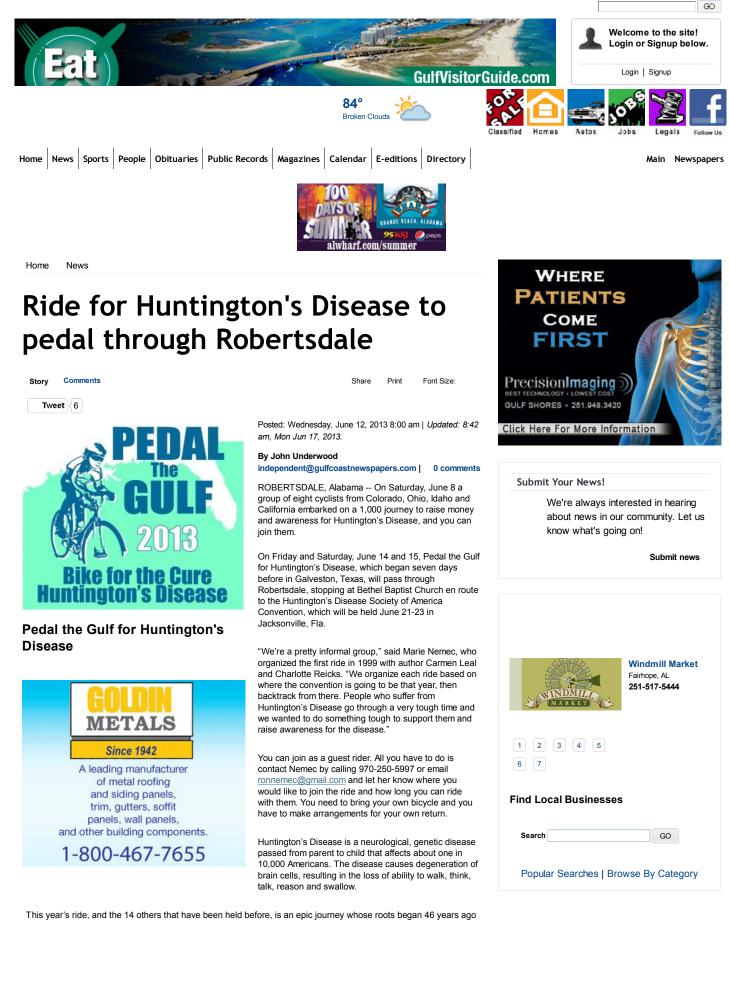
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when Marjorie Guthrie, widow of folk singer Woody Guthrie, founded the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease in 1967.

The group evolved into the Huntington's Disease Society of America, which will hold its 28th annual convention this year.

In 1997, Nemec and Leal, author of Faces of Huntington's Disease, met on the Christian Writer's Group list Website and the ride was born after Nemec attended the 13th Annual HDSA Convention in Denver in 1998.

She has since participated in all 15 rides beginning with Bike for the Cure '99 from Santa Monica, Calif., to Chincoteague, Va. Last year's ride, Venture to Vegas, went from Grand Junction, Colo., to Las Vegas.

Nemec met Reicks, who is also a resident of Grand Junction, Colo., through a mutual friend and the two have paired up for every ride but one ever since. Reicks missed the 2000 ride. Other participants include Gary Heiman of West Jefferson, Ohio, Sherri Kole of Lewiston, Idaho, Mary Ann Taylor of Truckee, Calif., Heather Chynoweth of Fruita, Colo., Hope Chynoweth of Grand Junction, Colo., and Devon Walker of Columbus, Ohio.

This year's ride will be held in the memory of Debby Sue Martin, who died March 2 of this year. While the ride has passed through the Mobile area before, Nemec said, this is the first time the route will take them through Robertsdale.

On Friday, June 14, riders will go from Ocean Springs, Miss., to Robertsdale, then on Saturday, June 15 will ride from Robertsdale to Crestview, Fla.

In addition to being a guest rider, you can make a donation to the HDSA. You can mail a donation to Pedal the Gulf for HD c/o Marie Nemec, 3087 - A 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503-9678. You can also make a donation through the secure website, <u>www.firstgiving.com/bikeforcure</u>.

You can also purchase a T-shirt by making a check payable to Marie Nemec to the same address listed above. T-shirts cost \$15 for a short sleeve, adult sizes Small to XL; \$18 for short sleeve, XXL and XXXL; or \$20 for a long sleeve, any adult size, plus \$4 for postage.

Nemec will also be blogging along the route. You can subscribe by sending an email to <u>ronnemec@gmail.com</u> and the ride can be tracked at <u>www.bikeforthecure.org</u>.

For more information about the HDSA, call 1-800-345-HDSA or go to <u>www.hdsa.org</u>. Information about the HD Advocacy Center can be found at <u>www.hdac.org</u>; and the HD Lighthouse at <u>www.hdlighthouse.org</u>.

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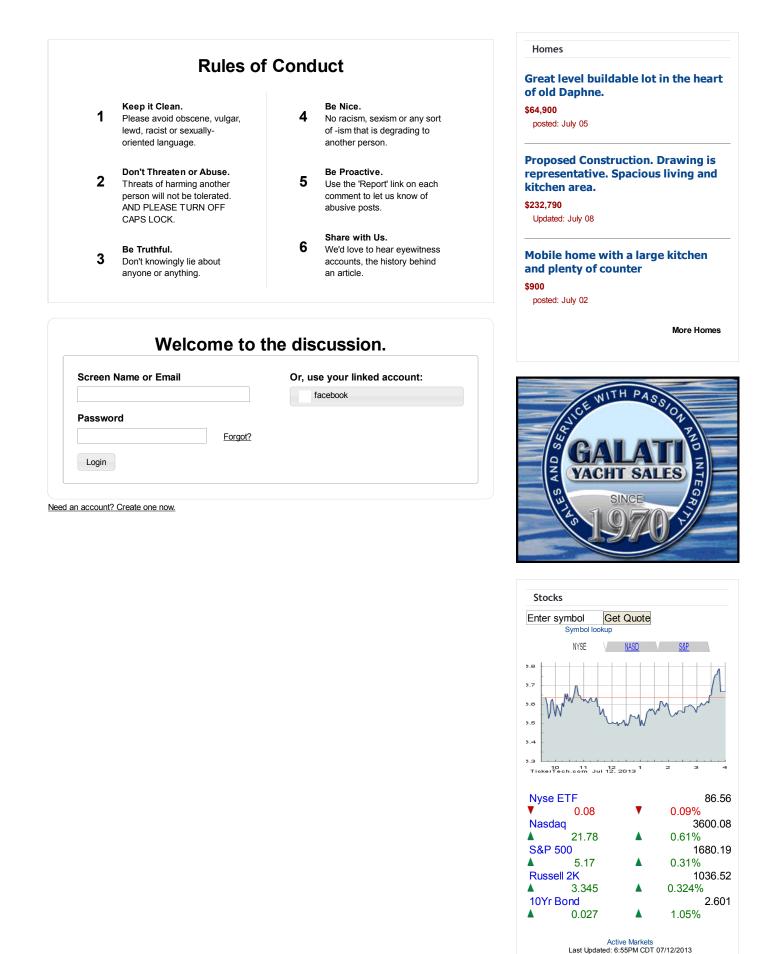
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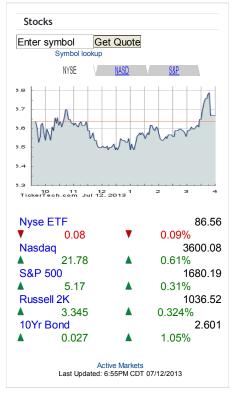
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