Series 2, Issue 16 Monday, April 16, 2012
Cullman's Monday Newspaper
CULLMANSENSE
Community Matters

50¢
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Missing Piece of the Puzzle

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com



qrnews/nchandler



Photos by Noah Chandler

HANCEVILLE – A mass of eighty-eight green balloons etched with an Alabama puzzle shaped emblem took to the sky over Wallace State Saturday morning, as hundreds came out to commemorate the 8th Annual Autism Awareness Walk held in conjunction with National Autism Month. The balloons represent the 1 in 88 rate of children born with Autism in the United States.

"The purpose is first to raise awareness for autism because now 1 in 88 individuals are diagnosed, which is one of the highest numbers for diagnosis for disabilities," said Rhonda Davis, Chairperson for the Walk for Autism and Coordinator for the Cullman County Autism Support Group.

According to autism-society.org, Autism is classified, "as a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a 'spectrum disorder' that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today."

Davis said the past few years at Wallace State have been a wonderful experience. From students coming out to volunteer to even military and police directing their efforts to those participating in the Walk and Fun Day festivities.

"We have been at Wallace for the past four or five years and we are just so grateful. They have opened up the grounds and it is just a great place to have the event," she said. "We have a lot of families from Blount, Cullman, and Winston County. It is a community effort to learn more and accept the differences of autism."

Niki Brooks, team captain of Charli's Angels and mother to a child diagnosed with autism, said that the day has special meaning to her. Autism not only has impacted her home, but it has also affected her brother's family.

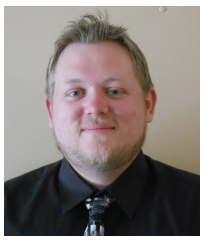
"My nephew was diagnosed with autism a few years ago, and I have a child, Charli,

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Alabama Stay-Cations: Birmingham Botanical Gardens

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com



qrnews/jmcbrayer

Most know that Birmingham is better known as the "Steel City." To anyone who has seen the massive landscape of downtown Birmingham, this is evident as the skies still fill with the industrial white smoke of plants that continue to chug away.

Let's face it; Birmingham has a rich and diverse history that I, for one, would not trade for anything. But with that being said,



Photos by Josh McBrayer

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From the Front

Missing Piece (Cont.)

who was recently diagnosed so I wanted to jump in and advocate and learn as much as I can," Brooks said.

The team's design was an homage to 70s hit Charlie's Angels, that is with a bit of an added twist. Brooks said the quick thinking and creativity in her workplace helped formulate the perfect design for the enormous team of family and friends.

"My daughter's name is Charli and some of the ladies I work with are very creative and said, 'Why don't we call the team Charli's Angels?' Since the theme is 'Solving the Puzzle for Autism' we played around with the graphic to put a puzzle piece in their hands instead of guns," she said.

One of the main goals Brooks conveyed was the importance of quickly and properly identifying the early signs of autism. She said that the quicker a child is diagnosed, the higher probability that the child will function on a higher level.

"The earlier the children get into therapy the better they do. It is just really important for us to be aware of the signs and symptoms," she said. "The sooner we know the quicker we can get them into therapy they need to help them live as typical of a life as anyone else."

Following the walk, a special 'Fun Day' was held on the track grounds. Plenty of food, games, several bounce houses, along with a clown that was dispensing balloon animals, provided a bevy of entertainment for all present.

Shelley Edge of Vinemont brought her family down to Hanceville so they could take the one-mile walk with her son Jace. The walk was made more special as Jace walked alongside his service dog Star, who made her first appearance to the event.

"With an event such as this one it is important for Star to be attached to Jace. He is a runner and a wanderer so any chance he has to run off, Jace will do it," Edge said. "When Jace is attached to Star he walks slowly, but once he is unattached he will take off running. Star allows me the freedom to go shopping because she provides the comfort in knowing Jace won't run off."

Edge said despite the obstacles that she and Jace encounter on a daily basis, she would not trade her role for any other. The only thing she hopes for is that one day she will hear her son speak.

"Personally, I don't want a cure. I don't believe there is a cure," she said. "He is the way he is and the way he is supposed to be, I just wish Jace could talk. A lot of his frustration comes from not being able to express his feelings verbally."

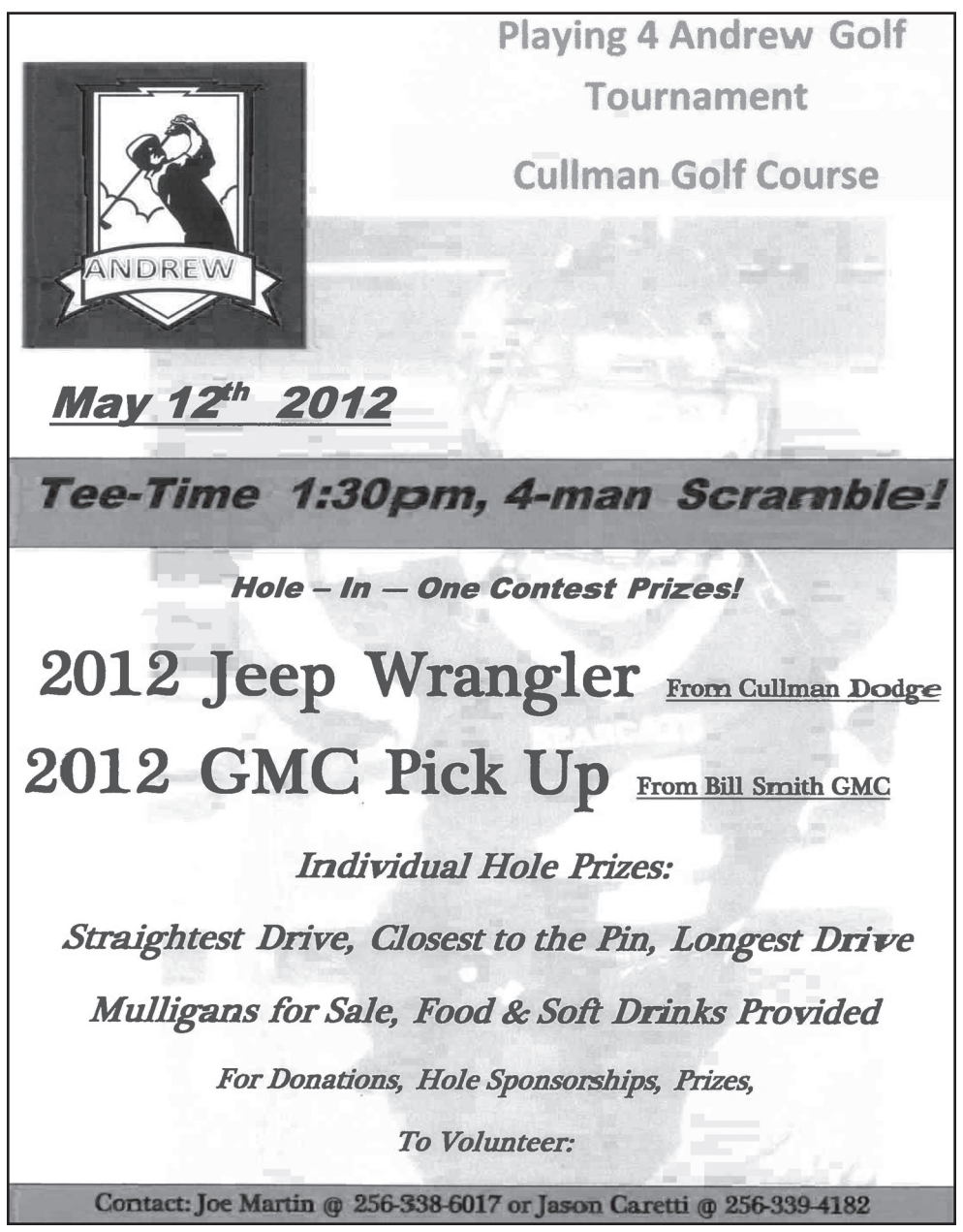
According to Davis, the money raised at the event, along with any donations collected throughout the year, will be kept in Alabama to be used by autism groups across the state.

"We raise money of course, but Autism of Alabama donations stay here in Alabama so anytime we want to do a conference here in Cullman for our professional or our parents we are able to do so," Davis said. "We have an event planned for September so make sure to look for that."











No(ah)-It-All: : How Has the Economy Affected Gratuity?

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

It's a Thursday night. You're hungry, but just too tired, lazy, or unmotivated to actually get up to cook. So you either; (A) get dressed and drive to a restaurant to eat or (B) call out for a pizza, since that is basically all that will deliver after 7 p.m. in Cullman.

Once you either finish your meal or meet the delivery driver at the door the delightful task of paying for your meal is now laid out before you. Now with most individuals cash is generally not readily available, so a credit/debit receipt will presented for you to sign. This is what some in the food industry, especially delivery drivers and waitresses, consider the moment of truth.

Will you just sign your name, ignoring the little line for 'tip', or will you extend an offer of gratuity, properly thanking them for prompt service, with little to no hassle on your part? It may sound trivial, but in a down economy a lot of families and couples are turning to an 'easy' meal several times per week.

With daily deals at all the major restaurant chains it is hard not to see the value in taking-out or dining-in.

But one thing that always bothers servers and delivery drivers is that most of them, and I sincerely mean most of them, work for well-less than minimum wage. They work for tips.

It may seem like some archaic form of payment but yes, many in fact still work for tips. As a former pizza delivery driver I can assure you that 4 years ago people would rarely ever tip, so I can only imagine what it feels like to drive 80 miles over a 10-hour span only to make $14.

Some pizza chains levy delivery charges if you elect to order out. When you ask any driver if they receive the extra $2 fee, most will automatically dispense the corporate response. You know the typical, "It is a fee charged by our company to ensure that we provide you with the best quality and service."

Those who've worked in that particular industry in the past decade knows that the charge never finds its way to the delivery driver. The fee, in most cases, is to pay for the company's expense in restocking the store. So the corporate response is spot on accurate, but misleading at the same time.

Now I know this may cause some blowback but frankly that is just not important. Drivers and waitresses do not make enough money on the meager $3-5 per hour pay they receive. In a down economy people find the money to eat out, but cannot find the time to spend an extra few dollars on the person who just spent half an hour providing a service.

So my proposal is just levy an automatic gratuity charge that will exclusively go to the waiter, waitress, or delivery driver who is providing their service. It is important to stand behind your customers, but it is equally important to stand behind your employees. If you don't wish to institute an included gratuity then simply give your employees a raise.

It may seem idiotic and you may think that I'm one of those "let's share everything" kind of people, but those closest can assure you that I am not.

However, it is right to do good for those who did well for you. Otherwise you might not know what you're eating next time you order out.

And if that doesn't do it for you then let me leave you with this.

My mom once told me that when you buy a car you make sure that you will be able to pay for the servicing of the car if and when it breaks down. The same can be said about gratuity. If you can't afford to tip then it is more economical to cook.

Weather

Source: NWS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hi: 78	Hi: 71	Hi: 76	Hi: 79
Lo: 57	Lo:50	Lo: 50	Lo: 53

Monday: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near **78**. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.
Monday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **57**. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near **71**. North wind around 5 mph.
Tuesday Night: A chance of showers, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around **50**. North wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **76**.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around **50**.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near **79**.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around **53**.

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

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Editorial Crew

Publisher	Noah Chandler	noahchandler@cullmansense.com
Editor	Dustin Isom	dustinisom@cullmansense.com

CullmanSense Crew

Cartoonist	Anthony Saint	st.edo@cullmansense.com
Columnist	Annette Harris	annetteharris@cullmansense.com
Contributor	Lindsey Dossey	health@cullmansense.com
Contributor	Kristen Holmes	education@cullmansense.com
Entertainment	Wes Smith	wessmith@cullmansense.com
News/Entertainment	Natalie Bonner	nataliebonner@cullmansense.com
Photographer/ Graphic Designer	Jessica Norrell	jessicanorrell@cullmansense.com
Reporter/Columnist	Meghan Nelson	meghannelson@cullmansense.com
Sports Editor	Josh McBrayer	joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

Contact Us

Tip Hotline	256-297-1TIP
Fax	256-261-2439
E-Mail	cullmansense@cullmansense.com
Calendar Listings	calendar@cullmansense.com
Sports Tips	sports@cullmansense.com
Obituaries*	obituaries@cullmansense.com

CullmanSense is located at 101 1st Avenue Northeast Cullman, Alabama 35055
For past issues, e-mail cullmansense@cullmansense.com or call 256-297-1847

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SPORTS

Holly Pond Wins Second Consecutive County Title

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

After starting the season 1-19, the Holly Pond Lady Broncos came in to the Cullman County Softball Tournament with a chip on their shoulder. It didn't take long for them to remove it as they went through the winners bracket undefeated, beating the Good Hope Lady Raiders in two games to clinch the title. Here is how the games played out, starting with the crucial Championship Game between The Lady Raiders and The Lady Broncos.

Good Hope vs. Holly Pond

Good Hope's ace Cara Goodwin and Holly Pond's ace Montana Holcolmb dueled for the second time on day two of the Cullman County Tournament, but this time it was for the title of champion.

The Lady Broncos drew first blood when Katlyn Whitehead led off the second with a ringing double. She was moved to third on a beautiful sacrifice bunt by pitcher Lacy Malone. She came home for the all-important first run when Sara Quick grounded out and earned the RBI.

Hayley Calvert collected the first Good Hope Lady Raider hit when she notched a two out single in the top of the first, but Good Hope could not bring her home and the score remained 1-0, Holly Pond.

Kayla Tillman led off the sixth with a solid single for just the second Lady Raider hit. Balie Andrews laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Tillman into scoring position. Cara Goodwin popped up to third for the second out and it looked as if Tillman would be stranded at second. That is until sophomore Alannah Henke came to the plate. Determined to help her team, Henke took Holly Pond's ace deep for a two-out, two run homer that gave Good Hope the 2-1 advantage heading to the seventh and final inning. This was their first lead in two games against the Holly Pond Lady Broncos.

Cara Goodwin took the circle for the seventh inning looking for three outs to throw another complete game, and more importantly, force a winner take all game Wednesday at 3:30. She got two quick outs, but Holly Pond came up big with two outs. Montana Holcomb singled and she was followed by Sara Quick who also singled, moving courtesy runner Taylor Tankersley to third. Peyton Creel then hit a fly ball to right field that could not be handled by Good Hope and Tankersley crossed the dish for the tying run. Goodwin then struck-out the next batter to force extra innings.

Holly Pond mounted a major two-out scoring threat in the bottom of the eighth due to a pair of Good Hope errors. Goodwin was able to pitch around the errors and force Kaytlyn Whitehead to fly to center where it was tracked down by Baile Andrews.

Good Hope came back with a flurry of their own when they loaded the bases in the top of the ninth on an error, walk and fielder's choice. Skylan Thompson then struck-out and Good Hope had them loaded with one out. Hayley Calvert put it in play and Holly Pond elected to try and get the force out on Henke, but she was on her horse and beat the throw to put the Lady Raiders back on top 3-2. Holcomb then sat down Darby Randolph and Kayla Tillman on back-to-back strike-outs to leave the bases loaded, but Good Hope had grabbed the lead 3-2 and had another chance to force a game Wednesday.

Sara Quick continued her productive day at the plate singling with one out. Quick stole second and moved to third on one of two Lady Raiders' errors on the play. Quick again made a great paly when she dove head first into home to score the tying run on a wild pitch. Peyton Creel, who also reached on an error, scored the winning run on the second wild pitch of the inning giving Holly Pond the win 4-3. This is the second year in a row the Lady Broncos have been crowned champions.

Game One: West Point Warriors vs. Vinemont Eagles (submitted by Vinemont)

Vinemont scored first with a two-run double by Raven Christiansen. Another two run double in the fourth off the bat of Kendra Pearson and an insurance run in the fifth from Allison Fowler gave Vinemont the 5-0 victory.

Game Two: Hanceville vs. Fairview

Annie Holcomb ripped a bases clearing, two-run triple to get things going for Fairview in the first. Bea Woodard smashed a two-run homer in the second on the way to a 16-0 Fairview win over rival Hanceville. The game ended in three innings.

Game Three: Good Hope vs. Cold Springs

Cara Goodwin added seven more strike-outs to her 1,000 plus total for her career, pitching five innings of one hit ball. Goodwin gave up a lead-off hit to Rilee White of Cold Springs then retired the next 12 batters.

The Lady Raiders broke the game open in the second when they scored four runs. Haley Calvert had the big blow with a two-run triple, scoring Darcie Wilson and Skylan Thompson. Kayla Tillman also added an RBI when she singled home Calvert. Good Hope won 11-0.

Game Four: Holly Pond vs. Vinemont

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos made it evident they were intent on being crowned 2012 Cullman County Champions when they touched up Vinemont pitching for four runs in the first inning. All nine Lady Broncos got a turn at the plate in the first inning and set the tone for the rest of the game by going 5 for 5 to open the game and continued on their quest to repeat as champions.

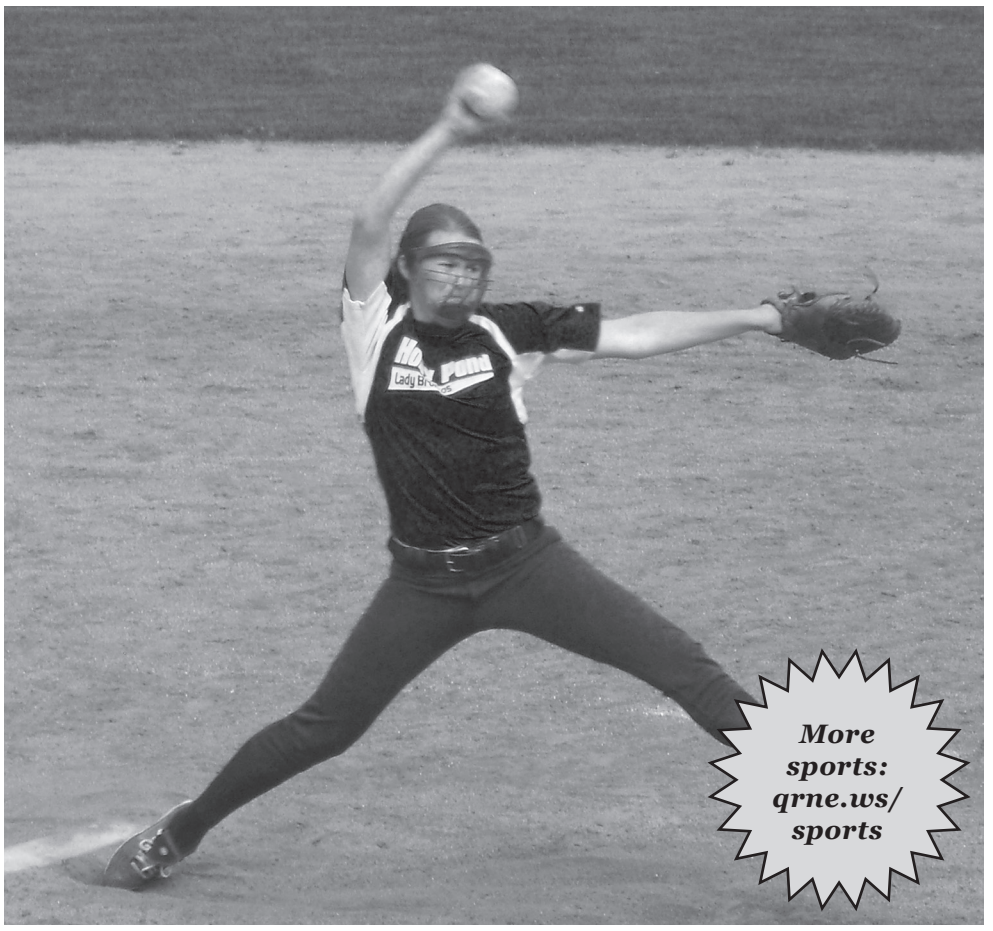
Game Five: Fairview vs. Good Hope

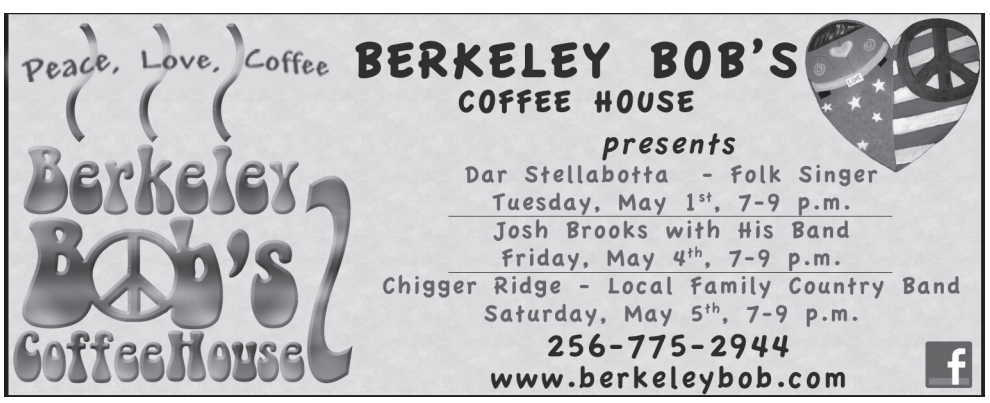
Cara Goodwin continued to be dominating as she struck out 11 Lady Aggies while allowing just six Fairview hits and one run.

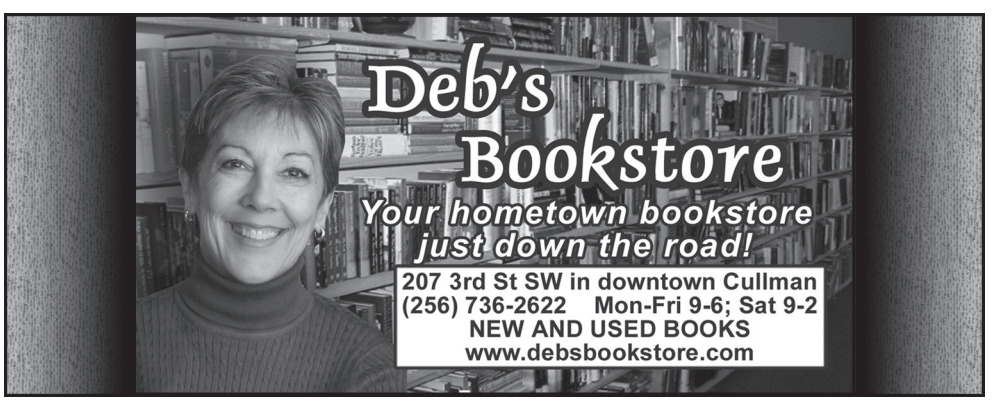
In typical Good Hope fashion, they struck early when Darcie Wilson got the Lady Raiders on the board first with a RBI single that scored Balie Andrews.

Two more Lady Raiders crossed the plate in the second and Darby Randolph tripled in the bottom of the sixth and came home to score with the last seconds ticking off









AREA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT SPORTS

Good Hope High School: Cara Goodwin

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

The pitching circle on the softball field of Good Hope High School is lit up this week, where it finds Cara Goodwin, with this edition of the Area Athlete Spotlight.

Goodwin notched her 1,000th strike-out earlier this year and continues to add to her impressive total. She has committed to The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and is the ace on a very solid Good Hope Lady Raider staff. She took time out of her preparations for the Cullman County Softball Tournament to answer these Spotlight questions.

Josh McBrayer: Tell our readers a little bit about yourself

Cara Goodwin: My name is Cara Goodwin. I am 16 years old and I am a junior at Good Hope High School.

I have been playing some form of baseball/softball for 13 years. I started playing t-ball when I was three years old.

JM: What sports do you participate in?

CG: I play softball, basketball, and cross-country running.

JM: Why did you start playing softball?

CG: I have always loved playing all types of sports and have always enjoyed competing with others.

I started playing softball because it looked really fun to me.

JM: Who has been your biggest influence in sports?

CG: My greatest influence has always been my step-dad Shane and my pitching coach Josh Johnson.

My step-dad has always pushed me to work hard and my pitching coach has been with me since I was 8 years old. They have really helped me get where I am today.

JM: What is your favorite sport? Why?

CG: That's easy....softball. It's my favorite of all sports because every game is so different.

Being a pitcher, I feel that I'm in control of so much of the action. The game has changed so much since I was little.

JM: What, do you feel, has been your greatest accomplishment in sports?

CG: I feel my greatest accomplishment in sports would have to be having the opportunity to play softball at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) with a full athletic scholarship.

It's a dream come true. I've worked my whole life for this chance and I'm looking forward to playing softball at the next level.

JM: How did you feel when you recorded your 1,000th strike-out?

CG: I was surprised. I didn't even know that I was that close. My mom keeps up with my numbers, but she didn't tell me just how close I actually was.

I didn't even know until Coach Harris took the #1000 ball from the game. After I found out, I was smiling from ear to ear.

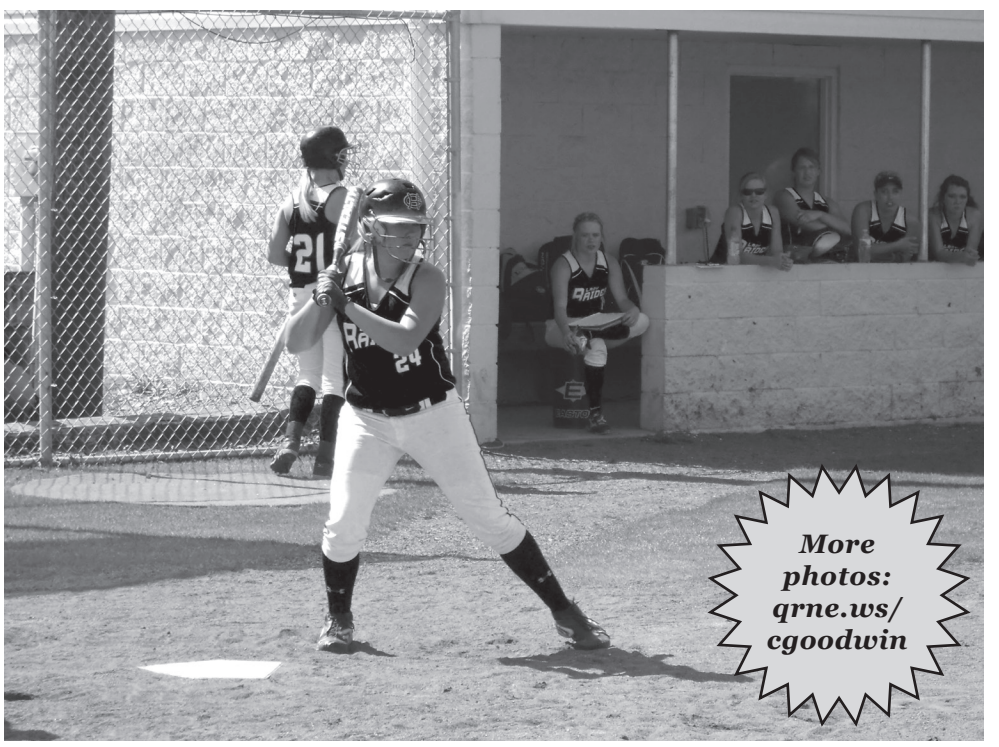
Good Hope softball head coach Wayne Harris had this to say about his pitching superstar:

"She is a true softball player. She works hard at (softball) and practices year round. This is our fourth year together. Each year she has gotten better at her skills. I think hitting came more natural than the pitching, but her pitching has now balanced out with her hitting. She just works hard. She has hit in the three spot in the line-up pretty much every game I have been here. She trusts what's behind her (defense) and she realizes she doesn't have to strike-out every hitter. Whether she needs to get a hit or an out, she can."

If you enjoy the game of softball, I urge you to make a trip out to Good Hope to see the windmill-hurler, Cara Goodwin.











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United Way
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Community Matters

Alabama Stay-Cations (Cont.)

the "Steel City" is like the ugly duckling, not very cosmetically appealing to the eyes. That is unless you know where to look.

If someone was to tell you that there was a place in Birmingham where you could view over 10,000 different species of plants all contained on more than 65 acres of land at the heart of Birmingham, you may say that they are nuts.

Well call me Mr. Peanut because that is exactly what is waiting inside the grounds of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is located at 2612 Lane Park Road in Birmingham. The Gardens are open year-round. Admission is free to all visitors and more than 350,000 patrons visit The Gardens annually. It is also home to the largest public horticulture library and clear-span conservatory in the Southeast.

I was amazed by the variety of specialized gardens, totaling more than 20, that the Botanical Gardens has to offer. There is truly something for everyone. Aside from the beauty of the plants and flowers, there are over 30 outdoor sculptures to enhance the natural splendor of the wonders that envelope you when you enter the Garden grounds.

Upon passing through the arches that are somehow inviting, you will notice that a group of beautifully crafted wavy columns seem to protrude straight from the ground. Water gently rolls down the columns contoured sides to produce the serene sound of a babbling brook. The sculpture seems to set the tone for you as you delve into your day of botany.



Starting on one of the many paths the grounds have to offer you will come to a plaza of sorts. This area houses roses that bloom every year and cover the plaza with vibrant colors and sweet aromas that are so inviting that weddings are often held there.

Next is the conservatory or greenhouse that is, unfortunately, closed at this time for renovations, but should be up and running in no time.

Past the conservatory you will come to a small circular "bed" of flowers. These flowers are so bright and vibrant; they look as if they are on fire!



The pathway splits after the circular flower bed and you will be presented with your first choice.

I chose the first path and was glad to do so. It felt as if I had entered the woods of a fairy-tale world. The gently flowing brooks and peaceful rustling of leaves that I heard can only be described as breathtaking.

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens provides benches along these pathways for patrons to take their time and sit for a spell, taking in everything this part of the Gardens has to offer.

Choosing the left path takes you directly into one of the many specialized gardens on the grounds.

The first garden is the Bruno Vegetable Garden. In 1973 it started with just a small selection of vegetables, but in the 1980s and with tremendous support from the local supermarket chain Bruno's, the garden expanded greatly. It now produces an astounding 2,000 pounds of vegetables each year!

What makes this even more amazing is that every vegetable collected is donated to Magic City Harvest, a local non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger in Birmingham.



The garden is filled with different types of homegrown vegetables including cabbage, lettuce, greens, tomatoes, and hybrids. Hybrids are produced by cross breeding two types of vegetables and usually produce a higher yield come harvest time.

After you exit the Bruno Vegetable Garden, you will find the spider web-like, crisscrossing trails that will take you to various locations on the grounds of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

All paths seem to converge with one another at some point. Therefore, no matter what direction is chosen, you will see all you could hope to see.

The Fern Glade is one of the featured gardens on the grounds and it is filled with over 175 different species of hybrids and cultivars of ferns and fern allies. The setting for this picturesque Glade is on a wooded hillside that gave me the sense of hiking through some unknown wilderness that I had just discovered.

This unique setting also allows the visitor to gaze upon a planting, or group, of some of the 80 plus fern species native to our great state of Alabama.

One of the most unique gardens on the grounds is the Kaul Wildflower Garden. It is filled with flowers that seem to burst with colors that are so vibrant that they seem to be painted by an artist's unseen hand.

The Kaul Wildflower Garden is nationally renowned for its beauty and is a testament to the splendor that Alabama flora has to offer those who seek it. It is set in a three-acre natural rock garden full of the sweet smells of nature's "eye candy."



Saving what I feel is the best for last is what can only be described as an Asian Garden. Here you will enter under Asian-style arches that will make you feel as if you are entering an open temple. To your right you will be treated to several examples of the ancient practice of Bonsai, the art of growing and pruning small trees in pots. The practitioner of this ancient art prunes the tree to what he or she feels is pleasing to look upon.

After you have taken in the calming art of Bonsai you will head down a gentle slope to a serenity pond that is teeming with life.

If you look closely enough you will see the shimmering bright orange and pale white scales; the tell-tale signs of the Nishikigoi carp or as we refer to them, Koi fish. A mating pair of Canadian geese makes their home at the pond along with the common turtle.



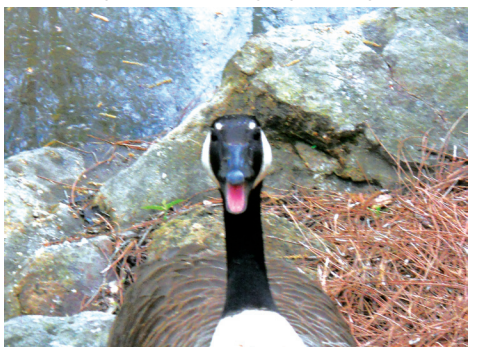
Crossing an arcing red bride you will come to a huge forest of bamboo. I was unable to enter the bamboo forest, but as I peered in, I could imagine a giant panda sitting there, partaking in its favorite meal.

Following one of the many pathways that lead out of the heart of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, you will eventually be led back to the entrance where, if so inclined, you can stop by The Gardens Cafe by Kathy G.

Here you can enjoy a light, inexpensive lunch with nothing on the menu over nine dollars. With starters, fresh salads, and cooked to order sandwiches, The Gardens Cafe by Kathy G is the perfect way to end a perfect day.

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens are open daily from dawn until dusk 365 days a year. Admission and parking are free. The Garden Cafe by Kathy G is open from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For information on how you can become a member of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens go to www.bbgargens.org.





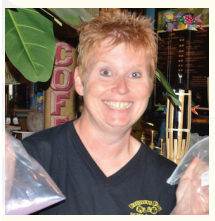


Lifestyle

Passion for the Kitchen

Send your recipes to recipes@cullmansense.com

By: Annette Harris
annetteharris@cullmansense.com



qrne.ws/aharris



Photos by Annette Harris

The Story of Wesley's Cake

Our daughter, Maddie married a great guy named Wesley Crow. I love him like my own son. The best thing about him is that he treats Maddie like she deserves to be treated.

So knowing what I just said about Wesley, you could understand why I would go to the trouble of making him this awesome cake for his birthday. I have named it "Wesley's Cake."

I knew he liked yellow cake with chocolate fudge icing. I wanted to make it from scratch and make it the best he had ever tasted.

He had not been in the family very long when I attempted to make his cake as a surprise. Not only did I want to make the yellow cake with chocolate fudge icing, but also I wanted to make a 10-layer cake!

I looked up all sorts of recipes for such a cake and found many different ones, but most of them were making the cake from scratch and I just thought, what the heck? Why wouldn't a boxed cake mix work just as well and I'll make the icing from scratch?

I got all the cake pans I could round up, which totaled 3, and cut out wax paper for the bottoms so they wouldn't stick and away I went to create this masterpiece for my son in law.

IT TOOK FOREVER to bake all those layers. I was pretty pleased with myself for not burning any of them or not even breaking any.

While the layers of cake were cooling I started in on the icing. That icing was easy to put together, but I thought my arm would fall off from stirring!

I almost cut the stirring time short because I couldn't see the reasoning in it, but I hung in there and did what the instructions said. "Man!" I had thought, "That was delicious," as I licked the spoon.



I thought I could just sit and eat that whole pot, but no…refrain because this was for my son in law and it was going to be special.

Even as I stirred the icing I thought about how beautiful this cake was going to be and how impressed he would be that his mother in law made this masterpiece just for him. I could almost taste it. I just knew that it was going to look just like the pictures.

Well, I started stacking the layers, putting the icing in between. The first 3 or 4 went great. All of a sudden, layer 5 started slipping. No problem. I would just slide it back into place and continue. It worked for another couple of layers and then layer 7 started splitting.

OH NO! How was I going to fix this? I blobbed on some icing, pieced it together and went right on. Layers 8, 9 and 10 were disasters, but I figured being so close to the top, the icing would take care of the cracks and broken pieces. Ta da! I was done!

Not too shabby. I was pretty proud of myself and was visualizing cutting that first perfect slice and seeing all the layers inside. I put it in the refrigerator to harden.

A few hours later the party started and I got the cake out. To my horror, the cake was much shorter and a lot wider! There was nothing I could do! It was hanging off the plate here and there and splitting everywhere!

Everyone was waiting, so I had no choice but to present the cake to Wesley as it was. We all got a big laugh out of it and Wesley loved it. He didn't care what it looked like. He bragged on it and said it was "just fine."

What a guy! He knew I had made so many other things that didn't look like this and something had gone wrong. He never gave it a second thought.

I will say that it was probably one of the best tasting cakes I've ever had. I will attempt the cake again, but I may just read the instructions and make it from scratch LIKE THE RECIPE SAYS!

Wesley's Cake

This cake is time consuming.

Ingredients:

- 3 boxes any brand yellow cake mix. Use the ingredients on the side of the box

Frosting:

- 2 sticks butter
- 2 12-oz. cans evaporated milk
- 8 heaping tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 2 lbs. confectioners sugar

Putting it Together:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Make one cake mix at a time according to the directions on the box.
3. Spray ten 9-inch cake pans. Spread 1 cup of cake batter into each of the pans evenly. Bake 10 minutes (will slightly brown and pull away from sides of pan). Repeat this until you have 10 layers.

** I didn't have 10 cake pans so I used 3 and put wax paper in each one in the bottom, (cut a circle of wax paper to fit the bottom). I did the above over and over, mixing up each cake mix until I had enough cake for 10 very thin layers. I prepared the area to lay each cake layer ahead of time. I put them on a towel on the counter.

Making the Icing:

1. Melt the butter. Stir in evaporated milk (off heat). Whisk in cocoa until smooth, return to heat and cook for approximately 10 minutes. Do not boil or scorch.
2. Remove from heat and whisk in confectioners' sugar slowly. Return icing to low heat and cook slowly, stirring often, until icing has thickened and will stick to back of spoon or whisk (it will form a ribbon when you drizzle a spoonful onto mixture while cooking). This will take at least 45 minutes to an hour. *I thought my arm would fall off.
3. To assemble the cake, spread 1 slightly cooled layer with cooled frosting. Add next layer and repeat the process until the 10th layer. Finish by frosting cake top and sides.

Chicken Casserole

There are many variations of this recipe and I have tried many different ones. This one is pretty easy to make.

My son Ethan loves this more than anything else I make. Don't turn your back or it will be gone…voice of experience.

Ingredients;

- 4 chicken breasts, boiled, deboned, and chopped into bite size pieces.
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 16 oz. tub of sour cream
- 1 row of Ritz crackers
- ¼ cup butter or margarine melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the soups and sour cream. Add in the chicken and stir everything together.
3. Spray a 9x13-baking dish
4. Spoon the mixture into the baking dish.
5. Crush the Ritz crackers and stir in the butter until they are lightly moistened.
6. Sprinkle the crackers all over the top of the casserole.
7. Bake for 30 minutes.

*We serve this over rice or egg noodles



Mirroring History

Looking Back: Exploring Historic Cullman at the People Drugs Co. Building

In 1894 Henry Heidelberg constructed The Peoples Drugstore that still stands at 328 1st Avenue Southeast. The drugstore was purchased by Dr. Albert Hoppner, Cullman's first registered pharmacist, Otis Kenney, and Philip Hartung in 1908. Mr. Hartung ran the pharmacy until his death in the 1950s. The next owner was pharmacist Ed Turner.

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 16th

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!

Tuesday, April 17th

Farmers Market at Festhalle
The Cullman Farmers Market at the Festhalle 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.

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.

Cullman High School Drum Line Dinner & Show
Cullman High School Drum Line is holding a 'silent auction' tonight in the CHS Auditorium beginning at 6 p.m., with all proceeds from this event going to help their fellow student, Andrew Winfrey who was seriously injured in a vehicle accident earlier this year.

They will also donate all tips accrued during their supper event which is catered by Johnny's Barbeque beginning at 6:30 p.m. Following the dinner, the Drum Line will present their 2012 show, Rite of Spring, in the school gymnasium. There is no charge to view the show or take part in the silent auction. Tickets for the dinner are $15.00 per plate. Additional information about this event is available from the school office at 256-734-3923.

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 18th

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!

Thursday, April 19th

AARP Senior Safe Driving Course
The Cullman Senior Center located at Sportsmans Lake Park is the site for the next AARP Senior Safe Driving Course, a two day event which will take place this afternoon and tomorrow (April 20) from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. All senior drivers will benefit from this educational forum hosted by Bob Hawley, AARP trained driving course instructor, and it helps save on most car insurance fees after you have completed the course.(There is no test involved with this class.)

To register or for additional information please contact Allie Owens at 256-734-1241 or the instructor Bob Hawley at 256-739-2170. There is a $12.00 fee for AARP members; $14.00 for non-members. This is a wonderful 'review' of topics and situations which arise as we take to the road each day and helps drivers reduce the chances of being involved in an accident!

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 20th

28th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts & Crafts Fair
St. Bernard is hosting its 28th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair today, Saturday, and tomorrow, Sunday, April 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Monastery Campus. There also is a 5K run. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the spring air and walk around the 150 numerous arts and crafts tents, as well as the food vendors who will dot the school grounds during the two-day festival.

Spring plants, artwork, handcrafted items, and numerous other high-quality unique memorabilia will be available for purchase. The big 'giveaway' is a Jeep Patriot this year along with many other valuable prizes. Admission is $5.00 per person with children 5 and under getting in for FREE! Bring the kids for the train ride and other areas dedicated to 'child's play' and bring the adults just for the 'fun of it all'! Check us out at www.bloominfestival.com. You may also call the office at 256-739-6682.

Jazz Band Dance at Wallace State
Put on your dancing shoes and come to Wallace State Community College from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. as the Jazz Band and the Music Department present an evening of great dance and listening music! This event is part of Wallace's Arts in April celebration and everyone is invited to attend. There is a $15.00 donation per person and the dance will take place in the Burrow Center Atrium.

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 21st

Jessica Johnson Memorial 5K Run/Walk
Fairview High School is sponsoring its Jessica Johnson Memorial 5K Run/Walk today to raise funds for Relay for Life. This event opens with registration at 7 a.m. followed by the start of the run at 8 a.m. Held in the Fairview High School gymnasium the cost for the run is $20.00 with t-shirt included, or $10.00 with no T-shirt. All funds raised will benefit Relay for Life and additional info is available by contacting Sherry Bailey at 256-796-5106 or 256-636-2260. Come out and enjoy the day and support a good cause as well.

Relay for Life Yard Sale at Sheriff's Office
Members of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office are gathering items for their yard sale, which starts at 7 a.m. All proceeds from the sale will go toward their Relay for Life project. Contact Jamie Robertson, 256-734-0342 or Michelle Barnett, 256-735-2411 for additional information. Come see what bargains you can find and help a great cause at the same time!

April Walking Tour
Cullman has once again joined in the state-wide 'Walking Tour' program on each Saturday of April as area residents are invited to meet at the Cullman County Museum at 10 a.m. to take part in viewing the downtown area. Sponsored by the Alabama Tourism Department, Cullman's walking tours this year will be somewhat different than in years past, due to the destruction of the April 27th tornado last year. This event will help show how far the community has come in rebuilding in the stricken areas, while offering a chance to view those sections of the Cullman community that were not touched. Come spend an enjoyable Saturday springtime morning and walk the streets of our lovely community with fellow friends

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 22nd

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 two additional Sunday afternoons including 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.

"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: DESSERTS

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.

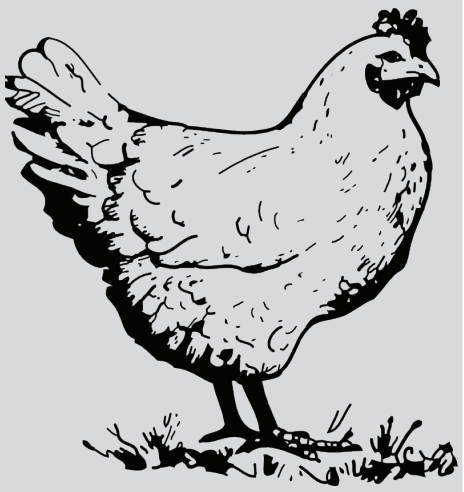
L J J Z Q F E L C I S P O P X B E X X Z G M K I S O Y M J S
I S E P O F J P D S R E G N I F Y D A L I Q R C X G U S E F
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Y X B T M N K D Y P V B C P S T T A M G R F U B Z D Y F I T
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D A L O F T O S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

apple pie, banana split, brownies, caramel, carrot cake
cheesecake, chocolate, chocolate cake, cinnamon rolls, cookies
cupcakes, custard, doughnuts, flan, fruit cake
fudge, ice cream, ladyfingers, lemon bars, milk shake
muffin, parfait, peach cobbler, popsicle, raisin bread
sherbert, strawberries, sundae, sweet potato pie, yogurt

GETTING CORNY

Send your jokes to:
jokes@cullmansense.com

1. What do the Postal Service and chickens have in common?



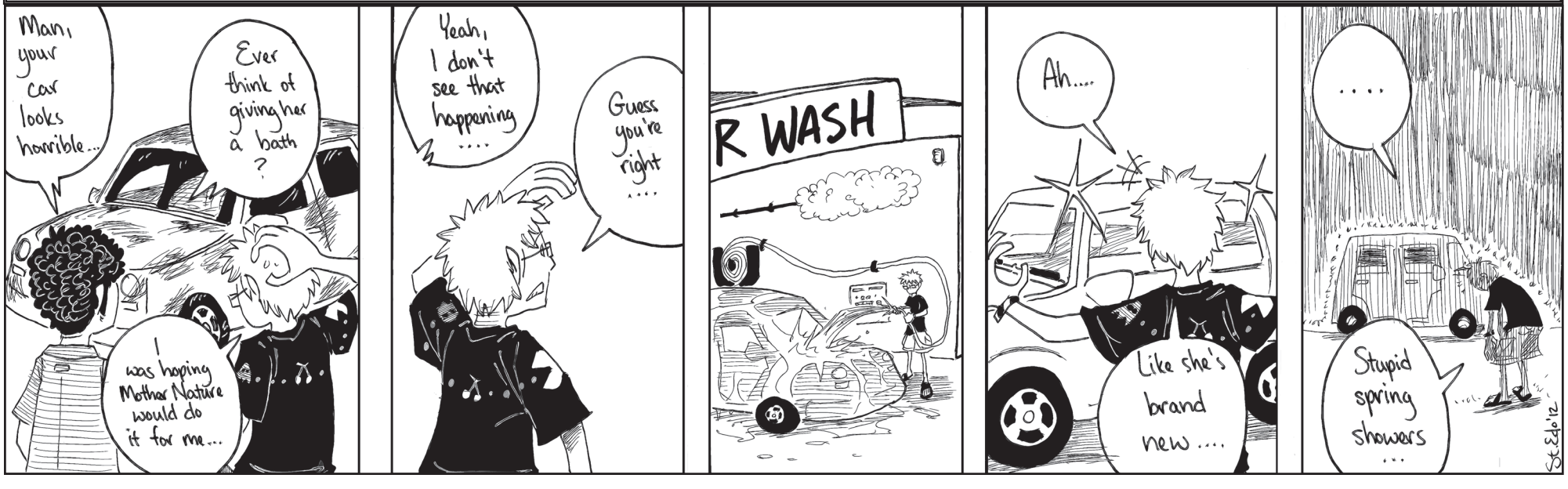
2. What do watch-makers and psychiatrists have in common?



You Tube
Broadcast Yourself™
Tune in to our YouTube Channel
YouTube.com/CullmanSense

1. They have plenty of bocks. 2. They know how things tick.

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



Community Matters

County Title (Cont.)

the 75 minute game clock, making the final score 5-1 in favor of the Good Hope Lady Raiders.

Game Six: Hanceville vs. Cold Springs (Elimination Game)

Taylor Payne, Hannah Wilson, and Rebecca Calvert each had RBI's in the first inning for the Lady Eagles. After scoring three more runs in the second they went into the third looking for the knockout blow and they got it in a big way. Cold Springs sent all nine batters to the plate in the third and every one of them, except for McKinley Davis, crossed the plate.

The big blow in the inning came off the bat of Rilee White when she cleared the bases of Lady Eagles with a three run double. Three errors on the Lady Bulldogs help contribute to Cold Springs' big inning as he 16th run crossed the plate; the game was called in accordance to the run rule in high school softball.

Game Seven: Fairview vs. West Point (Elimination Game)

The first game of day two in the Cullman County Softball Tournament was a win or go home game for the Fairview Lady Aggies and the West Point Lady Warriors.

Fairview scored first in the tightly contested match-up when Bea Woodard hit into a fielder's choice, but added an RBI to her tournament total when Jessilyn Lubert crossed the plate on the play.

West Point quickly answered in the bottom of the first when Mallory Walker singled home Jamie Beasley, a courtesy runner for Kacie Beck who reached on a base-on-balls. The Lady Aggies took the lead back in the very next inning with an RBI double from Sabrina Russel that scored Sarah Harper, and a RBI single from Melody Manasco, scoring Kayla Aleman after she had walked.

West Point went quietly in the second, but came back strong in the third with a two-run double off the bat of Kaitlen Kelly that came with two outs in the inning and tied the game 3-3. Her double scored Karra Elam and Beck's courtesy runner, Beasley, after Elam and Beck had both singled.

West Point finally grabbed the lead for good in the bottom of the fourth when Emily Looney scored on a very costly three bag error when a routine throw to first went down the first base line, on an attempt o throw out pinch hitter, Jamie Beasley. Beasley made it to third on the error and came in to score two pitches later on a wild pitch to take a 5-3 lead.

Game Eight: Cold Springs vs. Vinemont (Elimination Game)

The 30 minute lightning delay in the second inning didn't bother Cold Springs as Haley Freeman got the Cold Springs squad going when she singled with one out. She came home on a two-out double from McKinley Davis to make the score 3-0 in favor of The Cold Springs Lady Eagles.

In the bottom of the fifth and final inning Vinemont made a run at the win. Kuykendall walked to lead off the inning then stole second. Sellers sacrificed to move her to third. Fowler hit a lazy fly that was dropped by the Cold Springs right fielder allowing Kuykendall to score and Fowler to make it to second. The Vinemont Lady Eagles went on to load the bases, but a soft liner to the Cold Springs third baseman ended Vinemont's day and tournament hopes a with a 3-1 final score.

Game Nine: Good Hope vs. Holly Pond

Good Hope's Cara Goodwin struck out Lady Broncos lead-off batter Kourtany Turnbough to open the bottom of the first. Then the tandem of Taylor Rowell and Taylor Miller hit back-to-back singles to set the plate for Kaitlyn Whitehead. She came through with a two-run double scoring both Taylors and jumping out to a 2-0 lead.

Good Hope went three-up, three-down in the top of the second allowing Holly Pond to keep the momentum. They did just that adding two more runs to their lead without the benefit of a hit, taking advantage of a dropped third strike and a costly Good Hope error. A sacrifice bunt by Lacy Malone scored Sarah Quick and a ground out by Sami Hinds brought home Peyton Creel for a 4-0 Holly Pond lead.

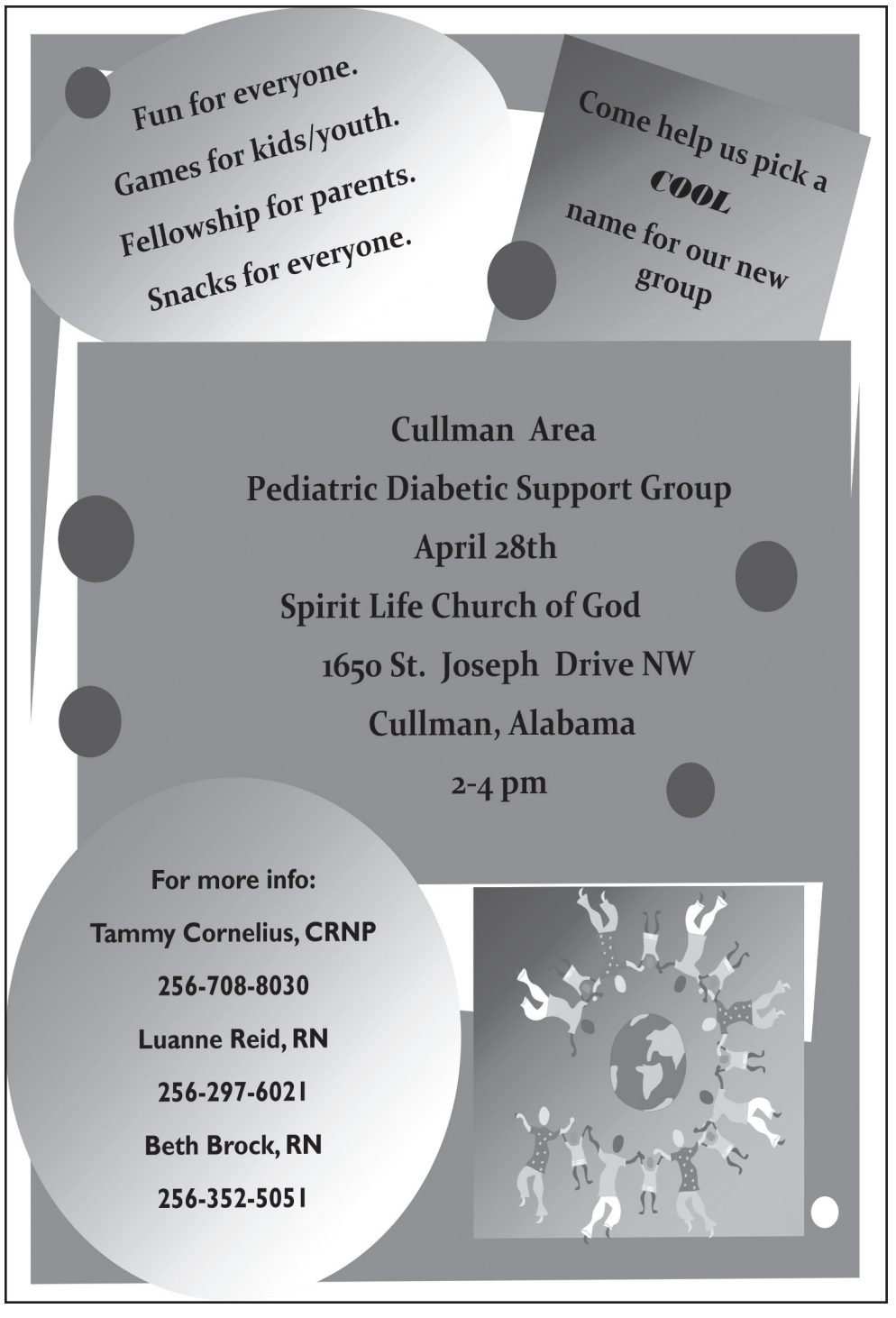
The Lady Raiders finally broke into the run column in the fifth when Megan Sterling hit a one out double and was herself doubled home by Kayla Tillman but The Lady Raiders fell to Holly Pond 4-1.

Game Ten: Cold Springs vs. West Point (Elimination Game)

The Lady Warriors crossed the plate four times in the first inning thanks to three singles and some heads-up base running on a Cold Springs error. Courtney Walker singled in a run while her sister Courtney sacrificed herself for and RBI just one batter later. Emily Laney also had a sacrifice and RBI in the inning. They continued to play great softball, scoring runs through good fundamentals and playing station to station softball, utilizing bunts, steals, and sacrifices to perfection. This led to an 8-0 Lady Warriors lad that turned into a 10-0 victory.

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