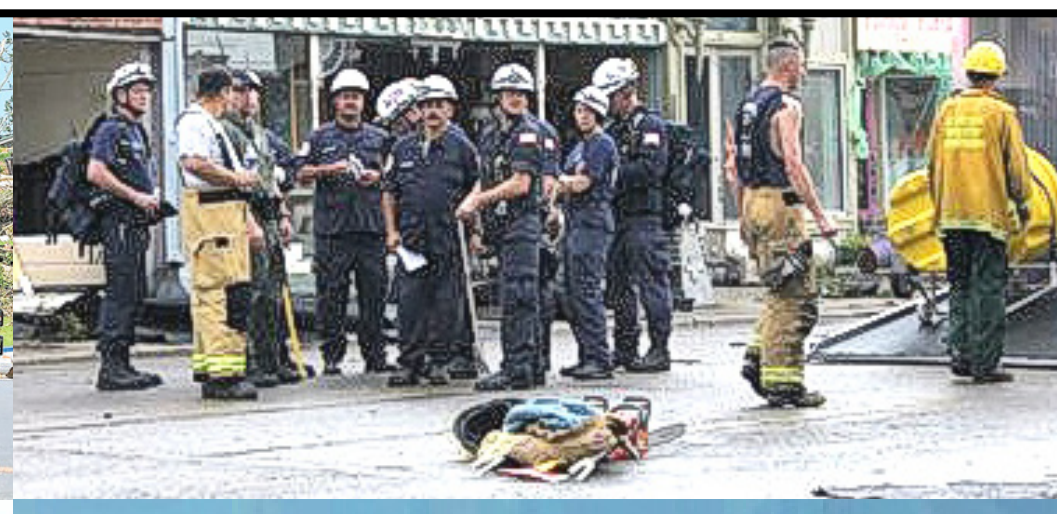
The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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LOOKING BACK TO APRIL 27, 2011











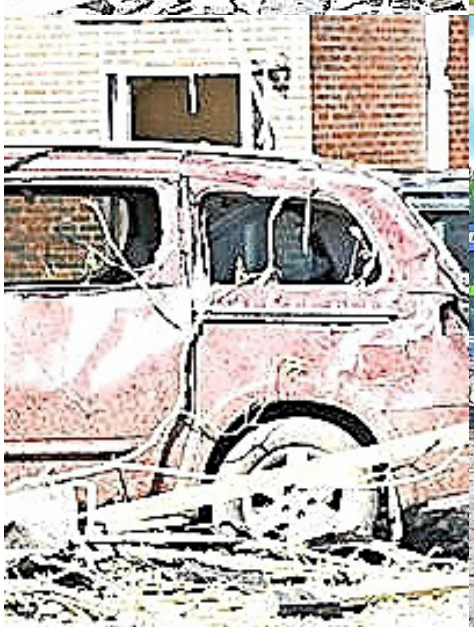


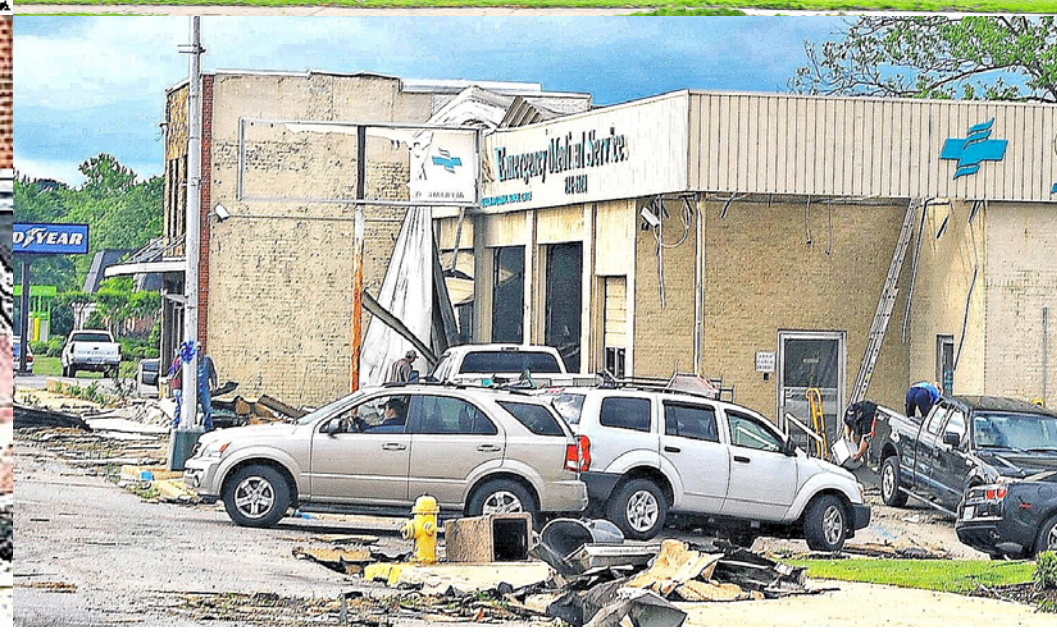














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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 22-25

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 22-25, 2021. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

APRIL 22

• unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1111
• unlawful possession of controlled substance; CR 757
• trespassing; Hwy. 69 N
• harassment; CR 417
• harassment; CR 1472

April 23

• harassment; criminal mischief; CR 463
• unlawful possession of marijuana; Hwy. 31
• theft of property; CR 1289
• unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 38
• domestic violence; CR 1674
• domestic violence; CR 282

April 24

• assault; CR 1533
• unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 31
• harassment; CR 127
• unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Folsom Field
• harassment; trespassing; CR 1141
• domestic violence; Hwy. 69 N
• domestic violence; CR 1343
• unlawful possession of controlled substance; unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
• unlawful possession of controlled substance; Weeks Cir.

April 25

• theft of property; CR 591
• attempt to elude police officer; CR 437
• trespassing; CR 18
• burglary; CR 1718
• harassment; CR 1573
• trespassing; CR 220
• burglary; Logan Ave. SW
• unlawful possession of marijuana; unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69 S

ARRESTS

April 23

Behan, Adeline Marie; 38
• third-degree elder abuse and neglect

Daniel, Cody Allen; 35
• homicide-criminally negligent homicide-other (non-vehicle)
• homicide-manslaughter
• failure to stop
• reckless driving

Flugmacher, Zachary Brian; 19
• second-degree possession of marijuana

Hooper, Steven Dewayne; 39
• FTA- possession of methamphetamine
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Kohlmann, Joseph Henry; 33
• Grand Jury- Sex Offense-all sexual abuse-2nd offense upgraded to felony

Pendergraft, Unique Nicole; 28
• obstruction of governmental operations
• public intoxication

Ponder, Trevor Lindley; 30
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• second-degree possession of marijuana

Wade, Heather Marie; 30
• assault-harassment
• criminal trespassing

April 24

Barnett, Christian Davis; 24
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• second-degree possession of marijuana
• possession of dangerous drugs
• sell/distribution of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
• possession of sawed of rifle/shotgun

Blanton, Adam Howard; 30
• assault-domestic-harassment-family

Fuller, Sidney Alexander; 20
• sell/distribute methamphetamine
• second-degree possession of marijuana

Husted, Lacy Haley; 36
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• second-degree possession of marijuana
• FTA- driving while license suspended (2 counts)

Jackson, Ethan Lee; 22
• possession of methamphetamine
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• second-degree possession of marijuana
• harassing communications
• FTA- traffic-follow too close

Millien, Brandie Sivley; 37
• assault-domestic-harassment-family

Page, Christopher Austin; 20
• assault-harassment

Parker, Krystal Ann Slate Edge; 37
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Smith, Zachary Daniel; 34
• Motion to revoke bond-assault-shooting into occupied dwelling (3 counts)

Spears, Britney Megan; 33
• possession of cocaine

Vandergriff, Tanya Renea; 42
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

April 25

Edgil, Billy Ray; 58
• FTA- public intoxication
• FTA- driving while suspended

Edwards, Rolandas Darnell; 35
• FTA- driving while license suspended

Gioconda, Misty Dawn; 46
• DUI (alcohol)

Watkins, Danajh Tariq; 22
• larceny/theft of article from auto (12 counts)
• larceny/theft-miscellaneous less than $500 (4 counts)

Williams, Erik Dewaun; 39
• possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
• second-degree possession of marijuana

Zydron, Molly Grace; 37
• attempting to elude police officer
• resisting arrest
• aggravated assault police officer-other weapon
• criminal mischief- damaged property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 22

• third-degree assault; person; Peachtree Ln. NW

April 23

• third-degree burglary; person; Schneider Rd. SE; miscellaneous; $1,000
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $34

April 24

• unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; Eva RD. NE; pistol; $400
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $35
• third-degree domestic violence; person; Veigl Cir. SW
• third-degree domestic violence; person; Briarwood Dr. SE

April 25

• duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Cullman Shopping Center; damage to '05 Pontiac Bonneville; $2,000

ARRESTS

April 23

Wolford, Ayla E.; 28
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Pendergraft, Unique N.; 28
• FTA- third-degree theft of property
• FTA- false information to law enforcement

Vinson, Naaman M.; 35
• unlawful distribution of controlled substance

April 24

Moody, Ballard O.; 28
• second-degree receiving stolen property

Graves, Christopher S.; 38
• Grand Jury- unlawful distribution of controlled substance

McDaniel, Thomas A.; 43
• unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Lehfeldt, Mark E.; 66
• third-degree domestic violence

Powell, Brittany L.; 31
• FTA- third-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property; theft of property (2 counts)
• reckless endangerment

April 25

Waldrop, Cameron D.; 19
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

Rebound: Cullman's tornado recovery makes huge leaps

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE

Demolished buildings and debris mark the path of the EF4 tornado through downtown Cullman.

CULLMAN, Ala. – The large multi-vortex EF4 tornado that plowed through downtown Cullman on the afternoon of April 27, 2011 did massive damage along its path. An estimated $13.5 million in damage occurred in the city, $5.5 million to city government properties and facilities alone. Every business was closed for some amount of time, as the larger system that spawned 199 tornadoes on that day left the entire north Alabama service area of the Tennessee Valley Authority without power. An estimated 180 businesses sustained some amount of damage, among which 69 saw their facilities destroyed. The economic impact of lost and closed businesses has never been fully determined.

Cullman Economic Development Agency director Dale Greer told The Tribune, "There was no electricity in Cullman County or the entire 13-county TVA service area in Alabama after the storms. TVA lost sections of every transmission line serving the state. TVA says there had never been a time in history when there was no electrical service in the TVA region of Alabama."

Almost as soon as the storm passed, though, people hit the streets and began reclaiming their city.

Now, Mayor Woody Jacobs recalled, "I was standing outside off of Highway 31 near Merchants Bank when the tornado came over. Once it passed, I remember saying to the folks around me at the time, 'Well, I'm not sure that was too bad.' But we quickly saw that it was bad and sprang into action. I wasn't with the City then, but as part of my job at the time, I and the folks I worked with began helping the ambulance service up the road, because they were hit. Then we spent the next several weeks helping out where we could, like most everyone else in Cullman County did at the time. The people of Cullman really banded together during that time!"

While businesses were shut down, volunteers and professionals poured into Cullman and Cullman County from across the southeast to assist with recovery efforts. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) estimated that Alabama National Guard troops arrived in Cullman to begin security operations within 35 minutes of the storm's passing. Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper, seeing that his department's vehicles were going to run out of fuel with gas stations down, called Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail who, although his town had its own woes, arranged for two tanker trucks supplied by the Alabama Surplus Property Division (with which Hanceville often does business) to deliver fuel for police and emergency responders within 24 hours. The state agency also provided heavy equipment to Cullman for debris removal.

From across the country, churches, clubs, civic groups and others came to help with clean up and provisions for victims. In one case noted by AEMA, a family from Michigan on its way to the beach stopped in Cullman for several days to help streets.

Rebuilding bigger and better

As electric service was restored in business districts and neighborhoods, the economy began rebounding. The need to house and feed those involved in the recovery process, along with money spent on building materials to repair, replace or rebuild damaged structures, meant that large sums were coming into the area. Local businesses made their own investments with aid from the City.

Greer shared, "The City implemented a new façade program offering grants to city businesses to help them recover. A total of 87 grants were awarded, totaling nearly $500,000. That seed money resulted in nearly $10 million capital investment from the private sector."

He continued, "The community has rebounded from the unprecedented damage and today is one of the leading counties in Alabama for new and expanding industry, retail development, restaurant growth, housing development and job creation. Sales tax revenue is up. The local economy is booming."

The city's current social and recreational slate includes events begun as a result of the tornado:

• Celebrate Cullman invited people back into the downtown area to shop during the summer following the tornado and has become a popular social event.

• Rock the South was born as a celebration for the community on the first anniversary of the storm. Since that time, it has grown to become one of the top festivals of its kind in the nation, drawing visitors from across the country and even internationally.

Adding those to a tradition of events, Cullman now offers an array of activities for everyone, including:

• Oktoberfest
• Strawberry Festival
• Dinner on First
• 2nd Fridays
• Christmas in Cullman
• Cullman Christmas Parade and tree lighting



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to olivia@cullmantribune.com

"Come to the Well" Community Women's Bible Study
• Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman
• Please wear a mask/ face covering.

Baileyton Bargain Days
• First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park
• Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items
• A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted.
• Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Prayer meetings- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Come and pray with us or come to receive prayer.
• Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.
• Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Mondays-Fridays- Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do take-out meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Sundays-9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Praise and Worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Sunday, May 2nd 11 a.m. Praise and Worship with message "HE'll Clean Our Mess" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Free Community Dinner at Center Hill Baptist Church
• 5-6 p.m.- The first Wednesday of every month we will be offering a Free Community Dinner. Church members, community members, neighbors and friends are welcome. This will be takeout only. Please message or comment with how many plates you will need to help us prepare enough food for everyone. RSVP at http://bit.ly/centerhill.
• 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077

Miércoles de Despensas
• 6-7 p.m. ler. miercoles del mes, En Su Tierra Cullman FUMC
• Despensas para la comunidad. No requiere ID. Entrega en su vehículo. Por favor use mascarilla.

Festhalle Farmers Market
• 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from April – October
• Stop by to shop the freshest produce from Cullman-based farms
• For more information, call 256-590-5009 or send an email to mgraveman@cullmanrecreation.org

Agriplex April programs
Children's Programs
April 29, 9 - 11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Recycled Crafts: Reduce, reuse, recycle! In celebration of Earth month, we will use 'trash' and turn it into treasures. Join us for some up-cycling fun! Ages 3-5 with parent, $8.00 per child/ $16.00 program max per family. Registration required at Agriplex.org.

Valley Springs Baptist Church Spring Revival
April 25 - Valley Springs Baptist Church will hold a spring revival on Sunday, April 25, Monday, April 26, Tuesday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 28. The Sunday night service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Brother William McClellan. Pastor is Brother Tim Box

American Legion Post 4 Bingo Night
• May 2 – This is an announcement that Bingo every Saturday night at 6 p.m. Is starting back in May.
• First game will be starting May 2, 2021. Come join the fun!
• Address - 181 Reid Road, Cullman, Alabama 35037

1st Annual Derby Day – Goat Island Brewery
May 1 – 2 p.m.-11 p.m. - Realtors from several agencies in Cullman have teamed together to fundraise for local veterans to receive the 5GB PTSD shot. Join us at Goat Island Brewery for food, fun, music, "best dressed hat" cat walk, stick horse races.. and of course, the Kentucky Derby running at 6:30 p.m. Band starts at 7 and goes until 11. We will also be having a silent auction! Admission is $10

Good Hope Public Cemetery decoration weekend clean up announcement
• May 1-2 - Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend Saturday,
• May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd. Please have all flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery by Sunday, April 25th. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 25th will be subject to removal bycemetery maintenance with respect to condition. We ask that all new flowers and decorations be kept as close to the monuments as possible. Donations to the cemetery can be sent to Good Hope Public
• Cemetery P.O. Box 355 Cullman, AL. 35056 and are tax deductible and help us to pay for cemetery upkeep. Thanks.

May 2 - Decoration at Shady Grove Methodist Church at Logan
10 a.m. the first Sunday in May! Join us!

Baileyton Town Council meeting
• May 3 – 7 p.m. - The Town of Baileyton would like to invite the public and all former members of the council of Baileyton and their families to attend our next regularly scheduled Town Meeting which will be held in our new town hall for the first time!
• The Town of Baileyton would like to thank all the former council members, their families and the former mayors Roph Burks, Paul Bailey and Johnny Dyer for their leadership of our community.

2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents
• May 8 - The 2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents is coming up Saturday, May 8, 2021. This is a joint benefit between Cullman County Wranglers and USA Healthcare to bring joy and smiles to the faces of the residents of some of Cullman and surrounding areas' assisted living centers and nursing homes.
• Our inaugural event had 127 Jeeps! Let's make our 2nd event even more fun for our residents!
• If you would like to bring a donation, we are seeking stamps, stationery, blank greeting cards, pens, lotions, shower gel or card games. Donations are completely optional.
• Registration is free. We ask that you register, so we have an accurate count to give city officials, so they can offer assistance with traffic the day of the event. To register or purchase at-shirt, visit https://cullmancountywranglers.com/ridinforresidents/.
• To purchase at-shirt, click "register," and you will see the option to purchase. To receive your shirt by the day of the event, you must order by 10 a.m. April 22. Shirts are $20 and available in youth and adult sizes. (XXL and XXXL shirts are $22 and $23 respectively.)

Obituary Announcements: April 26

Bette Jean McMinn Morrison, 83, of Cullman
Graveside Service for Bette Jean McMinn Morrison, age 83, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 30, 2021, at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Morrison died Saturday, April 24, 2021. She was born Feb. 15, 1938, to Noah McMinn and Velma Roden McMinn. She was preceded in death by her husband: John Billy Morrison; parents: Noah and Velma McMinn; mother-in-law: Mary Morrison; and sons: John Morrison and Byron Morrison. Survivors include her daughter: Beth Morrison (Monte Whaley); son: Neal (Tracy) Morrison; grandchildren: Jeremy Morrison, Kalah Morrison (Robert) Eltagonde and Haley Morrison (Chase) Nelson; great-grandchildren: Ryan (Laura) Morrison, Lindsey Morrison (Robert Phillips), Brookelynn Morrison and Alexa Scott; great-great-grandson: Weston Morrison; and brother-in-law Ray Morrison. She will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother that dedicated her entire life to her family. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Brooks' Place, the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled, or the Cullman Area Mental Health Foundation.

Daryl Lee Hayden, 64, of Cullman
Daryl Lee Hayden, 64, of Cullman, died April 25, 2021 at his residence. He was born July 30, 1956 to Owen Taylor and Clara May Conn Hayden. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hayden family. Mr. Hayden was preceded in death by his parents; a brother: Steve Hayden, and his pride and joy: his dog Lucky. He is survived by his ex-wife: Cynthia Cueto; his son: Lee (Kristina) Hayden; his daughter: Vanessa Wyatt and grandchildren: Brody Gray, Cole Gray, Dustin Hayden and Kaytline Hayden. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com. Darrell Leon Kretzschmar, 58, of Hanceville Funeral services for Darrell Leon Kretzschmar, 58, of Hanceville, Alabama will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville. Burial will follow at Garden City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Kretzschmar was born to Harold and Wilda (Jenkins) Kretzschmar November 19, 1962 in Blount County, Alabama. He died at the age of 58 in Birmingham at UAB Hospital. He was employed with Lifeguard Ambulance Service where he was a paramedic and had previously worked for Samaritan EMS and Terry's County EMS. He was also the owner of Kretzschmar Timbers LLC. In addition to his career, he spent most of his time riding motorcycles, camping, building antique cars and spending time with his family. Mr. Kretzschmar was an Elder of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville. The family would like to send a special 'Thanks' to Alabama Home Health for the excellent care provided during his illness. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church Children Education Fund at 505 Commercial St, Hanceville, Alabama 35077. Survivors include his mother: Wilda Jenkins Kretzschmar; son: Dallas Kohl Kretzschmar; grandsons: Carsten and Zane Kretzschmar; step-daughters: Tia Lewis and Nichole Campbell; fiancée: Debbie Koerber; her children: Katrina, Stephanie, Jon and Jaclyn; grandchildren: Jessey, Brylea and Ian; a young man he loved like his own son: Joseph Mize, an aunt, uncles and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Leon Kretzschmar.

Janette Bright Putman, 78, of Hanceville
Janette Bright Putman, age 78, of Hanceville, died Sunday, April 25, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband: Earney Gwyn Bright; parents: Oscar W. and Eliska Louise Richter Grissom; brother: James Monroe Grissom and great-granddaughter: Maggie Grant Janette is survived by her daughters: Eliska Lorene "Lori" (Rob) Luckhard and Sherri Leanna Bright (Todd Thornton); son: Jason Alan Bright (Tina); brothers: George (Alwayne) Grissom and David (Judy) Grissom; sister-in-law: Brenda Grissom; grandchildren: Victor Grant, Lexi Bright, Aleena (Jake) Amaro and Kehl Bright; great-grandchildren: Kyle Grant, Eli Grant and Nyx Vinson and a host of other family members and friends. The family will receive friends Wednesday, April 28 from noon until the celebration of Mrs. Putman's life which will begin at 2 p.m. in Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Ebenezer Cemetery. Janette was a faithful member of Missionary Grove Baptist Church, serving in Women on Mission and being a servant wherever God called her. The family would like to thank Encompass Health for making our family part of their family during this time. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Cullman County EMA: lessons learned from 2011

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Training and preparation are necessary tools for the emergency management system, but all the training in the world cannot fully prepare responders for an event like the 2011 tornado outbreak. The real-world disaster provided on-the-job training for the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) that has shaped how the system responds to events today.

CCEMA director Phyllis Little told The Tribune, "Cullman EMA and local responders learned that even with the number of resources available in our community and north Alabama mutual aid counties, there are times when there are not enough resources to go around. We learned to think more 'outside the box' when it came to providing assistance. Prior to 2011, north Alabama counties were routinely requested to augment south Alabama counties during/after hurricanes. Now, south Alabama counties reach out to north Alabama counties to provide assistance following large-scale events.

"The 2011 tornadoes did further confirm that the Cullman County community as a whole will do whatever is necessary to help themselves and assist their neighbors when disaster strikes. Since the 2011 events, CCEMA has worked with local agencies to improve disaster response plans and to better prioritize limited resources during catastrophic events. Working together on large-scale scheduled events like Rock the South, Strawberry Festival, Oktoberfest, County Fair Parades etc. has provided opportunities for local response agencies to develop specific plans for each event and to coordinate communications/personnel needed to respond. This in turn has improved our collective response to disaster events."

What would be different in the response if a similar disaster occurred now?

Little said, "Local agencies have a better understanding of the capabilities each has, along with how those capabilities can be utilized. Overall, the relationships that have been built among the agencies during non-emergency events and on a day-to-day basis, have increased our effectiveness when working together. It's much easier to get to know one another when there is not an emergency. There is a level of trust between disciplines that has developed and grows each time there is an event, scheduled or no notice--disaster-type. That trust between agencies/disciplines/personnel continues to grow with each event. Our communication capabilities are much better than they were 10 years ago. Planning and training together makes each agency stronger and our response to disaster more effective.

"Immediately after the 2011 outbreak, over 200 local residents applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to construct individual safe rooms/storm shelters. Many communities have received FEMA grants to construct community storm shelters and those shelters are utilized when needed.

"We just experienced a weather event last month that was shaping up much like the 2011 storms in the days prior. CCEMA sent out weather information by email, text, social media, local news media, etc. Local residents were much more aware of the impending storms and took action earlier that they may have done in the past. Local response agencies prepared for the worst-case scenario and reviewed response plans. The emergency response community would have been ready to immediately go into action with the lessons learned in the past. Thankfully, the worst did not happen."

Like many other emergency management specialists and meteorologists, Little pointed to the value of online and smart device resources to help people get ready for storms.

Said Little, "Improvements to available technology have provided many opportunities to connect with local residents following a disaster, including the Cullman EMA app. The app is free and includes information regarding the location of community shelters (along with a map), weather alerts, road conditions, school closings, preparedness tips and a tab for residents to report storm damage direct to the EMA. Pictures can be added to the damage report."

The app can be downloaded in the App Store for both IOS and Android devices by searching for "Cullman EMA." There is also a link, as well as a community shelter list on the Cullman EMA website at www.cullmanema.org.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE

The massive scope of the 2011 tornadoes changed the way agencies and responders work together to deal with disasters.

As Tornado Alley shifts to the southeast, residents need to prepare for peak tornado season

Sarah Revell
Contributor

ATLANTA, Ga. – April marks the start of the most active and dangerous stretch of tornado season, and forecasters are predicting this year's tornado season could be more severe than usual. Research has shown that tornadoes are occurring more often in the Southeast, where they are twice as deadly as tornadoes elsewhere in the U.S. Tornadoes can strike with little to no warning, which is why it is critical for residents to take steps now to prepare their insurance information in case they need to file a claim after a disaster, according to the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA).

"Insurance is there to help you recover if your home or property is damaged during a tornado or other severe weather event, but there are simple steps you can take before disaster strikes to ensure you are adequately protected," said Jeff Brewer, APCIA's vice president of public affairs.

"As research shows the traditional tornado alley is shifting to the Southeast, residents in these states in particular need to be prepared."

A recent analysis of the 38,000 tornadoes that occurred from 1950 to 2019 found a clear shift from the first half of the 70-year period to the second half.

Tornado activity was almost identical in the two 35-year periods, but in the Southeast the number of tornadoes increased by 42% and in the Great Plains, the number of tornadoes decreased by 20%.

Severe weather and tornadoes can occur throughout the year, but April, May and June are typically the peak months in terms of frequency and intensity.

In 2020, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia and Illinois experienced the greatest number of tornadoes, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Most severe weather events are covered under a homeowners, renters or commercial insurance policy, so it is critically important to review your policy each year and make sure it is up-to-date," added Brewer.

"A home is often an individual's biggest asset. Having the right amount of insurance coverage helps individuals and families financially recover quicker if their home is damaged or destroyed in a natural disaster."

APCIA offers the following tips to prepare for peak tornado season:

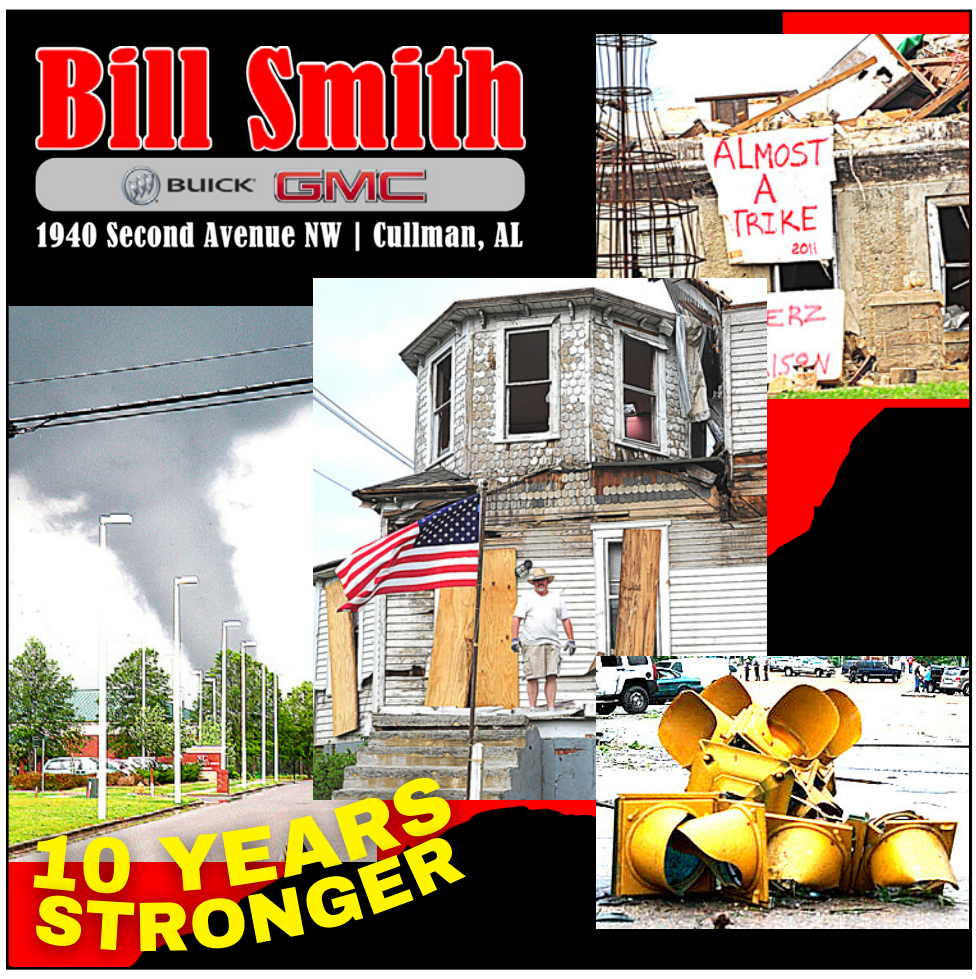
1. Conduct a yearly review of your insurance policy to help ensure your home and belongings are fully protected. Over the course of a year, you may have made upgrades, completed renovations, or purchased new items that could impact the amount of coverage you need. Call your insurer or insurance agent to review your policy in detail.

2. Create an inventory of your home's contents so you can quickly and easily account for all of your belongings and report a loss to your insurer if disaster strikes. Many insurers have free tools available to help their policyholders create a home inventory or you can take photos and videos using your smartphone. Be sure to save your inventory to a safe, accessible place, like the Cloud.

3. Work with your insurer or insurance agent to understand your insurance policy and how your coverage works. Ask if your policy pays replacement cost or actual cash value. Actual cash value takes depreciation into account, and replacement cost is the amount necessary to rebuild the home with construction materials of like kind and quality.

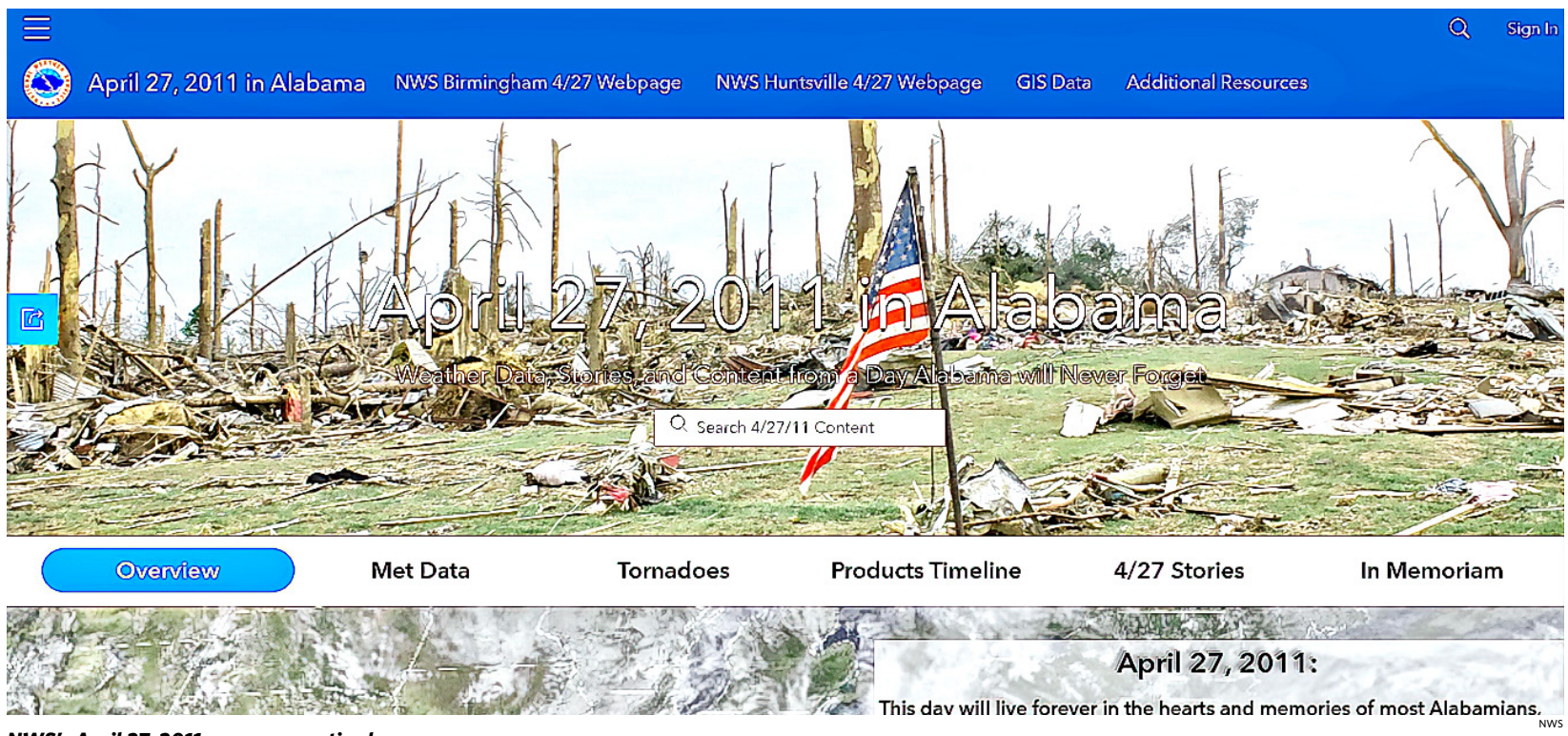






National Weather Service unveils webpage commemorating April 27, 2011 severe weather outbreak

National Weather Service, W.C. Mann



NWS

NWS's April 27, 2011, commemorative homepage

The National Weather Service (NWS) has launched a website to commemorate the April 27, 2011 tornado outbreak across Alabama. The page tracks the storms through the course of the day with meteorological data, describes each tornado event of the day, presents survivor stories and offers a place for others to post theirs, and shares a memorial listing the names of those who died in the storms, including Lloyd Winford Harris of Cullman and Keenan Jonathan Sullivan of Johnson's Crossing.

On Friday, the agency issued this statement:

"Tuesday, April 27th, 2021 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the historic severe weather outbreak that devastated portions of the Southeast United States and rewrote the record books in the state of Alabama.

"In a single day, 240 Alabamians across 19 counties in central and northern Alabama lost their lives and over 1000 more were injured.

"All total, 62 tornadoes swept across Alabama that day with 11 tornadoes of EF-4 intensity or greater.

"The three EF-5 tornadoes that struck the state were the most experienced in a single day in Alabama since the Super Outbreak of April 3, 1974, and the first EF-5 observed in the state since April 8, 1998.

"The April 27 tornado outbreak was the second deadliest ever in the state and the fifth deadliest ever recorded in the U.S.

"It was also the costliest natural disaster in Alabama history.

"To put the extent of the damage into perspective, well over 1,000 miles of tornado tracks were observed in Alabama on April 27 with over half of the state's 67 counties experiencing tornado damage.

"In fact, every county in the northern one-third of the state except for two, Colbert and Lamar, had at least one tornado track on that day.

"As we approach the 10-year anniversary, and reflect back on that day, the National Weather Service will be unveiling a special webpage commemorating the historic outbreak.

"This page will include a dedication to those that lost their lives that day, an extended section with firsthand survivor accounts, interviews and videos, and expanded meteorological information, photos and track maps."

The NWS website can be viewed at https://04272011-noaa.hub.arcgis.com.

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LOOKING BACK TO APRIL 27, 2011

Residents and local officials share their experiences from the tornado outbreaks from April 27, 2011, which tore through Cullman County causing immense amount of damage and chaos. These are their stories as told in their words.



BILL PIPER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Kenneth Nail, City of Hanceville Mayor

It could have been the worst of days and it was one of the best of days. Cullman, no doubt, got more construction debris. We got more vegetative debris. We hauled over 300,000 cubic yards of debris. We thank the Lord that nobody here was injured. Outside the city up at Chigger Ridge, a man was killed and that was just dreadful. People came together. That was some of the best of times and I don't think in about three months I got a single complaint. During that time, it was unbelievable how people came together to help each other.

The city workers, the first week we all worked somewhere around 16-18 hours a day. After then, we scaled back to 12 hours a day. Our people, everybody, everybody worked 12 hours a day for 26 days before anybody had the first off day. No city employee got off for 26 days."

I think by Hanceville getting it early, the people in Cullman realized that this was a mean storm coming through. This whole system was a mean system. A lot of folks had closed by lunch. They were out of there. I believe if the tornado had not hit Hanceville that morning, there would have been more fatalities in Cullman.

It was the real deal and let's be honest, we get so many false alarms. The siren goes off and we just lay there. We got unconcerned about that. This was the real deal and people started moving and closing businesses.

I couldn't have been any more prouder than our folks coming together- Public Works, police, fire, everybody, city hall workers. The whole city crew came together and the citizens were just wonderful. A natural disaster, I've worked many of them from my years with the police department, most of the hurricanes in the past 25 years that I have worked on the Gulf Coast- one thing is for sure- a disaster will make or break a mayor or a commissioner or anybody local. If you don't get your tail in there and put your boots and gloves on and go to work and let the people see you out concerned, it's going to eat you alive. We've worked disasters and helped with disasters where the mayors will be good guys but they were lost as a goose. They had no idea which way to go or what to do.

Jenny Folsom, Cullman City Council President

At that time, I was living in my 100-year-old home in the historic district close to downtown Cullman. We had already heard about the early morning tornado that damaged the Hanceville area. It was an unusually strange weather aware day, so the schools and most businesses had closed by noon.

Around mid-afternoon I heard James Spann on TV tell everyone close to downtown Cullman to go to their safe place immediately! I had an old cellar under my house, so that is where I headed. I heard the most horrifically loud roar, the sound of glass breaking, and I was hugging my hot water heater for dear life! It seemed to last forever, but it probably lasted only a minute.

I came out of the cellar to find my house was still standing. It appeared to have broken windows and minor damage. As I looked around, all I could see were my 100-year-old oak trees (6 of them) had all gone down. They literally circled my house! I was climbing over my downed trees when I heard a neighbor yelling and asking people if they were OK. I joined my friend and we walked several blocks checking on neighbors. All we could see was total devastation, but people were coming out of their homes. It was such a blessing that we found no one seriously injured.

After several months, my house was repaired, the yard cleared and the yard replanted. At that time, I remember telling someone, it is truly a miracle we had no loss of life in the city that day; but it will take 100 years to regrow those oak trees!

Christy Turner, Cullman City Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism

I was at Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center when the warning was issued and yes, we were watching James Spann. We looked at the radar and knew it was headed straight for us. We watched it pass just to the north of us in the clouds and then we watched it touchdown and could see the debris flying as it hit OUR downtown area.

My first thought was actually a prayer. I prayed a prayer for protection for all those in its path.

My second thought was another prayer. This time a prayer of thanks. I was thankful that our leaders listened to the warnings from earlier and made the decision to keep our kids at home from school.

My third thought was in the form of a question. My question was how can I help? I know I wasn't alone in my thinking.

I left the Wellness and Aquatics Center on foot and tried to walk to my husband's office on 9th Street and quickly realized how difficult this would be. It took me well over an hour to make it to the office and I was relieved to see that he and all of his co-workers were safe. My husband and I both knew we had to help. We started walking to our downtown area, as many others did, and started helping.

This is one of the MANY reasons I LOVE our community. We ALL came together to help.

I have pictures from the moments right after the storm... the scene is etched in my mind... but they are not what I see when I look at it today. When I see OUR community, I see a community that allowed an event to bring us together. I see a community that used this opportunity for good. I see a Downtown that is vibrant and full of life. I see dreams, I see vision.

When I see Cullman today.... I see the same thing I have always seen... I see people willing to come together and work for one another. I see hope for the future when I see Cullman.

But what I really see is our HOME.

Robin Winton, Office Manager, The Cullman Tribune

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 was a day that will be remembered for many years to come. I was at The

Cullman Tribune office along with my daughter. Due to the weather reports predicting very ominous weather that day we stayed tuned in to the television and radio station.

After the early morning tornado warnings in Hanceville and Holly Pond, it made me uneasy for the rest of the day. Then in the afternoon not long before 3 p.m. we were placed under a tornado warning and a tornado emergency and I watched it on the tower cam on ABC33/40 coming into the city of Cullman.

I remember I ran up front and locked the front door, which I believe might have kept the door from being blown off. Just shortly after that the lights blinked off and on and then stayed off and we climbed under a table and it felt and sounded like a train was coming through the building. It was such an eerie sound and feeling as the tornado came through.

After the tornado passed by, I came up front and walked outside and noticed all the damage at the business next door and across the street. After that I walked outback and the steel radio tower was twisted and laying across the alley. Thankfully it didn't come down on the building.

I imagine a lot of people were nervous about stormy weather for quite some time after that day.

Kenny Culpeper, Chief of the Cullman Police Department

Myself and captain J.P. White were stationed just west of I-65 looking to the southwest. We saw the tornadoes as it came across the interstate.

We paralleled it as we drove into town on Highway 278. It finally was in the downtown area a block south of us. I started to check damaged buildings in the 2nd Ave. southeast area when a radio call question snapped me out of the first responder mode into the ICS (incident command system). From that point on it was a lot of long days and nights.

I have always felt fortunate that CPD is a strong participant in the Alabama Mutual Aid System, seventy percent of our officers had been on deployments to the gulf for hurricane damage prior to the tornadoes. We knew what to do and how to work in a disaster with other agencies. Our strong relationship with Cullman Fire, EMA and the Sheriff's Dept. was invaluable as well.



BILL PIPER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Gary Marchman, Cullman County Commission

I was on my way to Wallace State College that morning. I arrived near the College at the same time the storm hit. There was very little traffic but it was like bomb had exploded with debris laying everywhere. I immediately began to try and help anyone and did not see anyone who had been severely injured.

We had to be cautious because of downed power lines and debris everywhere. Later that morning and on into that evening I remember listening to the radio and watching the news about all the tornadoes that had hit this are and the destruction they caused.

Looking at it now, 10 years later we can be reminded of the resilience of our community and the blessing we have received. My prayer is for God to continue to bless this County.

Dale Greer, Cullman Economic Development director

I actually was in South Alabama when the tornado struck Cullman. Received a call from a friend who said TV was showing a tornado bearing down on Cullman at that moment. I instantly phoned my wife, Larraine, who was under her desk at work at the Henderson Walton Women's Center Office when she answered the phone.

I cannot tell you how helpless I felt talking to her with the storm devastating sections of Cullman. The electricity actually went out while we were talking on the phone, but within minutes the tornado had passed and I knew she was safe.

Tornadoes were still extremely active in North Alabama and returning home was not a wise option that afternoon or evening. I traveled back to Cullman the next morning with generators and other supplies for my family and friends with the knowledge that electricity was probably going to be out in Cullman for several days.

I was actually named the city's public information officer for the storm when I arrived back in Cullman. Susan Eller and I coordinated daily updates out of the Cullman Economic Development Office to media and social media on all aspects of the recovery including locations for food, water, phone charging stations, power restoration, reporting of property damage, listing work areas where volunteers were needed, responding to media, etc.

I remember being impressed with the coordination efforts of police, fire, EMA, local governments, utilities, service organizations and volunteers. I know I am failing to acknowledge others who helped, but that tornado brought out the best in many people. It still makes me proud of how everyone pitched in to help their neighbors, friends, family and total strangers.

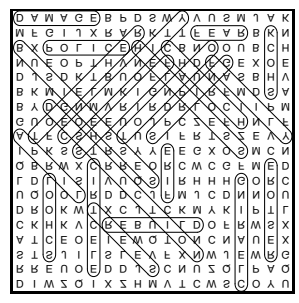
CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 27, 2021

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April
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Church
Clearing
Community
Damage
Destruction
Electric
Family
Fear
Fire
Helpless
Police
Rebuild
Restore
School
Sheriff
Shock
Spring
Together
Tornado
Trees

ANSWER:



TEN YEARS LATER

Official reports from the April 27, 2011 tornadoes in Cullman County

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY, Ala. – April 25-28, 2011 saw a super outbreak of approximately 350 tornadoes produced by a single long-term event of related systems from Texas to Virginia. Of those storms, 199 occurred in one 24-hour period April 27, which included 62 in Alabama. A 2014 article in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society called that one day's outbreak, which killed 316 people, injured over 2,700 and produced over $4 billion in insured losses alone, "the most significant since the dawn of reliable records."

Between 5:48 a.m. and 7:13 p.m. April 27, 2011, Cullman County was struck by four tornadoes ranging from a tiny EF-0 to two massive EF-4 storms. Following are the National Weather Service Huntsville (NWSH) official reports on those events.

5:48 - 6:20 a.m. - An EF-2 tornado moved along a 30.32-mile path with multiple touchdown points from near Cold Springs through Hanceville, Center Hill and North Walter, passing near Holly Pond on its way into northeast Cullman County. The storm produced one half-mile wide path of destruction, with 120 mph peak wind speeds.

NWSH record:
A weak tornado touched down east of Cold Springs, toppling and snapping numerous trees. Several sheds sustained minor damage in this early part of the track. The storm crossed Highway 69 where it damaged a large shed.

Additional damage was noted as the tornado tracked northeast across County Road 46, where trees continued to be snapped and damage sustained to many chicken coops, some of which collapsed. After crossing Interstate 65 just south of Dodge City, additional chicken coops and trees were damaged along the path of the storm.

The tornado then increased in strength as it approached Wallace State College in Hanceville, where winds were estimated to peak at 120 mph (EF-2 intensity). Eight large metal power poles were bent over just above the base and several campus buildings had significant portions of metal roofing torn off. A mid-rise under construction had its windows blown out, while the high-rise building sustained additional minor damage.

The connected construction crane remained standing.

To the south of the main track, in Hanceville proper, significant numbers of large pine, poplar and other hardwood trees were toppled onto houses.

The roof of the high school gym in town was partly destroyed and additional small buildings near downtown Hanceville sustained damage.

The tornado continued its track northeast from Hanceville, nearly paralleling Highway 91. Between Center Hill and Walter, large hardwood trees were found snapped and twisted.

In addition, along County Road (CR) 645, a barn was nearly destroyed. Continuing northeast along a path, just south of Holly Pond along Highway 91, a portion (1/3 to 1/2) of a residential shelter or shed was destroyed and a portion of a chicken house was badly damaged.

Additional damage was seen along CR 1742 and 1753, several miles northeast of Holly Pond, and along Highway 231 in extreme northeast Cullman county.

This damage is considered to be with the same complex of storms that rolled across the area during the early morning hours April 27, however, there is too much distance between damage points to be considered one long track tornado.

2:40-3:38 p.m. - An EF-4 multiple-vortex tornado moved on a 47-mile track from near Smith Lake through Cullman, north of Simcoe and Fairview, and into Morgan and Marshall counties, with a one-mile-wide path of destruction and 175 miles per hour peak wind speeds.

NWSH record:
A long-track tornado went from southwest to northeast across Cullman County before tracking into Morgan and Marshall counties. Some light damage occurred on the north side of Smith Lake along CR 310.

More significant damage was observed to the northeast along CR 222 and along CR 436 near Grandview, where significant structural damage occurred to several residences and numerous large trees were snapped.

The tornado continued to track northeast toward the town of Cullman where some of the worst damage occurred just northeast of Highways 31 and 278. Several small retail buildings were completely destroyed along with near total destruction of a large church in downtown Cullman.

The tornado continued its track northeast, crossing Highway 157, then creating additional damage north of Highway 69 between Simcoe and Pleasant View. Just north of Fairview along CR 1559 and CR 1564, two homes were destroyed with significant portions of the homes not found.

Further northeast along CR 1589, major structural damage occurred to several old (early 1900s) homes and numerous hardwood trees were debarked.

Outside of the city of Cullman, significant damage occurred in a 1/4-1/2-mile-wide corridor north of Highway 69, between Fairview and the Cullman/Morgan county line.

The tornado crossed out of Cullman County briefly into extreme southeast Morgan County near the town of Hulaco.

Significant damage occurred between Hyatt Bottom Road and Blocker Road, just east of Highway 67. Several cinder block and old construction homes were destroyed, and numerous trees were snapped and sheared toward the base.

Significant damage from the long-track tornado continued into northwest Marshall County.

The worst of the damage occurred from the Morgan/Marshall county line, along Hog Jaw Road, northeast to Highway 231 (about 3 miles north of Arab).

Along Hog Jaw Road, a large storage shed with farm equipment was destroyed and some of the large machinery was tossed 10 to 20 yards away from the shed.

Closer to the town of Ruth, Mount Oak and Frontier Roads were hardest hit.

In this neighborhood, a cinder block/cement home was nearly wiped clean and debris from this home was thrown about 50-100 yards away.

A trailer was missing and a metal bolted garage was wiped clean of its foundation. Along Frontier Road, a large brick home was nearly wiped clean off its foundation with several large trees ripped out of the ground and missing.

Further northeast along the path, along Walnut Ridge, a one-story home was severely damaged with the roof missing and a trailer was tossed about 100 yards and into a tree.

Several concrete power poles were bent over as the tornado crossed Highway 231, some bent at the base.

On the east side of Highway 231, a Jet Pep gas station building was completely demolished and two gas pumps were ripped from the ground and missing.

Surprisingly, the canopy over the pumps remained mostly intact. The tornado then continued toward Union Grove.

The degree of damage weakened somewhat, but several homes had significant damage where the top stories and roofs were destroyed along with some external walls collapsed.

Along CR 240, a double wide manufactured home was destroyed and large garage collapsed while the well-built roof remained intact. The tornado then significantly weakened as it crossed the Tennessee River.

On the other side of the river, the tornado snapped and uprooted numerous trees as it crossed Walker Road and just across Hwy 431 before finally lifting just northeast of 431.

5:06 - 5:24 p.m. - An EF-4 tornado moved along a six-mile track across the southern tip of Cullman County south of Arkadelphia, part of an extreme long-track tornado that traveled from Pickens County through Tuscaloosa, Fayette, Walker, Cullman and Blount counties before ending in Marshall County.

In Cullman County, the storm created a quarter mile wide path of destruction with 170 mph peak wind speeds. Overall, this tornado ran a course 127.8 miles long, leaving 13 dead and 54 injured.

NWSH record:
A large tornado tracked into the Huntsville County Warning Area (CWA) across the very southern tip of Cullman County, from about 3 miles southwest of Arkadelphia to just over 2 miles ESE of Arkadelphia.

This tornado then tracked out of the Huntsville CWA into Blount County.

In Cullman County, a wide swath of pine and hardwood trees was found snapped at the bases or splintered several feet off the ground, with some debarking of trees.

South of Highway 91 along Washington Loop, several homes were damaged or destroyed. A mobile home was obliterated and the frame was found at least 200 yards to the east up a hill.

A cinder block home was wiped out, with the contents landing across the road, while the cars nearby were tossed.

A truck landed in a nearby hollow at least 50 yards away while a sedan was smashed as it landed about 130 yards away.

Farming equipment in a barn was displaced into the hollow, including a hay baler and a tractor. The storm shelter by the residence was partially lifted and damaged.

The person inside received minor injuries. Additional homes and buildings nearby were destroyed and only a few trees were left standing or not debarked.

The main damage path was fairly well confined, as a well-built home just at the edge of the track only sustained minor roof damage.

West Point/Interstate 65
7:09-7:13 p.m. - An EF-0 tornado moved from northeast of West Point toward Interstate 65 along a 1.19-mile-track, with a 100 yard wide path of destruction and 80 mph peak wind speeds.

NWSH record:
This short-lived tornado touched down nearly 4 miles northeast of West Point and tracked northeast across Interstate 65, just north of the CR 1282 overpass.

Snapped and uprooted trees were seen falling toward the center of the circulation along CR 1282, with a convergent pattern of damage (mainly smaller trees) noted along CR 1264, just west of I-65.

The damage continued on the east side of I-65 along CR 1281, where several trees were snapped and uprooted and a house porch was damaged.

Little additional damage connected to this tornado was seen northeast of this point along Highway 31.

LeonardDesign, P.C.
115 Second Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone 256.739.8020

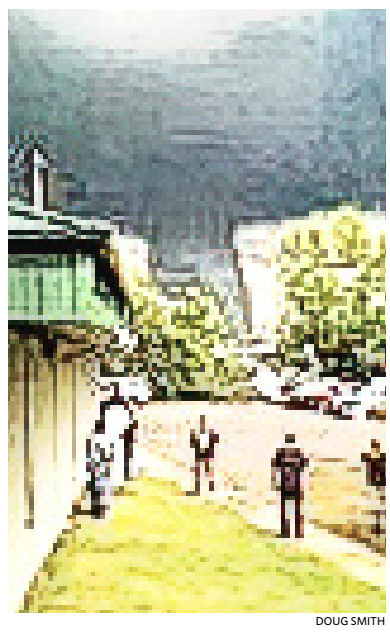

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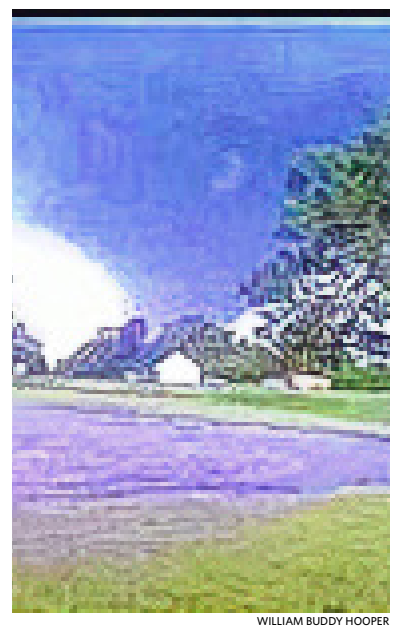





TRENT LOYD


DOUG SMITH


TRENT LOYD


WILLIAM BUDDY HOOPER


PAIGE LOWREY SMITH

Readers recount storm

All comments are from readers from The Cullman Tribune and Cullman Today who posted their experiences. These are unedited to keep authenticity to their statements and recollection of events of April 27, 2011.

POSTS FROM CULLMAN TODAY

Leigh Hopper Stallings
I had run an errand in town, picked up a hamburger from Johnny's and made it home 10 minutes before it hit.

My son and I were on the basement stairs. It was so loud! Sounded like my house was being beaten, windows breaking, siding ripped off, trees falling, thankfully away from the house, and the chimney fell on the roof and the roof was torn off.

My husband was in south cullman and could see the tornado go across cullman. He Drove as close as he could get to our house and had to walk the rest of the way. It was unbelievable. Lost all the neighbors homes. So glad we were safe. Moved back in my house on November 1, 2014. Home sweet home.

Stephen Morris
Such a terrible experience to go through.

Sonya Saffeels
At that time my son and I lived in Valley Grove off of 625. We watched the tornado form across the big field from our house. Watched it go over Smith Lake and 222. From our house that's how it looked. It was huge and scary.

POSTS FROM THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Deborah Crumbley
On April 27 2011. We where in our saferoom on our garage. We took a direct hit. All we had left when we came out was the saferoom.

Our neighbor lost his life that afternoon. Today the same saferoom that saved our lifes that day is our house we built back. A day we will never forget.

Paige Lowrey Smith
The top picture was after our barn was leveled that morning in Holly Pond, straight line winds I assume. The bottom is that afternoon when I went to work at EarthLink in Arab and the tornado went by 20 yards from our building leveling all pine trees beside it.

I still remember the smell of pine when it was over.

We took cover in an interior office and all of us were praying.

It sounded like a helicopter hovering over the building. It was loud and then hauntingly quiet

Trent Loyd
Photo taken from my house in Goldrigde looking back towards Fairview,

Connie Byham
I was at home watching the weather and got in my hallway until the tornado passed, went outside after to see what happened around where I live.

William Buddy Hooper
Antioch Community April 27th, 2011

Joe Yovino
In between Good hope and Cullman. Close to wall mart distribution. April 27 2011

Doug Smith
Rusken Packaging April 27 2011

How safe rooms save lives

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – In 2004, Keith and Deborah Crumbley were selected as part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant program to have a safe room installed at their home in the Simcoe Community. On April 27, 2011, their home took a direct hit from a F5 tornado and they credit the safe room with saving Deborah's life, as well as other family members and pets.

The Crumbleys consider themselves extremely lucky to have been selected for the safe room. Deborah explained, "We got ours in 2004 before the tornado. We had got the grant money. Every year you had to put in for it and that year they drew Keith's name out on the courthouse steps. That's how they did it back then."

After a round of severe weather on the morning of April 27, 2011 which caused major damage in Hanceville and one fatality, the Crumbleys continued to listen to reports that the worst was yet to come.

With Keith at work, Deborah's parents and son Matthew gathered with her at her house in preparation for it.

That afternoon with the sirens blaring, they knew it was time to retreat to the safe room that was bolted to the floor of the garage.

Deborah said, "We were in it. My mom and dad, my son and me. We also had three cats in there with us when the tornado hit."

As the storm approached, Deborah felt safe as she calmed her mother who was feeling nervous.

One of the three cats was not handling things well. Deborah laughed, "My son tells the story that the cat was running around the safe room like one of those motorcycles in the metal ball at the fair."

Deborah knew the storm was causing damage to her home as she sat in the safe room.

She recalled, "We knew the garage was gone because the safe room actually has air holes and the trash was flying in.

"You could hear everything hitting the safe room, so we knew the garage was gone but we didn't know the extent until we stepped out."

As they came out of the safe room, Deborah and her family were in shock as they realized that the safe room was the only thing that remained of the home.

She said, "Everything was gone. You know, they tell you to get in the bathroom; well, we haven't even found the bathtub. Our house was completely gone, and they say we took a direct hit."

Deborah and her family were saved by being in the safe room, but she would soon learn that her next-door neighbor lost his life during the storm.

Although they could hear the debris hitting the safe room during the storm, they felt secure.

The safe room, made out of ¼" steel, did have scuff marks from being hit with debris, but only had one small dent caused by being struck by Keith's generator. Keith spray painted on the side of the safe room in orange, "April 27, 2011- Saved 4 lives- 3 Cats."

When they rebuilt their home, the Crumbleys had the same safe room installed inside it rather than in the garage. It has its own room just off the living room.

Their safe room was installed by Alabama Safe Rooms and they explained that it was far more than just a storm shelter. Deborah said,

"If we had an intruder in the house, we could get in there and deadbolt the lock and they couldn't get to us. They couldn't shoot us because it's ¼" steel.

"It saves you from other things other than tornadoes, but it did save us from a tornado and I firmly believe we wouldn't have been alive if we hadn't had it." Deborah said.

It was suggested to the Crumbleys that they put together a time capsule. "We actually have a time capsule that we made and put in there that tells the story. So, if we ever sell the house and it went to somebody else, it tells the story of it saving our lives that day."

Safe rooms come in a variety of sizes and most of the rooms cost less than $10,000. Financing options are also available when purchasing a safe room. According to FEMA, test data from Stormsafe safe rooms like the Crumbleys showed the following:

"Stormsafe tested as a complete unit in Lubbock Texas by Texas Tech University Wind Science & Engineering Research Center. Stormsafe test results exceed FEMA 320 (taking shelter from the storm) guidelines requiring the shelter to resist a 15-pound 2X4 missile (board) propelled by a 250 mph tornado.

"This missile speed correlates to 100 mph horizontally. Stormsafe door passed and exceeded three different impact test locations at the hinges and latches.

"Stormsafe design tested for wind load effects by an independent professional engineering firm. Stormsafe structural integrity exceeded FEMA 320 standards and would only be half stressed by a 250 mph (F5) tornado."

Deborah believes it is a lifesaving investment. "It brings peace of mind. Since we actually went through the tornado and our neighbor lost his life, you are more aware of storms. That day, some friends' basement came down on them and they had to dig them out. With the safe room, I feel safe in there. It's grounded so you can't get lightning struck.

"Don't get in your bathtub. I don't trust bathtubs. We never found a piece of ours."

In conclusion, Deborah said, "We lived in a brick house and there was nothing left. It was flat. There was nothing left of the house. It was a well-built brick house and we took a direct hit. If you take a direct hit, if you aren't in a safe room, you're not going to make it, I don't believe. I am a firm advocate for safe rooms."



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
The Crumbley's safe room following the tornado


CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Keith Crumbley shows the safe room now in their new home

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Sirens vs. radios vs. device apps: which should you use?

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY, Ala. – As residents across the county seek safety during bad weather, The Tribune sought input from various sources about the value of community sirens, household radios, personal device apps and other means of communication in giving effective warnings to people in the path of dangerous storms.

Weather radios and device apps are considered crucial by the National Weather Service, emergency managers and meteorologists alike. Community sirens, which some local officials have opted out of maintaining, generally land at the end of lists, though they still have a certain function.

Where are the sirens?

Outdoor warning sirens are located at:

- Joppa VFD
- Baileyton
- Holly Pond
- Hanceville (3)
- Good Hope (2)
- Smith Lake Park
- Arkadelphia
- Fairview
- Dodge City (2)
- Garden City (3)
- Welti (Berlin VFD#2)
- West Point (2)
- Loretto VFD
- Jones Chapel VFD
- Logan VFD (2)
- Bethsadia VFD
- Colony
- Vinemont
- Cullman (6)
- Sardis VFD
- Cold Springs VFD
- Battleground VFD (2)
- Crane Hill VFD
- Vinemont/Providence VFD #1
- Walter VFD
- Gold Ridge VFD
- Brushy Pond Senior Center

The current system has 42 functional sirens. All but two have a maximum coverage area of a one-mile radius. The sirens at Smith Lake Park and Arkadelphia have a one-half mile radius.

Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA)

CCEMA director Phyllis Little told The Tribune, "Cullman County has an Outdoor Warning System (sirens); it is designed to alert people that are outdoors.

"This is the reason for most siren locations being at schools, fire stations, parks, etc., where there are large groups engaged in outdoor activities.

"The first siren was installed in Joppa in 1996. The siren tone should let you know that something may be wrong and you need to get more information via radio, TV, weather radio, a phone app.

"You may not be able to hear the siren tone indoors for various reasons: radio, TV or appliance noise, construction of the building you are in, weather conditions, etc.

"How loud the tone you do hear is dependent upon the distance you are from the siren itself.

"Maximum range for sirens in Cullman County is one-half-mile to one-mile radius.

"On a clear, cool day, the sirens can be heard at farther distances.

"Sirens in Cullman County are battery operated and the batteries are recharged using a 'trickle charger.'

"On a day like April 27, 2011, batteries were depleted early and, since power was out across the county, the trickle charger could not recharge them.

"Recharging to maximum power takes 24 hours. Residents should never depend on the outdoor warning system as their primary alert notification.

"Residents should have multiple ways to receive weather alerts--NOAA Weather Radios are efficient, they can be set to receive only the alerts desired--thunderstorm watch, thunderstorm warning, tornado watch, tornado warning, etc.

"They operate on both electricity and batteries. They are portable, meaning you can carry it from your house to your shelter.

"They are relatively inexpensive, usually around $30-$40.

"The sirens are only activated for tornado warnings. However, we experienced a tornado last month that was not warned.

"The storm developed quickly as part of a severe thunderstorm that was moving across the county.

"Residents with a weather radio or personal device apps would have received the thunderstorm warning.

"This would have alerted them to the seriousness of the storm and further development.

"Cullman County EMA has worked with the local school systems to ensure that weather radios are located at each one.

"The EMA continues to encourage residents to download apps to their phones to ensure that they have access to the most current weather information whether they are at home, work or traveling. Many apps are free--AL Saf-T-Net, TV stations."

WAFF 48 (Huntsville) meteorologist Eric Burke

Burke said, "Community storm sirens are intended to warn people who are outside and should never be used as the lone method to receive severe weather warnings or civil emergencies.

"We always encourage people to have multiple ways to receive warnings as they are issued by the National Weather Service. The NOAA Weather Radio is the tried and tested method that is nearly fail proof if programmed correctly.

"The battery backup is vital in the event you lose power.

"A Midland Weather Radio is a good model; they usually run about $30 at a sporting goods store.

He continued, saying, "Cell phones with EAS capability have become the norm over the past few years, as well.

"I would have to use this opportunity to plug the WAFF 48 Weather app, free for Android and iPhone. It will follow your location if you choose to and will give you all severe weather watches and warnings. You can also stream our coverage from the app itself during severe weather."

ABC 33/40 meteorologist James Spann

Spann said, "People need at least two reliable ways of getting warnings; never, ever a siren. They have never been effective in reaching people in a home or business. If that is how you get warnings, you pretty much don't have any hope. They only reach a limited number of people outdoors.

"Every Alabama home needs a NOAA Weather Radio; most get the Midland WR-120 sold in local retail stores.

The other way, of course, is a cellphone. Be sure "emergency alerts" are enabled, and get a good weather app. Needless to say, I am partial to the ABC 33/40 Weather app."

CBS 42 meteorologist Ashley Gann

"The most reliable way to get warnings is by weather radios. Thankfully, smartphones are now equipped with emergency alerts, however, if your battery dies on the phone, you cannot get alerts. Sirens were created to warn those working in the fields that dangerous weather was approaching. That technology was never intended to be the sole warning system for people in their homes or businesses, although that has become one of the most leaned on warning source, it seems."

Gann did not recommend a brand of weather radio, but advised that any radio chosen should receive broadcasts directly from the National Weather Service.

New notification system on the way

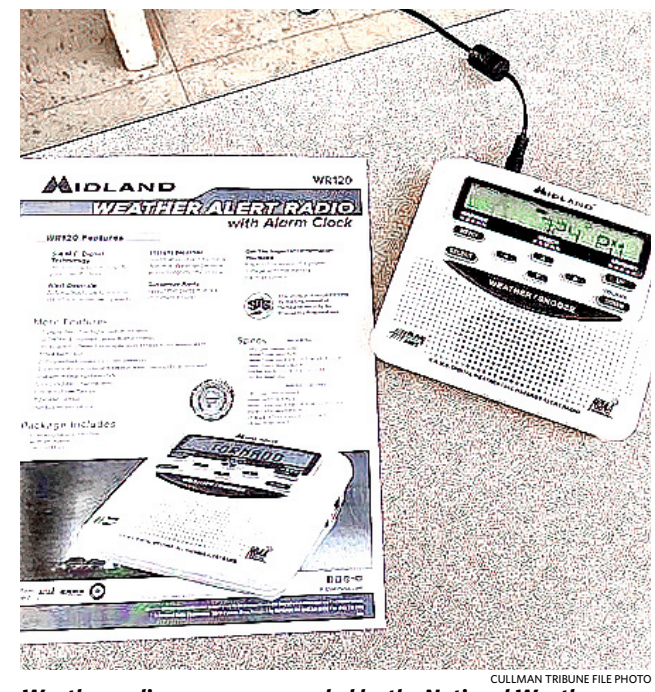
The Cullman County Commission on April 20 approved a CCEMA contract with the American Signal Corporation for a mass notification alert system that can send voice calls to landlines along with emails, texts and SMS short messages to alert county residents about weather emergencies. The system will also be able to post alerts directly to the CCEMA Facebook page.

In addition to weather, an unlimited number of administrators on the system will allow local municipalities, the County Parks and Recreation Department and others to use the system to send notices about upcoming events.

Residents who use the system will be able to customize settings to receive all notifications or only weather alerts.

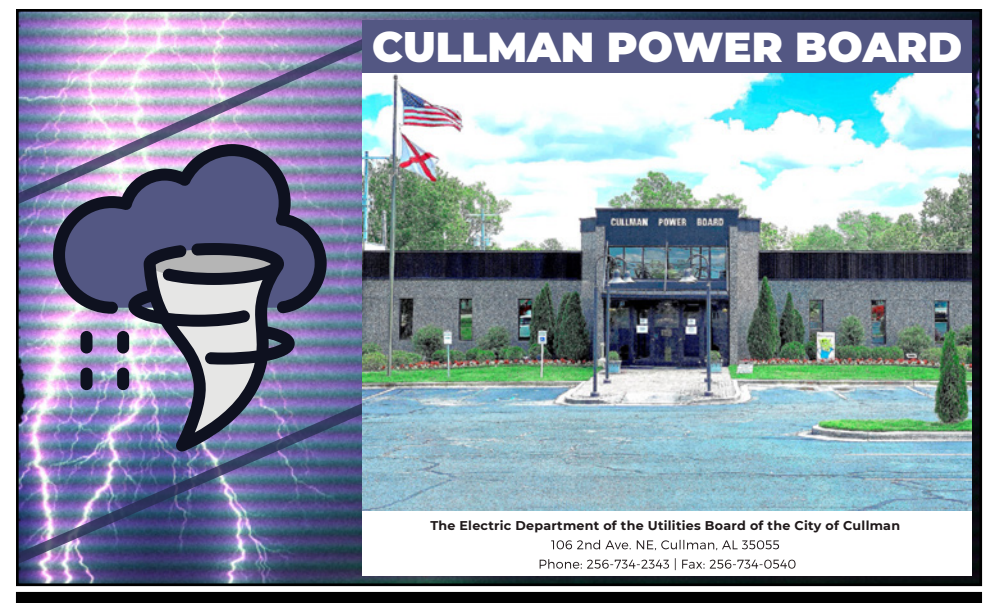
They can even specify what kinds of weather alerts they want to get: watches, warnings, only tornadoes and other choices.

A schedule has not been set for the system to be online in the county.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Weather radios are recommended by the National Weather Service, EMA and meteorologists alike as a crucial component in the weather early warning system.





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Prepare! Don't let tornadoes take you by surprise

National Weather Service
Contributor

The information below will help you find out what you can do now to prepare for a tornado. Preparation is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

• **Be weather-ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for tornadoes. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings. Check the Weather-Ready Nation for tips.

• **Sign up for notifications:** Know how your community sends warnings. Some communities have outdoor sirens. Others depend on media and smartphones to alert residents of severe storms capable of producing tornadoes.

• **Create a communications plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. If you live in a mobile home or home without a basement, identify a nearby safe building you can get too quickly, such as a church or family member. Pick a safe room in your home, such as a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Check more ideas for your family plan at: https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

• **Practice your plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when tornado warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.

• **Prepare your home:** Consider having your safe room reinforced. You can find plans for reinforcing an interior room to provide better protection on the Federal Emergency Management Agency website.

• **Help your neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for the possibility of tornadoes. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt.

What to do during a tornado

National Weather Service
Contributor

Find out what you can do when a tornado strikes. Acting quickly is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

• **Stay weather-ready:** Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about tornado watches and warnings.

• **At your house:** If you are in a tornado warning, go to your basement, safe room, or an interior room away from windows. Don't forget pets if time allows.

• **At your workplace or school:** Follow your tornado drill and proceed to your tornado shelter location quickly and calmly. Stay away from windows and do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, or auditoriums.

• **Outside:** Seek shelter inside a sturdy building immediately if a tornado is approaching. Sheds and storage facilities are not safe. Neither is a mobile home or tent. If you have time, get to a safe building.

• **In a vehicle:** Being in a vehicle during a tornado is not safe. The best course of action is to drive to the closest shelter. If you are unable to make it to a safe shelter, either get down in your car and cover your head, or abandon your car and seek shelter in a low lying area such as a ditch or ravine.

What to do after a tornado

National Weather Service
Contributor

What precautions are you take following a tornado? The information below is a helpful checklist to make sure you and your family are informed and safe following a tornado.

• **Stay informed:** Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about tornado watches and warnings. Multiple rounds of thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes are possible during severe weather outbreaks.

• **Contact your family and loved ones:** Let your family and close friends know that you're OK so they can help spread the word. Text messages or social media are more reliable forms of communication than phone calls.

• **Assess the damage:** After the threat for tornadoes has ended, check to see if your property has been damaged. When walking through storm damage, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes. Contact local authorities if you see power lines down. Stay out of damaged buildings. Be aware of insurance scammers if your property has been damaged.

• **Help your neighbor:** If you come across people that are injured and you are properly trained, provide first aid to victims if needed until emergency response teams arrive.

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 195 PG 596 - 04/12/2021 01:30 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
REBECCA ANN ERBY * CASE NO PC 2021-129
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Administration of said deceased having been granted to **Shay Persall aka Darla Lashay Persall**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Rebecca Ann Erby, deceased, on the 12th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Shay Persall
aka Darla Lashay Persall
Personal Representative

Robert Potter
Mann & Potter, P.C.
600 University Park Place, Suite 250
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 101 PG 846 - 04/16/2021 02:55 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DONALD JOE REYNOLDS * **CASE NO.: PC2021-106**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JEMMA HINAUTAN REYNOLDS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DONALD JOE REYNOLDS, deceased, on the 16th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

JEMMA HINAUTAN REYNOLDS
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Petitioner
200 First Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB MIN BK 195 PG 748 - 04/16/2021 03:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Curtis Ozell Chapman,) Case No. PC 2021- 126
)
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Tony Curtis Chapman as Personal Representative of the Estate of Curtis Ozell Chapman, deceased, on the 16th day of April, 20 21, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Tony Chapman
Personal Representative
Tony Curtis Chapman

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

PB WIL BK 101 PG 869 - 04/16/2021 03:39 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: *
JAMES VIRGIL WISE, SR., * **CASE NUMBER:** PC 2020-361
DECEASED. *

Letters Testamentary of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 16th day of April, 2020 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

JAMES VIRGIL WISE, JR.

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Personal Representative
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
215 Main Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-4444

To: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

Honorable Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on May 24, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2021-31 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to be heard:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021 – 31
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Minuteman Construction, the following describe the tract or parcel of land, to-wit:

Legal Description: *A tract or parcel of land containing 10.6 acres of land, more or less and being a part of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 13 and part of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 24, all in Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County Alabama and being mare particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast corner of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of said Section 13 and run thence North 00 degrees 09 minutes 27 seconds East, a distance of 15.90 feet; thence North 34 degrees 14 minutes 54 seconds West, a distance of 387.50 feet; thence South 67 degree 22 minutes 28 seconds West, a distance of 114.96 feet; thence South 29 degrees 02 minutes 31 seconds West, a distance of 177.89 feet; thence North 37 degrees 21 minutes 49 seconds West, a distance of 177.72 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the left, having a central angle of 136 degrees 34 minutes 34 seconds, a radius of 50.00 feet, a chord bearing of South 74 degrees 20 minutes 54 seconds west and a chord length of 92.91 feet; thence run along the arc of said curve an arc distance of 119.19 feet; thence North 83 degrees 56 minutes 22 seconds West, a distance of 26.27 feet to a point on an old fence line; thence South 06 degrees 03 minutes 38 seconds West, a distance of 35.67 feet; thence South 05 degrees 14 minutes 52 seconds West, a distance of 178.06 feet; thence South 04 degrees 59 minutes 14 seconds West, a distance of 168.47 feet; thence South 05 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds West, a distance of 181.94 feet; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 52 seconds east, a distance of 196.56 feet to a point on the North right-of-way line of Cullman County Road No. 703; thence North 84 degrees 26 minutes 17 seconds east and run along said North right-of-way line, a distance of 684.30eet; thence North 00 degrees 31 minutes 03 seconds East, a distance of 436.64 feet to the point of beginning* within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as R-1 Residential District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama, under Ordinances No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from R-1 Residential District to R-2 Residential District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.

SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 24th day of May, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Wesley Moore – Cullman City Clerk

PB WIL BK 101 PG 868 - 04/16/2021 03:38 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
CHARLES F. WYNN * CASE NO.: PC2021-116
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Patience Tidwell and Margie Powell, as Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles F. Wynn, deceased, on the 16th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

Margie Powell
Patience Tidwell
Co-Personal Representatives

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for the Petitioners
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Al. 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County, to amend Sections 45-22-242 and 45-22-242.11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to decrease the county lodgings tax upon the retirement of certain debt and provide further for the use of the proceeds of the tax.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 45-22-242 and 45-22-242.11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-242.

"(a) There is levied in Cullman County, in addition to all other taxes now imposed by law, a privilege or license tax paralleling the state tax on businesses renting rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients provided for in Sections 40-26-1 to 40-26-21, inclusive, hereinafter referred to as state lodging tax, in the manner and at the rate hereinafter prescribed.

"(b) Upon every person, firm, or corporation engaging in Cullman County in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration, in an amount to be determined by the application of the rate of five percent of the charge for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room. Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon the retirement of existing debt for the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222 and outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, the application of the rate to be charged for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room shall be four percent. There is exempted from the tax levied under this part any rentals or services taxed under the state sales tax provided for in Chapter 23 of Title 40. The tax shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied for a period of 30 continuous days or more in any place.

"§45-22-242.11.

"(a) The State Department of Revenue shall charge Cullman County for collecting the county lodging taxes levied in this part the lessor of the actual ~~an~~ amount ~~or percentage~~ of total collections, ~~as may be agreed upon by the State Commissioner of Revenue and the Cullman County Commission,~~ but the collection charge shall not in any event exceed ~~10~~ 2.5 percent of the total amount of the special county taxes collected under this part. The charge for collecting the taxes for the county may be deducted each month from the taxes collected before certifying the amount of the proceeds from the taxes due to Cullman County each month. The State Commissioner of Revenue shall pay into the State Treasury all county taxes collected under this part as the taxes are received by the State Department of Revenue. On or before the first day of each successive month, commencing with the month following the month in which the department makes the first collections under this part, the commissioner shall certify to the Comptroller the amount of taxes collected under this part and paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during the month immediately preceding the making of the certification. Before certifying the amount of the taxes paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during each month, the commissioner may deduct from the taxes collected for the month the charges due the department for the collection of the taxes for the county. It shall be the duty of the Comptroller to issue a state warrant each month payable to the Cullman County Commission, in an amount equal to the amount so certified by the State Commissioner of Revenue as having been collected for the use of the county. ~~Upon receiving the tax proceeds, the county treasurer~~

"(b) Upon receiving the tax proceeds, the county treasurer shall transmit the proceeds as follows:

"(1) Two-fifths of the proceeds to the Cullman County Chamber of Commerce to be used~~. Two-fifths of the tax proceeds shall be used, in~~ at the discretion of the chamber of commerce to pay any operational expenses while promoting small businesses, promotion of marketing for Cullman being a destination shopping location, working with and enhancing the City of Cullman's and Cullman County's Industrial Boards, to working with the Cullman County Tourism Board;~~, exclusively for the purpose of developing and promoting tourism and conventions, one-fifth shall be used exclusively for economic and industrial development purposes in the county, and two-fifths shall be used to retire a bond issue on the Cullman Family Recreation Complex. Upon retirement of the bonded debt, the funds shall be used to promote the complex and other tourist attractions and events in the county.~~

"(2) a. One-fifth of the proceeds to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purpose of promoting tourism through festivals, events, and tournaments throughout the City of Cullman and Cullman County for the benefit of all of the residents of Cullman County.

b. The Cullman County Tourism Bureau shall be comprised as follows: (1) two members appointed by the Cullman City Council, of which one shall be an elected city councilman and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the restaurant industry; (2) two members appointed by the full board of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, of which one shall be either the chairman of the chamber or the president of the chamber and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the Smith Lake Community; (3) two members appointed by the Cullman County Commission, of which one shall be an elected county commissioner and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the Agri-Tourism industry; (4) one member appointed by the Hotel Association; (5) one member appointed by Wallace State Community College president; (6) one member shall be the Cullman-County Parks & Recreation Director; (7) one member appointed by the Cullman City Parks & Recreation Board Director or President; and (8) one member who shall be a representative of the tourism industry selected by a majority vote of the State delegation; provided however, that in the event the delegation vote is tied, the Senator of Cullman would make the deciding vote.

c. Members of the bureau shall serve staggered, four-year terms as follows: (1) appointees of the Hotel Association, Wallace State Community College; Cullman-County Parks & Recreation, and the Cullman City Parks & Recreation Board shall serve six year terms; (2) one appointee each for the Cullman City Council, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Cullman County Commission shall serve four year terms; and (3) all other appointees shall serve two-year terms.

d. Upon enactment of this act, the Cullman County Treasurer shall open a separate bank account(s) for the Cullman County Tourism Bureau by October 1 of the year of enactment.

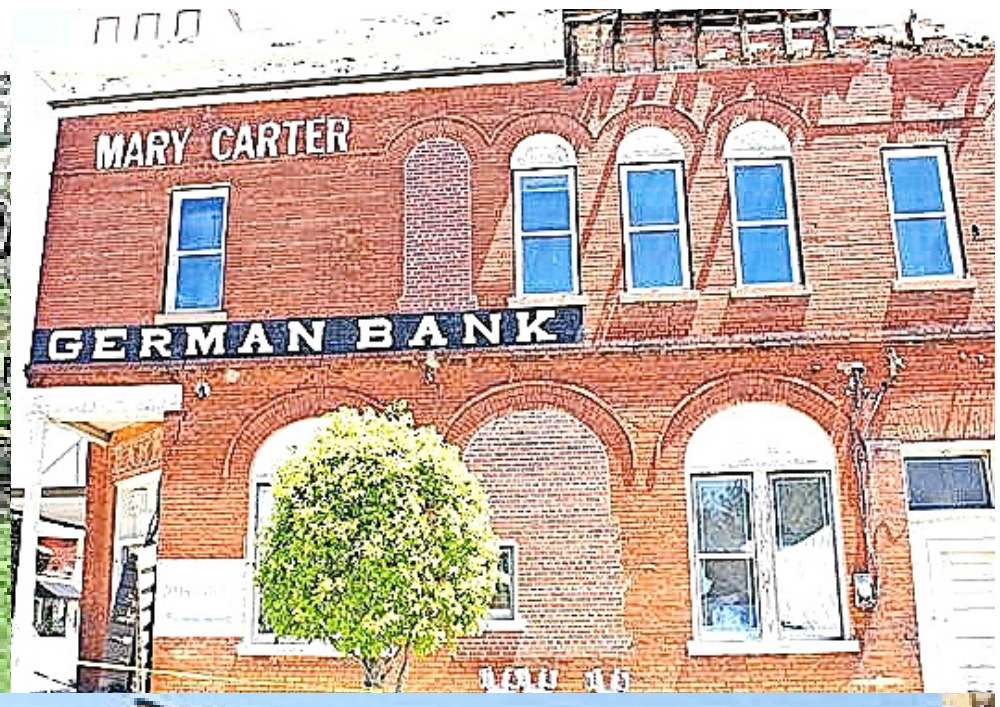
"(3) The remaining two-fifths of the proceeds that are sent to the Cullman County Commission from the Alabama Department of Revenue shall continue to be sent to the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for the sole purpose of paying off the existing debt, which shall not be extended, of the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222. Once the existing debt of the Exit 305, Interchange, County Road 222 debt is paid off then one-hundred percent of the two-fifths will transfer for the sole purpose of paying off the remaining outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, which shall also not be extended. Upon the retirement of the above-mentioned debt, two-fifths of the proceeds shall be transmitted to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purposes stated in subdivision (2) of this subsection. The remaining one-fifth of the proceeds shall expire on December 31, 2021.

"(c) Effective June 1, 2021, the balance of the proceeds remaining to be distributed to Cullman County after the cost of collection and distribution to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association have been deducted pursuant to Section 40-26-20, shall be controlled by the Cullman County Tourism Board.

"(d) Effective June 1, 2021, the City of Cullman shall transmit to the Cullman County Tourism Board, an amount equal to one quarter percent (1/4%) of the privilege tax levied and collected, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2007-7, on persons, firms or corporations renting accommodations to transients in the City of Cullman."

Section 2. This act shall become effective June 1, 2021, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.




MARY CARTER
GERMAN BANK


Cullman
KULLMAN H

