Series 2, Issue 15

Monday, April 9, 2012

Cullman's Monday Newspaper

CULLMANSENSE

Community Matters

50¢

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PLUS Mirroring History, Word Search, Comic, Calendar, & More — Look Inside

Good Food, New Friends, and Perfect Weather

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com



qrnews/nchandler



Photos by Noah Chandler

CULLMAN – Fresh picked turnip greens, homegrown herbs, tubs upon tubs of plump strawberries, and handcrafted soaps are just a few of the amazing items that one can find at the Cullman Farmer's Market.

The market, located at the Festhalle Market Platz, plays host to farmers, green-thumbed floral artists, and others in the Cullman County area who have plenty goods to offer residents, making for a true locally driven economy.

Two local farmers and staples of the farmer market are former Cullman County School Superintendent Jim Boyd and Sonny Voigt. Boyd was out selling greens while Voigt kept him company after selling out of his richly famous strawberries.

"Well, I'm here selling turnip greens and radishes to help out my grandson," Boyd said. "My son, Lance, helped me pick these (displays bushel) and they are ready to take home, wash off, and slap on a plate."

Boyd, whom has been farming as far back as he can recall, said he enjoys the time spent at the market with friends like Voigt.

He said the market is great place for locals to swap stories while buying locally grown produce.

"You got good food, some really nice folks and great stories," he said laughing. "There's no telling what kind of stories you'll hear if you stay around long enough, especially if you come around me or Mr. Voigt."

This year, the hours of operation have been changed to better accommodate local farmers, according to the Farmer's Market website.

Entering into its sixth year, the Festhalle Market will open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

These new hours are a change from last year's schedule. The 2012 Farmers Market Season will run from April 3rd until October 27th.

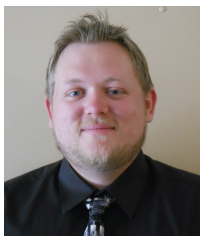
"We were already opening the market on Thursdays and Saturdays in April to

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Alabama Stay-Cations: Wheeler Wildlife Refuge & Cook's Natural Science Museum

By: Josh McBrayer
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qrnews/jmcbrayer

With the economy in a downturn and regular folks having to tighten their belts in order to save what money they can, most will cut corners where they can and that could mean no family vacation this year, right? Wrong.

What if I told you there was a family friendly destination complete with hiking, boating, fishing, and all the wildlife you could



Photos by Josh McBrayer

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From the Front

Good Food (Cont.)

accommodate local greenhouses, nurseries, and producers wishing to sell bedding plants, nursery stock, flowers and other plants, as well as area farmers who have early garden vegetables and strawberries," Festhalle Market Manager Jimmy Simms mentioned on the market's site.

"The committee also wanted to eliminate any lingering confusion about the hours the market is open so the members voted to end the so-called Thursday afternoon market and instead voted unanimously to open all three days, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The committee felt it would be easier for customers to remember the market's hours if those hours were the same all three days."

Royanne Watson, of Fairview, offers up a variety of herbs, along with perennials. She said the market is a great place for those interested in local plants, foods, and handmade goods.

"Today, I brought thyme, dill, cilantro, oregano, rosemary, and some bedding plants as well," Watson said. "This is my second year at the market. It is a good location and I really enjoy it."

Watson said the time at the market acts as a much-needed break from her daily tasks that range from gardening to keeping up with her three daughters.She doesn't mind being outdoors and even eluded to the fact that her maiden name probably shaped the way to her gardening path.

"This is really the time I get to relax because if I was at home I would be watering; oh, and I have three girls," she said laughing. "I really like being outdoors. Gardner is my maiden name so I guess it just comes naturally."

During this season, daily space rental fees at the Market will be $10. Vendors may reserve a space for the entire 2012 season for a total rental fee of $350.

Checks should be made payable to: Cullman City Parks and Recreation.

Anyone with questions about the market, the market schedule or rules and anyone interested in being a produce or crafts vendor, contact Jimmy Simms at 256-775-7207, 256-590-2003 or send an Email to jsimms@cullmancity.org.



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The Vintage Cowboys Perform at the Local Standard



CullmanSense Interviews Emily Hayes

qrne.ws/video

Playing 4 Andrew Golf Tournament

Cullman Golf Course

ANDREW

May 12th 2012

Tee-Time 1:30pm, 4-man Scramble!

Hole – In — One Contest Prizes!

2012 Jeep Wrangler From Cullman Dodge

2012 GMC Pick Up From Bill Smith GMC

Individual Hole Prizes:

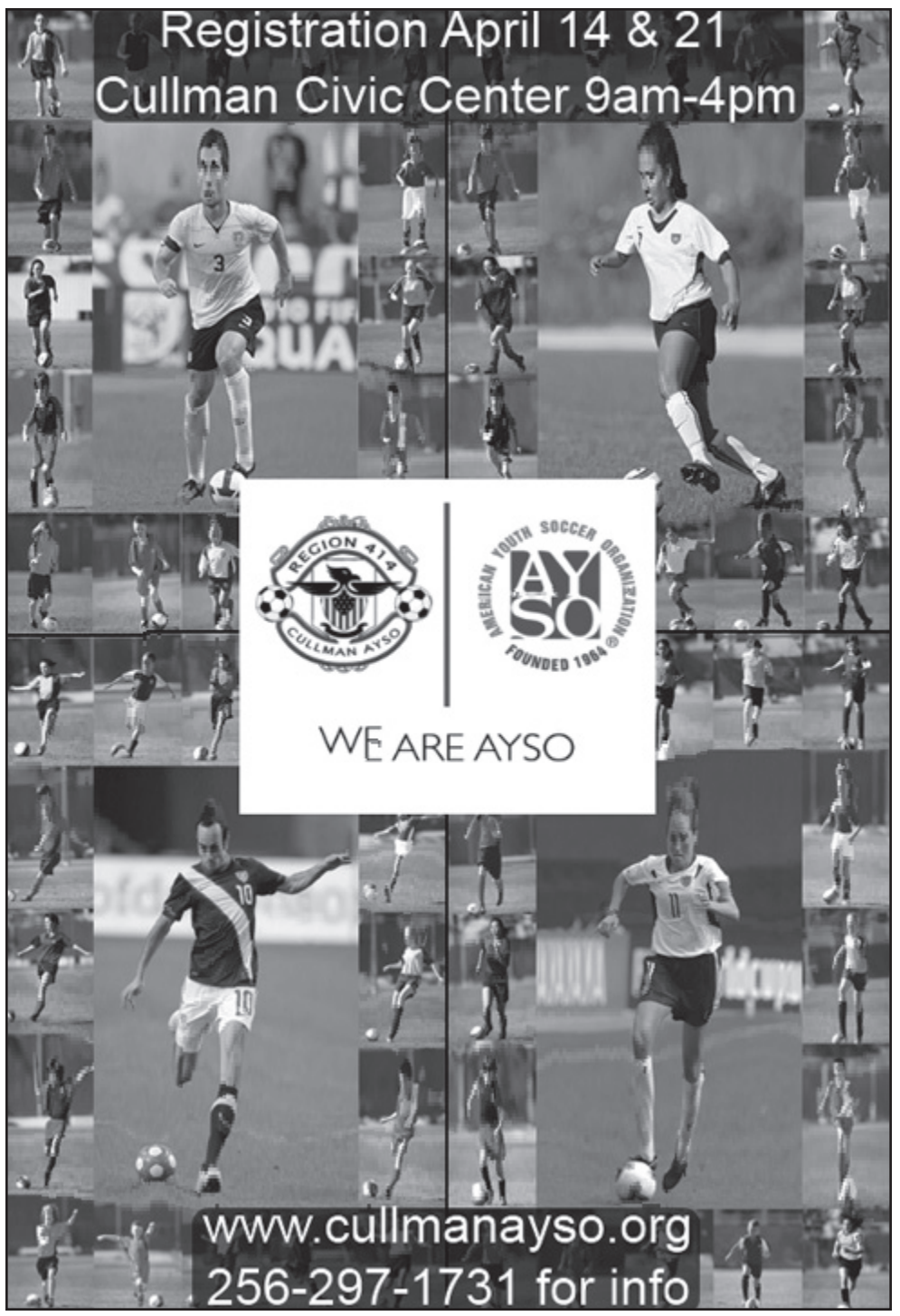
Straightest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive

Mulligans for Sale, Food & Soft Drinks Provided

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No(ah)-It-All: Distractions: Wait, What Was I Doing?

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

We all battle with it from time to time. Some can see past the distractions to finish their work on time, while others seem be similar to the dog in the movie "Up" – you know the one that would be talking then yell, "Squirrel!" – never able to stay focused on the topic at hand.

Anyway, distractions affect us all in one form or another. Being easily distracted has been my greatest fault from some time now and some would even venture to say this has been a hindrance during my entire existence.

However, each day brings an opportunity to rectify this lackluster behavior, hopefully one day leaving it all but behind.

Now on most days the phone vibrates from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. Of course as the responsible man I am, it is always a priority to answer the phone.

This small learned behavior can detract from whatever task I may have been doing when accepting the call. It doesn't seem like much at first, but count up how many times this month you've been distracted by calls.

Have those distractions cost you time or money? If you're like me then the answer to the latter question is a resounding yes on both fronts.

Another great distraction is Facebook!

Yes, the giant social media giant that has pulled in everyone from small children to 90-year-olds is a tremendous distraction.

Since we use this outlet to communicate with a small portion of our readers, several of the CS crew are generally online most of every day and night. This leads to many distractions.

Whether it is someone inviting one of the crew to join a farm, play poker, or check out the newest spying software, the distractions never cease.

So what about healthy distractions? Are there any and if so how does one capitalize on one?

Well the answer according to this yokel is a big ole yes. The two aforementioned types can be healthy distractions from a normal day's work…that is as long as you aren't sucked in by them.

Don't be the person whose phone never leaves their face or palm. Likewise, don't be the person who sits in a trance eyeballing your news feed. Both are a bit sad and humorous all rolled into one not-so-unique package.

Besides those two examples, a great healthy distraction can be jogging.

Since returning to a plump 170 pounds I have found it extremely important to get out and jog each day.

Yes, I'm the old guy in sweats wearing the Pink Floyd hat that holds you up in traffic, so no need to ask.

Of course exercise is a great distraction, but for those of you that want the heartbeat associated with running, but the body associated with couch potatoness, then I suggest investing in an Xbox 360.

Nothing can kill time quite like a good Modern Warfare battle or being rocketed out of a jet whilst playing Battlefield 3.

Both games encourage you to interact with others, but if you're the easily distracted type then you'll just be off on your own, probably admiring the details of the game.

Okay, now that you've been properly distracted from the wonderful content in this week's print edition, it is time to turn the page and see what is in store on page 4.

Enjoy!

Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 74	Hi: 70	Hi: 66	Hi: 69
Lo: 47	Lo:38	Lo: 37	Lo: 46

Monday: Sunny, with a high near **74**. Calm wind becoming west between 5 and 10 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **47**. West wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near **70**. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around **38**. North wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near **66**.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around **37**.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near **69**.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around **46**.

For weather updates, visit us at **cullmansense.com.**

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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

Cullman High School: Jakob Kirkwood

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The Spotlight turns its attention to the "hot corner" at Bill Shelton Field on the campus of Cullman High School for the second time during the 2012 high school baseball season and finds third baseman and occasional pitcher, Jakob Kirkwood.

He is like a vacuum at third base and a formidable threat at the plate, able to change the tone of any game by "going deep." He is hitting a very impressive .361 with a .436 on-base percentage. He has 31 runs batted in and has scored 18 runs. He also has seven doubled and five home runs.

With Cullman gearing up for another run at the 5A State Title, Jakob Kirkwood was kind enough to answer these Spotlight questions for CullmanSense.

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers a little bit about yourself.

Jakob Kirkwood: My name is Jakob Kirkwood and I am 18 years old. My parents are Kevin and Tracie Kirkwood and I have one brother, Kyle Kirkwood. I have played all types of sports at some point in my life. I have played soccer, baseball, football, and basketball.

JM: How long have you played each sport?

JK: I played soccer for about 3 years in the AYSO league starting at age 5. I played basketball for 6 years in the park and rec league and also the county basketball league. I played football for 5 years. I was on the Cyclone's team as a sixth grader and then played middle school and high school football. I have been playing baseball for 14 years; I began as soon as I was able at the age of 4.

JM: How did you get started in baseball?

JK: My dad got me started. We would always play ball in the yard. I always wanted to play when my older brother was out in the yard practicing. I was always at the ballpark when I was younger at Kyle's games. My brother played ball and my dad helped coach my cousin's American Legion baseball team when he was 15 with Coach Patterson and Coach Bryan Bowen before they were ever coaches for the high school.

I think playing ball in the yard with my brother and his friends has also improved my baseball skills and my drive to compete. I had to work hard if I wanted to play with them.

My dad tells me the story of when I was younger and I was upset because my brother had hit me in the head with the ball. He told me that I better start catching the ball if I wanted to play catch with him. So I would throw to our pitch back and practice catching fly balls until I could get them without being hit.

JM: Who has helped you improve the most while playing baseball? How have they helped you?

JK: My dad and my coaches are big influences on my baseball. When I was younger my dad taught me how to play the game the right way. He taught me fundamentals. Over the years my coaches have worked and improved my fundamental skills. They have all encouraged me to work and be the best that I can possibly be. They are not only great role models on the baseball field but off the field as well.

JM: Who has been your greatest inspiration in sports?

JK: Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones is my inspiration because he battles injuries and fights his way back into the game.

I relate to him because over my sports career I have battled numerous injuries and at times wanted to give up. I had a chance when I was younger to play for the Vipers out of Huntsville, but did not get to because of an injury that led to the discovery of an injury that required a bone graph in my left ankle.

I have had a dislocated shoulder that sidelined me for a while. I missed my 9th grade year of baseball because I tore bone away from bone in my right elbow and had to have it pinned.

JM: Explain what it is like playing for a team so rich in history like Cullman.

JK: It has been great playing for Cullman. We are like a family. The guys I play with are like my brothers and we spend a lot of time together. It is nice to be a part of a winning program. We are known for working hard, winning games, great coaches, and a great community that supports us so much. The other teams like it when we come to play because there is always a big crowd.

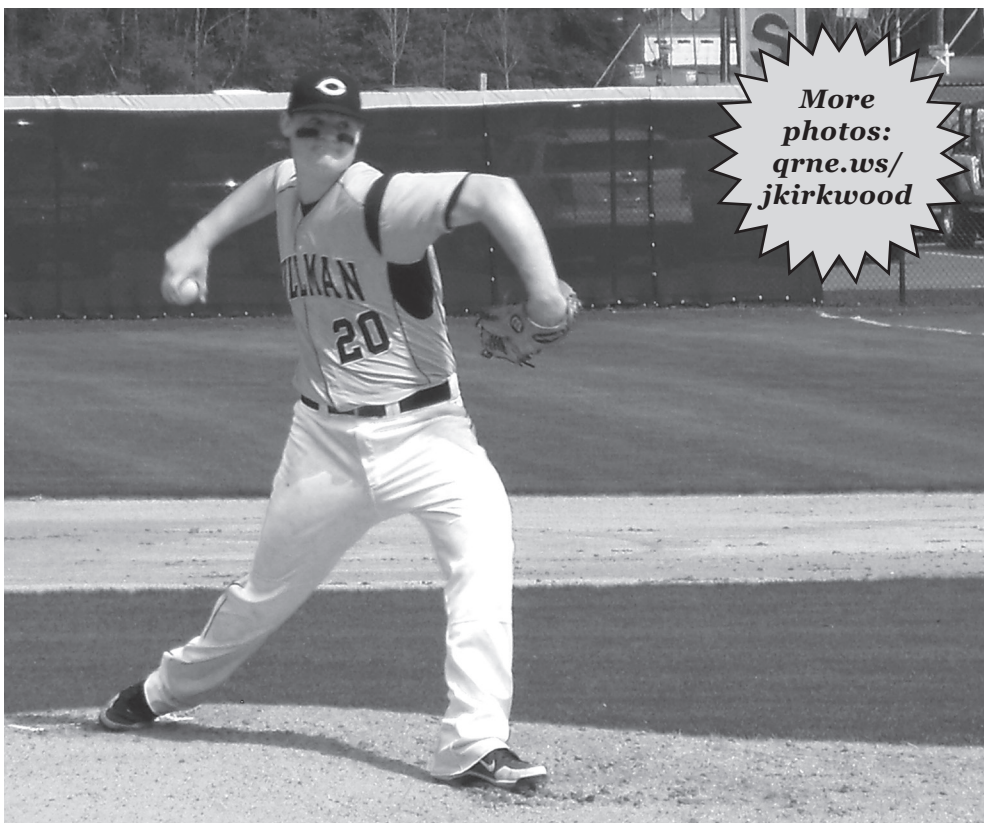
JM: What has been your greatest accomplishment in sports?

JK: Working through all my injuries and being able to earn my baseball scholarship to Snead. I am really excited to be back with Jesse Thomas and Daniel Moore. One major thing I would like to accomplish is a State Championship. I hope to do that this year.

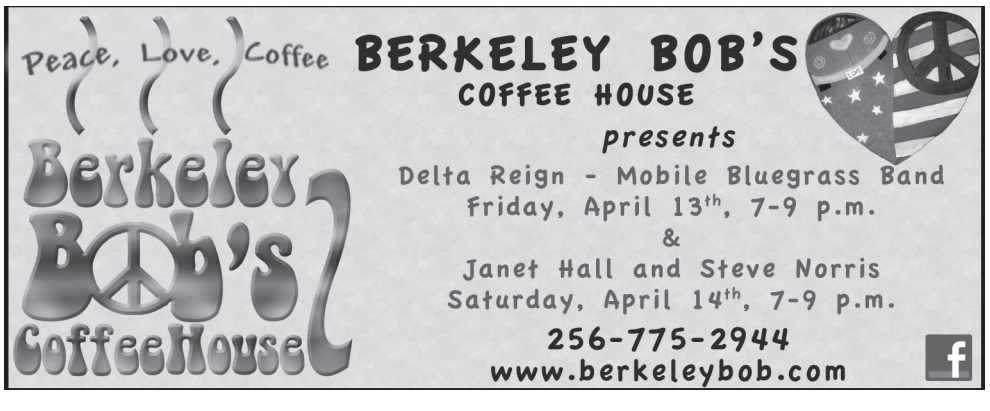
Cullman Bearcat head coach Brent Patterson provided these comments about his star third baseman:

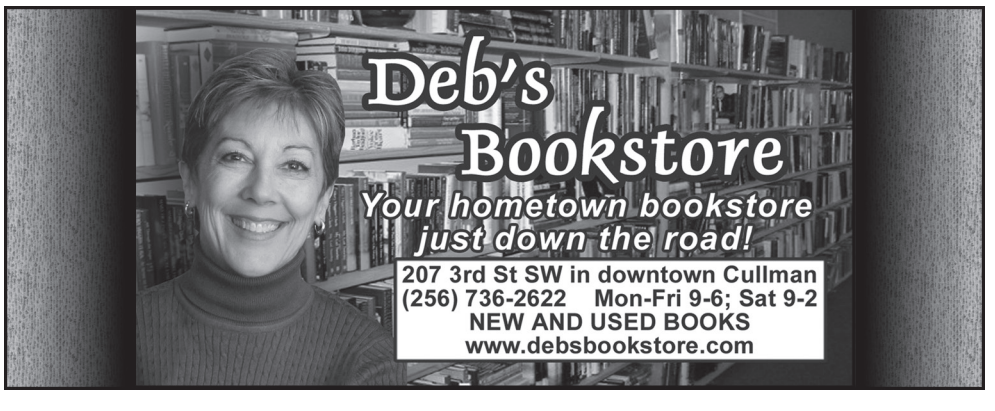
"Everything he does is pretty tough. He is not scared to take balls off his chest at third base. He really competes. The bigger the situation, the more locked in he usually gets. He has been like that for years. We feel really good about (Kirkwood) when something is on the line. He is not scared of big situations. He has been extremely dependable and we have been able to basically ride him. Obviously we knew going in with him hitting behind Keegan (Thompson) he was going to have a big load on his shoulders. As he has grown so have we (as a team.) He has been big for us."

Jakob Kirkwood seems to thrive under pressure. He is not a hitter that is easy to pitch around. As coach Patterson eluded to, with Kirkwood hitting behind Thompson it is a pick your poison type situation. If the opposing pitcher wants to pitch around Thompson to get to Kirkwood, rest assured Jakob will make them pay.









AREA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT SPORTS

West Point High School: Wesley Waters

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The Area Athlete Spotlight turns its attention to ace pitcher Wesley Waters. Waters anchors the Warrior staff with a quick fastball and a wicked breaking ball.

He also commands respect at the plate as he can hit the ball out of the park on any given pitch.

Waters although in the middle of an area race, took time out of his schedule to answer these questions.

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers about yourself.

Wesley Waters: I am a 16 year old and a junior at West Point High School. My parents are Terry and Tammy Waters and I have lived in Cullman County all of my life.

I have played the sports of baseball, basketball, and football. I am very active in my youth group at Bethlehem Baptist Church.

My hobbies are working out, fishing, and hanging out with my friends.

JM: Tell our readers how long you have been playing baseball and a little about what got you into the sport.

WW: I have been playing since I was five years old when I started T-ball. I started playing travel ball at age 8. I played on the junior varsity team in the 7th and 8th grade and have been a starter on the varsity team at third base since 9th grade year. My 9th grade year is also when I started getting some experience pitching on varsity.

During my 10th grade year I was voted Most Outstanding Player of the Cullman County Baseball Tournament (by Cullman Sports Net). I was very happy to be a part of the first West Point team to win the County Baseball Championship in 25 years. I have always loved baseball and I always try to be the best I can in everything I do.

JM: Tell our readers about your favorite sport and why.

WW: My favorite sport is baseball. I love the feeling of striking out my competition. Hitting home runs is great too!!

JM: Talk a little about your greatest accomplishment in sports and why.

WW: My greatest accomplishment would be that I have a verbal offer to play baseball at Wallace State Community College, where I have gone and watched games since I started playing youth baseball.

It is one of my dreams to play college baseball, so to get the opportunity to get my collegiate career started there is wonderful!

I was selected by the Baseball Factory to play in the Christmas Camp and Tournament in Pirate City, Florida and by the American International Sports team to represent the USA in the Dominican Republic Challenge of 2012. Even though I didn't get to go it was a great honor to be selected.

JM: Tell our readers about you greatest inspiration in sports and why.

WW: I love the sport of baseball. I have had the benefit to learn from Coach Karl Amonite, who played and graduated from Auburn University.

> "I have always loved baseball and I always try to be the best I can in everything I do."
>
> -Wesley Waters

Now I have the opportunity to learn from coaches Trai Meadows, All-American at UAH and Coach Steve Woodard who played in the Major Leagues. I am learning a great deal from both of them.

Former Major League pitcher and current West Point pitching coach Steve Woodard had this to say about his ace pitcher:

"I have been very impressed with Wesley on the mound in the time I have been with the team this year," Woodard said.

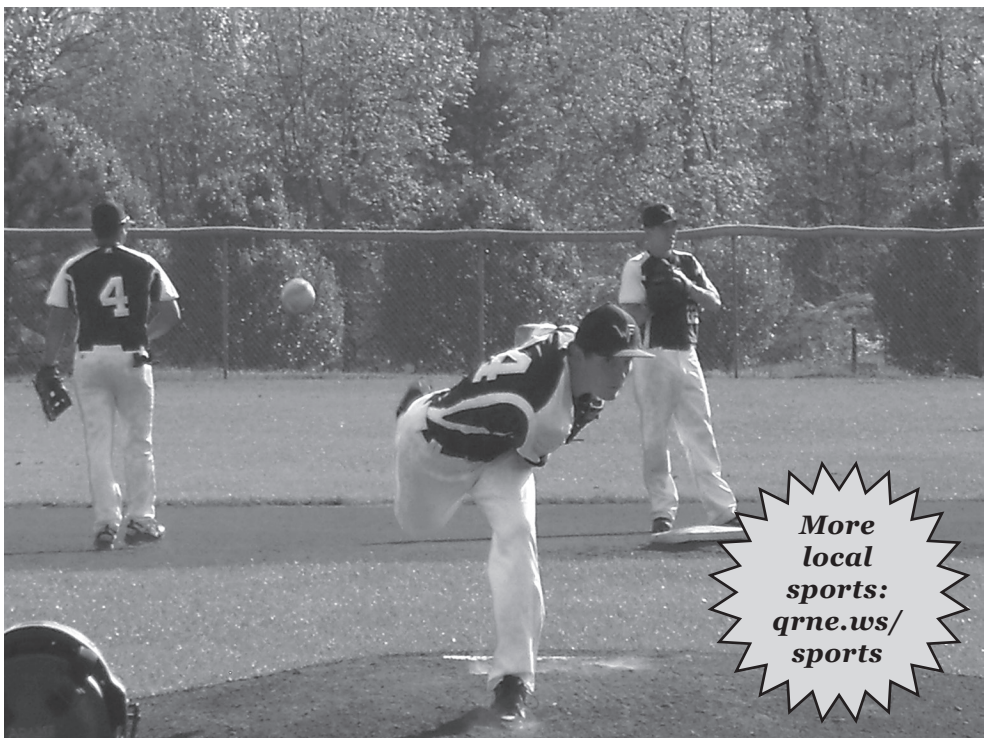
"His numbers are not going to speak for themselves because we have not given him any run support and made mistakes in the field behind him."

Woodard bragged on Waters' skills, complimenting the young pitchers speed and strength.

"He is probably the best player I have seen this year as far as a pitcher. He can throw to both sides of the plate with his fastball and can throw his breaking ball for a strike," he said.

"He throws 85 - 87 with great location which is the most important thing, second is movement which he has. Third is velocity which will get better and better as he gets older. With a lot of hard work and dedication he has a very bright future ahead of him. I have enjoyed my time with him and look forward to the rest of the year and seeing him get better."

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Concessions Available
Donations for Music Appreciated
Some Seating Available or Bring Your Own
Revelations • Day's Gap • Bimini Road
Wayne Abbott • Behind the Times
Blake Gammon • And Others

Community Matters

Alabama Stay-Cations (Cont.)

hope to see, both in the wild and mounted, that was less than an hour away? What if I also said it was free?

If you think this is too good to be true then pack up the family and experience the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and Cook's Science Museum for yourself. With both attractions located just a short drive up I-65 North in Decatur and within five minutes of each other, you will spend less time driving and more time enjoying nature with your loved ones this summer.

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge

The sprawling landscape of Wheeler Wildlife Refuge was established in 1938 along the Tennessee River between Decatur and Huntsville. It was established as a habitat for wintering birds as well as those who migrate. The refuge stretches over an immense distance, some 35,000 acres, and plays host to a wide variety of animals.

These include over 100 different species of fish, more than 70 species of reptiles and amphibians, along with a massive 285 species of songbirds! It is also home to 10 endangered or threatened species.

The Refuge is located on Beltline Road and has two main entrances, the Visitor's Center and the office area. Adjacent to the office is a fishing dock and the Flint Creek Trail.

Heading down the trail you will cross a boardwalk that takes you across a part of the Tennessee River that only contains water seasonally, not year round. Strolling through this lowland area, you will see the devastation and scars wrought upon the refuge during last year's April storms; as uprooted and snapped trees can be seen throughout the landscape.

After crossing the boardwalk and heading down the trail, you will be offered a choice to branch off to the left, stay straight on the path, or branch off to the right as you travel a little further up the trail. It is a win-win situation as any choice you will make will take you through some of the most beautiful landscapes that Wheeler Wildlife Refuge has to offer.

Just a short distance from the fishing area and the Flint Creek Trail is the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Inside the Visitor Center you will be greeted by a friendly staff, all of which are volunteers that are eager to help.

Each of the staff has all the information you could hope for when inquiring about the refuge.

The inside of the Visitor Center also has a plethora of mounted animals on display from waterfowl to venomous snakes, cave-dwelling bats to water-dwelling salamanders, and even a fish tank with sun-fish or brim in it. If you need to take a break, try relaxing in the 164 seat auditorium which features an assortment of short films on wildlife.

There is an additional hiking trail on the grounds named the Atkeson Cypress Trail. This ½ mile long trail will take you down a boardwalk that is over 300 feet long that will lead you through a Louisiana-like cypress swamp. Unfortunately it is closed for the time being due to an endangered species of whooping cranes, which have made this trail their new home. There are believed to be just 500 whooping cranes left in the wild and Wheeler Wildlife Refuge is home to nine of the magnificent birds!

Behind the visitors center is a well-constructed cage that houses a magnificent red-tailed hawk named Hawkeye. She has played a vital role in an environmental program since being struck by a vehicle in 2000 that left her permanently injured. This beautiful example of a red-tail hawk can be gazed upon through her cage, but visitors are urged to keep their bodies clear of the cage. After all, she is still a bird of prey.

Just past the cage of Hawkeye is one of the most diverse trails you could ever hope to see. It is a 200 yard path that first will take you through several beds of various flowers where you can take in the vibrant colors and sweet smells.

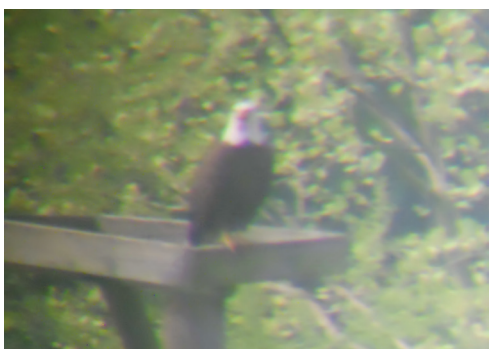
The path then gives way to shallow water and mossy logs that will make you feel as if you are in the swamps of the Deep South. Lastly you will come to an array of enormous trees that shade the pathway and forests of bamboo so thick, you will feel like you are high in the hills of ancient Asia.



The ever-changing path leads to the Wildlife Observation Building, which is one of the main attractions at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. It is a two-story building with the main room on the ground floor. This room overlooks the Observation Pond, which is equipped with bleachers and viewing scopes for spotting far-off wildlife.

Here you can view a variety of birds and reptiles, such as red cardinals out for a flight and turtles soaking up the sun's rays. If you look hard enough and have luck on your side, you just might catch a glimpse of the National Bird of the United States, the bald eagle. One is known to frequent the Observation Pond.

Well I counted myself lucky, as I was able to see him clearly through one of the viewing scopes during my visit.



On the second floor you will be able to view the Backyard Wildlife Habitat area that was designed to attract songbirds along with various other wildlife. This will also be your best chance to see the endangered whooping cranes. Once again luck was on my side during my visit as I was able to catch a glimpse of all nine of the exceedingly rare birds.

If you are looking for a great time outdoors this summer, I urge you to visit Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. You will be glad you did.

The Visitor's Center is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. during the months of March-September and all week long from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. during the months of October-February. Picnic tables are located behind the visitor's center for anyone wanting to enjoy a meal while on the grounds.

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge also holds all kinds of events for children and adults alike. For more information, contact the visitor's center at 256-350-6639.

Cook's Natural Science Museum

Just four miles down the road from Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, tucked away just off of Highway 31, sits an unassuming brick building. Aside from the bronze eagle statue that sits out front, you may not even give the building a second glance and pass over the wonders that lay inside. This building is the Cook's Natural Science Museum.

The building is relatively small for a museum, but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in sheer volume of exhibits. The first thing you will notice as you enter is the imposing figure of a mounted bald eagle with its wings fully spread. Starting the self-guided tour, you will be treated to dozens upon dozens of mounted and preserved butterflies. Also behind the protection of the large glass case you will be able to view all manners of insects from huge "walking sticks" to small scorpions.

Moving down the path you will come to a display of the devastation that termites can cause to a home and everyday items; from a table leg to a baseball. Next is a re-creation of an "urban city landscape," complete with mounted rats and pigeons.

Traveling farther down the horseshoe-like path that takes you through the museum, you will come to an assortment of display cases that are filled with fossilized seashells, plants, and fish. You will find that there is even a fossil of a Carcharodon Megalodon tooth, the largest shark to ever swim the world's oceans.

The next section of the museum is full of minerals and semi-precious stones, large chunks of petrified wood, and even a meteorite!

In the back part of the museum you will find taxidermy specimens of bears, raccoons, deer, and other woodland animals, along with aquarium habitats with a tarantula and a corn snake.

Following the path back to the front of the museum, but on the other side of the "horseshoe," stuffed and mounted finches and owls, among other birds, will greet you. Winding back to the front will afford you the opportunity to peruse the very reasonably priced souvenirs to commemorate your visit.

Paired with the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, the Cook's Natural Science Museum is the perfect end to a nature-filled day.

The Cook's Natural Science Museum is open Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for lunch) and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.

For more information contact the Cook's Science Museum at 256-350-9347.



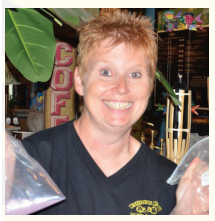


Lifestyle

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrnews/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

One More Family Story and Maybe I'll Stop

I remember one year when we decided to go camping at the beach. We were packed to the gills with everything from sleeping bags to bicycles to grills. Most of the time I just took my trusty electric smoker.

We were on the road with "Lion King" or something like that blaring in our mini van. The kids had so many blankets and pillows packed around them you would have thought it was 20 below instead of 90 degrees outside.

Just looking in their "nest" I saw everything from books, to crayons, magic markers, dolls, a stuffed rabbit belonging to Ethan named Bologna, …Ethan named his animals after sandwich meat I guess. One was bologna and the other was bacon. Who would have thought we would open a deli later on?

Anyway, there was just a lot of stuff in the van. There was the occasional argument that we had to break up, a fight or two, whining, tattling, you know how it goes.

We were hungry and after hearing that for several miles we stopped at Cracker Barrel to eat.

I got out and opened the back door to let the kids out. Maddie was smiling pretty innocently and so was Zac. Ethan jumped out and he had a complete moustache and a beard, compliments of his brother and sister. OH lets not forget the bushy eye brows! I freaked when I found out it was a PERMANENT marker, a black permanent marker. WHAT did you do???? I asked the kids.

"Well, he wanted a moustache and a beard"…….Maddie chimed in.

I grabbed the box of wet wipes, which was a must for any trip when you have kids. All the wipes did was turn the black beard and moustache PURPLE! Yikes! Well, what could we do? We just acted like a normal family of five and went in the restaurant. We got weird looks and laughs from many people. The waitress thought it was cute.

Sometimes you just have to laugh. It is my favorite picture of them. Yes, I took a picture.

Grilled Chicken Kabobs

These are not hard to make and are impressive when you see what you did. Just do a little planning and you will have a delicious meal.

*Prepare this about 4-5 hours ahead of time to allow the marinade time to work.

Ingredients:

- 1 pack of raw chicken tenders (enough to feed your family)
- 1 regular sized bottle of Zesty Italian dressing
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 large purple onion
- 1 "real" pineapple (directions for cutting it below)
- 1 pack of Kabob skewers (I use the wires that make a circle)

Directions:

1. Wash the chicken tenders and cut into approx. 2" pieces. Do the same with all the peppers and the purple onion.
2. Put all this into a large pan or dish with a lid.
3. Pour the bottle of Zesty Italian dressing over the chicken and vegetables. Put it back in the refrigerator for about 4-5 hours. You can do this for less time, but the more time the more flavor.
4. Prepare the pineapple. I have found out that the best way to do this is to twist off the top, cut it in half, and then into quarters. Take each quarter, cut off the ends and cut out the "meat" of the pineapple. Cut close to the skin. Then, cut the pineapple into large cubes. It will be hard not to eat these.
5. Prepare your grill. While it's preheating to about 300-350, thread the chicken and vegetables and pineapple on the Kabob skewers in whatever order you like them.
6. Place the kabobs on the grill, grilling them about 10 minutes on each side. They may be hard to turn over, so be careful.
7. When the chicken is no longer pink in the middle, its done.
8. Remove from the grill, take off the skewers onto a platter or serve each person their own kabob.

* I like to wrap corn on the cob in aluminum foil, salt, pepper and butter it and grill until done. YUM!

Strawberry Fluff Pie

This pie was a quick afterthought for dessert. I wanted something sweet and cool and had some strawberry daiquiri mix in the freezer. It took me all of about 10 minutes to make. It is really good, although if I was going to make it again…and I will, I would probably put some frozen strawberries in it for more of a tart strawberry flavor. I think there are several options for this dessert.

Makes 2 pies

Ingredients:

- One 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk, chilled (or not)
- One 16-ounce container whipped topping, thawed
- One 10-fluid-ounce can frozen strawberry daiquiri concentrate, unthawed
- 2- Graham cracker crusts
- Cut some strawberries in half and put on top for decoration (optional)

Directions:

1. For the filling: In a large bowl, add the sweetened condensed milk and whipped topping. Fold the two together gently until combined, being careful to keep the mixture light and fluffy. Add the strawberry daiquiri concentrate and continue to gently fold. Be sure to avoid letting the mixture get too liquid-y. Pour the filling into the piecrusts, divided equally.
2. Place in the freezer to chill overnight.
3. Top with strawberries, cut in half

*Another option would be to top with whipped topping, but again, if you have read any of my other articles, you know I'm not a fan, except mixed in.

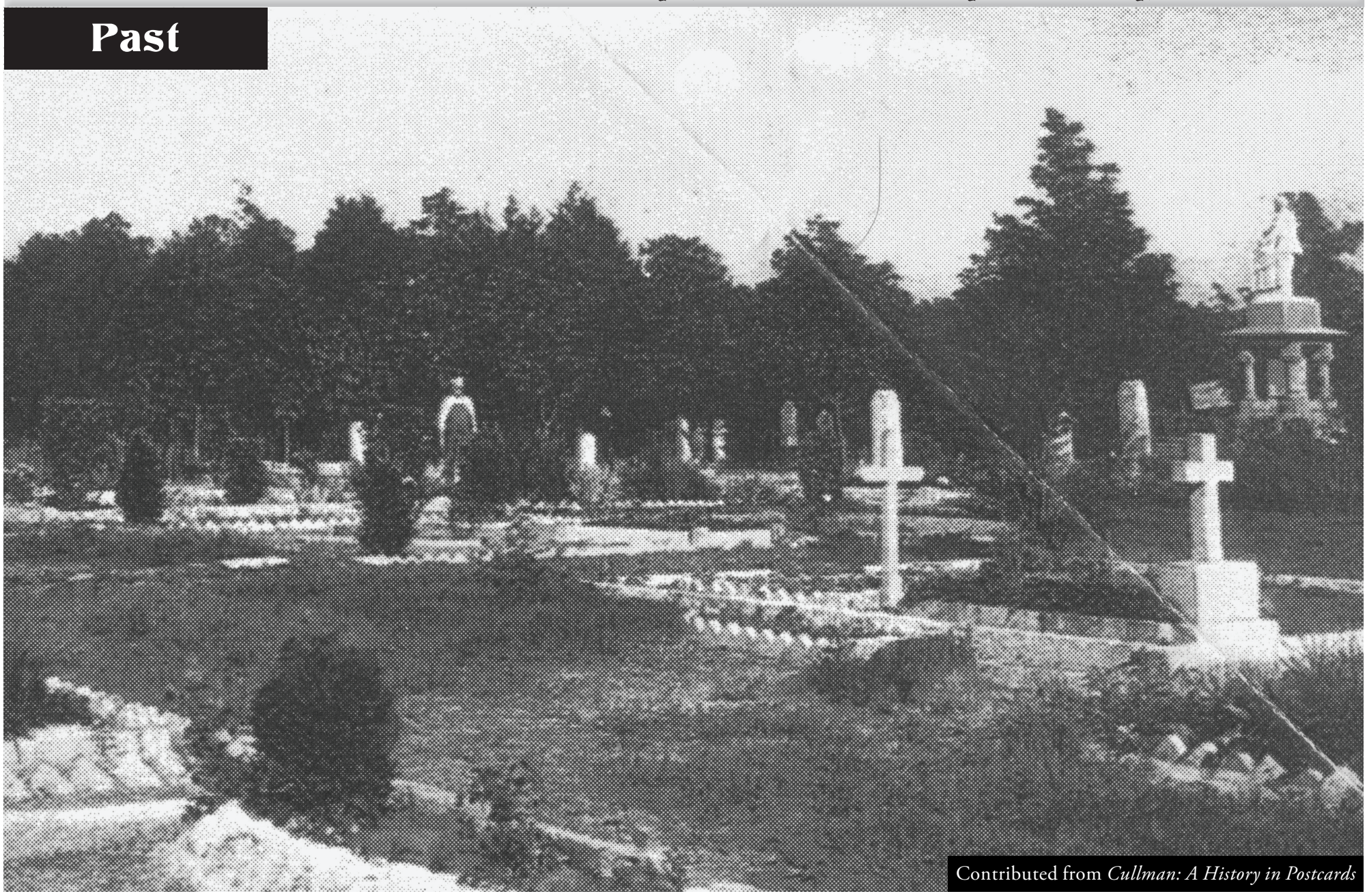




Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at the former Protestant Cemetery (now Cullman City Cemetery)

Past



Contributed from *Cullman: A History in Postcards*

Present



Photo by Jessica Norrell

Local Events Calendar

Send your Events to: calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday, April 9th

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 that are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information! Come start the New Year off with water exercises!

Cullman Community Band Concert
The Cullman Community Band will offer its Spring Musical beginning at 7 p.m. at Cullman Civic Center. Everyone is invited to attend this event, which also features the Handbell group, the 'Heritage Ringers', from St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church. Come see your neighbors perform and enjoy an evening provided by these talented folks. For more info, contact Garry Taylor, 256-636-2754. Admission is free.

Tuesday, April 10th

Farmers Market at Festhalle
The Cullman Farmers Market at the Festhall Market Platz is slated to open for spring. The Market will open again every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come see what our local farmers and growers have in store for you from week to week.

'How to Operate a GPS System' Course
The Alabama Cooperative Extension is offering two courses, one for adults and one for kids, on how to operate a GPS system. The adult course will begin at 8 a.m. and will instruct those in attendance to the proper ways to operate these new Global Positioning Systems.

There will be an additional class at 3:30 p.m. for all children interested in learning more. Please come on out and take advantage of' those who know' all of these newfangled devices and how they work. You won't be sorry! For exact location of courses and for additional info call Radonna Sims at the Extension Office, 256-737-9386.

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, April 11th

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, April 12th

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.

Friday, April 13th

'Eric & the Idols' performing at Carlton's
There will be 'music in the streets' of Cullman tonight as 'Eric & the Idols' perform at Carlton's Restaurant. Music will start at 7 p.m. Come on out and enjoy a spring evening in downtown, enjoy great music and fine food, too! This homegrown group won't disappoint you!

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, April 14th

Autism Awareness Walk
There will be a special Autism Awareness Walk in conjunction with National Autism Month. This event will take place at Wallace State Community College with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed by a balloon launch. The Walk will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Following the walk, a 'fun day' will feature food, games, a moon bounce, clowns and more, ending at 12 noon.

After April 2, the entry fee goes up to $30.00. Rhonda Davis has additional information and can be contacted at 256-962-2208 or pdrd@hotmail.com. Anyone who wants to volunteer their time or donations for this worthy effect are welcomed and appreciated.

15th Annual 'All Ford' Fun Day Car Show
Eckenrod Ford sponsors its 15th Annual 'All Ford' Fun Day Car Show at the dealership beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. Admission is free, with free fun and refreshments, and prizes throughout the day. All years and models of Fords and Ford-powered vehicles are welcome to take part in the show.

Additional information is available by calling 256-734-3361 or 1-800-944-1389. You may also check www.Eckenrodford.com. Come out and see some 'oldies but goodies' and help relive 'the good 'ol days' in Ford car history.

Cullman County Rescue Squad 50th Anniversary
Everyone is invited to visit the Cullman County Rescue Squad headquarters today, which is located on Sportsman's Lake Road. Come after 10 a.m. to take part in celebrating the 50 years (1962 through 2012) of service to the local community.

This dedicated group of individuals consistently drops everything they are doing when the emergency calls go out and now it is our time to show them our appreciation by attending this event. There will be food, games, music and a good time to be had by all! Additional information is available by calling the Rescue Squad headquarters at 256-736-4932.

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.

The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun and fellowship!

Sunday, April 15th

Financial Freedom
Financial freedom classes, based on Dave Ramsey's 'Financial Peace and Total Money Makeover' will be taught at Hanceville First United Methodist Church in Hanceville for three Sunday afternoons beginning on Sunday, April 15th, April 22nd and again on April 29th; each session will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Classes are free to the public, but reservations to be part of the class MUST be made prior to April 15th. Further information and reservations may be made by contacting Tonia Beverly at 256-531-3083 or through her email at tonia.c.beverly@gmail.com. These classes have proven to be beneficial and everyone is welcome to take part during these educational sessions.

Looking Ahead

Cullman Area Pediatric Diabetic Support Group
The Cullman Area Pediatric Diabetic Support Group will meet April 28th at Spirit Life Church of God from 2 – 4 p.m. There will games for children, fellowship for parents, and snacks for everyone. Help us pick a cool name for our new group.

For more information contact Tammy Cornelius at 256-708-8030, Luanne Reid at 256-297-6201, or Beth Brock at 256-352-5051.

Spring Bluegrass Festival
Come out to the Spring Bluegrass Fest at Horse Pens 40 on May 18, 19, and 20. Featuring Cottonmouth Creek, Newgrass Troubadours, Camp Meeting, Blackrock Station, Angela McKinney, PamThrower and Shine, Azalea Ridge. There will be an arts and crafts show on Saturday as well. For more information visit hp40.com.

Cullman AYSO Soccer Registration
Registration for Cullman AYSO Soccer is $60 on April 14th & 21st only at the Cullman Civic Center 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. A birth certificate is required. Go to www.cullmanayso.org or call 256-297-1731 for information.

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. You must 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: CAMPING

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.

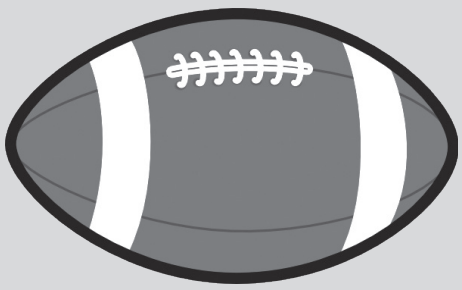
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C T I V O N J Y L S M V S S F B G V Y J J Z V U L O X R Y P

backpack campfire compass cooler fire flashlight forest
grill hike lake lantern mosquitoes mountain nature
park peaceful pocket knife rocks rope sleeping bag stories
stream sunshine tent trail tree waterfall wildlife

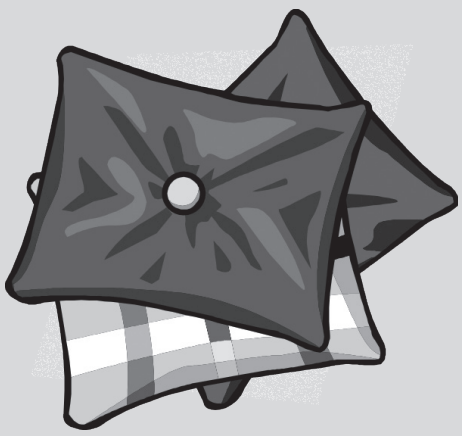
GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

1. Why wasn't the pair of glasses allowed to play football?

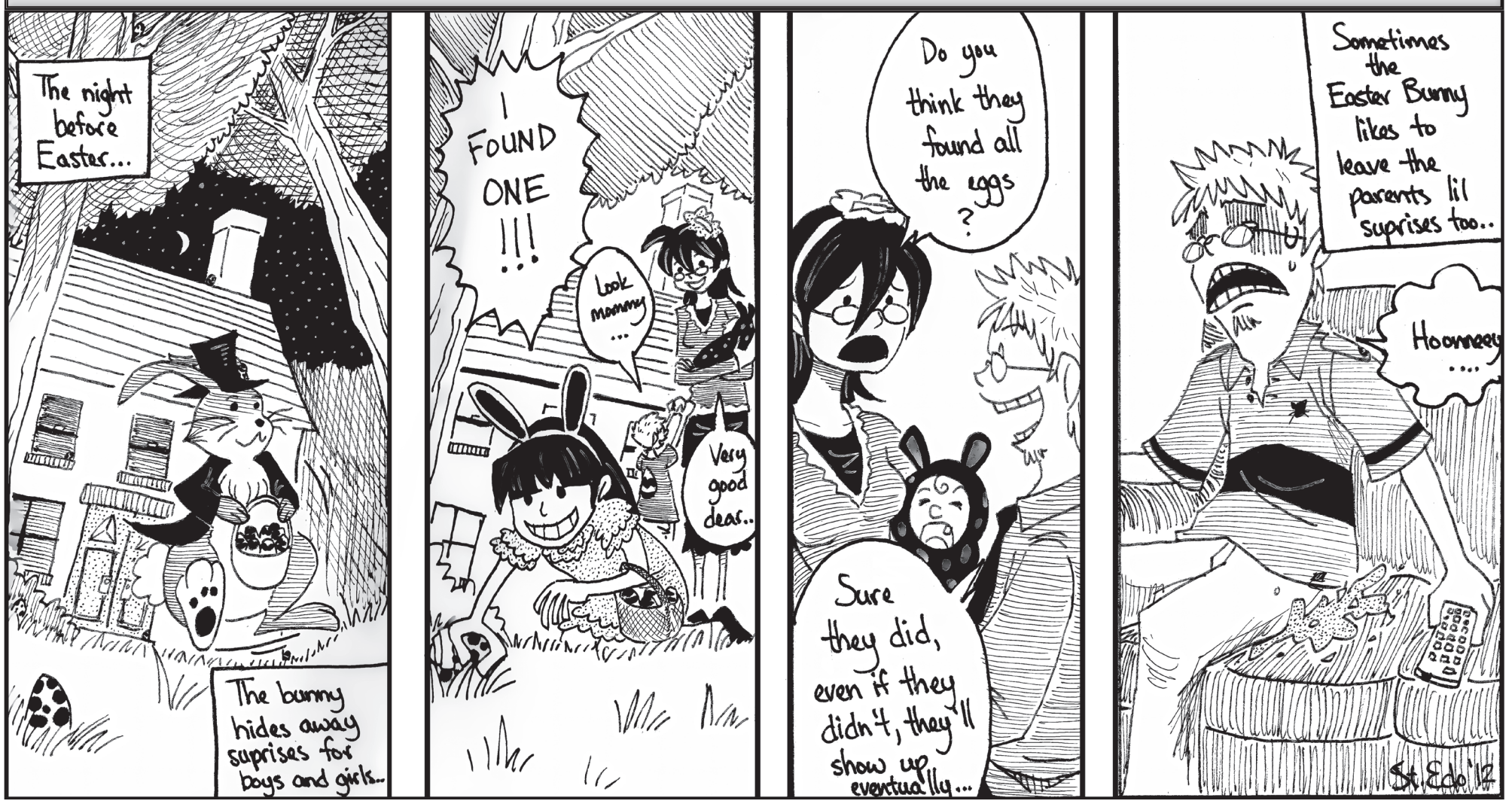


2. Why was the flat pillow discouraged about his new hobby?



1. It's a full contact sport. 2. He lacked support.

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



Community Matters

Relay for Life: Passion & Perseverance

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Less than 30 days separates Relay for Life teams and their looming deadline to help raise funds to further cancer research locally.

The 50+ teams already registered have been hard at work this year, raising money through a variety of fundraisers.

Carwashes, bake sales, pageants, and even auctions are just a sampling of the events local teams are hosting in attempt to raise the most funds possible.

Gina Webb, principal at Welti Elementary School, said this was the first year the school had participated in the Relay for Life.

She said the students have embraced the fundraising efforts, which has shown by surpassing the team's goal…four weeks early!

"It has been going really well. We've had several fundraisers so far and everyone has seemed to embrace it," Webb said.

"Our original goal was $1,000, since it is our first year to participate, but so far we have far exceeded our goal! We have already turned in a little more than $350 and I just turned in over $900."

Excited by the outpouring support, Webb said the school will be hosting a mini-relay on May 18th. She said the mini-relay models itself after the 24 hour-long Relay for Life event, but is tweaked to accommodate children.

"To be a smaller school I have been pleased with the outpouring and participation and how successful it has been. We will not be doing a tent at the main Relay for Life event, but we will be doing a field day at the school on May 18th," she said.

"The students will decorate their doors and will have spirit sticks. Plus the students will do laps around the track and we will be doing luminary bags in the afternoon. So it is going to be a fun time."

Merchant's Bank is the official bank for the local Relay for Life teams.

Elizabeth Nicholas, Merchant's Bank team member and accountant for RFL, said this first year has been a good test year for the bank.

"This was our first year, our test year, and it has been a good one in my opinion," Nicholas said.

If you would like to make a donation to any of the teams, Nicholas said all you need to do is come by the bank.

Even if you may not have a particular team to donate to, she said they will make sure the full donation makes its way to the American Cancer Society.

"I can handle the donations and so can anyone of our tellers," she said.

"All you need to do is tell us which team you would like to donate to. If you don't have a particular team that you would like to donate to, then we will put that donation into the main fund. Personally, I hope everyone can make a donation, even if it is just a dollar."

Nicholas said it is important to donate because most everyone has been affected or will be affected by cancer.

"Everyone will be affected by cancer in one way or another, so it is very important to make sure we find a cure," she said.

"Research is vital in finding a cure for all forms of cancer and that research would not be possible without donations."

Michelle Bates, Homeschooler's Helping Hope – consisting of members of the Christian Home Educators of Cullman – said she has been excited to help raise funds for the ACS. The group of approximately 50 families is raising funds across Alabama.

"Shirley Wise contacted me and asked if I would be interested starting a team," Bates said. "So I contacted some families in CHEO and we all got involved with the Homeschooler's Helping Hope team. We are raffling off a youth 4-wheeler; a Coolster RX5 125cc automatic with reverse. It also comes with racks on both the front and the back. We are selling tickets for a dollar a piece, or six for $5."

Bates said this year's Relay for Life is an important one for her. "My uncle is terminal right now, so this is important to our whole family," she said.

"It is important to me, personally, when I think of the cancer patients and the struggle they are going through. We just need to do whatever we can to make them as comfortable as possible."

This year's Relay for Life event will be held at the Cullman County Fairgrounds on May 4th.

For more on the 2012 Relay for Life events, be sure to visit us online at cullmansense.com.



Fun for everyone.
Games for kids/youth.
Fellowship for parents.
Snacks for everyone.

Come help us pick a
COOL
name for our new group

Cullman Area
Pediatric Diabetic Support Group
April 28th
Spirit Life Church of God
1650 St. Joseph Drive NW
Cullman, Alabama
2-4 pm

For more info:
Tammy Cornelius, CRNP
256-708-8030
Luanne Reid, RN
256-297-6021
Beth Brock, RN
256-352-5051



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.

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