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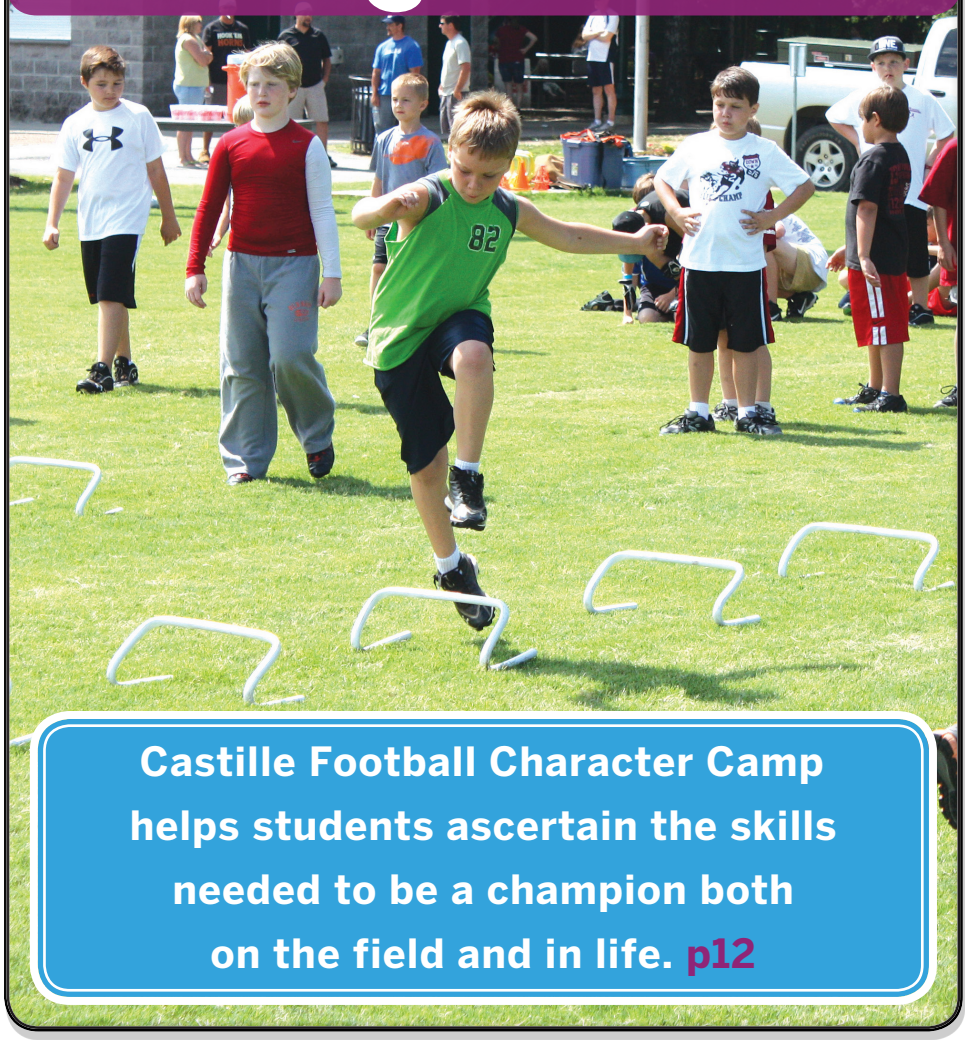
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April 2011 Disaster funds meeting set for Cullman

By: Jim Plott

Public meeting to determine remaining needs in April 2011 tornado recovery

MONTGOMERY— Alabamians will have the opportunity Tuesday to help decide how $49.1 million in pending federal disaster relief funds should be spent in the areas impacted by a series of tornadoes in April 2011.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is conducting the 10:30 a.m. informational session at the Cullman City Hall auditorium, 204 Second Ave. NE.

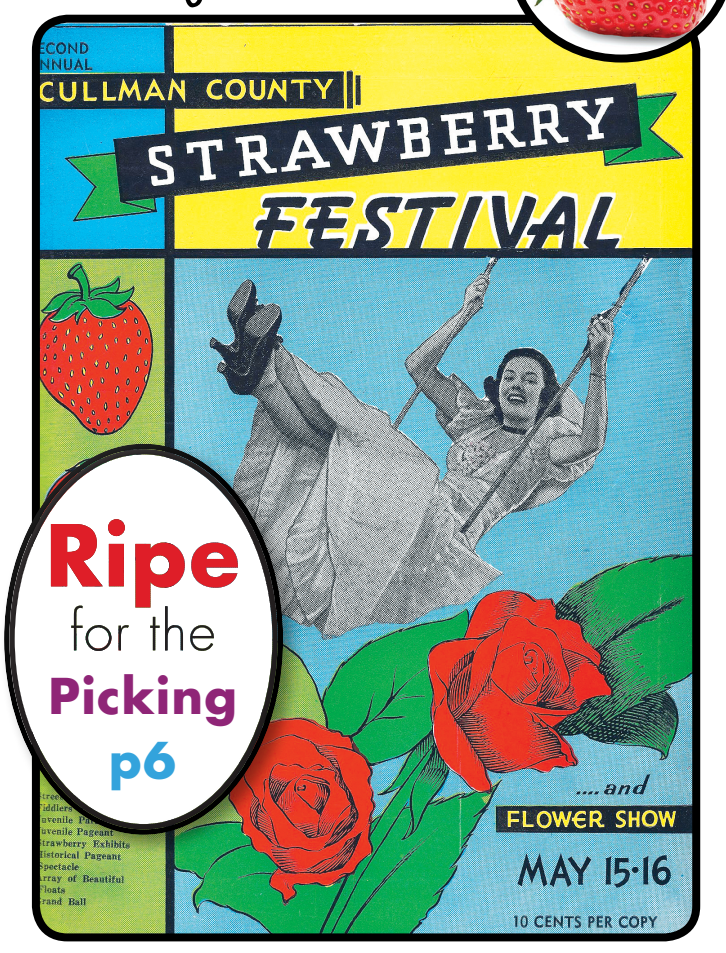
The meeting's purpose is to identify the greatest needs that remain two years after the storms devastated many communities in north and central Alabama. Mayors, county commissioners, consultants, and other representatives of areas affected by the storms are expected to attend and offer comments on the most urgent needs facing their communities.

Anticipated uses for the pending funding include housing rehabilitation, economic development, infrastructure recovery, and other projects not addressed by previous assistance.

Gov. Robert Bentley assigned ADECA, which has administered disaster funding in the past, with the task of coordinating long-term tornado recovery efforts.

The public meeting is required to prepare a statewide action plan for the funding. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will review the state's plan to ensure the proposed funding meets requirements.

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Graduating class of Wallace State Nurses Recognized at Pinning Ceremony

By: Kristen Holmes

WSCC Contributor



Tammy Samp greets a friend as she walks during the processional of the pinning ceremony for the 2013 associate degree in nursing class at Wallace State Community College.

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College presented 50 men and women with pins signifying their successful completion of the Associate Degree in Nursing program Thursday night. Holding lighted lanterns, they then took the Nightingale Pledge, vowing to practice their profession faithfully.

In her address to the students, WSCC President Vicki Hawsey issued a challenge to them as they enter the workforce.

"When you are a nurse, be a nurse with all of your heart, and all of your mind, and all of your spirit in that moment," Hawsey said.

She shared with the students her personal experience of how nurses were a great support to her as a new mother of a child with special medical needs. "I spent a great deal of time in a hospital with him as a baby. "I remember the nurses who took time to stop for a moment and say, 'Mom, how are you?' Or to cuddle him a bit, or just to let me know that they cared.

"It's okay to be in a hurry and it's okay to be efficient, you should be, and you should be very effective in what you do, but do it with your heart and remember every patient has an extension, and that's a family member that needs to know that you care."

Dr. Hawsey then shared quotes and a prayer from Mother Theresa: "Sweetest lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my high vocation and its many responsibilities. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness, or impatience."

"Wallace State nurses, may your every step be blessed," Hawsey added. "Congratulations."

Deborah "Pepper" Hoover, chair of the Department of Nursing Education, said the 2013 Associate Degree Nursing class exemplify the qualities set forth by the college's program.

"The program gives the students an opportunity to practice integrity, develop compassion for patients as well as other students, explore ways to be resourceful, and appreciate diversity," Hoover said. "These characteristics...ring true with this class."

Along with the pinning and lamp lighting ceremony, award nominees, and winners were recognized.

Nightingale Nominees included Stephanie R. Adams, Paige Ponder Collett, Rachael Louviere, Ashley Nelson, Terri Pate, Sonya Sipe, Carole Smith, and Johnny Tidmore. Adams, Sipe and Tidmore were recognized as the winners.

Tosha Holderfield was recognized as a Department of Nursing President's Cup nominee. Tidmore was recognized as a Presidential Award for Health Excellence nominee. Tidmore went on to win the Presidential Award at Friday's graduation ceremony.

In his address to his classmates, Tidmore expressed his appreciation for them and the faculty and staff at Wallace State. He recalled an opportunity to address incoming nursing students and what he told them about the program they were entering.

"The overriding message was this: that they were sitting in a seat...the seat that gave them the ticket to change their lives if they let it. If they could buckle down and remove as many distractions as possible, they had the opportunity to change their life, provided they had the heart of a nurse.

"I felt confident telling those brand new students that," Tidmore continued. "Why? Because my life has miraculously changed, my classmates' lives have changed. They tell me that."

He read comments he requested from his classmates, asking them what they would say if they were the one giving his speech.

"I believe that I am blessed beyond measure for God has given me a calling a strong mind, a determined spirit and all the necessary tools to accomplish the greatest good for the greatest number of people." He read. "She said nursing is not a job it is who we are."

St. Bernard student qualifies for National Merit Scholarship Program

By: Joyce Nix

St. Bernard Contributor



CULLMAN – Mackenzie Bockhold, a junior at St. Bernard Prep School, recently qualified to advance in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program competition. Bockhold was among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants of some 1.5 million program entrants.

In October of 2012 St. Bernard juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT which is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test. Students with a selection Index score of 203 or above have qualified.

Of the more than 50,000 high scorers nationwide, about 16,000 will be named National Merit Program Semifinalists, representing the top scholars in each state, and approximately 34,000 others will be commended for the performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Semifinalists and Commended Students in the 2014 national Merit Program will learn of their standing in September. Semifinalists will be the only students who will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 8,300 National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2014.

Headmaster, John Tekulve has known Mackenzie since her 7th grade year at St. Bernard. "Mackenzie possesses great intelligence but, more importantly, she is a disciplined student," Tekulve said. "She has capitalized on her God given abilities by being a dedicated student who demands excellence from herself. I am proud of Mackenzie's achievements and am sure that many more will follow."

Bockhold is the daughter of Donald and Sandi Bockhold of Cullman.

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Summer Junior Tennis 2013
√ Session I: June 3 - June 13
√ Session II: June 17 - June 27
√ Session III: July 8 - July 18
• Sessions held Monday-Thursday; Beginners from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and Intermediate and Advanced Groups from 9:00 a.m. -10:00
• Tennis Balls are provided; racquet is required. Instructors Don Wilbanks and Ryan Hunt will lead the sessions.
cullmanrecreation.org

What's Online

Blue for Bruises



For 21 children across the state of Alabama there will be no more bright sunny days such as the ones which greeted advocates at a Child Abuse Awareness Walk. Sadly, 21 children lost their lives as a result of abuse or neglect in 2012, a statistic which saddens many, but also a number which motivates many in Cullman County to work... **qrne.ws/41**

State Finance Director to Accept New Position

Gov. Robert Bentley announced that State Finance Director Dr. Marquita Davis will soon accept a new position as Executive Director of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO) in Birmingham.

qrne.ws/42

Cullman and BFHOF Officials Visit Auburn Fisheries

On April 25, 2013, Cullman city officials and Bass Fishing Hall of Fame board members traveled to the Auburn University Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures to learn more about the department and to discuss the goals for the planned Bass Fishing Hall of Fame **qrne.ws/43**

Governor Bentley Signs Best Interests of the Child Act of 2013

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Wednesday held a ceremonial bill signing for Senate Bill 307, a measure that helps expedite the process for children to be adopted into permanent homes.

"This bill cuts down on the time it takes to move children out of foster care and into permanent, loving homes," Governor Bentley said.

"Dianne and I are the parents of two adopted sons, and we know the love and joy that adopted children bring to families. All children deserve a safe and stable home environment, and this legislation will make that available to more children."

The legislation requires the Department of Human Resources to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of a parent (or parents) of a child who has been in the foster care system for 12 of the most recent 22 months.

Prior to the passage of SB307, filing a petition to terminate parental rights was based on 15 of the most recent 22 months.

SB307 also requires the completion of a termination of parental rights trial within 90 days after the petition has been served and requires the trial court judge to enter a final order within 30 days of the completion of the termination of parental rights trial.

"The safety and care of Alabama children is always our number-one priority," Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn) said.

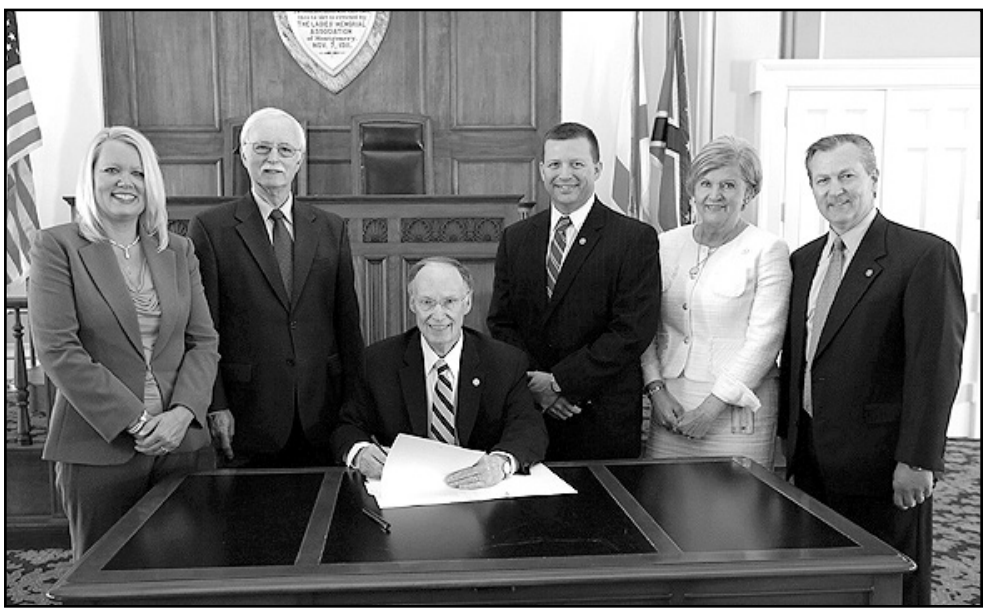
"This law is the result of months of research and work to pinpoint the best way to improve foster care and adoption in our state. I am proud that our efforts will have an immediate, positive, and long-term impact in the lives of Alabama children and families across the state."

The legislation was sponsored by Senator Jerry Fielding and Representative Mike Jones.

"As a former juvenile court judge, I've seen first-hand the stress that drawn-out foster care proceedings can have on a child," Sen. Fielding (R-Sylacauga) said.

"That's why I was proud to sponsor this bill that will streamline the process and ensure a child is placed in a stable environment in a timely fashion."

"As a family law professional, I see first-hand the amount of time Alabama children can spend waiting in foster care, and I knew something must be done," Rep. Jones (R-Andalusia) said."The 'Best Interests of the Child Act' takes great strides toward speeding up the adoption process and ensuring children in foster care are placed in a permanent, loving home much more quickly."



Governor Bentley signs the Best Interests of the Child Act during a bill signing ceremony at the State Capitol on Wednesday. Also pictured, from left to right, are Adoptive Mother Beverly Owings; Sen. Jerry Fielding, Senate Sponsor of the bill; Rep. Mike Jones, House Sponsor of the Bill; Nancy Buckner, Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources; and Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard. (Photo credit: Governor's Office, Jamie Martin)

ADMH and Partners Celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

By: Jennifer Ardis

MONTGOMERY – Governor Bentley recently proclaimed May 5-11, 2013, as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week in Alabama, coinciding with both National CMHAW and National Mental Health Month, observed annually in May.

The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health sponsors CMHAW each year to increase public awareness of the triumphs and challenges in children's mental health, and to emphasize family and youth involvement in the children's mental health movement.

In recognition of this observance, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, community providers, and advocacy organizations are partnering to raise public awareness about children's mental health.

Events such as festivals, fairs, art events, pizza parties, and game nights are taking place throughout the week. Educational efforts include presentations to schools, media appearances, and mental health screenings.

In addition, people are encouraged to wear green ribbons and businesses have been asked to put out green bows or balloons during the week to show their support of CMHAW.

Alabama Family Ties, an advocacy organization, also secured artwork from a youth consumer during its annual conference, which is featured on a CMHAW poster it has distributed throughout the state.

"Many people in our communities are directly affected by mental illnesses," said Dr. Beverly Bell-Shambley, associate commissioner of ADMH's Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

"The good news is treatment works and recovery is possible, but only if people can get access to treatment," she stated.

The latest national data shows that mental health issues affect one in five children each year.

In Alabama, approximately 25,000 children receive public mental health treatment every year. Nationally, less than one-half of children with a diagnosed mental illness receive treatment.

Bell-Shambley said, "The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that stigma is a major barrier to people seeking help when they need it. That's why CMHAW is so important. We want people to learn the facts and end myths to help break the stigma and silence that too often surround the topic. The more people know, the better they can help themselves or help their loved ones get the help and support they need. By changing attitudes about mental illness, we can change lives."

CMS approves "Health Homes" for Alabama Medicaid networks

Contributed by Medicaid

MONTGOMERY – Care coordination for patients with high cost, chronic health conditions has been the foundation for the early success of Alabama Medicaid's four pilot Patient Care Networks (PCNs). Now, federal approval of a new "health home" program will provide extra funding and support needed to improve patients' health outcomes while reducing overall expenditures to the state.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified the Agency on April 9 that it had approved the Agency's request to implement comprehensive care management in the four networks, also known as health homes. Federal approval will allow the state to draw down 90 percent federal matching funds for a two-year period between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2014.

"We know that a relatively small number of our patients account for a significant percentage of the cost," said Medicaid Managed Care Division Director Nancy Headley.

"This is in part because a disproportionate share of the Alabama population is more likely to have chronic health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease. With the health homes program, we will be able to focus on the patients with these health conditions and work intensively with them to improve the quality of care they receive."

Qualifying Medicaid participants must have two chronic health conditions or one chronic health condition and be at risk of developing another condition. Approved conditions include asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer, HIV, mental health conditions, substance abuse disorder, sickle cell anemia, and transplant patients.

"This is particularly important for patients with mental health conditions because they often have other chronic diseases that go untreated until their health situation becomes serious," said Headley.

"By identifying these patients and intervening with targeted case management, the quality of the health care they receive can be substantially improved."

The PCN's are now required to have a behavioral health nurse that will serve as a liaison between Mental Health and the primary care physician.

The program will also financially support the efforts of two other state agencies: The Alabama Department of Public Health which will provide case management services and the Alabama Department of Mental Health which will provide targeted case management services. Physicians who oversee the medical care of participating patients will receive enhanced fees as well.

Patients will be identified monthly using claims data and referred for services. The effort also includes transitional care services so that patients are visited by a nurse prior to hospital discharge to help with medication reconciliation or other needs.

One-time grants to accelerate One Health Record adoption and use

Contributed by Medicaid

MONTGOMERY – A new grant program for small rural hospitals and qualifying health care providers will soon be available to help accelerate adoption and use of One Health Record®, Alabama's health information exchange.

The one-time grants are designed to help qualifying provider entities purchase federally-certified products from "preferred" electronic health record (EHR) vendors.

Participating vendors must agree to a fair and fixed price and will be asked to match 25 percent of the system's cost in in-kind services, according to Health IT Program Director Gary Parker. The remaining cost will be covered by federal grant funds.

"Many of these providers are interested in participating in a robust, interoperable health information exchange," Parker said.

"However, acquiring the necessary technology is a financial and logistical challenge for these organizations."

To qualify for these grants, the hospitals must have 60 or fewer beds and all applicants need to be located in rural areas where larger hospitals are already connected or expect to be connected within six months.

Grant application dates, details, and forms will be available in early May on the project's website at www.onehealthrecord.alabama.gov.

Parker emphasized that the success of the One Health Record® effort depends heavily on the ability of providers to connect and exchange information with regional referral hospitals and their medical staff specialists.

"By concentrating our efforts on those areas served by hospitals which have connected or will soon connect to One Health Record®, we hope to jumpstart regional network development and provide opportunities for all providers to benefit from this technology," he said.

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North-Central Regional Tournament Wrap-Up

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

TUSCALOOSA – Through rain, wind, and the occasional sun, Good Hope, Vinemont, and Cold Springs all vied for a chance to move on to the state tournament in Montgomery. Here is a recap of all of the action from over the weekend.

The Good Hope Lady Raiders (Class 3A Area 11 Champions)

For the second time in as many years, the Good Hope Lady Raiders are able to book reservations in Montgomery, knowing they are one step closer to the 3A State Championship.

Good Hope 1 vs. Cordova 0 (Day One)

Softball is a funny game. 14 innings of work, undone by one pitch.

"I was just looking for a hit because hits win games," Wilson told CullmanSense following the game.

Well Wilson got her hit in the form of a stunning walk off home run. She turned on an inside fastball and crunched it over the left field fence that sent the Lady Raider dugout as well as the Good Hope faithful into a frenzy as Wilson trotted around the bases with a huge grin on her face as her teammates waited to mob her at the plate.

When asked when she knew she hit a home run, she responded "As soon as I hit it," with a smile.

Cara Goodwin of Good Hope averaged better than a strike-out an inning, fanning 15 Lady Blue Devils over 14 frames. Faith Sims of Cordova was no slouch either, whiffing 11 Lady raiders over her 15 innings of work.

Good Hope 5 vs. Gordo 2 (Day One)

Early in Good Hope's second and final game of day one, things looked as if they were going to repeat themselves as the game was scoreless heading into the fourth but Darcy Wilson, the Good Hope offensive star of the day, would again be the one to break the tie.

Cara Goodwin and Alannah Henke served up back-to-back singles setting the "plate" for Wilson and she did not disappoint when she blasted a double to left center that scored Goodwin and Henke. Good Hope enjoyed a multi-run lead for the first time in the tournament, going up 2-0.

After Goodwin held Gordo scoreless in the fourth, the Lady Raiders went right back to work at the dish. Kacy Thomas smacked a single back up the middle.

Darby Randolph then reached base on a throwing error on the pitcher. Both Lady Raiders would cross the plate in the inning.

Thomas would touch home on a Savannah Fendley sacrifice while Randolph scampered home on a wild pitch to make the score 4-2.

Brooke Perrigin of Gordo managed to do something that no other hitter had done in 18 innings; get an RBI hit off of Goodwin.

Perrigin delivered two out, two RBI double for the Green Wave, scoring Meaghan Jackson and Mollie Hall. This cut the Good Hope lead in half at 4-2.

However, Perrigin's two RBI's were big but not big enough to overcome the play of Good Hope who added an insurance run in the seventh to take the game 5-2.

Good Hope 1 vs. Winfield 2 (Day Two)

For the second time in two days, Good Hope played a 14 inning game and for the second time in two days, a walk-off hit in the bottom of the 14th ended the contest.

But this time, it was Good Hope on the short end of the stick when Lexi Coleman lined a walk off RBI single through the third base hole to give Winfield the 2-1 win.

Cara Goodwin pitched great and had a no hitter going with one out in the bottom of the seventh before Sam Riley broke it up with a hustle double on a bloop to center. Micaela Beck followed with an RBI single to tie the game. Goodwin finished with 16 strike-outs.

Opposing Goodwin was Madi Moore for Winfiled and she pitched brilliantly. She hurled a no-hitter and struck out a staggering 26 Lady Raiders in the 14 inning complete game. The only blemish in the run column was a walk to Maegan Sterling who came in to score on a passed ball, sacrifice, and a RBI on a fielder's choice from Kacy Thomas.

Good Hope 2 vs. Cordova 1 (Day Two)

After a 14 inning battle of wills, Good Hope and Cordova locked horns again, this time it was for a trip to the state tournament in Montgomery.

"The only thing I could think was this game is NOT going into extra innings," said Good Hope's Cara Goodwin with a smile as she talked about what turned out to be a game winning single.

Cordova had the first real chance at scoring in the sixth when Raigan Sherer coaxed a rare lead-off walk from Goodwin. Lindsey Gilbert then laid down a sac bunt to chase Sherer to second. Madison Westbrook then drew the second walk of the inning putting runners at first and second with one out.

Goodwin did not get the ground ball double play she was looking for, instead she got the power hitting Sims to pop out to Kayla Tillman at third. Two pitches later, Darcie Wilson rifled the ball down to third to catch Sherer trying to steal.

After getting out of a sticky situation, the Lady Raiders who had played 48 innings in four games, had a renewed vigor that manifested on the diamond.

Darby Randolph found herself on base after only one pitch, which grazed here, and Tillman followed with a single, to put runner at first and second with no outs. Baile Andrews then executed one of the biggest plays of the whole tournament.

With two strikes, she laid down a beautiful sacrifice bunt to move the runners to second and third, setting the table for none other than Goodwin, who delivered.

She kept her hands inside the ball and turned on a Sims fastball, serving it into left center. Randolph scored easily and Tillman, who was flying around third, scored right on her heels.

It was Tillman's run, set up by the Andrews sac bunt, that proved to be the game winner as Cordova scored on a triple and an error in the top of the seventh but Goodwin held her composure and struck out Maggie Benson to end the game and claim their spot in Montgomery for the second year in a row.



Good Hope Lady Raiders

Vinemont Lady Eagles (3A Area 11 Runner-Up)

Vinemont Lady Eagles 0 vs. Winfield Lady Pirates 5 (Day One)

A rocky third inning cost the Vinemont Lady Eagles in a 5-0 loss to the Winfiled Lady Pirates in the first round of the Regional playoffs Friday in Tuscaloosa.

Winfield rode the "Merry-Go-Round" in the third. Emma Atkins singled and Samantha Riley followed with an RBI triple.

Micaela Beck then doubled home Riley. Beck scored the third run of the inning when she touched home on a fielder's choice.

Although they played hard, Vinemont could not string together a series of hit to get the scoring going. Winfiled added two insurance runs in the sixth on a passed ball and a fielder's choice.

Vinemont 11 vs. Sipsey Valley 1 (Day One)

Vinemont seemed none too happy with their performance in the first game of the day and they decided to take it out on their game two opponents, the Sipsey Valley Lady Bears. The Lady Eagles pounded out 11 runs over a run shortened six inning game.

Already up 4-0, Vinemont broke the game wide open in the fourth. Taking advantage of two passed balls in the inning,

Allison Fowler, Caitlyn Kuykendall and Rachel Sellers all crossed the plate to make the score 7-0.

The Lady Eagles added four more runs in the sixth to end the game due to the 10 run rule. Vinemont earns the right to play Saturday with their first game beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Vinemont 2 vs. Gordo 4 (Day Two)

The Lady Eagles of Vinemont saw their 2013 season end Saturday due to errors, leading to four runs and a 4-2 win for Gordo.

Vinemont jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on RBIs from Raven Christensen and Caitlyn Kuykendal in the second inning. These would turn out to be the only runs that Vinemont would score.

It was the bottom of the second that did Vinemont in, booting the ball around and allowing for some timely Gordo hitting that led to the 4-2 final score.

Cold Springs Lady Eagles (Class 2A Area 11 Runner-Up)

Cold Springs 7 vs. Pleasant Valley 4 (Day One)

Cold Springs had a tough match-up right out of the gate Friday, drawing the Pleasant Valley Eagles who finished ranked #3 in Class 2A, but that didn't stop the determined Lady Eagles who exploded for six runs in the first two innings of the contest.

McKinnley Davis, Haliey Freeman, and Rilee White all showed great patients at the plate drawing back-to-back-to back walks to load the bases for clean-up hitter Riley Payne.

She did what clean-up hitters do best, drive in runs, when she plated Davis and Freeman with a single.

White would also come home in the inning, scoring on a wild pitch.

After shutting down the potent Pleasant Valley offense, Cold Springs went right back to work scoring three more runs in the second.

Ironically it was Davis, Freeman, and White who again crossed the plate for Cold Springs when White singled in Davis and Freeman, Hayden West got in on the fun when she added an RBI single to score White.

After two innings, the Cold Springs Lady Eagles had Pleasant Valley on the ropes.

Pleasant Valley finally broke through in the third, scoring two runs thanks to an error and an RBI single off the bat of McKinley Parris but it would not be enough as Cold Sprigs held on to win 7-4.

Cold Springs 0 vs. Hale County 11 (Day One)

As good as the first game was for the ladies of Cold Springs, the second game was one they had just soon forget.

Down just a single run and with momentum seemingly on their side, Cold Springs committed three costly errors in the fourth inning, allowing four runs to cross for Hale County Wildcats who went on to win the 11-0.

Cold Springs 2 vs. Walter Wellborn 9 (Day Two)

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles had a great ride in 2013, including knocking off the #3 ranked team in 2A on the first day of the tournament but their magical run came to an end at the hands of the Walter Wellborn Lady Panthers 9-2.

Already up 5-0, the Lady Panthers went back to work in the fourth. Eight grader Carlee Mullinax added to the Wellborn total when she slapped an RBI single to to left that scored Taylor Houck.

Kamryn Beasly would be the seventh run for the Lady Panthers when she scored on a wild pitch.

In the top of the fifth, Cold Springs got the bats working when McKinnley Davis plated a pair, Bailey West and Taylor Sisco, on a two RBI single to make the score 7-2.

Unfortunately for the Lady Eagles, these would be the only runs they would score in the game.

Wellborn tacked on two runs in the sixth on RBI sacrifices by Brooklyn Angle and Houck.

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North Regional Tournament Wrap-Up

By: Johnny Thornton

HUNTSVILLE – While three teams from the county were down in Tuscaloosa participating in the AHSAA North-Central softball regional, two other programs made their way to the Kiwanis Metro Sportsplex in the North regional. Class 3A, Area 12 champion Holly Pond didn't stay long in this series. The Lady Broncos were edged 1-0 in eight innings by Geradline in round one and then eliminated by Deshler 2-0 Friday night.

For the second straight week, the young Cullman Lady Bearcat team surprised the opposition.

In game one of the 5A regional, the Lady Bearcats upset No. 4 Lawrence County. This game Friday began at 10:42 p.m. and came to a conclusion at 12:27 a.m. They were able to find a way to get back into the win column Saturday afternoon following a loss and were the final three from the loser's bracket in contention before the sun set.

Holly Pond

Montana Holcomb was very solid for the Lady Broncos in their two games in the regional. Unfortunately, the Lady Broncos were unable to be productive at the plate in regards of producing runs.

Holcomb kept Geradline off the scoreboard until the Lady Bulldogs produced the game winning run in the bottom of the eighth.

It was similar results in the Deshler contest as Holcomb yielded a couple of runs while Holly Pond could not deliver when the opportunity presented itself.

Holcomb, who was back in the lineup for coach Steve Miller for the past two weeks, recovering from an injury, recorded 15 strikeouts in the two games. Neither Geraldine or Deshler really got to her, but just enough to squeeze out victory and end the Lady Broncos' time in the "Rocket City."

Cullman

Dealing with the latest start in a game on the 2013 season, the Lady Bearcats came out and handed a 3-0 lead to freshmen Claire Jenkins after a half inning against No. 4 Lawrence County.

The offense, featuring Jenkins, Kaitlyn Brannon, Hannah Morton, Hayden Short, and McKenzie Burks, seemed to be ready to play late night softball instead of the talented opponent from Moulton.

Jenkins threw very well and never got into major trouble. Her defense supported her throughout the night as she held Lawrence County scoreless through the first six frames.

Cullman got an insurance run in the top of the seventh and ended the game right before 12:30 a.m., despite giving up a run to the Lady Red Devils.

It was a sweet victory for coach Stephanie Barlow and her team as they continue their upswing for being a ball club with no seniors, two juniors, and plenty of eighth, ninth, and some 10th graders.

With the top four teams ranked in the state playing in this region, it makes it easy to say this could be the toughest region of the four and especially for a young team like Cullman.

No. 3 Southside-Gadsden got to Morton with a run in the bottom of the first on a home run from Claire Graves. The Lady Panthers added four in the second and used the good pitching from Graves to keep Cullman off the scoreboard.

Graves had held the Lady Bearcats hitless until the sixth when Taiya Ponder laid down a bunt for a single. Two batters later, Kaitlyn Brannon dropped down a bunt and Cullman had a rally going.

Morton drilled a pitch from Graves deep that just missed clearing the fence. It hit the fence, allowing Ponder to score and close the margin to 5-1. But the inning ended when Short struck out and Burks popped out to second.

In the seventh, Oliva Schwaiger singled and Ellie Dixon was safe on an error that gave Cullman a chance to rally. But Ponder lined out to first and Jenkins popped out in front of the pitcher's circle to end the one-hour, 36-minute game.

Muscle Shoals met Cullman in the elimination bracket. The Lady 'Cats were ready with their next assignment pushed back by two hours due to a 14-inning game between Buckhorn and Oxford.

Burks laced a shot down the right field line in the first to score Jenkins and Morton and give Cullman a 2-0 lead in the top of the first.

The Lady 'Cats broke it open with five runs on five hits in the fifth featuring a two-run single by Jenkins and Short with a two-run double. Cullman took a 7-0 lead into the sixth as Olivia Schwaiger was shutting down Muscle Shoals.

The eighth grader held the Lady Trojans to two hits after five and stayed on top of her game, giving up one more single before this 9-0 win by her team was secured.

Tiffany Schwaiger homered in the sixth and another run came thanks to a Muscle Shoals throwing error which was all the Lady 'Cats needed to complete their second win in three games with Lawrence County waiting for them in a rematch.

Lawrence County, a winner over Hartselle 1-0, was looking at the rematch after Cullman sent the No. 4 team into the loser's bracket.

The Red Devils struck for three runs against Schwaiger, the first runs she allowed all day in her work on the mound. She had pitched 13 consecutive scoreless innings in the tournament before the Moulton team got the advantage.

Cullman had a great chance of tying the game in the fourth thanks to doubles from Brannon and Morton and a walk to Short to load the bases.

Olivia Schwaiger took the ball deep down the left field line as the Lawrence County left fielder made a catch in front of the fence to end the threat.

Lawrence County then racked up two more runs in its side of the fourth to gain control of the game for the rest of the way.

The Lady Devils retired the Lady Cats in order in the seventh to complete a 5-0 victory. The loss didn't take away a very good accomplishment for Barlow and her team with a fourth place finish, featuring the top four ranked teams in the state playing in Huntsville.

Cullman played well in the final month with nine victories in 20 games after having a 2-13 start prior to April 11.

With everybody back next year and the team to be very mature, Cullman has a great opportunity to increase the number of victories, decrease the losses and return to the regional, seeking a chance to get to Montgomery for the state tournament.

Area Athlete Profile: Good Hope's Darcie Wilson

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – Perfect games and ho hitters are some of the most exciting moments in softball but there is one thing that is always overlooked: the catcher. Behind every great pitcher there is an equally great catcher and Darcie Wilson is no different.

The four time All County, two time All American and two time All Tournament player Wilson is an MVP for Good Hope and a key part of the continued success of the Lady Raiders. Wilson is a superstar scholar athlete as well, being named NFCA All American Scholar Athlete in 2010. '11 and '12. She set the AHSAA record for doubles in 2012. She has also been named All County in basketball and volleyball. She will play softball for the Martin Methodist Lady RedHawks next season.

Wilson was instrumental in the success of the Lady Raiders over the weekend in Tuscaloosa in the 3A North Central Regional Tournament, netting three RBI's including a walk-off homerun in the bottom of a 14 inning contest.

Wilson took time out of her preparations for the Good Hope post season to talk to CullmanSense about her career as a Lady Raider.

Josh McBrayer: Please tell our readers a little bit about yourself
Darcie Wilson: My name is Darcie Rae Wilson. I am 18 years old and a Senior at Good Hope High School

JM: Aside from softball what sports do you play?
DW: Basketball, Volleyball, and Cross Country.

JM: How long have you been playing softball?
DW: Since 4th Grade when Shane Mitchell (Cara's dad) asked me if I had ever played softball and if I would catch for Cara.

JM: Who has been your biggest influence on the softball diamond?
DW: Cara Goodwin. I know how hard she has worked over the years to get where she is. I actually went to many of her lessons throughout the years to make sure I knew how to catch her new pitches. The pitcher and catcher are the driving force of a team. If the catcher doesn't do her job it can make a major difference in the outcome of a game. Cara and I have worked hard on developing a strong defensive strategy in regards to the pitches I call based on the batters' strengths and weaknesses. I have to do my job as a catcher or all of Cara's years of hard work doesn't mean a thing. We trust and depend on each other more than any two players on the field, and I would never let her down.

JM: Who has been your biggest influence off the softball diamond?
DW: My Mother, between my games and my brother's games, (whether basketball, softball, or baseball) my mother breaks sound barriers to get to our games. She is my toughest critic. She continues to push me to do better and if she feels I need a little extra practice we are going to the field on our own or driving to Birmingham for lessons. I will admit that my mom's constant drive for success sometimes frustrates me but, I know she is dedicated to my success and I appreciated all the things she does for me from getting me a water at the game to making me work harder on my off days to get where I need to be.

JM: Being a leader on the Good Hope softball team, do you have any words of encouragement or wisdom for the young girls who are going to be playing for Good Hope next year?



Back row from L to R: Hector Lora (Asst Coach), Brandy Paul (Head Coach), Jeff Bain (Executive Director of Athletics), Lanna Mosburg (mom), Richard Mosburg (dad)
Front row from L to R: Darcie Wilson, Kayleb Swader (biggest fan and nephew)

DW: Don't take anything for granted. Give it all you got on and off the field. Give 110%, as if it is your last time stepping on the diamond, because it will all be over before you know it. Also, Coach Harris is telling you to "Hit The Yellow Thing" when he has a mouth full of seeds! My five years of playing varsity ball has taught me to forget the bad, remember the good, and cherish the time I have had with my team. I know I will reach new milestones with my new RedHawk teammates, but I will always cherish the years with my Lady Raiders.



Darcie Wilson is a special athlete and one of those players that you will never be able to replace. An invaluable teammate both on and off the field, Wilson as a very bright future ahead of her and can accomplish anything she sets her mind to.

Strawberry Festival draws crowds despite rains

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Despite consecutive rain soaked days, residents and visitors alike converged on the Festhalle Market Platz, Depot Park, and the Cullman County Museum for the annual Strawberry Festival.

"This year's event showed promise to be even larger than last, but with the onset of rainy weather, we knew that we would have less attendance than last year," said Julie Burks, Strawberry Festival committee member.

Though the rain dropped sporadically on both Friday and Saturday, festival goers still enjoyed the live music, children's games, and of course, fresh picked strawberries.

On Friday, the Cullman County Commission on Aging hosted its annual Senior Day at the festival and on Saturday the rest of festivities kicked into high gear.

One sight only visible at the festival is that of the roaming strawberry.

Nancy Moore, the festival's official Strawberry, has been entertaining festival goers for several years, and it is something she looks forward to each May.

"Being the Strawberry is an honor. I get to make children and senior citizens happy and smile, so that's just a wonderful treat for me," said Moore.

"They are so excited about seeing a "live" strawberry, but of course they love it even more when I give them a bunch of candy."

Moore said the family friendly atmosphere is what makes the Strawberry Festival important.

The fact that the festival is free, at least for the most part, helps to motivate families to come out to try the berry inspired event.

"Cullman is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and the Strawberry Festival is a great fun family event," she said.

"There are many people that can't afford to do things with their family due to cost so we have made an event where families have a place to go It is a place to see old friends and make new ones, all while not spending a month's paycheck on a two-day outing."

As the official Strawberry, Moore was saddled with the task of choosing the Berry Best Car in the annual Car Show.

Of course this decision was not made from the standpoint of car nut's fantasy but made more along the line of thought of "will this look good in my driveway?"

"Selecting the car was fun because I loved sitting in those old nice cars," she said. "I was trying to decide which one I wanted my husband to buy me, so that's how I came up with my decision."

The winner of the Berry Best Car Show East Lawrence resident Keith Hodge, who brought his 1951 Ford Custom convertible down for the competition.

"I just enjoy taking the cars out to the shows," said Hodge. "The win is nice but I just enjoy rebuilding the cars and seeing the looks on people's faces when they see all the work that's been done."

Besides the car show, a variety of live music helped keep spirits high amongst festival goers and vendors alike.

For more on this story, visit CullmanSense.com



Photos by Jessica Norell



Roadside Smokehouse

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Mad Dog Mike's Famous Bar-B-Que bringing flavor to Berlin Plaza

BERLIN – Where else would you expect to find tender, fall off the bone, intensely smokey, yet sweet to the eye and pleasing to the palate barbeque other than the back kitchen of a gas station, right? Wait – yeah, that's right.

Just a short drive from either Cullman or Holly Pond sits Berlin Quick Stop, and as unlikely as at it may seem, it houses one of the county's up and coming barbecue joints. Mike Hays, owner of Mad Dog Mike's Famous Bar-B-Que has been smoking ribs, pork, Boston butts, rattlesnake, and just about anything else you can fit on a grill for as long as he can remember.

We have been here for about two months and it's be going nonstop, seven days a week since we started," said Hays. "The business has been exceptional, better than we could have guessed it would be, but we're not complaining. We'll work seven days a week for as long as we have to."

Hays, along with Amber Purdy and Wes Cason, keep the small operation running smoothly, even when they bogged down during the mid-morning lunch rush.

"Well, I do just about everything from make the beans, potato salad, and all things in between," said Purdy. "The only thing I don't do is pull the meat from the smoker. That's Mike and Wes's job."

Mad Dog Mike's regular Tony Harris frequents the roadside barbecue joint at least a couple of times each week. The large barbecue sandwich plate is Harris' preference.

"They make a good barbecue sandwich, that's for sure," said Harris. "The barbecue has a great smoky flavor, and the sauce is sweet but tangy. It's just good food."

Mad Dog Mike's Famous Bar-B-Que is located at 3661 US Hwy 278 East. For hours of operation call 256-775-4333.



Accident Free Workplace

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

GSI Group surpassed four year accidentfree mark

BREMEN – In late April, GSI Group in Bremen, celebrated a milestone not many workplaces can hang their hat on; four years of accident free work. Brigitte Whaley, HR Manager at GSI Group, said the company celebrated the achievement with lunch, door prizes, and giveaways for the 100 staff members who made the achievement possible.

"We think it is a tremendous accomplishment and all of our associates have worked hard to keep this record going," said Whaley. "Our organization considers our four year safety record achievement as a continuous journey. We view our associates as our most valuable resource."

Founded in 1978, Hired-Hand is still located on the same ground that the company began on all those years ago in Bremen, Alabama. Whaley said the current facilities in Bremen total just over 170,000 square feet and currently employ more than 100 associates.

"Hired-Hand is a part of GSI, a worldwide brand of AGCO. The Bremen facility designs and builds a wide range of products that serve the agricultural industry throughout the world," she said. "Major lines include ventilation, heating, feeding systems, watering systems, curtain/vent machines, and advanced electronic control systems all designed for primary use in the poultry and livestock markets. Our products are known worldwide for their design capabilities and rugged performance in the harsh environments that they are installed into."

The team, as Whaley refers to the nine people responsible for ensuring the safety of 100 employees, has implemented several key programs and processes to continuously improve in providing a safe work environment, as follows; Associate Safety Committee, Corporate Safety Steering Council, Weekly Safety Toolbox Talks & Training, Safety Flashes (Interdivisional for sharing best practices), Dedicated Safety Leader Safety Bingo, and Weekly & Monthly Safety Metrics with Countermeasures which include

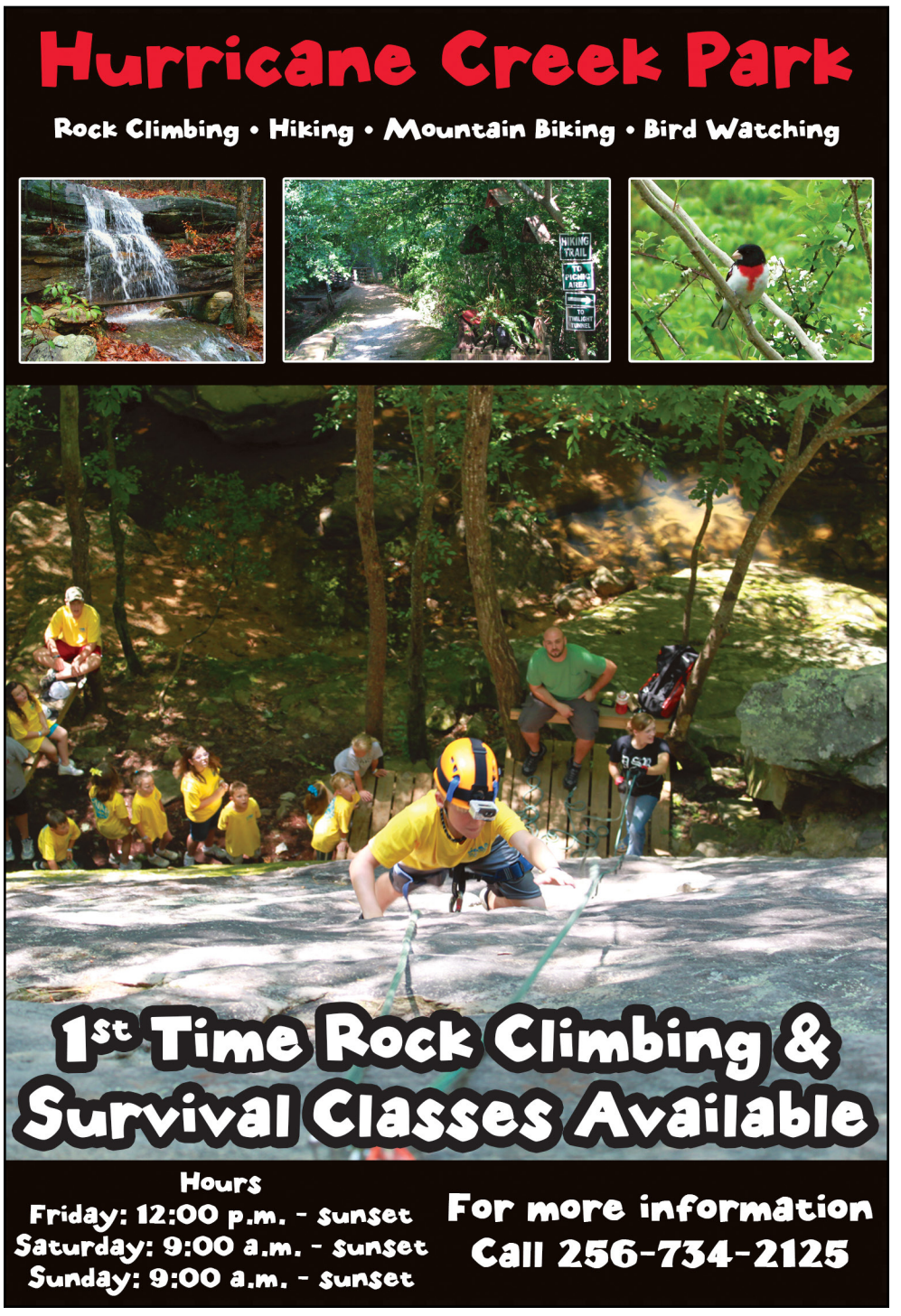
- Lost Work Day Incident Rate
- Recordable Incident Rate
- First Aid Incidents
- Near Misses & Property Damage Incidents
- Safety Spend per Associate
- Safety Culture

"GSI embraces and supports associate safety genuinely from the corporate management team to the manufacturing team in all aspects across the value stream. The teams strive in implementing long-term safety cultural changes through processes, interventions, tools, and capital expenditures required to achieve a best-in-class safety environment," she said. "Just recently in January 2013, the Bremen facility added an EF-5 Tornado/Storm shelter for severe weather and a Vacuum Assist Sheet-metal Lift for health-safety ergonomics which demonstrates, management's commitment to associate safety."

The Bremen Plant Leadership Team is:

- Brigitte Whaley – Human Resources Manager
- Eddie Harris – Plant Manager
- Jeff Watts – Materials Manager
- Andrew Baggett – Information Technology
- Amanda Hancock – Finance Controller
- Zach Morrow - Customer Service & Technical Support Manager
- Brian Peppers – Product Manager
- George Phillips – Engineering Manager
- Randall Macintosh – Site Leader





– Calendar –

Submit your event to
calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

'Senior Spirit'
'Senior Spirit' is a program sponsored by Cullman Parks & Recreation and its many activities take place at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. All activities are FREE. There is a 'Fitness for Life' class year-round centered around stretching and walking to help boost your energy. These classes are offered each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at various times 8 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; and 2 p.m. (walking only). Tuesday has two classes, one at 8 a.m. with the stretching and walking; and a 4 p.m. walking only class. Everyone 50 and older is invited to join in the fun, fellowship, and fitness

Weekly Jam Session at Senior Center
There is a new 'fun' event added to the ongoing programs at the Donald E. Green Senior Center. From 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., there will be 'Jam Sessions' offered under the guidance of Don and Barbara Whitehead. Everyone is invited to bring your instruments and join in the playing or just sit and relax and enjoy the music. These musical gatherings are FREE so come on down and bring your friends.

Making Choices - BODYWORKS
A series of FREE sessions on healthy living will be offered. Sessions are to include mindful eating to 'reading' a food. Teens to adults are welcome. There are morning classes from 10 until 11:30 a.m. and evening classes from 4 until 5:30 p.m. for your convenience. For further information please call Donna Shanklin at the County Extension Office at 256-737-9386. Classes are scheduled for each Monday at this time. Please attend first meeting or call to pre-register if you are interested in this program.

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.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information 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.

Tuesday

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Members of the Cullman County Commission will meet at 10 a.m. in the commission meeting room in the Cullman County Courthouse. This meeting is open to the public.

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Cullman Civitan Club meeting
Members of Cullman Civitan Club meet at 6 p.m. at Daily's for dinner and business session. All interested folks are welcome to attend and see what Civitan has to offer. The group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Genealogy meeting
There is a free Genealogy meeting each Tuesday in the library basement at Wallace State College. This workshop runs from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and is to help new researchers and for informal study. Please call Von for additional information at 256-739-2843.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly
Anyone interested in ideas for weight loss are invited to attend the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group as they meet each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. at Benedictine Manor. Jeanne Latham (256-734-7146) or Ginger McMinn (256-739-3925) will share information concerning their meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend TOPS and receive encouragement from others who are interested in weight loss.

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.

Knit 1, Read 2
The Knit 1, Read 2 group meets every Tuesday at the Cullman County Public Library, Main Branch, at 3 p.m. This group welcomes all newcomers.

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.

Wednesday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

'Divorce Care for Kids'
A 'Divorce Care for Kids' program to help youths from 6 to 12 years of age is available to help youths whose family is going through, or has gone through, divorce. This FREE program takes place each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at the Church. All workbooks and materials are included and presented to each attendee in class. Additional info is available by calling the Church at 256-737-0800 or check out Daystar Children's Ministry website at www.kidspowercompany.org.

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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Second annual Lyndon Brooke Stidham Memorial walk for HAE
This is the second annual Lyndon Brooke Stidham Memorial walk for HAE, and it is always on May 16th, which was declared HAE-DAY by the US Senate last year. It will be at Heritage Park from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., everyone invited, no fees. This is a fundraiser for the US Hereditary Angioedema Association, a nonprofit organization, which helps HAE patients with patient services, compassion and research for a cure. There will be HAE-DAY items for sale, and a bake sale with all proceeds and donations going directly to the US HAEA. There will also be a large balloon release around 630 in memory of Lyndon, 400 pink and orange (Lyndon's fav colors) balloons will be released as I CAN ONLY IMAGINE is played.Lyndon is my daughter, she lost her battle with HAE at age 12, on Sept. 28 2004. She was a Cullman resident, born here, raised here and she attended school at Fairview. HAE is very rare and always misdiagnosed by medical personnel as a allergic reaction due to the disfiguring swelling in all body parts and is deadly when it reaches the throat and suffocates the patient. This is what happened to Lyndon. There are a lot of people in the Cullman area that have this disease; it is hereditary and runs in the Moore family. To learn more about HAE and the US HAEA please visithttp//www.haea.org/ This event is expected to have 200 HAE patients to raise awareness and get information on the 4 new rescue medications, which are listed as the 4th most expensive drugs in the world. There is still no cure but there are treatments now available. Please Join Us to raise HAE Awareness in Lyndon's memory.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
Members of Cullman's Overeaters Anonymous will gather at 4:45 p.m. and they invite others interested to come check out their group. They meet weekly, both on Thursday evenings at 4:45 p.m. and/or on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. These meetings are conducted at the Carriage House of Grace Episcopal Church. Folks are invited to attend either one of the group meetings, depending on your free time.

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

ROOT Classes at Grace Episcopal Church
All are welcome to attend special ROOT (Radically Overcoming Obstacles Together) classes each Thursday night beginning at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. Food and fellowship begin at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. by the meeting. For additional information please check out Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/TheRoot) or www.agccullman.com. Come to one class just to see if you are interested in this topic and its purpose. You might be surprised how these meetings can affect your life.

Friday

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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

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Saturdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

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!

Next Monday

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Looking Ahead

PorktoberQue
Oktoberfest meets Barbecue Competition in Dothan, Alabama September 27-28, 2013. This KCBS sanctioned BBQ competition draws teams from across Alabama and features $5,000 in prize money and an entry to the American Royal for the cookoff/ BBQ winner. It is also a stop on the Alabama BBQ Trail and has a points award for national barbecue team rankings. Spectators enjoy polka music, country and rock bands, an indoor Biergarten, outdoor "man cave" and loads of shopping opportunities. Barbecue and Bratwurst dominate the food menus from regional vendors, and beer is available in several areas. Sponsored by MIke Schmitz Auto group- come take a test drive for free tickets, or take a drive at PorktoberQue for great deals! FREE ADMISSION IF YOU DRESS UP IN LEDERHOSEN OR A GERMAN OUTFIT! Kids welcome, many kid's activities available. See www.porktoberque.com for details and info.

Youth Rally at Sacred Heart of Jesus

By: Barbara Ragsdale
Community Contributor

CULLMAN – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cullman is sponsoring a Youth Rally on Saturday, June 22. This special event is part of the Church's Centennial Celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the present building in historic downtown Cullman. This free rally is open to all teenagers 16 and over and young adults and it will be held in the Family Life Center beginning at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for tickets to the rally and they are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Attendees must have a ticket in order to attend this special event; they will not be available at the door on the morning of the rally. The pre-ordered tickets will help with a head count for having enough lunches available and for set-up for the day. Tickets need to be pre-ordered by June 15, 2013.

The nationally renowned keynote speaker will be Christopher Stefanick who will address the youth on 'Relativism', and Jackie Francois, event musician, will speak on chastity as well as perform her special brand of music. Both of these individuals have appeared at World Youth Day events and are associated with the Life Teen organization which promotes rallies and gatherings for the youth of the world.

Some of the events scheduled for the day include Adoration, confessions, and Mass. Attendees of other faiths are not required (but are most welcome) to attend the Mass and may leave when they wish.

To order your tickets and for further information please contact Fharis Richter at frichter@sacredheartchurchcullman.org or call her at the Church at 256-734-3730.

CS at the Cinema: *21 Jump Street*

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

On the docket for this week is the movie version of *21 Jump Street*. For any child of the 80s, like myself, this film is a must see.

The movie is based on the concept from the late 80s television show about a group of young police officers who went undercover in high schools to stop the sale of narcotics. The show starred Johnny Depp, Peter DeLuise, and Holly Robinson Peete who each have small roles or cameos in the film. Although the show was a crime drama that dealt with issues of the day, the 2012 film is a typical high school comedy that also happens to deal with drugs.

Plot Summary:

After former classmates Greg Jenko (Channing Tatum) and Morton Schmidt (Jonah Hill) graduate police academy together then while on patrol arrest a drug dealer. They are assigned to the newly revived Jump Street Division. The division, like the TV show, is of young looking police officers that infiltrate high schools and stop the flow of drugs in the school. Capt. Dickson (Ice Cube) assigns Jenko and Schmidt to their old high school in hopes of stopping the spread of a new drug by bringing down the ring leader. Unlike the television series, what ensues isn't drama but laugh out loud comedy.

Both officers accidentally switch their identities and the jock Jenko has to find a way to fit in with the nerds while Schmidt becomes the popular kid.

The film is an hour and forty-nine minutes of crude jokes, funny mishaps, and non-stop laughs that will keep ADULTS rolling in the floor.

Starring:

- Channing Tatum (who is from Cullman) as Jenko
- Jonah Hill as Schmidt
- Brie Larson as Molly
- Dave Franco as Eric Molson
- Rob Riggle as Mr. Walters
- Ice Cube as Capt. Dickson

Rated R for brief nudity, strong sexual content, and crude and perverse language and violence. This film is NOT for children.

My take:

This film is 10 times better than I thought it was going to me. Very few films cause me to laugh hysterically and 21 Jump Street has recently been added to that list.

Where to Turn for Diet Advice

(StatePoint) Sometimes it seems that each week the media touts a nutritional claim that contradicts last week's pearl of wisdom. For those looking to eat right, that can be frustrating. Wondering where to sort fact from fiction?

Consider consulting a registered dietitian (RD) or registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN). "People need tools to make realistic eating behavior changes," says Ethan A. Bergman, registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics President. "An RD or RDN can help you apply the principles of nutrition science into a healthy lifestyle."

RDs and RDNs must meet stringent academic and professional requirements, and are trusted expert sources for science-based nutrition information.

To find a registered dietitian or registered dietitian nutritionist near you, visit www.EatRight.org.

Reflections of History



Mr. Stiefelmeyer with Catholic Church in background Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

Do you have an old photo or recognize this one? E-mail us at history@cullmansense.com

This Week in History May 13 - 19

May 13th

- 1568 – Mary Queen of Scots is defeated by English at battle of Langside
- 1846 – U.S. declares war on Mexico, 2 months after fighting begins
- 1940 – Churchill says "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat"
- 1981 – Pope John Paul II shot, wounded by assailant in St. Peter's Square

May 14th

- 1787 – Delegates gather in Philadelphia to draw up U.S. constitution
- 1894 – Fire in Boston bleachers spreads to 170 adjoining buildings
- 1948 – U.S. grants Israel de facto recognition
- 2011 – In efforts to save Baton Rouge and New Orleans from floods, the Morganza Spillway is opened on the Mississippi River, deliberately flooding 3,000 square miles of rural Louisiana

May 15th

- 1618 – Johannes Kepler discovers harmonics law
- 1869 – National Woman Suffrage Association forms
- 1934 – Department of Justice offers $25,000 reward for Dillinger, dead or alive
- 1972 – George Wallace shot and left paralyzed by Arthur Bremer in Laurel, Maryland

May 16th

- 1861 – Confederate government offers war volunteers $10 premium
- 1948 – Israel issues its first postage stamps
- 1975 – Japanese Junko Tabei became first woman to reach Mount Everest's summit
- 2011 – After 23 years running and 1151 fugitives caught, the FOX network cancels America's Most Wanted

May 17th

- 1673 – Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette begin exploring Mississippi
- 1872 – Bohemian Club incorporated
- 1954 – Supreme Court unanimously rules on Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education reversed 1896 "separate but equal" Plessy vs. Ferguson decision
- 1989 – Vincent Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr. Gachet" auctioned for $825M

May 18th

- 1830 – Edwin Budding of England signs an agreement for manufacture of his invention, the lawn mower. Saturdays are destroyed forever.
- 1910 – Passage of Earth through tail of Halley's Comet causes near-panic
- 1951 – U.N. moves headquarters to New York City
- 2011 – The U.S. intends to impose sanctions on Bashar al-Assad, President of Syria, for alleged human rights breaches during the 2011 Syrian Uprising

May 19h

- 1643 – Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Harbor form United Colonies of New England
- 1884 – Ringling Brothers circus premieres
- 1928 – 51 frogs enter first annual "Frog Jumping Jubilee" at Angel's Camp, California
- 1983 – Weird Al Yankovic gives live performance at Wax Museum in Washington D.C.

Last Week's Poll

What interests you most: Home & Gardening, Entertainment, Outdoor Sports, or Crime Blotter?

Home & Gardening 100%

This Week's Poll

What contributes most to violence?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

FastTrack lets student get two-year head start on college, career

By: Gail Crutchfield
WSCC Contributor



HANCEVILLE – When Kelsie Morgan walks across the stage during Cullman High School's Class of 2013 graduation ceremony, she will be two years ahead of many of her other classmates in regards to her collegiate education.

Morgan, 18, completed two years of coursework at Wallace State Community College through the institution's FastTrack program, simultaneously earning credits for her high school diploma and completing prerequisites to transfer to a four-year college. It was that two-for-one deal that was one of the major appeals to the program, Morgan said.

"The most appealing thing to me about the FastTrack program is that I could go ahead and get a head start on my career," she said. "Wanting to be an optometrist, it takes eight years of schooling for that, so it was good to get two years out of the way."

The daughter of Jason and Katherine Morgan has been granted early acceptance into the optometry program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Only one in-coming freshman is chosen each year for this position. Morgan will live in the residence hall with the other pre-med students that were awarded early admission to their respective medical fields.

"I think I was highly favored in that program because I took the extra step and did FastTrack here at Wallace State," Morgan said.

She was also admitted to the Honors College, and earned scholarships to UAB worth $36,000.

Though she will enter the college as a freshman, Morgan said she has enough credits acquired through WSCC to technically be a junior at the university. At UAB, Morgan plans to first complete a bachelor degree in biology in two years before going on to the optometry school, completing in six years what would normally take eight.

Though she was taking all of her classes at Wallace State for her last two years of high school, Morgan said she was still able to take part in the school's extracurricular activities. She competed for the CHS tennis team during her junior year and is still involved in school clubs and organizations.

The FastTrack program also offered her the opportunity to take some classes she might not have access to at her high school. Along with her four core classes each semester, she was able to choose two electives. During her time at Wallace State Morgan took drama, piano, Spanish, and weight lifting classes.

Morgan said she thinks completing the FastTrack program will help her in making the adjustment to a four-year college.

"I think I'll be a lot more prepared, and I think it's taught me better study methods," she said.

Morgan said students who are considering the Fast Track program to give it some serious thought.

"I think if you're very motivated about your college career and willing to take that extra step those last two years of high school, that it's a great program and it really helps prepare you and give you a head start for college."

A video interview with Kelsie Morgan is available at http://youtu.be/jmHxDB1h8p8.

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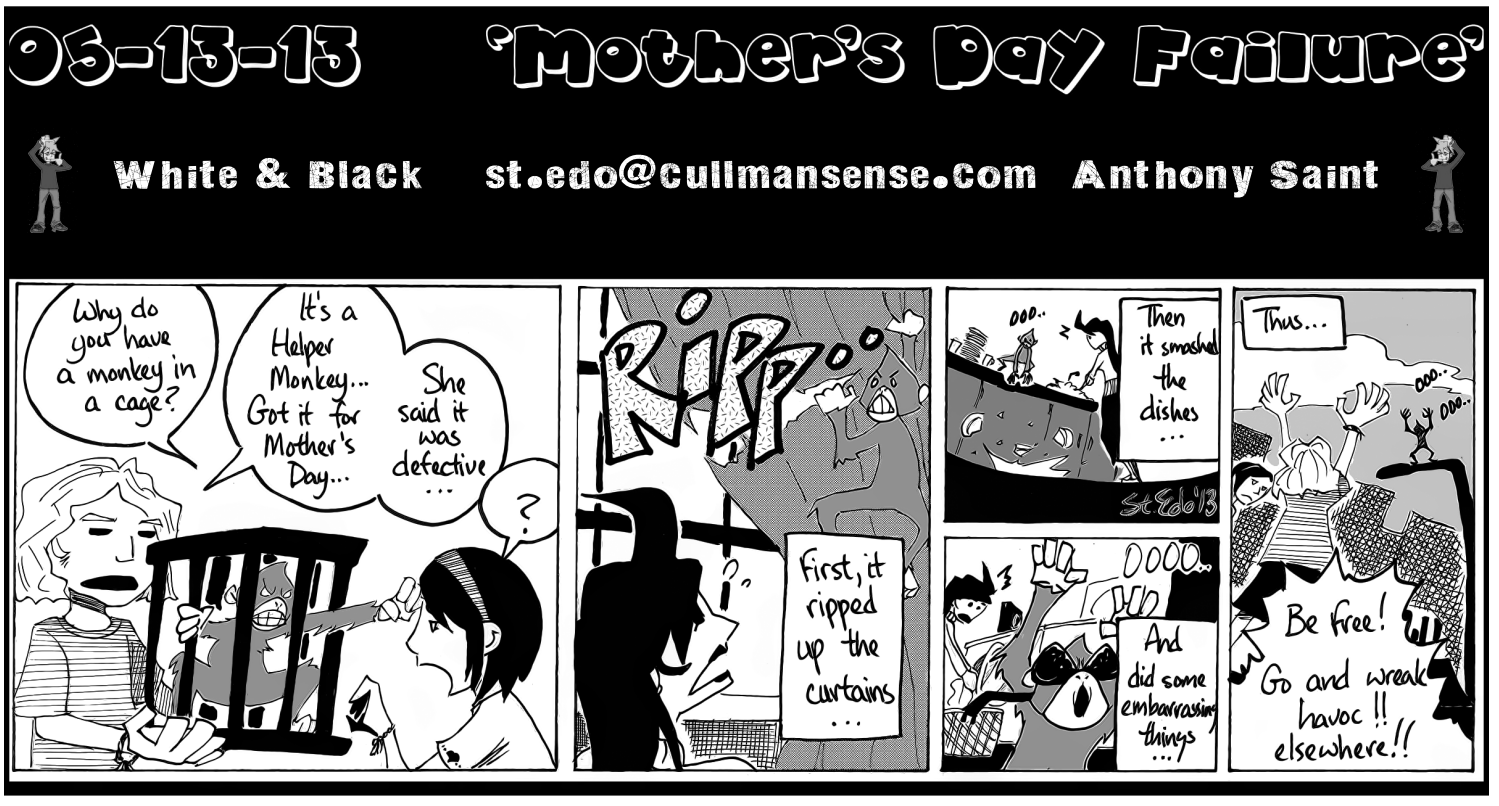
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WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors. Call 256-734-9157 for details..
- **Nia Dance Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Oil Painting and Acrylic Classes:** Classes are held Mondays from 6:30-9:30pm at the Cullman Art Guild with instructor Delancey Gardner. Class is $20 per month, call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Camp Cullman Summer Camp Registration:** Registration will open on April 1 for Camp Cullman. Ages 12 & under can register at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center.
- **Speed & Agility Camp:** A speed and agility camp will be held at Heritage Park for ages 7-12 from June 11-July 16. Registration will be $125. Camp will be led by Steve Johnson and is open to boys and girls. Register at the Civic Center.
- **Men's & Women's Open/Church League Registration:** Registration for summer league Men's, Women's, and Men's Church and Women's Church will be from May 1-May 31 at Heritage Park. Cost per team is $375. Call 256-739-9931 for more details or to register.
- **Outdoor Pools Opening at CWAC:** The outdoor pools and water park at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center will open Saturday, May 25.
- **Gun Safety Class:** A gun safety class will be held at the Cullman Civic Center on Saturday, May 8. For full details and requirements, call the Cullman Civic Center at 256-734-9157.
- **Junior Tennis Lessons:** Tennis lessons will be held this summer at the Municipal Tennis courts in three different sessions beginning on June 3. Classes offered for all skill levels. Call the Civic Center for details or to register.
- **Junior Golf Clinics:** Learn to swing like a pro this summer with golf pro Ches Harris in this course held on Tuesdays in June. Ages 8-18 may participate. Call 256-739-2386 for full details.





Loving what you do

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

There is an old saying; Love what you do and you will never work a day in your life. That statement has held true for me for the last two and a half years of my life and started the day I joined the CullmanSense family.

I was approached by the owner and publisher of CS and longtime friend, Noah Chandler, to go to an event and tell of my experiences, from a fan's point of view.When I asked what I would be doing, he told me I would be heading to the Cullman Civic Center to cover the Cullman Chapter of the Auburn Club's annual scholarship banquet.

The kicker was the guest speaker, (at the time) Auburn head football coach Gene Chizik.

Being an Auburn fan, I jumped at the chance and here is where my love with sports journalism was born.

As I stood in the parking lot of an insurance company, across from the Civic Center and awaited the arrival of coach Chizik (who had agreed to an interview) little did I know that two short years later I would be on the sidelines of professional football games, press boxes of major colleges, and interviewing the who's who of the sports world.

Since my first interview with coach Chizik, I have gone on to interview the likes of; Bart Starr, Archie Griffin, Scottie Pippen, and Craig Kimbrel to name just a few.

Although being connected in the professional sports world has its perks, the focus at CS has and will always been local.

During the infancy of my tenure at CullmanSense, I have been privy to many records and unbelievable moments.

In football, I have seen Hanceville have their first winning season since 2000 (2011) and go undefeated for the first time since they dropped to 3A (2011).

In basketball, I have covered numerous 1,000 point scorers including Kayla Tillman (Good Hope), Chayse Elliott (Cold Springs), and Trevor Yarbrough (Vinemont), as well as seeing Holly Pond boys and girls reach the 3A State Basketball Final Four in Birmingham with the girls being the only team in school history, of any sport, to reach the championship game.

Covering baseball has allowed me to watch great players like Wesley Waters from Good Hope and Izaac Yarbrough from Vinemont sign scholarships to Wallace, Jakob Kirkwood and Jordan Guthrie accept offers from Sneed State, and Keegan Thompson, also from Cullman, sign to play with the Tigers of Auburn.

Softball in Cullman County has also been amazing and continues this year with Good Hope earning a spot in the State Tournament in Montgomery.

Yes, this is how I make my living but I have not had to "work" a day since I have been at CullmanSense.



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RadKIDS Summer Camp

Join our RadKids summer camp this June!!!

For boys and girls ages 4-10

Your child will learn:
House fire escapes
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Calling 911 Dispatch
Internet Safety, protecting themselves from vicious dogs & More!

Place: Cullman McGukin Civic Center

Date: June 24th - 28th 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m

CLASS IS $5.00 per child (for entire week)

(To be paid first day of camp)

Hosted by: Cullman Police Dept.

Registration begins May 1st at the Cullman Civic Center

To host a Radkids camp for your kids group, school, organization or

If you have questions about this course, or need the registration forms emailed to you,

Contact: Officer Cindy Rohrscheib Email: cindyr@cullmanpd.com or (256) 736-4703

Men's & Women's Open and
Men & Women's Church League
Summer Softball Registration

May 1-May 20

Registration—$375

Register at Heritage Park

256-739-9931

*Must be over the age of 15 to play

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Castille Character Camp gears up for another great year

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – For young aspiring athletes having a great foundation and understanding of the fundamentals of their chosen sport generally requires an equal balance between speed, agility, motivation, dedication and determination. Now for those athletes taking part in the Castille Character Camp they are drilled in each of these categories, but the biggest component is the character building which takes place during the two-day camp.

"The kids learn football skills and character traits that will help them be successful on and off the field," said T.J. Franey, Special Projects/ASAP Coordinator Cullman County Schools.

Jeremiah Castille is the man behind the camp, which focuses on a four quarter format targeting combine drills, speed & agility, position drills, and competition. At halftime participants will focus on character skills. Franey said the camp's mission is to help students ascertain skills needed to be a champion both on the field and in life.

"The camp began six years ago and there was a registration fee for the camp. I had a student who didn't attend but said he really wanted to but his family couldn't afford the fee," said Franey. "So we knew this was an issue for many families and decided to make the camp free. Thanks to community sponsors, coaches, volunteers, and Jeremiah Castile the camp is free each year."

The camp is open for students from 6th through the 12th grade and the two day camp is absolutely free. For those children in grades 1st through 5th a Speed & Agility Camp with two-time Olympic gold medalist, Willie Smith is scheduled for Saturday.

There will be two sessions; a morning session which is from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. and the afternoon session from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and both sessions are free.

The 6th annual Castille Football Character Camp will be held on Friday, May 1st from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, June 1st from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. To register contact T.J. Franey at 256-734-2933 or at 256-590-4803. Space is limited, so early registration is advised.

Staff for this year's camp includes:

- Dennis Alexander – University of Alabama, Tennessee Titans
- Todd Bates – University of Alabama and Tennessee Titans
- Kyle Bennett – University of Alabama, All SEC
- Justin Britt – University of Alabama, Cincinnati Bengals
- Brandon Brooks – University of Alabama
- James Callier – Auburn University, All-American
- Leonard Davis – Tennessee State
- Eric Gray – University of Alabama
- Bobby Greenwood – University of Alabama, All SEC, Kansas City Chiefs
- Charlie Jones – University of Alabama, All SEC
- Antonio London – Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers
- Broc Malcom – Alumnus of Castille Character Camp, 2nd year coach
- Steve Mott – University of Alabama, All SEC, All-American, Detroit Lions
- Kenneth Vandervoort – University of Alabama
- Deon White – Jacksonville State University, All-American, Pittsburgh Steelers

St. Bernard senior places second in art competition

By: Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Contributor

CULLMAN – St. Bernard Prep School senior, Sadee Spitzer, placed 2nd of 175 entries in the 4th Congressional Art District Competition held recently in Northport, AL.

Sadee's watercolor is a portrait of herself in her school uniform peaking in an abbey shop building on the back side of campus.

Sadee is the daughter of Terry and Cheryl Spitzer of Birmingham, AL.

She plans to attend the University of Montevallo this fall as an art major.



