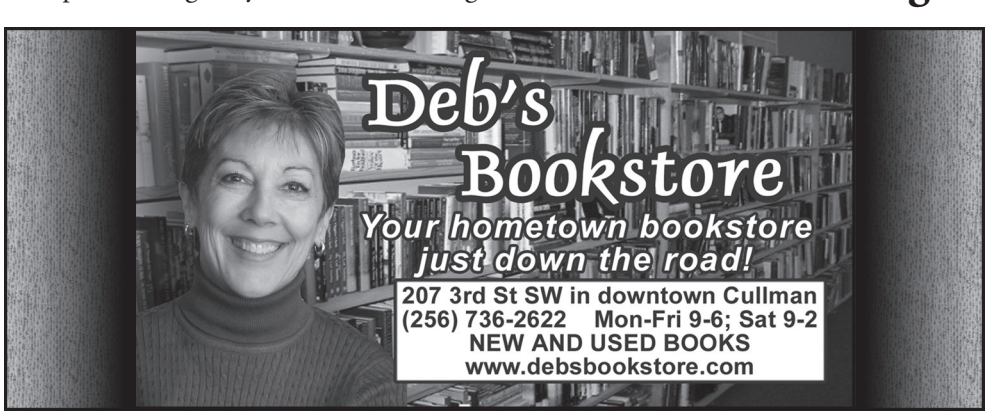
Through three innings Yarbrough had faced the minimum with the only blemish on his pitching record was a runner reaching on a dropped third strike. The runner was erased on a laser throw by Vinemont catcher Scotty Hipp on the back end of a strike 'em out-throw 'em out double play.

Vinemont broke through in the second against Waters in the second. Duncan Hopper singled to lead off the inning and moved to second on a sac bunt by Ty Jones. Jones reached as West Point failed to get the led runner. KC Hopper followed with a sac bunt moving Hopper to third. Riley Foust then executed a safety squeeze to perfection scoring Hopper and giving Vinemont a one run lead.

Yarbrough struck out the side in the top of the third and Waters looked poised to do the same when he struck out the first two batters of the inning. The Eagles then started a two-out rally when Yarbrough and Hipp hit back-to-back singles. Duncan Hopper then took a fast ball and drove it into the center field gap for a double and two RBI's. Ty Jones hit a fairly routine fly to left that was dropped for a three base error and allowed Hopper to score from second.

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Tate Duckett reached base on a tough error as the Vinemont second baseman slipped on the wet playing surface as he went top make the routine play. Duckett was later caught stealing as Yarbrough threw to first on a pick-off attempt as Duckett headed for second and Vinemont first basemen Riley Foust threw to second in plenty of time and Yarbrough again faced the minimum.

West Point finally sent more than the minimum to the plate in the top of the fifth and scratched across a run without the benefit of a hit as Trevor Millwood reached on throwing error by the third baseman for Vinemont. Millwood then stole second and moved to third on a ground out. He scored after a wild pitch that the Vinemont catcher could not find. Although West Point scored, Yarbrough still took a no-hitter into the sixth and leading 4-1.

West Point got their first hit off Yarbrough in the top of the sixth when Cameron Brock hit a sinking fly ball to shallow left field and it was narrowly missed a spectacular catch. On the relay play shortstop Tyler Morgan overthrew second base allowing Brock to come to third. He scored on a sacrifice fly by Jordan McKenzie to make the score 4-2.

The rain started to fall heavily and made gripping the ball very difficult and West Point used this to their advantage by scoring off of a wild pitch and making it 4-3 before Yarbrough struck out Millwood to get out of the inning still with the lead.

Vinemont failed to score in their half of the sixth and Yarbrough toed the rubber in the top of the seventh, clinging to a one run lead and needing three outs to take the winner's road to the championship.

Dalton Looney led off the inning with a walk which drew a visit from Vinemont head coach Chad Shannon. He made the decision to leave his ace in. This proved to be the right call as Izaac Yarbrough got Micha Suits to ground into a fielder's choice then struck out Wesley Smith and Cameron Brock to bring his strike-out total to an even 10 and advance to the championship game.

**Statistics**
**Vinemont** 4 runs- 7 hits-1 error- 2 men left on base
Tyler Morgan 1-2, 2 K's, SB
Izaac Yarbrough 2-3, SB, run scored
Scotty Hipp 1-3, K, run scored
Duncan Hopper 2-3, 2B, K, 2 RBI, 2 runs scored

**West Point** 3 runs- 1 hit- 1 error- 2 men left on base
Cameron Brock 1-3, 2 K's, run scored

**Day Five (Final Day)**

**Game Eleven (Elimination Game): Hanceville Bulldogs vs. West Point Warriors**

Dalton Looney and Paul Quattlebaum of West Point combined for seven innings of one-hit ball to advance to the championship game. Looney set the tone in the first inning, inducing three ground ball outs while issuing a walk to Broc Malcom. This was the only free pass he would give up all night.

Looney would face only work over the minimum through his five innings of work, giving up only a walk while striking out five and holding Hanceville hitless. West Point head coach Trey Meadows opted to lift Looney in the fifth for Quattlebaum and he pitched just as well. He gave up the only hit of the night to Hanceville's Austin Coker who came around to score on a fielder's choice by Dontae Reese. He would then get the next batter to ground out, ending the game 7-1 and setting up a rematch with the Vinemont Eagles.

West Point was very effective on offense as well as they made the most out of their four hits, scoring seven runs while taking advantage of five costly errors. Notching the two RBI's were Trevor Millwood who singled in Tate Duckett and Cameron Brock who knocked in Micha Suits. Dontae Reese had Hanceville's only RBI when he grounded into a fielder's choice that scored Austin Coker, who had reached on the only Bulldog hit.

**Statistics**
**West Point** 7 runs - 4 hits - 0 errors - 8 men left on base
Bryant Quattlebaum 1-4, K, walk
Trevor Millwood 1-4, RBI
Dalton Looney 2-3, 2B, 2 runs scored
Cameron Brock 2-3, RBI

**Hanceville** 1 run - 1 hit - 5 errors - 3 men left on base
Austin Coker 1-3, run scored

**Championship Game: Vinemont Eagles vs. West Point Warriors**



West Point grabbed the early lead when Dalton Looney singled in Wesley Waters. Looney later scored on an error of the Vinemont second baseman. Vinemont responded with three runs in the bottom of the first with RBI doubles from Izaac Yarbrough, Scotty Hipp, and Ty Jones. They shut down the Warriors in the second with some brilliant work by their starting pitcher Cordale Gay, then exploded in their half thanks in part to back-to-back singles by Tyler Morgan and Izaac Yarbrough and a three-run bomb by Jones. Hipp singled in the second of his three RBI's in the third. Vinemont tacked on two more in the fifth to go ahead 11-2.

"Two men on and two out, I was just looking to put the ball in play," Jones said.

West Point was down, but did not quit scoring two in the sixth taking advantage of a Vinemont error. Two more Warriors crossed the plate in the seventh bringing the score to 11-6, but Tyler Morgan then got Trevor Millwood to line out to the center fielder to end the game. Vinemont completed their undefeated run through the County Tournament and were crowned champions by the final score of 11-6.

Head coach Chad Shannon had this to say to his team after the game:
"Everybody played a role or had a job somewhere along the way this week. Everyone played a role, be it a bunt, a hit, a defensive play, everyone contributed somehow. Before we get out of here tonight, I know you have already thanked those guys (Vinemont students that were situated behind the left-field fence), make sure you go thank your parents and everyone who came out to support you.

Thank your parents and all these people from the community that came out to support you guys tonight. It means a lot to them, it means a lot to you, it means a lot to me. Taking pride in this place (Vinemont), the field, the program and everything means a lot and I am proud of you. Your hard work pays off. (We were) kind of an underdog there. The largest school in the county (West Point), taking on the second smallest school in the county (Vinemont). We were just a bit of an underdog there.

Last thing before I let you guys go, this was a season goal. This does not make our season. This was one of our goals (that we accomplished) this does not make our season."

**Statistics**
**Vinemont** 11 runs - 14 hits - 3 errors - 7 men left on base
Josh Terry 2-3, walk, 2 runs scored
Tyler Morgan 1-3, 2 runs scored
Izaac Yarbrough 3-4, RBI, 3 runs scored
Scotty Hipp 2-3, walk, 3 RBI's, 2 runs scored
Duncan Hopper 1-3, walk, 2B, K, run scored
Ty Jones 2-4, 2B, HR, 4 RBI's, run scored
KC Hopper 1-4, 3 K's
Riley Foust 2-4

**West Point** 6 runs - 9 hits - 1 error - 6 runners left on base
Tate Duckett 2-4, 2B, 2 K's, run scored
Wesley Waters 1-4, 3 runs scored
Dalton Looney 1-4, 2 K's, RBI, run scored
Trevor Millwood 2-4
Micha Suits 1-3, K, run scored
Cameron Brock 1-3, 2B, K
Jordan McKenzie 1-3, 2 K's

Every team in the tournament gave everything they had and left it all on the field, but in the end it came down to long time county rivals. Vinemont proved to be the better team on this occasion, defeating West Point twice in consecutive days to bring the county title and trophy to the halls of Vinemont High School.

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# In Brief

## Annual Black Tie Gala Benefits CRMC Refresh-A-Room Campaign

### By: Lindsey Dossey

CULLMAN - It's not every day that the community can come together for a glamorous evening dedicated to a good cause, but this year's CRMC Foundation Gala will afford our community just such an opportunity.

Now in its 11th year, the annual black-tie CRMC Foundation Gala will be held on April 14, 2012 at The Rotunda beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a silent auction/social hour.

Gala XI, is a volunteer-organized event by the CRMC Service Guild and proceeds will benefit anyone seeking treatment or visiting patients at Cullman Regional Medical Center, as this year's event proceeds will be earmarked for the new CRMC Foundation Refresh-A-Room Campaign kicking off later this year.

"We believe in this cause for Gala XI because we are truly fortunate to have a community-owned hospital and to receive quality care from a very competent and supportive medical staff; however, we want to continue to making a visit to the hospital a more pleasant experience for our friends and loved ones by refreshing the appearance and comfort of the current patient rooms," CRMC Service Guild President Lee Adams noted.

Annual fundraising events like the Gala give local community members an opportunity to become more involved in local philanthropy.

"We're so grateful to the community for supporting the Foundation's efforts to address needs within the medical center," commented CRMC President/CEO Jim Weidner.

"Cullman is such a special place to live and work, and much of that quality of life results from the generous support of its citizens when someone else is in need."

The annual event also recognizes individuals and physicians who have played a significant role in advancing healthcare to the community and surrounding area through Cullman Regional Medical Center through the H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award and the Physician Recognition Award.

The 2012 H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award honoree is James W. Davis, MD and the 2012 Physician Recognition Award honoree is Vincent E. Bergquist, MD.

Tickets to the CRMC Foundation Gala XI are limited and are now available for $150 each and reservations are now being accepted.

To reserve your tickets, contact the CRMC Foundation via e-mail at crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com, or via telephone to (256) 737-2565.



Photo by Lindsey Dossey

*2012 CRMC Service Guild Members include, pictured from left to right (front row): Amy Carter; Sandy English; Mallory Adams; Nell Dunlap, Past President; Deborah McAfee; Lee Adams, President; Mary Adams; Amber Henry, CRMC Foundation & PR Specialist; (back row) Martha Adams; Kelly Pulliam; Alex Cabri; Angie Allred; Andrea Meherg; Clara Kent, Treasurer; Vicki Bussman; Johanna Johnson; Beth Collins; Bonita Hutchinson; and Maria Stanford, CRMC Foundation Director. Not pictured: Amy Wood, Vice President; Cheryl Smith, Secretary; Sarah Wheeler, Past President; Shirley Quattlebaum, Past President; Kami Borden; Rebecca Branch; Leigh Ann Braswell; Sheila Brock; Melissa Cartee; Amy Drake; Derinda Duke; Judy Duke; Marion Frey; Betty Leeth Haynes; Marsha Hearin; Stephanie Jowers; Stephanie Lambert; Linda Lovelady; Kay Shabel; Bridgette Warner; Nancy Wideman; Silvia White and Debbie Wood.*

## Wallace State Nursing Department to Host "Let's Pretend Hospital" for 1,000 Area First Graders

### By: Kristen Holmes

HANCEVILLE - The Nursing Department at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville is transformed into a mock hospital serving first graders for one week each year. This year's "Let's Pretend Hospital" takes place March 13-16, with set up on March 12.

The event grows in popularity and attendance every year. "We have set a goal to include all the Cullman first graders from the county, city and private schools. We are inviting over 1,000 first graders and their teachers from local schools, including the Child Development Center," said event coordinator and nursing clinical coordinator Ann Culpepper.



*Cullman Primary School students Chloe Echols, Tucker Apel and Shyanne Horgensimer do a silly dance with Wallace State Nursing students.*

Wallace State nursing students submit an original drawing that is selected by faculty to be the LPH t-shirt design for that year. This year's design (pictured) was done by senior nursing student Colby McKee. The Welcome group who will be escorting the children and their teachers will wear light blue this year. The Nursing students who will be in the individual rooms will wear yellow this year.

The nursing building suspends classes and hospital clinicals during this week so that the nursing students can focus their time and energy on converting the nursing building into mock hospital rooms. Each room has a theme or character, a nursing instructor to supervise and nursing students from 2nd, 4th, and 5th semester assigned to the rooms. In all, approximately 300 nursing students will participate.

There is a Welcome room where children learn about the importance of hand washing, about "Good Bugs" and "Bad Bugs," like germs that can make them sick, and they get to look through a microscope.

The children next get to try on a surgical mask and see a pretend Operating Room. They visit an X-ray room where they get to look at an x-ray and talk about what to eat to keep their bones strong and healthy. In the Patient Room, children get to see what a real hospital room looks like. In the Safety Room, they get bicycle, water, school bus and fire safety tips. In the Healthy Nutrition Room, they learn how to choose healthy foods and snacks that are good for them.




*Kylie Vinsant of Birmingham is a surgeon in the Let's Pretend Hospital mock operating room.*

*Photos by Kristen Holmes*

They also visit an Emergency Room, so they learn about where they will go if they have an injury about calling 911. They then get to tour an ambulance and fire truck provided by City of Hanceville Fire Department.

"It takes a village to make this possible and we couldn't reach this many children without the generous support of sponsors," said Culpepper.

Bunge North America, a Decatur company, is sponsoring transportation for all the buses and drivers this year which helps more schools be able to attend. Cullman Regional Medical Center partners with Wallace State with this event and provides ID bands and masks for the children and other supplies for the individual rooms. Children's Hospital is also a regular sponsor.

Culpepper Real Estate donated reusable directional signs to guide the school buses to the Nursing building. Chick-Fil-A donated coupons for a complimentary kid's meal to each child visiting the pretend hospital. The Chick-Fil-A cow will also be on campus with some "pretend bandages."
For more information about the event, contact Culpepper at 256-352-8066.

## CRMC Foundation Recognizes Outgoing Board Members

### By: Lindsey Dossey

CULLMAN - The CRMC Foundation recently paid special tribute to outgoing board members and recognized them for their years of leadership, service and dedication to advancing healthcare in the Cullman community.

Board members recognized Emmett Blocher, Belinda Cornelius, Dr. Bill Holcomb, Judge Greg Nicholas and Stephen Skinner.

For more information on the CRMC Foundation, visit the Foundation online at:

www.crmchospital.com/foundation, via e-mail to crmcfoundation@crmchospital.com, or via telephone to (256) 737-2604.



*John Riley, CRMC Foundation President, recognizes board member Emmett Blocher for six years of service to the CRMC Foundation.*

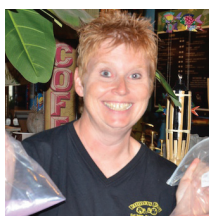


*John Riley recognizes board member Judge Greg Nicholas for his years of service on the Foundation Board and service as a Board officer.*

# Passion for the Kitchen

*Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com*

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrne.ws/aharris



*Photos by Annette Harris*

## Annette Continues Cooking

I decided to broaden my cooking by learning to make soup. Surely making good soup wasn't hard. I decided to make vegetable soup from scratch. We had a small garden and we grew vegetables, so I would make soup. I had no clue how to do this. I figured, ok… start with a pot of water. Lets just say that was the worst vegetable soup I had ever eaten in my life. After that, we left soup to Campbells.

I never really liked using the microwave for anything other than a quick way to heat something or making popcorn, although I did go to some Tupperware parties where they sold this magical set of microwave stackable cookware that would cook an entire meal from the entrée to the dessert. I was pretty excited about that. I made a few meals from their cookbook and decided microwave cooking was not for me.

My cookbook collection grew. Ralph was trying to encourage me and bought me cookbooks for Christmas and my birthday and I loved it. The bad thing about all this experimenting was that we both started gaining weight.

As our family started to grow, I had to get creative and make things for kids. That wasn't too hard since I ate like a kid anyway….pizza, chicken fingers, ice cream, etc. I did try to be a good mother and introduced vegetables to our kids, even though I didn't like them, but they ate them pretty well.

I think my first real breakthrough to cooking came when Food TV started up. I couldn't get enough of it. I watched Emeril religiously and learned how to chop by watching all the chefs on TV.

Learning to chop and not cut off my fingers was quite an accomplishment, but that meant I needed some decent knives. Ralph, again encouraging me, bought me knives for Christmas and my birthday. Some women would be insulted to have things for cooking, but I LOVED it! Yay me! Learning to chop made things so much faster and I could whip up a meal in no time.

My cookbook collection grew, I watched more Food TV and I decided I needed to learn to grill. I got this idea from Bobby Flay on Food TV. I couldn't believe how many men were cooking on TV when all I had heard all my life was how cooking was for women, yet men were on TV doing all this cooking.

I would laugh at how some men would take credit for a great meal that they grilled, when actually the women would prepare it for them to cook. All they had to do was make sure it didn't burn. As I started grilling, I realized that it wasn't always that easy. Ralph and I decided to buy a gas grill. Next week…Annette grills….or tries to grill.

## Crock Pot Roast

This is easy and delicious. It tastes so good, its like you made a big effort cooking supper. This is one of our family favorites.

We serve this with corn and English peas.

**Ingredients**:

- 5-7 pound chuck roast (Feeds 4)
- 1-packet McCormick's Pot Roast seasoning
- 4 Red potatoes
- 1 small pack of carrots
- 1 medium onion
- 2 cups hot water

In a medium to large crock-pot (mine is oval) put the packet of McCormick's pot roast seasoning and the water in the crock-pot. Stir until dissolved. Put the roast in next.

**Directions**:

1. Turn the crock-pot to high.
2. Peel and cube the potatoes
3. Peel and cut the carrots in bite-sized pieces
4. Peel and cut the onion in large chunks.
5. Put all this in the crock-pot and cover with the lid.

The roast will take about 5 hours on high. If we want to eat this for supper, I put it on to cook at about 12 noon. The roast is ready by 5 or 6 p.m.

*To make gravy, I dip out about 2 cups of the liquid and put it in a small saucepan. When it starts getting hot, I add about a tablespoon of flour and whisk until smooth. I like to add a little salt and pepper.

If you have any leftovers, we tear the meat apart, remove any fat and dump in the left over corn and peas and gravy. Add a little beef broth or water and you have a hearty beef soup.

## Lemonade Pie

Sometimes I forget about this recipe and its so easy and good, I don't know how I do. I love it in the summer or when I want something tangy. I got this recipe years ago from a lady I worked with that was trying to help me come up with a dessert that was easy, she knew my skills, and delicious. This is it! Yum!

**Ingredients**:

- 1 large-size store bought graham cracker pie crust
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk, chilled
- 1 (12 ounce) container Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 (6 fluid ounce) can frozen lemonade concentrate, keep frozen

**Directions**:

1. In a medium bowl, add chilled sweetened condensed milk and Cool Whip and fold gently. Add frozen lemonade and continue to gently fold. Do not let the mixture become soupy.
2. Pour mixture into the pie crust and freeze for several hours or overnight.

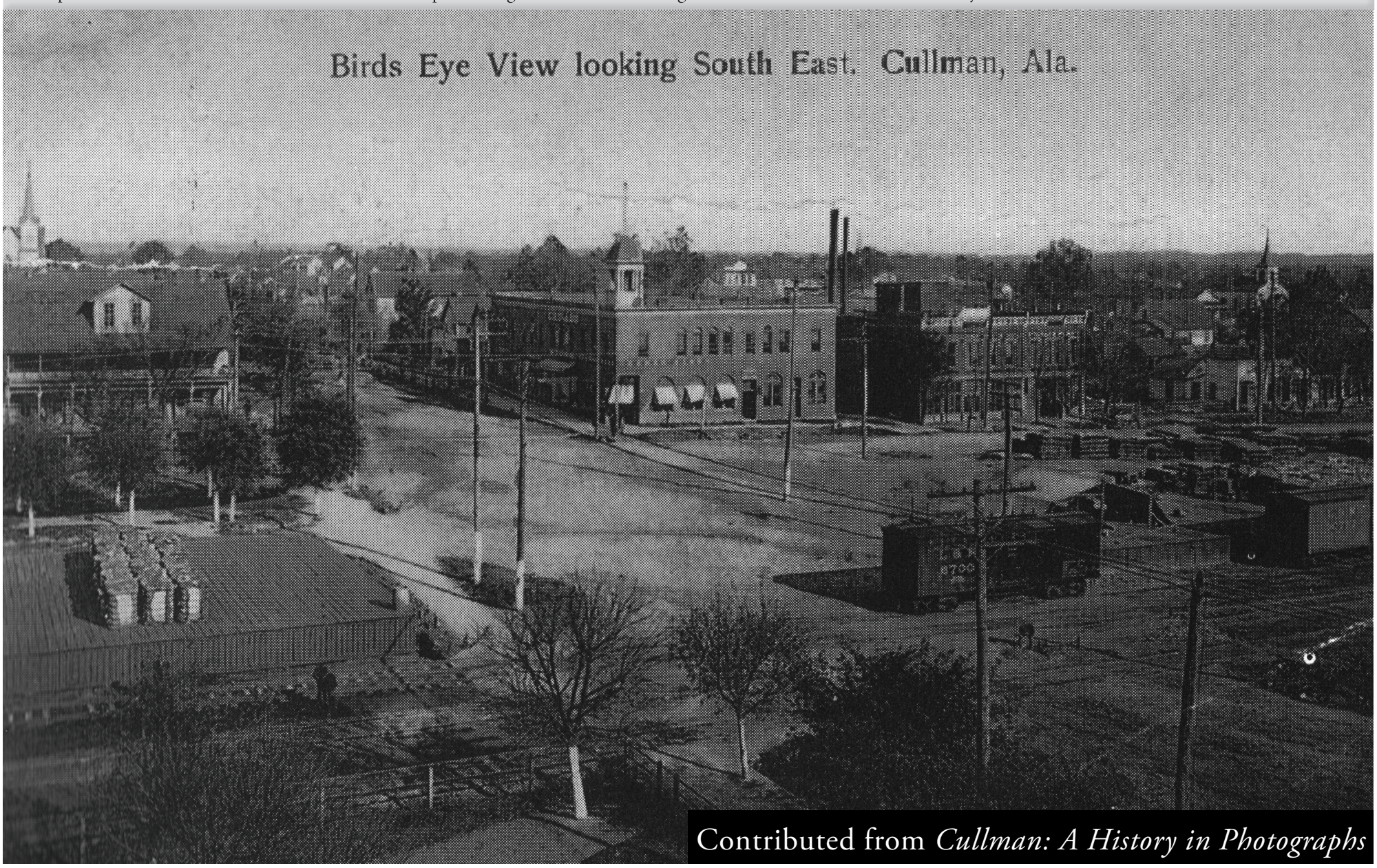
Makes 8 servings.



# Mirroring History

## Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman with a Downtown Bird's Eye View Looking Southeast

In the historic photograph, the park is in the foreground, west of the railroad. Cotton bales are arranged by the tracks and ready to be shipped just across from the park. In the center of the photograph is the German bank that still stands today as the Mary Carter building, which is currently missing the cupola due to the storms last April. Across from the German bank is the People's Drug Store and on the right is where the Cullman Ice factory stood.




Contributed from *Cullman: A History in Photographs*



Photo by Jessica Norrell

# Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

**Monday, March 12th**

**Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal**
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises.

Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

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

**Yoga Classes at Sacred Heart Monastery**
Yoga classes are held each Monday evening through May 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Yoga classes are open to all interested and will take place at the Sacred Heart Monastery. Sr. Mary McGehee has additional information at 256-736-5820. The cost is $50.00 for each 6 week session.

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

**Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC**
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes which are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information! Come start the New Year off with water exercises!

**Tuesday, March 13th**

**Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting**
An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

**Knifty Knitters Meeting**
The Knifty Knitters group meets each Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Cullman County Library. Yarn, needles and instructions are provided free of charge and every one of all ages who are interested are invited to attend these sessions. Further info can be obtained by calling Lesia at 256-734-2720, extension 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 p.m. each Tuesday night, with admission only $5.00 per person.

Concessions are available and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

**North Central Alabama Genealogical Society Meeting**
Members of the North Central Alabama Genealogical Society meet every Tuesday in the basement of the Wallace State Community College Library for informal study and to help new researchers.

The meeting is from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and those interested are invited to this free gathering. Come learn about your 'roots'! Call Von at 256-739-2843 for more information.

**Wednesday, March 14th**

**Free Community Meal at Living Waters Ministries**
A free community meal is offered each Wednesday night at Living Water Ministries beginning at 5 p.m. Living Water is located in the East Park Plaza on the left side of Highway 278 just past the entrance to St. Bernard Monastery. Everyone is welcome to attend these Wednesday night gatherings. Further information can be obtained by calling James Moore, 256-338-9145. Donations also are gratefully accepted.

**Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC**
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes which are offered each Wednesday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool.

Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information! Come start the New Year off with water exercises!

**Thursday, March 15th**

**Elks Lodge Buffet Lunch**
Come join the Cullman Elks Lodge members as they fire up the ovens and open their doors to the public for their weekly lunch buffet at the Lodge Home.

The cost is $8.00 per person, which includes two meats and veggies, plus tea. Everyone is invited to enjoy the fellowship and delicious meals each Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

**Overeaters Anonymous Meeting**
Overeaters Anonymous meets each Thursday evening at 4:45 p.m. in the Carriage House at Grace Episcopal Church. Everyone is invited to attend these sessions.

Further information can be obtained by calling 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. There also is a group which meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the same place. Meetings are open to everyone interested.

**Couponing Class**
A special 'couponing' class will be offered from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cullman County Extension Office. Everyone is invited to attend and learn more about how to save money through 'couponing'.

There is a cost of $3.00 per person which covers the cost of materials. To learn more about this seminar and to pre-register for this event, please contact the Extension office at 256-737-9386.

**Friday, March 16th**

**CCSF 4th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Luncheon**
Everyone is invited to the CCSF 4th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Luncheon being held at Northbrook Baptist Church. The $25.00 per person ticket includes lunch and the awards ceremony.

There is a complete listing of those being honored this year at the website www.cullmancityschoolsfoundation.org. To obtain more information and tickets for this event please contact Dawn Klinger at 256-590-3159.

**Saturday, March 17th**

**County Wide Yard Sale**
There will be a 'County-wide Yard Sale' at Sportsman's Lake Park beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 256-734-3052.

**First Annual St. Patrick's Day Disc Golf Tournament**
Cullman Park and Recreation is sponsoring its First Annual St. Patrick's Day Disc Golf Tournament beginning at 9 a.m. Entry fees are $50.00 for Pros Open; $30.00 for Advanced, Advanced Masters and Intermediate; $20.00 for Novice and Juniors.

Prices include t-shirt commemorating the event. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place finishes in each category. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Cullman Parks & Recreation Center at 256-739-9931 or 256-739-9582. Come on out and take part or just cheer for your favorite contestant.

**29th Annual Miss & Master Easter Pageant**
The 29th Annual Miss & Master Easter Pageant at Cullman Civic Center is open for all contestants from birth on up. The age divisions, registration times, and pageant times are as follows;

Ages 0 to 36 months register between 8:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., with the contest starting at 10 a.m.

Ages 3 and up register between 12 noon and 1 p.m., with pageant competition starting at 1 p.m.

All girl contestants will receive a crown and boys an Easter medallion. Everyone who participates will receive an Easter Basket and trophy as well!

The sponsors of the event also have noted that those who register early will receive prizes, and anyone who is competing for their first time also will receive a prize. Please call 256-352-4615 for pre-registration and additional information.

**Steele Orchard Tree Sale**
Steele Orchard Inc. is having a Fruit Tree Sale. Dwarf and semi dwarf trees available to purchase, along with other plants. Free classes on caring for your trees begin at 10 a.m. Free hot dogs will be furnished by Southern States. For more information, call 256-734-5249.

**'Crowns for a Cure' Pageant**
The Relay for Life team from Merchants Bank is sponsoring a 'Crowns for a Cure' pageant at Cullman First Baptist Church. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Entry fee is $35.00; for the Miss Photogenic the fee is $5.00. Any funds raised will benefit the American Cancer Society. Applications are available through any Merchants Bank location.

Categories are birth through 9 years and this competition begins at 10 a.m. Judging for years 10 through 23 years of age will begin at 1 p.m.

This year there is a free Survivors Honorary Walk which will take place at 12 noon. Anyone who has fought cancer or is currently in the battle is urged to come take part in this special walk.

There is no entry fee for this part of the pageant. There will be a $3.00 admission fee for all who wish to see the pageant, with children 6 and under admitted free.

For additional information please contact the relay tea through their website www.rfl@merchantsbankal.com.

**40th Annual Rotary Club Auction**
Everyone is invited to attend the Rotary Club's 40th Annual Auction at the Cullman Civic Center. The viewing begins at 5 p.m., with the silent auction going from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Auction, led by Joe Hagen, AL LIC #387, begins at 6:45 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend this exciting event. All funds raised benefit community projects under the auspices of the Rotary Club. There also will be a shotgun and $500.00 cash drawing. Free admission to this event and food and beverages will be provided by the Fidelia Club of Cullman.

**Natural Childbirth Classes**
This class is for those who are considering having natural childbirth. Your education, desires and personal support network greatly influence a positive outcome. In this class you will learn: details about stages and phases of labor, relaxation techniques & comfort measures, how your birth partner can help you during labor, physiological positions and movements for labor, about medical interventions, the role of hormones during labor & birth, and much more.

There are two class locations in the city; please call (256) 962-0975 for directions and registration. Visit http://www.birthingbeautiful.com for more.

**VFW Saturday Night Dance**
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. Music on Saturday nights is provided by the Boogie Night Band.

Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

# PUZZLES, COMICS, AND JOKES

## THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: THE HOSPITAL

BY: DUSTIN ISOM

***Complete this week's word search for your shot at two large 2 topping pizzas from Papa John's of Cullman. Send in your entry to CullmanSense, 101 1st Avenue Northeast, Suite 230, Cullman, AL 35055.***

K Y B D B L E S B Q W D P V G C G H L R P X L L V U J J O
V W M U D K G K T S I S U R G E O N F O G R M I P B O G N
S V F R L H B H P Q J Z X F W V C U F T P J X X Q V D M Z
S S T I C H E S I Z E M E R G E N C Y I R R E A T D I H Y
M A Y X L N R M Q E R I R M V P X Q F N N J Z Q V L X W E
M B H J W J F J B P K S H S G H U N B O G M R P Y R U S G
P K K S T E T H O S C O P E P Z Y Z C M N L J E A J M I A
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R P E M E K K Q K S D W N L D B S F W H K O V Z B A G V Q
G N A R S U J H F Q G G X I O P J B V R G X C S M B O W T
U X K R A P N R E P J R C Y V H K H A O W A S K D I D L R
A N V O E T D S V A Y I I K Y T Y C Y B D G X Q F L Q I C
C H M S K H I C E K N M Q K P C I J T W G Y H X B I B G U
O E L F Q G T O R E B L V Q Q Q U O U Q P E Q X I T L W N
R C K I G V Y A N F C I M Y X N U W Z V H R P S E A O W U
W E C P A F X A F E D M E F A F H Q P V N Y K N J T O R R
X X T T V A M R R I J X F H H Z K D B D U M A Y B I D C S
Q C I E S G O M U X Y P F J V D S W D H F Z W R I O L U E
I N R L M T C E P A C N W L V C A U A W U W J F J N B Y M
A G O E C O B U O H A J I K Z I M I A D F Z L Y T U L Z F
R F X O E F M G Y K E M Z T P K V N M T A P J H T R K E C
J K D V S R N R A X I S N M W J J S X U R U Z M O R F C K
G X D Z A Q O I E X R E O A L H D L G E K G M Y X D R K O
K M O W E E Q I D H D R X Z Q R P C T R X Y C R I M R V C
J J F W S G K X H I T E S P X R X U N O U W G O Q H J O H
U B X W I P R C C A E T O D C R M F E E F B H T W L J J T
B M T L D U E C S G O T H G Q F B J I W X Y C A U L I D E
Z F U O M N A A I M U H J G R U U D T L K Y B R J R G O C
N T J Y D I H H W Y F Y E D U L F E A J D B G O P K B S N
Y H L W V K G R H D C T V M I T U E P Y Y T R B U R Q G A
A G O S G U T R D U B X P I W Z E M S A O L S A V H T A L
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S M Y I Q W E Y A V V D T O S P T A D N G Y E U W P I I B
K M P Z S F T R C Y S O N U L S T Z J E O H I T O F F Q M
L Q I C N R R X Y L J W V E A H Q Z D H E A R T B E A T A
D O K Q F C E M A B J K W C S E R S N F Z N M X J N U Z I
Q G Y M T N N M D C Z V S J Y G O U V F T F A B D N E O N

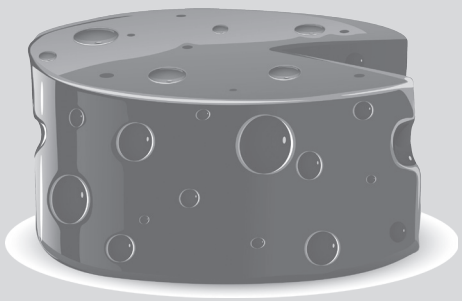
accident ambulance bandage blood cast checkup disease
doctor emergency fever heart monitor heartbeat laboratory mask
medicine needle nurse operation patient pharmacy physician
rehabilitation stethoscope stiches surgeon therapy thermometer x-ray

## GETTING CORNY

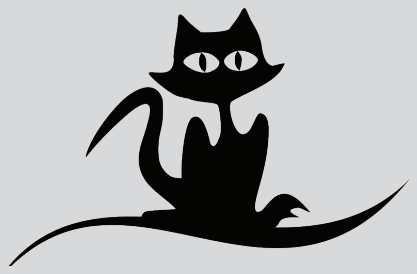
1. Why did the dog stop its car five blocks away from his destination?



2. What do you call a dairy product that is always sneaking around?



3. What do you call a cat with a highly precise bite?

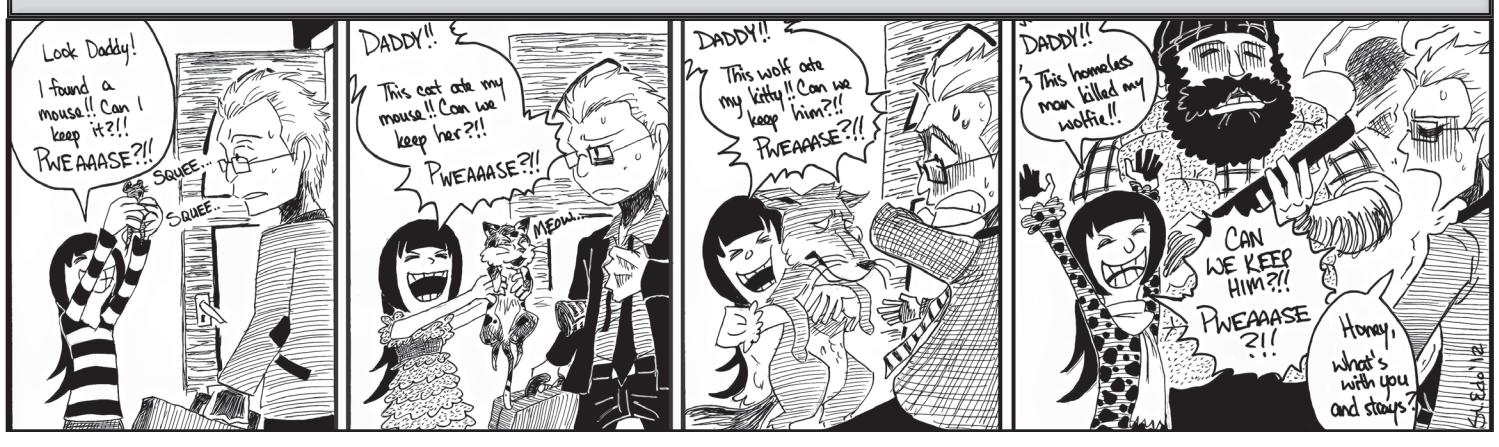


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1. Because there was free barking. 2. Mis-Cheese-ious. 3. A laser toothed tiger.

Comics by St. Edo — Anthony Saint — st.edo@cullmansense.com



# Community Matters

## Cold Case Cracked After 32 Years: Vinemont Man Convicted of Second Degree Murder

**By: Noah Chandler**
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HOUMA, LA – After nearly 32 years of questions by investigators in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, a jury decided on Wednesday, February 29, that Vinemont resident Ricky Brown was in fact guilty of second-degree murder in the long unsolved murder investigation of Cullman County resident Edith McLeroy.



*Edith McLeroy*

The murder of McLeroy, 23-years-old at the time, was first known about when her body was discovered naked in a pond on September 27, 1980 on Bayou Sale Road in Cocodrie. Brown, along with Cullman County resident Mike Burnett (whom died in 2008 at the age of 49), allegedly killed McLeroy and dumped her body. Her body was discovered several days later with a cinder block fastened around her neck.

According to reports published in *Houma Today,* the case went cold because Terrebonne sheriff's detectives were not able to locate Brown and Burnett, along with others who knew about the crime. However, several people familiar with McLeroy's death talked to police in 2000, 2001, and 2010.

In December 2010, Brown was arrested and subsequently indicted on a second-degree murder charge in February of this year.

Following a two-day trial and roughly two hours of deliberation, a 12-member jury found Brown guilty of second-degree murder. Brown faces a sentence of mandatory life in prison once sentencing is determined at a later date.

According to published reports, Terrebonne Parrish Assistant District Attorney Dennis Elfert was extremely pleased with the verdict in regard to McLeroy's family.

"I'm very happy for the victims," said Elfert, who prosecuted the case, after the trial. "They have waited for this for a long time."

McLeroy's family made the trip down to Terrebonne Parrish to hear the verdict first hand. Her stepmother, Carol McLeroy, made the trip with Edith's brother, Greg, and his wife Nancy.

Authorities allege McLeroy's death had to do with the arrest of Archie "Possum" West, who was married to McLeroy, but according to testimony, was separated at the time of the murder. West was wanted on outstanding warrants in Cullman at the time of his incarceration. West has since died, though witnesses testified that McLeroy had told police where West lived in Westwego, Louisiana.

Brown's ex-wife, Viki Brown, testified on behalf of the prosecution.

"She had snitched his friend Possum off," said Viki Brown during the trial.

No one testified on Brown's behalf and according to reports his attorney, Kathryn Lirette, refused comment following the trial. Although, during her closing arguments, she said there were a number of inaccuracies in witness testimony, including people and police who claim to not remember moments over the past 32 years.

"This is the problem with this murder trial. There is so much information that is not here," Lirette said during closing arguments.

Elfert, who prosecuted along with Assistant District Attorney Seth Dodd, disagreed with this assessment and said that all statements stayed consistent over 32 years. He said these consistencies only make the case against Brown even stronger.

On the second day of the trial Viki Brown testified that Ricky had told her details pertaining to McLeroy's death on several different occasions. Viki has not seen Ricky since the couple lived together in Stillwater, Oklahoma, back in 1983.

Viki stated that Ricky told her that he and Burnett took McLeroy, punched her, and stripped her naked before they tied her hands behind her back. The pair then put her in the trunk of a car before driving her out to Grand Caillou Road. Once the pair arrived at the pond on Bayou Sale Road, they tied a cinder block around her neck before they dumped her into the water.

Viki testified that McLeroy was able to get up several times and that Ricky eventually said that was enough. However, Burnett grabbed McLeroy and held her head under the water until she stopped moving.

"He was pretty much matter-of-fact, but got upset after," Viki said of Ricky's recount of the killing.

Viki testified that she recalled reading an article in a September 28, 1980, edition of *The Houma Courier* under the headline "*Young Woman's Body Found in Grand Caillou*." However, McLeroy's name was not mentioned in the article due to the fact that she had not yet been identified.

According to the September 28th article, "Her body was nude except for a silver chain link bracelet, one gold dove-shaped pierced earring, and one glass drop pierced earring (then-Sheriff Ronnie) Duplantis said."

Viki said it wasn't until many years later that she connected the dots on what she read and what she had been told.

Mike Brown of New Iberia, who was friends with Ricky Brown in the early 1980s, also took the stand and testified that Ricky Brown had told him about the killing. Mike said that the memory haunted Ricky.

"He told me he was having nightmares, that he couldn't deal with what happened," Mike said during his testimony. Published articles which ran in the paper October 3rd and 12th, 1980 issues, identified McLeroy and asked for help in solving the case. However, the case would grow cold.

In 2000, Viki Brown's sisters called the Sheriff's Office and gave more information. In June 2001, Mike Brown, who was incarcerated at the time, gave a statement to detectives regarding his conversations with Ricky Brown.

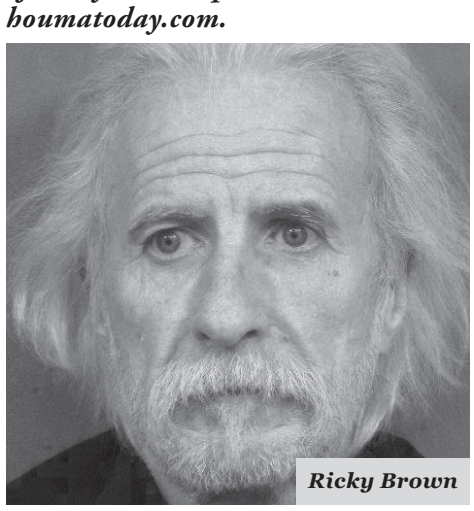
The case was closed yet again when neither Burnett nor Ricky Brown could be located.

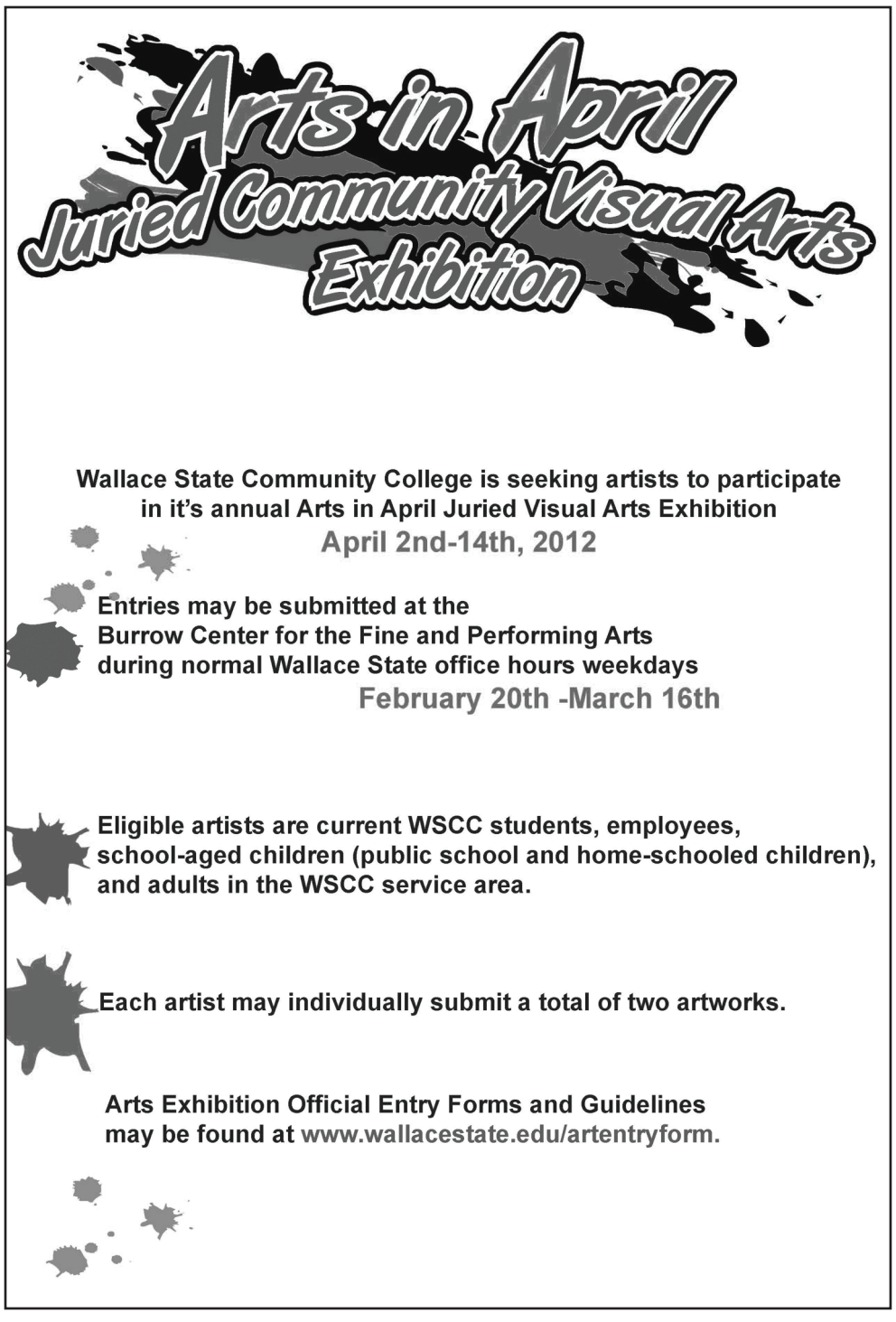
Published reports state that Sheriff's detective Kody Voisin, who worked on the case in 2010, said during his testimony that Brown's statements, as well as ones made by Viki Brown, led to the case being solved.

"At some point in time, out of an abundance of caution, the Sheriff's Office made sure they had everything covered before an arrest was made," Elfert said in his closing arguments. "These people aren't talking to each other, yet at some point you're getting the same story time and time again."

***We at CullmanSense would like to thank Houma Today Staff Writer Eric Heisig for working with us on this story and Staff Photographer Michael Conti for providing the photos.***

***For more on this story, including the several stories leading up to the trial of Ricky Brown, please visit houmatoday.com.***


*Ricky Brown*



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