

# ENGAGEMENT

# Hard to Hit

## 11-year-olds Funderburke, Childers developing quite a reputation in local fast-pitch softball circles



CHARIE AUTH  
CHAD EVANS FARRIS

### Auth-Farris

Robert and Carol Auth of Louisville, KY announce the engagement of their daughter, Charlotte "Charie" A. Auth, to Chad Evans Farris, son of Paul and Linda Farris of Kings Mountain.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Seneca High School and attended Campbellsville University in Louisville, KY. She is employed by Benefit Actuaries Inc. of Louisville, KY.

The bridegroom-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Kings Mountain High School and a 1998 graduate of Gardner-Webb University. He is now attending Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY obtaining a Masters in Church Music.

A December 9, 2000 wedding is planned.

Hits are hard to come by when local 12-under fast-pitch softball players go up against Kristyn Funderburke and Morgan Childers.

The two 11-year-olds are developing quite a reputation for speed and excellence, both locally and on a weekend traveling team and at pitching camps in the area.

The two pitch for the Top Gun in the local Dixie Youth League and for the Kings Mountain Lightning, a first-year traveling team that competes in weekend tournaments in area cities such as Locust, Charlotte and Marion.

In Dixie Youth play, through games of last week, Funderburke has struck out 39 of the 79 batters she has faced. She has given up only six hits and has a 4-0 record. Childers has fanned 37 of the 69 batters she has faced and has given up only four hits. She has a 3-0 record.

Combined, the two have won seven of the team's eight games.

They have achieved their success through hard work in practice and on their own, and at numerous summer camps at colleges in the two Carolinas.

Their local coaches are their fathers. Tony Childers coaches the Top Gun, who are undefeated, and Ronny Funderburke coaches the Lightning, who are 2-5 against more-established teams in the weekend traveling league.

Both pitchers have been clocked at 46 miles per hour. By baseball standards that might not sound very fast, but for 12-under softball players is quite impressive and is on par with many of the high school pitchers in this area.

Their fathers say developing a good "wind-mill" pitching form takes a lot of time.

"Kristyn and I have spent countless hours in the back yard and in our basement, where she has a batting cage with a radar gun to monitor her speed," Funderburke said.

Childers, too, has spent many hours with his



Kristyn Funderburke, left, and Morgan Childers are undefeated on the mound in Dixie Youth League fast-pitch softball action at the Kings Mountain Community Center. Funderburke has a 4-0 record and Childers is 3-0.

daughter in the backyard and Morgan also works out from time to time in the Funderburkes' basement.

Both girls will be attending a specialty camp for pitchers and catchers at UNC this summer.

Both coaches have seen the overall pitching improve in the local Dixie Youth League since it

switched to the fast-pitch format. Fast-pitch pitching skills are difficult to master, but both girls have worked hard to improve their speed and control.

"I knew nothing about fast-pitch pitching before I started working with Kristyn," Funderburke said. "Through reading, watching videos, talking to other people and quizzing Kristyn's instructors, I have become pretty knowledgeable about it. Tony and I have come a long way and we've also worked with other players on our teams that are also good pitchers. Casey Camp (11 years old), Megan Dixon (12 years old), and Jordan Childers (10 years old) are also looking very good."

Most folks who have followed youth softball would probably agree with Funderburke and Childers that youngsters are adapting well to fast-pitch and are taking it to a new level.

The schedule for the remainder of this season in the 12-under Ponytails division (all games at Deal Street Park).

Friday, June 2  
6 p.m. - Thunderstorm vs. Diamondettes; 7:30 - Stingers vs. KM Optimist.

Monday, June 5  
6 p.m. - Top Gun vs. Stingers; 7:30 - Diamondettes vs. KM Optimist.

Thursday, June 8  
6 p.m. - Stingers vs. Diamondettes; 7:30 - Thunderstorm vs. Top Gun.

Tuesday, June 13  
6 p.m. - Thunderstorm vs. KM Optimist; Top Gun vs. Diamondettes.

Friday, June 16  
6 p.m. - KM Optimist vs. Top Gun; 7:30 - Stingers vs. Thunderstorm.

Monday, June 19  
6 p.m. - Diamondettes vs. Thunderstorm; 7:30 - KM Optimist vs. Stingers.

## Patsy Rountree hosts meeting of Thursday Afternoon Book Club

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club met recently at the Patrick House with Patsy Rountree as hostess.

Mrs. Rountree greeted guests and served them a delicious dessert plate. Club members enjoyed the oreo-coffee pie, white chocolate covered cherries, cheese straws, and tasted pecans. Fresh mint was served with iced tea.

Marion Thomasson presided over the meeting and welcome new member Jane Brendle.

Maude Patterson introduced Rod Croft, Youth and Activities Minister at Central United Methodist Church, who gave a most interesting program on his talents as an artist and as a musician. He played the dulcimer and entertained members with "Simple Gifts," an American folk tune, Irish hymn, and other

melodies. He also showed a pencil self-portrait, a watercolor red barn scene, a still-life in soft pastels, and an acrylic of a landscape.

It was noted that the club would not meet during the summer months and that it would meet against on September 28 with Jackie Rountree serving as hostess and Becky Champion having the program.



Happy 13th Birthday, Alecia

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Sis, Nannie &  
Aunt Donna.

Have Fun In Europe!!

### Patterson Grove homecoming set

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road, will celebrate Homecoming/Memorial Day Sunday, June 4 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Dinner on the grounds will follow the service.

The public is invited.

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1999 Chevy S-10 LS 1999 Ford F-150 1993 Cherokee 1995 Nissan Pathfinder  
1999 Chevy Malibu 1996 Ford Probe SE 1997 Grand Cherokee 1996 Nissan Pathfinder  
1998 Chevy Cavalier 1998 Escort LX 1997 Kia Sephia 1997 Nissan Quest XE  
1998 Metro LSI 1997 Ford Ranger 1997 ES300 1998 Olds Cutlass GLS  
1997 Chevy S-10 1999 Ford Taurus SE 1996 Mazda Protege 1997 Toyota Camry LE  
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## Coming in June..... Senior Lifestyles

A special supplement focusing on senior activities in the area and dealing with issues faced by today's seniors on a national level.

This edition will run in the June 21st-22nd editions of The Kings Mountain Herald, Cherryville Eagle, Belmont Banner, Mount Holly News and Bessemer City Record. Deadline for advertising is Wednesday, June 14th at 5:00pm. For more information call Stacy Godfrey Kale at 739-7496.



## Coming in July! The Summer Edition Bridal Tab

A special guide to the wedding of your dreams! This section will provide local brides with contacts for everything she will need for her special day. For information about advertising in this special section, contact Stacy Godfrey Kale at 739-7496.

