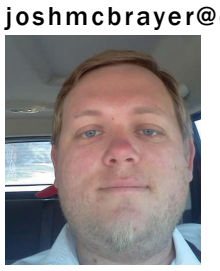
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CULLMANSENSE
COMMUNITY MATTERS

50¢

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Alabama Stay-Cations: The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



qrnews/jmcbrayer



Photos by Josh McBrayer

HANCEVILLE - For those looking for a spiritual destination this summer, The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament will re-fuel your tank of faith and move your spiritual meter to full, no matter what your faith. The Shrine is a Temple consecrated to the God Almighty and is a place of reverence to those of all denominations and faiths.

Mother Angelica of the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration had the temple built after having a religious vision while praying in front of a small statue of The Divine Child Jesus inside the Sanctuary of the Divino Nino Jesus in Bogota, Columbia. While praying the statue came to life, turned to her and said, "Build Me a Temple and I will help those who help you."

Mother Angelica explains that, "When you come into the Temple you are in the presence of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

The Our Lady of the Angles Monastery is adjacent to the Temple. This is where the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration reside. Although I did not get to see the Monastery, it is said to be a stark contrast of the sheer beauty of Temple.

The Shrine and Monastery sit on approximately 380 acres of pristine, beautiful, and isolated farmland that is encompassed by the Mulberry Fork of the Warrior River. The two mile road leading up to the Shrine is lined on each side by a well-kept white fence and the rolling hills are lush and green providing a serene element before you even reach the attraction.

Once you drive through the Shrine gates you are overwhelmed with the scope of the grounds. Before you "officially" step foot on the cobblestone that comprises the main courtyard, to your right is a small alcove with a statue that watches over the grave of a baby that was aborted at 20 weeks. There are also large stone tablets of the Ten Commandments and the eight Beatitudes, a set of teachings by Jesus Christ and are ex-

See Page 2



Dedicated to Preserving History

By: Noah Chandler
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qrnews/nchandler

Town of Holly Pond Preparing Guy Hunt Museum and Library

HOLLY POND - A town that measures approximately one-mile in diameter and plays host to roughly 800 residents may appear to be small in stature, but then again size is generally irrelevant when it relates to greatness.

More than likely, most in the Town of Holly Pond would attest to this, especially since the town is gearing up for its 100th anniversary. One of the special projects taking to the forefront is the Guy Hunt Museum and Library, slated to open on Friday, May 18th.

"This is not just a great thing for our residents here in Holly Pond but for everyone in Cullman County and surrounding areas," Holly Pond Mayor Herman Nail said. "Guy Hunt was from Holly Pond, but he was from Cullman County and represented our state as Governor. I am just hoping everyone enjoys the museum and library."

Hunt, born June 17, 1933, was Alabama's 49th Governor and the first Republican to get the nod since the Reconstruction Era. He served the people from 1987 until 1993. Hunt passed away at the age of 75 on January 30, 2009.

The Town of Holly Pond is getting aide from four civic groups; Holly Pond Civitan, Holly Pond Historical Society, Holly Pond Homemakers Club, and the Holly Pond Lions Club. Members from each of the groups



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From the Front

Shrine (Cont.)

pressed as eight blessings in the Sermon on the Mount found in the book of Matthew.

Once I entered the Shrine I was immediately filled with reverence and wonder as the beauty of the grounds was breathtaking.

The first room I entered was The Creche, or Holy Cave, a room with a massive Nativity scene. It is meant to keep the Spirit of Christmas year-round.

There is also a place to light votive candles and to collect Holy Water, which is precisely what Jose Santiago, who is from Carbon Texas, was doing.

Further to the right of The Creche and located directly across the courtyard from the Shrine itself, lies the Castle San Miguel.



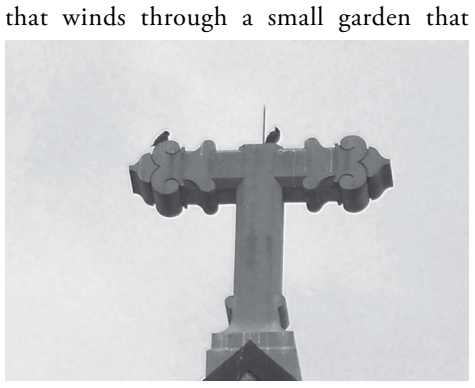
The castle brings with it thoughts of knights of valor and the maidens they fought to protect. There are near life-sized statues of Saint Joan of Arc and of Saint Michael, the Archangel.

Sitting atop antique furniture and behind glass are individual pages that are from actual medieval manuscripts that seem to be a window into the past.

The Castle of San Miguel also houses the Gift Shop of El Nino with items dedicated to the Shrine, Christianity, and Our Lord.

Downstairs is a conference room and a large dining room that can be catered. As you exit the Castle San Miguel, there is a basket of rosaries that are free for the public to take with them.

Behind the castle lies a circular pathway that winds through a small garden that contains the 12 Stations of the Holy Eucharist in small shrines with explanations about each holy station.



Leaving the garden, if you so choose, you can follow a path down to the Lourdes Grotto.

The Grotto is a very peaceful place of serenity and meditation with the only sounds being those of the gently flowing water of the Mulberry Fork of the Warrior River.

Following the path back out of the Grotto, heading back through Castle San Miguel, you will find yourself gazing upon the Piazza of the Shrine.

It is constructed in the classic style of the piazzas and courtyards of those you would find in Europe. It is able to hold 30,000 worshipers and pilgrims and is sometimes used for outdoor processions.

The next sight you will come to is the Monument of the Divine Child Jesus.

The statue of Jesus as child stands on a pedestal with four sides. Each side is engraved with the scripture, "… and a little child shall lead them," taken from the Book of Isaiah 11:6.

Although the engravings all read the same, they are written in a different language on each side.

The scripture is written in English, Spanish, Italian, and German. The statue is made of bright white marble, to the point where it almost seems to radiate and in the hand of the Divine Child he hold his heart, sculpted from blood-red jasper.

On either side of the Piazza, mounted between columns and arches, are the 12 Stations of the Cross that represent The Lord's Passion.

Atop the Temple, or Upper Church, stands a stone cross. This cross had the pinnacle broke completely off due to severe weather. It now forms the letter T.

When Mother Angelica learned of the significance of the "Tau Cross" which is in the shape of the Greek letter T, she took this as work of His divine hand and decided to not have the cross repaired.

The Upper Church was my next stop and it is one of only two places on the entire grounds where photos cannot be taken, the other is the Lower Church, out of respect for The Lord Almighty and praying parishioners.

You are also asked to keep silent which was not hard for me as I was speechless at the beauty that lay within. The Alter shined brightly as the gold reflected the soft light of the Temple.

The walls are adorned with statues of Saints and other religious figures along with carvings and artifacts.

In the middle of the patterned marble are 28 pews split into two rows of 14 each.

Lining the walls on each side are four confessionals, two to each side, where priests periodically are stationed to hear the confessions of those who wish their sins to be heard.

The Lower Church is much smaller than the Upper Church, but is no less impressive as Holy statues greet you from all angles as you walk in.

Services are held here as well at noon on weekdays and on Sunday at 10 a.m.

To the back of the Lower Church are six crypts that hold the remains of six Sisters that served at The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Some of the Sisters laid to rest here are the original Sisters that followed Mother Angelica.

I was looking forward to this exhibit form the moment I learned that it was on the grounds and, for me, was the most spiritually uplifting part of the entire tour: The Shroud of Turin Exhibit.

For those who do not know, the Shroud of Turin is a large swatch of cloth, but no ordinary cloth.

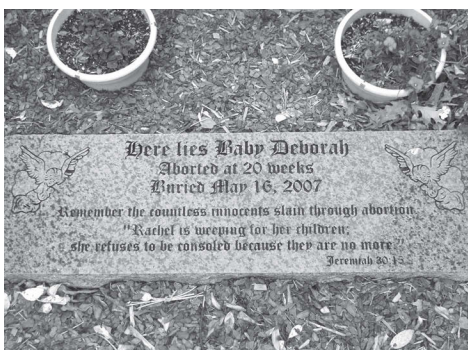
The Shroud is said to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ and his image can be seen on the cloth, front and back, reported to have been transferred to the cloth during His resurrection.

In this tiny room there are four life-sized photos of the Shroud of Turin. Two color photos of what the Shroud looks like if viewed normally and two negatives that enhance detail.

Each photo measures eight feet by four feet and is behind protective glass. Pay close attention to the negative photos as you can see the where the whips tore at His back, crown of thorns pierced His brow, and where His hands and feet had nails driven through them when He was crucified.

Learning what Jesus went through for all of mankind and seeing this through the Shroud of Turin photos is the reason I held this room in such reverence.

This is a place of spiritual reflection and worship for all and people come from all over the United States to view its wonders, which was evident when I left.



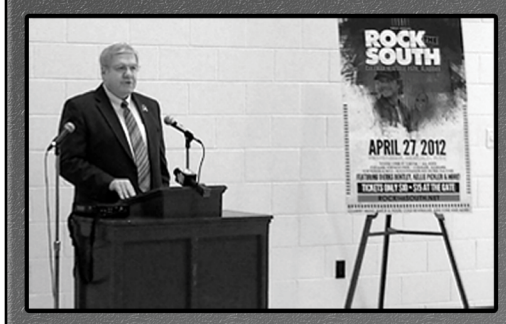
There were six cars in the parking lot and including mine there were two tags from Alabama and one each from, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia, With many people traveling from hundreds of miles away to see the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and for good reason, I feel fortunate to have such a wonderful place to visit, here in my own backyard.

The Shrine is open from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily and is free of admission for those of all faiths.



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Heritage Park Announced



Cullman City Counctil Meeting
March 12, 2012

qrne.ws/video

No(ah)-It-All: Something for Nothing

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

This week we are running hard and fast, so keep up or you might just get lost in this confused diatribe. In the past I have had the luxury of having multimillion dollar corporations backing my research efforts.

This usually helps expedite the information process because no one really wants to have a big company breathing down their neck.

Luckily for the wonderful CS Crew, they have what Dustin and I can generate each week. Given that the country, along with the rest of the globe, is going through a bit of an economic mess, we continue to push forward doing our best at trying to bring you all the stories you have asked for.

But enough on that subject, because I'm sure that column will be printed next week as we shuffle along this dusty path. Anyway we need to get back to the topic at hand…Greed!

It is wonderful to give back to those who have helped us out along the way. With the opening of the newly constructed Busy Bee Café just weeks away, I can go ahead and say bring on the Bee burgers, fried dill pickles and sweet cola, Kitty and Steve!

There is absolutely nothing wrong with lending a hand whenever you are able to do so because that hand will be there when you need it.

However, there is a clear difference between giving someone a break in order to build a healthy relationship and boldly taking advantage of someone's hardship in order to maximize profit. Personally this offense is nothing more than infantile and driven only by greed.

Yep! Here I go talking about greed. But not the normal, "We deserve everything for doing nothing," type of greed rhetoric. This is more of the "If they stay greedy for too much long then they'll starve themselves to death," type of protocol.

Now to some the latter may be a new awakening, but trust me it happens all the time.

Whether it is the large Mega-Low Price corporations taking shots at the local mom and pop type stores or State and Local government infringing on residents land, greed will ultimately lead to starvation.

Okay, as stated at the start you have to stay up or you'll get extremely lost, so keep up. Now that we have the basic premise down let us figure out how greed can lead to starvation.

Some may think, "How can greed make me hungry?" Well it's not the act of physical starvation but that of demoralization of a person or groups mental state, causing the process to cease out of frustration. I said this was confusing, but hang in there because it's almost over.

Here is a simple example. If Group A offers you a deal on, oh let's just say a new car, then you take their offer to Group B and propose that they give you the same deal or better, then how can Group A survive?

If you use Group A's technique against them then eventually demoralization will set in, which will lead to the inevitable collapse, giving Group B sole ownership of the market.

Now that Group B is the only shop in town they can re-raise prices, drop their quality standards back to the norm, which will ultimate leave you hostage to their unrelenting greed.

Can you feel me now?

So if you really want something for nothing then remember when your car breaks down on the side of the road and Group B tells you to deal with it, just remember that you get what you pay for. Now have a good week!

Weather

Source: NWS

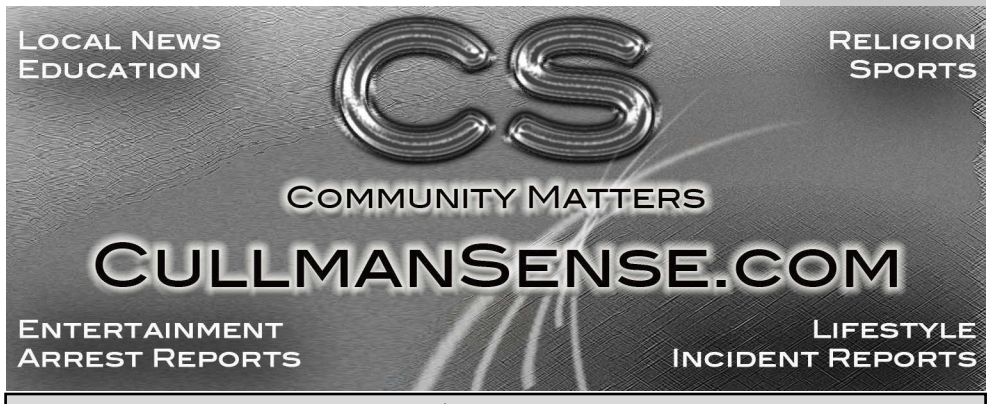
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 79	Hi: 81	Hi: 82	Hi: 79
Lo: 50	Lo:56	Lo: 56	Lo: 54

Monday: Sunny, with a high near **79**. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **50**. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near **81**. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **56**. South wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **82**.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around **56**.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near **79**.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around **54**.



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

AREA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Alabama Spotlight: Steve Woodard

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



qrnews/jmcbrayer

Welcome to the return on the Alabama Spotlight where I interview local athletes and coaches that have ties to our great state of Alabama and, if I am lucky, Cullman County.

I didn't have to look very far for this week's star athlete because he can be seen patrolling the first base coaching box at West Point High School, giving his players "major league" tips of the finer points of baseball. I am talking about none other than seven year MLB veteran, Steve Woodard.

Woodard played his high school baseball just outside the county limits in Hartselle. He had signed to play baseball for the University of Tennessee but was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 1994 amateur draft and signed with them in June.

He pitched seven solid years in the MLB with the Milwaukee Brewers, Cleveland Indians, Texas Rangers, and Boston Red Sox.

He had a stellar debut going up against "The Rocket" Roger Clemens. He pitched a one-hit shut-out in his debut where he earned the win, striking out 12 and allowing only on base-on-balls.

Steve Woodard was kind enough to take time to sit down and talk with me before a game and here is what he had to say.

Josh McBrayer: Tell me a little bit about what it was like knowing you were going to get to continue your baseball career at the next level coming out of high school?

Steve Woodard: Once I got into about 10th or 11th grade I knew I had a chance to maybe play college baseball. It was something I first thought about, but every kid growing up dreams about playing Major League Baseball.

I signed with the University of Tennessee before my senior year started.

Once I graduated my senior year I got drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the fifth-round.

Then came the decision to go to Tennessee or sign professionally. That was something I had always dreamed of, playing professional baseball, and I was given that opportunity, so I tried to take advantage of it.

JM: How long did you play in the minor leagues?

SW: I was in the minor leagues a very short time compared to most people, not even two and a half years. I went straight to rookie ball the first year after I had signed, then I went to low A ball to high A ball (minor league classifications), then went to Double A for half of the year, and then I got called up to the big leagues (MLB), so not a very long time at all.

JM: What was your experience like in the minor leagues?

SW: Travel is probably the hardest part in the minors; like riding on busses and having to get up early in the morning, catch flights, and things like that.

In the big leagues you have charter flights and leave right after the game that night. You're well taken care of. It gives you something to work toward when you are in the minor leagues.

JM: That was my next question. What was the first big thing you noticed form the minors to the majors?

SW: The travel is so much easier in the big leagues because you are not on the road ALL the time because you can get to the cities a lot quicker.

As far as competition wise, once you get to the big leagues there is a lot of the same talent. In the big leagues it is all the matter of who can make the adjustment, who is smarter.

In the minor leagues there are still guys learning how to throw certain pitches and hit certain pitches, but when you get to the big leagues you can't make those mistakes because those guys have already fine-tuned their skills.

JM: Being from around here everyone knows about your first game. Did you know you were facing Roger Clemens, or did you just come (to the clubhouse) and see your name penciled in?

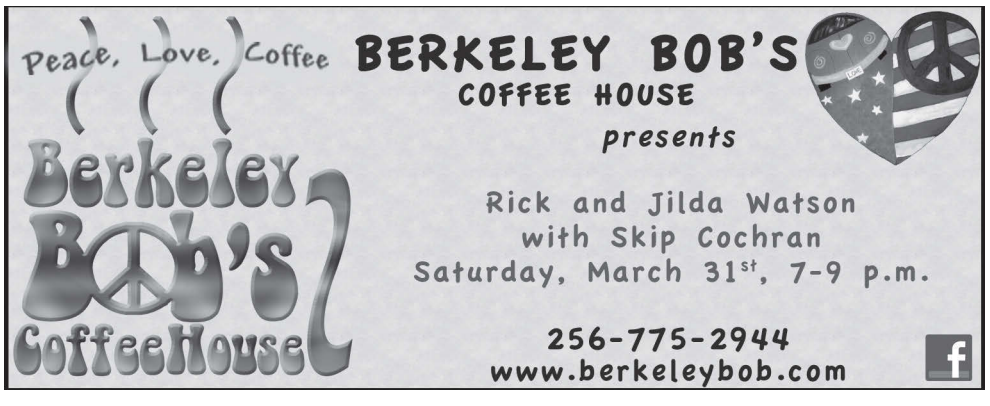
SW: Well I got called up, I want to say two days before I was going to pitch, but they didn't activate me until the day I was pitching.

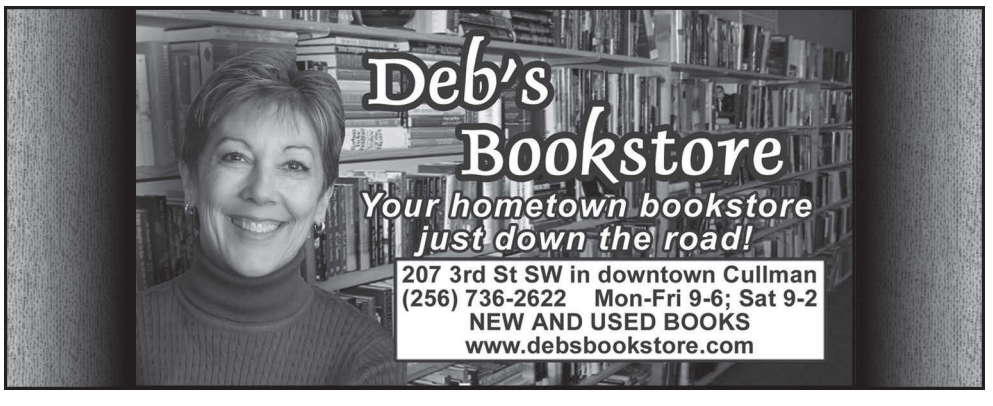
We were actually in Detroit, at the old Tiger Stadium where I got called up to, and I kind of got accustomed to everything.

Then we went back to Milwaukee to old County Stadium where I was going to pitch.









It was the first game of a double-header.

I knew I was pitching against Clemens, who was someone I grew up watching and idolizing. I guess if you have somebody that is your hero as a pitcher he was one of them.

Not a lot of expectations were going into the game, knowing you are going in pitching against Roger Clemens, you have to just go in and do your best because it is going to be hard to beat him.

Pretty much you know you are not going to be able to give up any runs to have a chance to win. I guess it worked to my advantage that day because they did not have a scouting report on me. I had one on them, but they did not have one on me, so it worked to my advantage.

I was able to change speeds all day long and was able to throw strikes and they were swinging through balls all day. I was able to win one to nothing and gave up only one hit.

Otis Nixon led off the game with a hit, a double, but then I was able to get out of the inning with some strike-outs. It was a memorable day. Something I will never forget.

JM: How were your nerves going in?

SW: You know, I really wasn't that nervous. I was more nervous my second start than I was my first start.

My first start I really didn't think about much going on. My first start there were about 20,000 people in the stands and my second start there were about 40,000. It was a big difference from that part of it.

The second start I was facing Ken Griffey, Alex Rodriguez, Joey Cora, Jay Buhner, and those guys from the Seattle Mariners, so it was a little different in the second game.

I went out and I think I got knocked out (of the game) after the third or fourth inning. My next start happened to be against (the Mariners) in Seattle and I wound up beating them.

JM: Walk us through what it's like going up against a guy like Alex Rodriguez or Ken Griffey, guys that you obviously grew up watching. Was it like being on the hill, looking thinking "I'm facing Ken Griffey Jr.?"

SW: It was pretty awesome. I actually gave up my first home run to Ken Griffey. My first big league strike out was Joe Carter.

You know, facing those guys…it's awesome. These are guys I grew up watching on TV, I grew up wanting to be like them, and then I got the chance to actually pitch against them.

You get to that point when you get to the big leagues and you can't let it get to you just because you know who they are.

You can't let that take away from what you are going to do on the mound because you still have to get them out.

Any good pitcher can get any good hitter out more often than not; someone like Barry Bonds.

Barry hit a couple of home runs off of me when I faced him, but I got him out quite a few times also.

I would say Barry Bonds was probably one of the best hitters I have ever faced. I was very, very fortunate.

JM: It's funny how every pitcher has one guy they can always get out and one guy they can never get out. Who were the most comfortable facing?

SW: Well comfortable wise there were a lot of guys. Robin Ventura, not a lot of guys remember Robin. Mark McGwire, I was real comfortable with him, Sammy Sosa also.

What a lot of people don't know is the guy I didn't like facing was Glenn Allen Hill.

Glenn was like 8 for 11 with eight home runs on me. It was tough to get him out. It seemed like everything I threw up there he would hit for a home run.

JM: As far as coaching goes, was it something that you always had in the back of your mind?

SW: Well you know, I coached my little boy and I enjoy being around kids and helping them.

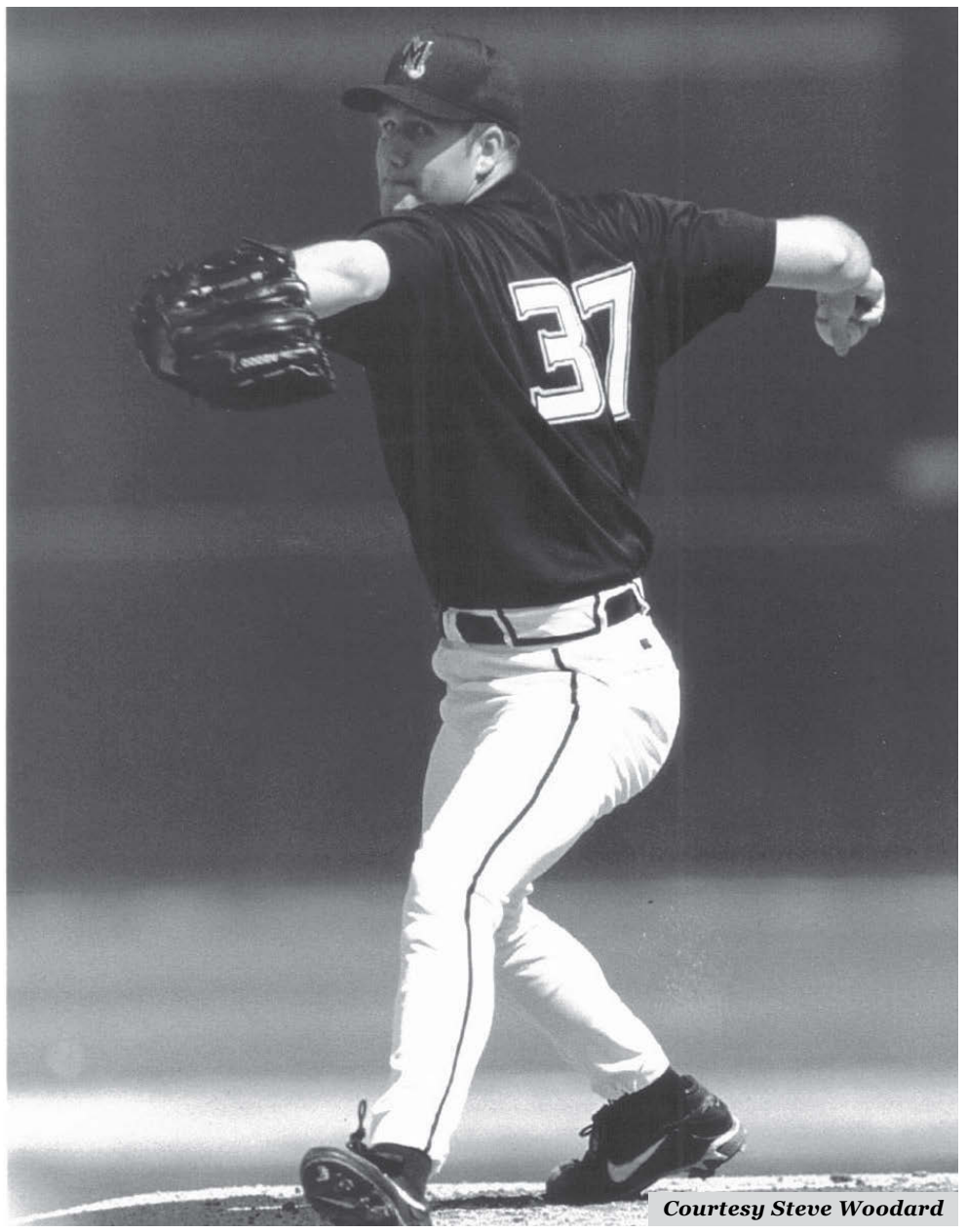
As far as coming out here to West Point, Trey and I grew up together. I just wanted to help him try and build up the program and try to get it to where it needs to be.

There are a lot of good athletes here.

It all starts with the younger kids, trying to get them involved and getting them to learn what you are trying to teach them.

I enjoy being out here. Baseball is baseball. It is fun to watch (West Point) play and get better every day.

Apparently Steve Woodard is making a "major league" contribution to the program as he and head coach Trey led the West Point Warriors to a 2nd place finish in the Cullman County Baseball Tournament and the reputation as one of the best teams in the county in 2012.



Courtesy Steve Woodard





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In Brief

St. Bernard's Ayleana Mami to Compete in Australia

By: Joyce Nix

CULLMAN - St. Bernard Prep's Ayleana Mami is $1,650 away from blazing a trail to Australia this June to participate in the Down Under Sports Competition - Track and Field Division.

Mami was selected to represent Alabama and the United States for her outstanding state performance in the 1600 meter as well as the 3200 meter race.

"I am so thankful for the many friends, family members and alumni of St. Bernard who have helped me raise $3,400 to date," Mami said.

"Without their support, this trip would be impossible for me."

Mami's Coach William Calvert said, "Ayleana strives for excellence in every endeavor she undertakes –whether it be athletics, academics, or service to others."

"She certainly exemplifies the St. Bernard Mission of Corpus Mens and Spiritus. She is truly a champion in every sense of the word."

To support Ayleana, visit www.stbernardprep.com and click on Ayleana – Alabama to Australia or contact the school at 256-739-6682.



CRMC Welcomes Dr. Doppalapudi, UAB Cardiologist to Medical Staff

By: Lindsey Dossey

CULLMAN — Harish Doppalapudi, M.D., a Birmingham cardiologist of 9 years, is now practicing Cardiac Electrophysiology at Cullman Regional Medical Center in the CRMC/UAB Cardiology Clinic. A native of Guntur, India, Dr. Doppalapudi first moved to Alabama in February of 2000 for medical residency training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

Dr. Doppalapudi is board certified in Internal Medicine and in the subspecialties of Cardiovascular Disease and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at UAB, where he has received Education Excellence Awards in 2010 & 2011 as well as the 2011 Argus Award for Best Lecturer for Medical Students and the 2011 Cecil Coghlan Award for Best Teacher for fellows in the Cardiovascular Division.

Dr. Doppalapudi has joined the CRMC/UAB Cardiovascular Clinic Team with UAB Interventional Cardiologist Silvio Papapietro, MD and UAB Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist Jose Osorio, MD located in Cullman Regional Medical Center's Main Hospital. To schedule an appointment, call (256) 737-2095. For more information on Dr. Doppalapudi or the Cardiovascular Services provided by Cullman Regional Medical Center, visit www.crmchospital.com/heart.



Cullman Regional Medical Center Receives Donation from Quilts for Kids Organization

By: Lindsey Dossey

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional Medical Center recently received 20 quilts from the Quilts for Kids Organization for kids who need comforting while staying as a patient in the CRMC Surgical Services Center or in the Emergency Department.

"These quilts impact the children in a way that is beyond measure," stated Cheryl Bailey, RN, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services.



The Staff in the CRMC Emergency Services recently received quilts to offer children as a comfort to them during their visit. Front row from left to right front; Nicole Mangum, RN; Anna Hand ER Tech; back row from left to right: Misty Patterson, RN; Tanya Aaron, PFS; Sandy Foster, PFS; Renae Jones, RN



One Day Surgery Staff were the recipients of quilts for boys and girls to have as a means of comfort during their stay. Front row from left to right: Lynn Wilson, RN; Gail McDaniel, RN; Back row from left to right: Pam Kress, RN, ODS Supervisor; Charles Howell, Adult Volunteer; Casi Thompson, RN

"Not only are the children and their parents' lives touched, but so are the CRMC Staff Members who offer the quilts as a means to comfort to the children."

Quilts for Kids is a non-profit organization that utilizes volunteers to transform fabrics into patchwork quilts that comfort children in need.

From corporate programs to quilting groups and individuals, volunteers enable the organization to turn tears to smiles for the tens of thousands of children that have been wrapped in the quilts.

The hope is to bring a bit of comfort to children going through a life-threatening battle with illness.

Long stays in a sterile hospital room can be hard; having a brightly colored child-oriented quilt to snuggle with can help make the stay less frightening.

The Quilts for Kids Organization has over 60 chapters throughout North American and the Caribbean.

They hold monthly workshops to help bring community volunteers together for the benefit of the children who need comfort.

Teens are encouraged to participate through their high school Family Science Program.

More information on this organization can be obtained online at www.quiltsforkids.org.

In Bloom

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The 28th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair is looming in the distance, with vendors at the ready to shine a little artwork, handcrafted niche pieces and other assortment of items into your life.

Festivities will be growing strong on both Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, at St. Bernard Prep School and the historic Ave Maria Grotto.

Gates will open each day at 9 a.m. before closing shop at 5 p.m. each day.

All types of giveaways will be taking place, including one for a Jeep Patriot, among many other valuable prizes.

Admission donations are $5 per person, with children 5 and under entering free.

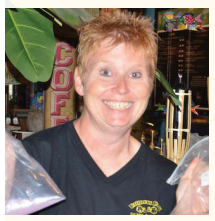
Both a 5K & 10K race are scheduled for April 21. If you are interested in registering, forms may be downloaded at www.bloominfestival.com or by calling 256-739-6682.



Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrne.ws/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

From Grilling to Smoking

And I don't mean cigarettes

If any of you read my last story about learning to grill, this will make sense as I progressed to a smoker. I had a charcoal smoker first and found out that unless I wanted to monitor it every couple of hours, I needed something else. For my birthday I got an electric smoker. I loved it! I wore it out! This was much easier than grilling. We camped a lot and I took over the cooking. I wouldn't let anyone else do it. It was my hobby, my thing, and fun for me. I packed my electric smoker with us every trip.

This smoker I had was more than a smoker, it also grilled. Well, I had to actually do the grilling, but you know what I mean. I experimented with different types of wood and figured out that pretty much any type worked. I put fruit in the water of the smoker and it seemed to add a good flavor to anything we cooked.

When we camped, we always went to Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama. This is still our favorite place to go and camp. We would get up early, drag the kids out of bed, and put their swim suits on them, along with the sunscreen, pack up our vehicle and our cooler with juice boxes and a bag of snacks, some sand toys, floats, beach chairs, a quilt, towels, don't forget the beach umbrella…you name it, we took it to the beach. We were pack mules. With little ones we couldn't stay long so we stayed until lunch and came back.

While Ralph was packing everything, I was getting ribs prepped and ready for the smoker. I put the ribs on, plugged in the smoker, and away we went. We got back from the beach, took the kids to the bathhouse to wash off all the sand, and lunch was served! We had delicious barbecue ribs that fell off the bone! Yum!

Doesn't it seem like the best food is whatever is cooked outside? It doesn't matter if it's a hotdog, marshmallows, and hamburgers, whatever. It's just great outside. We would eat and afterwards we all took naps, got up, and in the heat of the day went to the grocery store to buy supplies for supper. We had a pop up camper that held everything we owned, or it seemed like it, but the refrigerator was too small, so we shopped often and it was fun, just getting in the cool spots when it was too hot to be out.

Supper was the best cheeseburgers you will ever eat, cooked on my trusty Brinkman smoker. We grilled the hamburgers, had chips, got chased by yellow flies and invaded by fire ants, and spilled box drinks that caused more ants. After we cleaned up everything, we all went on a bike ride throughout the park. We had a cookie monster child seat on Ralph's bike and two on training wheels at times. We stopped at the camp store for popsicles, which was a big treat for the kids. I loved them too!

I think I talked more about family camping than I did cooking, but those were some of the best times of our lives. To this day, I have gone through 4-5 smokers and still have one today. My grill collection has grown to a Weber charcoal grill, a gas grill, an electric smoker, a little Smoky Joe that we take camping, and most recently, again for my birthday, a Big Green Egg. I love that thing! I will be posting recipes as I continue to learn to use it.

The main thing is we ate some good stuff from that smoker. I used to work at a pharmacy and would go home at lunch, throw a couple of chickens on my smoker, and when I got home, we had delicious smoked chicken and I DID IT! This is not hard people. Get one and try it. You will impress yourself at what you can do.

Steak and Gravy

I have made steak and gravy many different ways, but this one is the quickest and easiest that I know.

Ingredients:

- Minute steaks-however many you need to feed your family.
- Flour seasoned with black pepper and salt
- Milk
- Oil for frying
- 1 can of Cream of Chicken soup

Directions:

1. Put enough oil in a large skillet to cover the bottom and put it on medium high heat.
2. Put the seasoned flour in a medium to large dish so you can coat the minute steaks well. Keep any remaining flour for gravy.
3. Coat the steaks well on both sides and place in the hot oil. Brown on both sides, repeating with all the steak until they are all browned. Remove browned steaks and set aside, keeping the drippings. Take it off the heat.
4. Turn a large crock-pot on high and put the browned steaks in the crock-pot.
5. To make the gravy, in the drippings, put remaining flour and stir with a whisk until flour is wet. Open the can of Cream of Chicken soup and whisk it in with the flour.
6. Add one can of milk, whisk in, add one can of water, whisk in and let thicken. If the gravy is a little too thick, add more milk, a little at a time.
7. Once gravy is to your liking, pour it over the steaks in the crock-pot.

*You can cook this on medium or low if you aren't going to eat for several hours. I put it on high if I have a few hours until we eat.

Serve with vegetables, rolls and mashed potatoes. YUM YUM!

Chocolate Éclair Dessert

The first time I made this was for Christmas. No one knew what it was, but after someone ate the first piece, it was gone and became a family favorite. It's as close to a real éclair as you will get and there is no baking!

Ingredients:

- 1 box graham crackers
- 2 (3 oz.) boxes French vanilla pudding (instant)
- 3 c. milk
- 1 (8 oz.) Cool Whip

Directions:

Butter sides and bottom of 9 x 13 inch pan - line bottom with whole crackers. Beat pudding with milk until thick - fold in Cool Whip. Pour 1/2 pudding over crackers. Place second layer of crackers, the second layer of pudding, then final layer of crackers. Pour frosting over crackers (when hot). Refrigerate 24 hours.

Frosting:

- 3 tbsp. butter
- 2 oz. cocoa
- 2 tbsp. white Karo syrup
- 3 tbsp. milk
- 1 tbsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 c. powdered sugar

Melt butter with cocoa, add all other ingredients and mix well.



Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at the First Christian Church

The first Christian Church in Cullman was constructed in 1920. Rev. D.R. Piper from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania was the first Pastor.

Past



Contributed from *Cullman: A History in Postcards*

Present



Photo by Jessica Norrell

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, March 26th

Fish Fry at Seventh Street Baptist Church
Seventh Street Baptist Church invites the community to join them for a 'Fish Fry', starting at 5 p.m., with fried catfish fillets, hush puppies, slaw, potatoes and dessert being the menu for the evening's meal. Plates are $10.00 per person and all monies raised will go to the Relay for Life which supports the American Cancer Society. Attendees may eat 'in' or 'take-out' plates. Come to 7th Street and enjoy a delicious meal, mingle with your friends who also are eating out and help support a great cause.

Bosom Buddies Support Group
Join in as the Bosom Buddies Support Group offers encouragement and support to individuals affected by Breast Cancer. This meeting, open to everyone, is held in the Ave Maria Room of CRMC's POB II building and will begin at 6 p.m. Kay Parker Phillips, CRNP with Cullman Gastroenterology Associates, will discuss the topic of Colon Cancer and the importance of screening tests. Mary Dyer is group coordinator and she can be reached at 256-734-8729.

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 27th

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 28th

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 29th

CRMC's Junior Volunteer Program
Cullman Regional Medical Center is sponsoring its summer Junior Volunteer Program once again for students who have completed the 10th grade and turn 16 by June 1, 2012. This six-week program promotes healthcare careers to high school students and takes place in June and July. Applications for this year's program will be mailed out in late March and interested students need to contact CRMC NOW to get on the mailing list. Steps in the application process include completing the forms, getting a letter of reference and having parents agree to participation by signing a release form. Candidates for this program need to be available for mandatory orientation and willing to work approximately 10 hours each week throughout the course of the six-week program. According to Amy Linton, coordinators, many former Junior Volunteers currently are employed at CRMC. Please contact Ms. Linton for application forms and/or further information at 256-737-2600 or through her email at amy.linton@crmchospital.com

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.

'Carpe Diem' Final Community Concert
The final concert of the year sponsored by the Cullman Community Concert Association will be 'Carpe Diem.' The show will begin at 7 p.m. and tickets are available at the door for those who do not have season tickets. The event will be held in the Betty Leeth Haynes Auditorium at the Burrow Arts Center on the Wallace State Community College Campus in Hanceville. Come enjoy a night of musical entertainment and visit with your neighbors at this final concert of the 2011-2012 season!

Friday, March 30th

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to come to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment tonight!

Saturday, March 24th

County-Wide Yard Sale at Smith Lake Park
Everyone is invited to set up a booth or come to the County-wide Yard Sale starting at 6 a.m. It will be held at Smith Lake Park and admission is free. Grass rental spots for all vendors will be $10.00. This event is open to everyone. For information and to reserve your 'spot', contact Park Director Denise Caudle at 256-739-2916. Money raised from this event will go toward needs of Cullman County Recreation Department. Come on out and see what bargains you can find!

1st Annual Pancake Breakfast at Rescue Squad
The Cullman County Rescue Squad is offering to make YOUR breakfast! Yes, you read that correctly! From 7 a.m. until 11 a.m., they will be serving 'all you can eat pancakes' at their office on Sportsman Lake Road, located just across from the Fairgrounds! You will be served delicious and delectable pancakes with all the trimmings for only $6.00 a plate (remember, it's all you can eat!!). Come out and support the local folks who go out at the drop of hat to do search and rescue for us when we are in need....now it is time to help them out, so come eat breakfast, spend time with friends, and support a great cause, all at the same time!

4-Man Scramble Sponsored by Good Hope Baptist Youth
Good Hope Baptist Youth will sponsor a 4-man scramble golf tournament to raise funds for their upcoming mission trip. The shotgun start will open the day at 8 a.m. at the Cullman Golf Course. Lunch is supplied with the $50.00 per person entry fee. For further information please contact Laura Harris at 256-962-4954. All funds raised will go toward the youth group's upcoming mission trip.

5K Run/Walk by Life Church at Sportsman's Lake
A 5K Run/Walk will be sponsored by Life Church will be held at Sportsman's Lake Park starting at 9 am. Everyone is invited to participate in this event, which is raising funds to support a mission trip to Peru where the group will help build a Church. The 5K walk is for all ages. The cost is $25.00 to pre-register early for the run, and $30.00 for on-site registration the day of the race. There is a special family registration fee of $65.00 for up to 4 family members. All participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt. Those planning to run should get to the part early to get race information and their t-shirts. To pre-register please send checks made payable to:

Life Church
P. O. Box 2343
Cullman, Alabama 35056-2343

Please put on bottom of check "Missions/Anna".

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Church at 256-297-1115. Come out and enjoy an early springtime morning in the woods and trails at Sportsman's Lake Park and help with a mission trip at the same time!

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!

Looking Ahead

CHS Class of 2002 10-year Reunion
Cullman High School Class of 2002 will have its 10-year class reunion Saturday, May 5. Go to http://www.cullmanhs2002.com to register and for more information. Also visit the Facebook page-Cullman High School Class of 2002 Reunion. Register by April 15.

"Picnic on 5th" Pilot Club Fashion Show to be Held on April 25
Pilot Club of Cullman announces its 20th Annual Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon and Fashion Show. This year's event, titled "Picnic on 5th,"is Wednesday, April 25 at the McGukin Civic Center in Cullman and features Miss Alabama 2011, Courtney Porter, as mistress of ceremonies. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. to allow browsing with participating vendors, and the event ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. Participating companies will not only support local Pilot Club service projects, but will also give their employees an opportunity to learn more about the reigning Miss Alabama, whose platform is mentoring at-risk students through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Attendees will be treated to a picnic lunch catered by Sweet Peppers Deli. With its casual-wear picnic theme, this year's fashion show promises to showcase some of the best spring and summer fashions from Cullman-area merchants. Just a few of the merchants already confirmed are Belk, Cato, Doncaster, JC Penney, Just for Looks, Maurice's, TJ Maxx, and Werner's Trading Company. Advance ticket purchase is required due to limited seating. Picnic on 5th tickets are $20 and can be purchased from any Pilot member or by contacting Carole Garrett at (256) 734-5536.

PUZZLES, COMICS, AND JOKES

THIS WEEK'S WORD SEARCH TOPIC IS: SPRING BREAK

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 your entry to CullmanSense, 101 1st Avenue Northeast, Suite 230, Cullman, AL 35055.

Z	T	W	J	T	R	K	J	E	Y	R	X	I	U	G	F	N	Q	G	V	T	Z	X	M	J	V	C	S	F
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baseball, beach, camping, cruise, flipflops, friends, fun, hiking, movies, party, picnic, reading, shopping, sleep, spring cleaning, swimming, vacation, video games

GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

1. What did the atoms do to help their positive and negative charges relax?



2. What do a pine tree and a Golden Retriever have in common?



1. They took them nuclear tission. 2. Bark

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



Community Matters

Dedicated to Preserving History (Cont.)

have been meeting periodically, sifting through mounds of memorabilia from the late governor.

Items from shoes, books, and letters to hats, shampoos, and thousands of portraits/photos currently reside on the floor and tables of the soon-to-be opened museum. Civitan member Lynn Jetton has the arduous task of cataloging each and every item that has been sent to the museum.

"We don't have a shortage, that's for sure," Jetton said laughing. "There is a lot to photograph, but it is all for a good cause." Jetton was taking photos most of the morning and plans on continuing the lengthy process for at least another month.

"Each family album has several hundred photos in them, each of which has to be photographed separately, so there is no shortage of work," she said. "It is very interesting though. I've seen all sorts of memorabilia so far."

Helping aid Jetton was fellow Civitan member Sharon Oliver, whom spends her time cleaning picture frames, plaques and just about everything that is made of wood, glass or metal.

"It's a lot of work, but it's fulfilling," Oliver said while cleaning a large frame. "We are doing a great thing for the people of Holly Pond and hopefully people from outside the area will come by to see who our former governor was through the different memorabilia."



Holly Pond Centennial Celebration Calendar of Events

•	April 21, 2012	Holly Pond Centennial Celebration Pageant
•	May 12, 2012	Chad Bradford Band Concert
•	May 18, 2012	Dedication of the Guy Hunt Museum and Library
•	June 23, 2012	Holly Pond Cemetery Walk
•	July 21, 2012	Singing Festival/ Vegetable and Baked Goods Contest
•	August 18, 2012	Jam-in-the-Park
•	September 22, 2012	Founders Day Festival
•	November 3, 2012	5K Run and Fun Walk
•	December 2012	Christmas Cards in the Park

For event details go to www.townofhollypond.com or for questions contact Walt Floyd at 256-796-6814 or Heidi Walker at 256-709-2800.

Nail said he is anxiously awaiting the dedication.

"We are expecting Governor Bentley, members of the Hunt administration, along with many other Senators and State Representatives at the dedication, so you know it will be a big event," he said. "I am encouraging anyone who wants to be a part of this day to come out on May 18."

The Centennial Celebration will play host to monthly events beginning on Saturday, April 21st as The Town of Holly Pond celebrates in full force. The celebration will kick off with the Holly Pond Centennial Celebration Pageant to be held at Holly Pond High School on April 21, 2012 and will conclude with Christmas Cards in the Park throughout the month of December.



FISH FRY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RELAY FOR LIFE

SEVENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

708 7TH STREET SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055
256-739-8724

TICKETS: $10.00
WE WILL BEGIN SERVING AT 5:00 P.M.

FRIED CATFISH FILETS
HUSH PUPPIES
SLAW
POTATOES
DESSERT

Pick up Supper after work!

All proceeds go to American Cancer Society!

Arts in April
Juried Community Visual Arts Exhibition

Wallace State Community College is seeking artists to participate in it's annual Arts in April Juried Visual Arts Exhibition

April 2nd-14th, 2012

Entries may be submitted at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts during normal Wallace State office hours weekdays

February 20th -March 16th

Eligible artists are current WSCC students, employees, school-aged children (public school and home-schooled children), and adults in the WSCC service area.

Each artist may individually submit a total of two artworks.

Arts Exhibition Official Entry Forms and Guidelines may be found at www.wallacestate.edu/artentryform.

FIRST ANNUAL

ROCK THE SOUTH

CULLMAN HERITAGE PARK, ALABAMA



APRIL 27, 2012

REMEMBER, REBUILD, RISE

DOORS OPEN AT 3:00 PM • ALL AGES

CULLMAN HERITAGE PARK • CULLMAN, ALABAMA

FOR TICKETS & INFO – ROCKTHESOUTH.NET OR 800-965-9324

FEATURING DIERKS BENTLEY, KELLIE PICKLER & MORE!

TICKETS ONLY $10 • $15 AT THE GATE

ROCKtheSOUTH.NET

COUNTRY MUSIC, BAR-B Q, FOOD, COLD BEVERAGES, KIDS ZONE AND MORE!