


# The Cullman Tribune

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**WEATHER**

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

**– SPORTS –**

**West Point rallies to top East Lawrence 65-57; Holly Pond falls to Corner 76-60**

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# Stay weather aware Saturday into Sunday

## List of community storm shelters

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — According to the U.S. National Weather Service office in Huntsville, strong to severe storms are expected Saturday evening into the wee hours of Sunday morning across the area.

"Damaging winds and heavy rainfall will be the primary threats. We have lower confidence in tornadoes and flooding, with the lowest confidence in hail. Stay weather aware Saturday evening and have more than (one) way to receive warning information!" said a post on the NWS Huntsville Facebook page.

WVTM13 Chief Meteorologist Jason Simpson reported that on Saturday, "Heavy rain may cause some flash flooding. Storms will develop in Mississippi in the afternoon and head for Alabama late in the day. Tornadoes, strong winds and hail will be possible (over southwest Alabama)."

NWS Huntsville said, "We have a low chance for damaging winds, heavy » PAGE 6




NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Storm shelters at Sportsman Lake Park*

# Big Lots going out of business




NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Big Lots in Cullman is located at 1619 Town Square SW in the Town Square Shopping Center.*

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Big Lots, Inc. in a press release announced it "does not anticipate completing its previously announced asset purchase agreement with Nexus Capital Management, though it continues to work toward completing an alternative going concern transaction with Nexus or another party. The Company's goal would be to complete a sale by early January."

The release said that in parallel with these efforts, Big Lots is preparing to commence going out of business ("GOB") sales at all remaining Big Lots store locations in the coming days to protect the value of its estate.

This includes the longtime Cullman location at 1619 Town Square SW in the Town Square Shopping Center.

Big Lots President and CEO Bruce Thorn said in the release, "We all have worked extremely hard and have taken every step to complete a going concern sale.

"While we remain hopeful that we can close an alternative going concern transaction, in order to protect the value of the Big Lots estate, we have made the difficult decision to begin the GOB process."

The release said the company is continuing to serve customers in-store and online, and will provide updates as available.

## Update on Christmas Day wreck in Jones Chapel » PAGE 3

## CPRST: Softball, T-ball and baseball registration now open



FACEBOOK/CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

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## Rapid Response Training LLC offering EMT course at Good Hope VFD » PAGE 4

## Wallace State's banner year: Top 10 ranking, record enrollment and major capital investments » PAGE 5

**PET OF THE WEEK**

## Meet the curious Dexter



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

*Dexter*

» PAGE 2




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CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 27

**Cullman Tribune staff**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 27, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**INCIDENTS**

**Dec. 23**
- assault; CR 1087
- giving false id to avoid arrest; Hwy. 278W
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E
- theft of property; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 747
- harassment; criminal mischief; CR 1156
- theft of property; CR 713
- theft of property; Hwy. 91

**Dec. 24**
- domestic violence; CR 811
- trafficking drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157

**Dec. 25**
- obstructing governmental operations; CR 33
- harassment; CR 1720
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; Hwy. 278E

**ARRESTS**

**Dec. 23-25**

**Bunn, Patsy A.; 60**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Clowers, Brianne H.; 32**
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

**Cofield, Jewel M.; 43**
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution

**Denney, Joseph L.; 34**
- FTA – contempt of court – failing to appear

**Esposito, Jan M.; 45**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Grimes, James D.; 31**
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Holmes, Matthew J.; 44**
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

**Holmes, Sheena D.; 40**
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA – assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon
- FTA – menacing – aggravated assault

**Peck, Marce C.; 54**
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

**Taylor, Paul D.; 61**
- DUI

**Whitworth, Kenneth L.; 45**
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Williams, Michael R.; 44**
- obstruction – governmental operations

**Wood, Telisha L.; 32**
- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**Dec. 23**
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '23 Lincoln Navigator; $3,000; 3rd St. SE
- robbery-1st degree; person; wallet & contents; 3rd St. NE

**Dec. 26**
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $85; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; camera; $700
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $38; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; person; video game; $80; Hickory Ave. SW

**ARRESTS**

**Dec. 23-26**

**Marlow, Anthony J.; 22**
- FTA – speeding

**Self, Cru A.; 36**
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – driving without license

**Richter, Morgan B.; 22**
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

**Spain, Beverly R.; 48**
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Champion, Jennifer L.; 40**
- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

**Couch, Brandon S.; 39**
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – driving while revoked

**Weaver, Coty L.; 34**
- theft of property-4th degree

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

# Traditions Bank hosting New Year's Eve celebration

**Jen Baker**
jen@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Traditions Bank in downtown Cullman is hosting a New Year's Eve celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 6 p.m.-midnight.

The festivities will take place in the parking lot of the bank's main branch.

Traditions Bank Vice President Kelsie Butler shared, "It's a family friendly block party to celebrate the new year. We will have live music, inflatables and food trucks, with some complimentary food vouchers."

Guests can use the free vouchers for coffee and food from local food trucks that will be on-site, such as Alabama Mud Coffee. There will be six food trucks, live music, bounce houses and more.

The main branch of Traditions Bank is located at 109 Second Ave. NW (U.S Highway 31) in downtown Cullman.

# Dexter (from Front)

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Dexter is a 2-year-old poodle/wire-haired pointer mix looking for someone to spoil him with love and affection.

He exhibits medium energy and he's another who's stolen the hearts of those at the shelter. Dexter is a pup who gives all his attention and love to you alone. He is the perfect therapy/companion/walk-about-town dog!

Schedule an appointment to come by and meet Dexter and find a friend you'll never regret meeting! His adoption fee is $130, which includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Dexter wanted to pass along that there are many of this friends waiting for their forever homes, so if he's not there be sure to visit his friends!

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

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LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: NOLAN A SCHOENEBECK, A Minor Child. * CASE NO. JU-2020-000430.06

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

**MARILYN SAUCEDO**, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Verified Petition to Terminate Parental Rights filed by Steven and Rita Schoenebeck and/or other relief by February 3, 2025, or, thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against her in regard to case number JU-2020-000430.06, Juvenile Court of Cullman County.

FILED IN OFFICE
DEC 23 2024
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Done this the 23rd day of December, 2024.

CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT

JERRY L. KILGO
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS
413 FIRST AVENUE SW
CULLMAN, AL. 35055

---

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO: PC2024-441

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BURMA NELL LOEGLER, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Ronald Link Loegler on the 17th day of December 2024, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Ronald Link Loegler
Personal Representative

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

---

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile, Alabama ("Board"), at the Wesley A. James Operations Center, 4725 Moffett Road, Suite A, Mobile, AL 36618-0249 until **12:00 p.m., Local Time, February 3, 2025**, and then publicly opened and read aloud at **1:00 p.m.**, for furnishing all labor, materials, and performing all work for the following project: Contract No.: D3424000, Project Name: **HALLS MILL CREEK LIFT STATION SURGE TANK**.

Plans and Specifications may be inspected at the Board's offices at 4725 Moffett Road, Suite A, Mobile, AL, or at the offices of Jacobs, Consulting Engineers, 25 W. Cedar Street, Suite 350, Pensacola FL. 32502 (by appointment)., Telephone: (850) 396-4938.

A complete set of electronic contract documents including Drawings, Specifications, referenced documents and a model bid package may be obtained from Charley Golden of Jacobs via e-mail from Charley Golden at Charley.Golden@jacobs.com. No Contract Documents will be issued later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to bid submission time.

Questions regarding the Contract Documents must be submitted in writing or electronically to Jacobs no later than **January 27, 2025** in order for responses to be provided via addendum prior to the bid date.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Wesley A. James Operations Center, 4725 Moffett Road, Board Room, Mobile, AL 36618-0249 on **January 15, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**, Local Time, to discuss bidding and project requirements. Prospective bidders and subcontractors are encouraged to attend.

Bids must be submitted on the standard forms included with the Contract Documents in the tabbed and color-coded format as indicated.

Envelopes containing bids must be sealed and delivered to the Director, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile, Alabama, 4725A Moffett Road, Mobile, Alabama 36618-0249: "Bid for constructing Project # D3788300 – HALLS MILL CREEK LIFT STATION SURGE TANK , to be opened at **1:00 p.m., Local Time, February 3, 2025**". The Bidder's Alabama State Contractor's License Number and discipline shall be on the envelope. Hand-delivered bid packages shall be delivered to the receptionist at the main entrance of the MAWSS office complex, 4725A Moffett Road, Mobile AL 36618.

Bid guarantee in the form of certified check, bid bond, or Irrevocable Letter of Credit acceptable to the Board will be required for at least 5 percent of the bid amount, **not to exceed $10,000**.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in bids received.

**THIS INVITATION FOR BIDS IS CONDENSED FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.**

THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA

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Legal Notice
In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that Blalock Building Company, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for the Additions and Renovations to Fairview High School located 841 Welcome Road, Cullman, Alabama 35058 for the State of Alabama and Cullman County Board of Education, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify, Lathan Associates Architects, P.C., 300 Chase Park South, Suite 200, Hoover, AL 35244.

Blalock Building Company, Inc.
7309 Gadsden Highway
Trussville, AL 35173

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO: PC2024-440

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GERALD LINK LOEGLER, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Ronald Link Loegler on the 17th day of December 2024, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Ronald Link Loegler
Personal Representative

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

---

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
ANDREA PONDER,
Deceased.
Case Number: PC2024-417

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Andrea Ponder, Deceased

Letters Of Administration, having been granted to the undersigned on the 26th day of December, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Erin Heaton
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO PUBLISHER: 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

---

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CHRISTY LYNN LYNCH,
Deceased.
Case Number: PC2024-052

**NOTICE**
**PETITION FOR SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION**

Notice is hereby given that a *Petition for Summary Administration* filed the 14th day of February, 2024, made court record the 15th day of February, 2024, by Jarrett Lynch, Petitioner, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Jarrett Lynch
Petitioner

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO PUBLISHER:

Please publish the foregoing notice ONE TIME in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 26th day of December, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

# Wreck (from Front)

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**JONES CHAPEL, Ala.** – On Christmas Day, a multivehicle collision occurred on U.S. Highway 278 West, just past the Sunoco station in the Jones Chapel area.

According to a social media post by the Jones Chapel Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday, Dec. 26:

"Last night, at approximately 5:14 p.m. units were dispatched to a multi-car wreck with reported entrapment.

"Approximately three and a half minutes later, our first unit arrived on scene and confirmed injury and entrapment."

It went on to state that additional assistance was provided by the Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Cullman EMS, Air Evac 15 and ALEA, which were all on scene.

"We want to thank everyone involved for a speedy extrication, and wonderful patient care the driver received. Additionally we are glad the other vehicle only had minor injuries," it stated.

What seemed to help those on the ground during the incident were the numerous bystanders who offered assistance, which, according to the updated post, was also greatly appreciated.

"Scenes such as last night show that there are still great people in the world willing to help out during times of need. We appreciate our wonderful working relationship with our neighboring agencies. We wish everyone involved a speedy recovery."

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**The Crossing Food Bank**
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman (in the Housing Authority).

**Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings**
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

**Baileyton Bargain Days**
First 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) Mondays and Thursdays 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**
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Sunday, Dec. 29 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
• Tuesday, Dec. 31 - 6 p.m. New Year's Eve Candlelight Celebration. Youth party from 8 p.m.-midnight
• Wednesday, Jan. 1 - No service or classes! Have a blessed and happy New Year!
• Friday, Jan. 3 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, Jan. 5 - 8 a.m. Men's breakfast and Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, Jan. 5 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
• Sunday, Jan. 5 - 2 p.m. Prayer service

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

**TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings**
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

**Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings**
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

**Cullman Al-Anon Meetings**
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

**The Pantry at The Link**
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

**21st Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display**
Drive-through only Dec. 28-29, 5-9 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park, 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW. Admission is a cash donation of $10 cash per vehicle. Over 1 million lights!

**6th Annual Christmas at the Grotto**
Dec. 28, 5-9 p.m. at the Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE. Christmas lights return to the Grotto! Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience to include a Christmas Tunnel at entry and also Santa's Workshop! Refreshments will be available.

**Admission:**
• Adults - $10
• Seniors - $8
• Military/Veterans/First responders - $7
• Teens (13-17) - $8
• Children (5-12) - $7
• Children 4 and younger - free

**Traditions Bank New Year's Eve Celebration**
Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 6 p.m.-midnight. The festivities will take place in the parking lot of the bank's main branch at 109 Second Ave. NW (U.S. Highway 31) in downtown Cullman. Guests can use free vouchers at six local food trucks that will be on-site. There will also be live music, bounce houses and more.

**Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting**
Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501-B Fourth St. SW in Cullman.

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219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

**ANNUALLY BASED RATES**

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist









PREP BASKETBALL

# West Point rallies to top East Lawrence 65-57; Holly Pond falls to Corner 76-60

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**WEST POINT, Ala. —** West Point High School is hosting its annual Christmas Tournament at Jim Boyd Gymnasium this week and both the Warriors and Broncos are competing in this year's field. Both teams played their first matchups Thursday night, starting with the West Point Warriors taking on East Lawrence. The Warriors trailed 30-26 at halftime but outscored the Eagles 21-12 in the third quarter on their way to a 65-57 win. In Thursday's nightcap, Holly Pond and Corner played a tight first half but the Yellow Jackets were able to pull away in the second half to defeat the Broncos 76-60.

**West Point 65 - East Lawrence 57 (Varsity Boys)**

Jay Lamar put in a pair of quick layups to give West Point an early 4-0 lead. A rebound and putback by Maddox Chapman and a pair of free throws by Lamar gave the Warriors an 8-4 lead. Jaxon Shelton put in a basket in the paint to make it 10-6, but it would be all East Lawrence after that. The Eagles finished the quarter on a 13-2 run, as that gave them a 19-12 lead going into the second quarter.

Lamar got fouled while shooting a three and ended up hitting all three free throws to cut it to 19-15. A pair of rebounds and putbacks by Shelton and Chapman tied the game up at 19. That would be the start of a big second quarter by Chapman, as he ended up scoring the final nine points of the half for West Point, and that gave them a 26-25 lead late in the second quarter. East Lawrence scored the final five points of the half to give them the lead right back at 30-26 at the half.

The third quarter started out perfectly for the Warriors. Chapman added two more baskets in the paint to tie the game up at 30. A driving layup by Chapman and five straight points by Lamar gave West Point a 37-32 lead. Shelton knocked down a basket down low, Cade Welborn buried a trey from the left wing, and another rebound and putback by Chapman stretched the Warrior lead to 44-32 late in the third quarter. Once again, though, East Lawrence went on a big run to end the quarter, as a 10-3 run by the Eagles cut it to 47-42 going into the fourth quarter.

Shelton put in a pair of quick baskets in the paint, and Lamar drained a pair of free throws to increase West Point's lead to double digits at 53-42 early in the fourth. East Lawrence scored the next six points to make it a 53-48 game. Two more quick baskets by Shelton made it 57-48, and Lamar drilled a three from the left corner to keep it at a nine-point game at 60-51 with a little over three minutes to go in the game. The Eagles trimmed it to 62-57 with a little over a minute to go in the contest, but Lamar buried a trio of free throws to help seal the 65-57 win for West Point (13-4).

Lamar led the way for the Warriors with 23 points. Chapman finished just behind him with 21 points and Shelton posted 16 points.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
*Sawyer Olinger led Holly Pond with 16 points in its 76-60 loss to Corner Thursday night.*



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
*Jay Lamar (23) led the Warriors with 23 points in their 65-57 win over East Lawrence Thursday night.*

**Corner 76 – Holly Pond 60 (Varsity Boys)**

The Broncos fell behind 7-2 early in the opening period but Carson Ryan laid one in for two points and Asher Thrift split a pair of free throws to cut the lead to 9-5. Another basket from Ryan and a three-pointer from Ty Dunn made it an 11-10 game later in the first quarter. A 5-0 run gave Corner a 16-12 lead, but Sawyer Olinger sank a pair of free throws and Fox Westall knocked down a three to make it a 16-15 game. The Yellow Jackets continued to hit shots to stay in front of Holly Pond, but Ryan scored inside and Olinger laid one in just before the end of the first to trim the lead to 23-19 at the start of the second.

Thrift drove to the basket and scored to make it a 2-point game at the start of the second quarter and Olinger buried a three to give the Broncos their first lead since the game's first basket at 26-25.

Holly Pond and Corner proceeded to trade the lead back and forth for most of the period until the Yellow Jackets managed to pull ahead 39-31. Westall laid one in with 20 seconds remaining in the second to cut into the deficit, but the Broncos went into the locker room trailing 41-35 at halftime.

Ryan drilled a three to make it a 41-38 game early in the third quarter but an 8-0 run from Corner made it 49-38 midway through the period.

Westall laid one in to trim the lead to 49-40 and with just over a minute remaining in the third, Allbright hit a pair of free throws to make it 51-42. Holly Pond went into the final frame trailing 54-42.

Dunn knocked down a three and Allbright scored inside to make it a 58-47 game early in the fourth quarter. Baskets by Olinger and Allbright held the lead at 11 midway through the fourth and after another Allbright basket, Olinger laid one in to bring the lead down to 64-55 with just over three minutes left to play.

Unfortunately, the Broncos were unable to close the gap any further and Corner went on to collect a 76-70 win over Holly Pond.

Olinger led the Broncos with 16 points in the loss. Ryan and Allbright each added 11, Westall finished with nine and Dunn posted eight.

**Sammy Confer contributed to this article.**

# Dilfer tabs Steve Russ as new UAB Defensive Coordinator

**Ted Feeley**
UAB Athletics

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. —** Head Coach Trent Dilfer has named veteran coach and two-time Super Bowl champion Steve Russ as the new Defensive Coordinator of the UAB football program.

Russ comes to Birmingham after most recently serving one season as the Special Assistant to the Head Coach at his alma mater, Air Force. Prior to rejoining Air Force, Russ spent six years coaching linebackers in the NFL for the Carolina Panthers (2018-19) and the Washington Commanders (2020-23).

In 2024, Air Force finished 42nd nationally in total defense 51st in scoring defense. Under Russ' direction, the Falcons held seven of their 12 opponents to 21 points or less.

"I'm so excited, humbled, and honored to be joining Coach Dilfer, UAB Football, and Blazer Nation as the defensive coordinator," Russ said. "I truly believe we are a sleeping giant that is on the cusp of greatness. It's going to take a ton of hard work, collaboration, and belief in the process to make it happen, but I know all of us are up to the challenge. I can't wait to get started!"

Before making the jump to the NFL, Russ was the Assistant Head Coach, Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Backs Coach at Air Force from 2012-17. He was the co-defensive coordinator in 2012 and 2013 and served as the lone DC in his final four years, which included two 10-win seasons and two top 35 defenses.

Russ coached tight ends, linebackers and defensive backs at Wake Forest from 2008-11 and was at Syracuse prior to that from 2005-07, which included the DC role for the Orange in 2007. He got his first full-time coaching position at Ohio University where he was from 2001-04.

"Steve is a tremendous coach, husband and father, and he will make an immediate impact at UAB both for our student-athletes and the entire institution," Dilfer said. "He has extensive experience at the highest level as a player and coach, and his knowledge will elevate our defense and entire program."

Russ was selected in the seventh round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the Denver Broncos. Following two years of active service in the military, Russ joined the Broncos in 1997 and won back-to-back Super Bowl Championships in 1997 and 1998. He played with the Broncos until 2000 and then spent one season in the XFL before starting his coaching career.

As a player at Air Force, Russ was named a Second Team All-WAC performer in 1994 and was selected to play in the Blue-Gray All-Star game and the East-West Shrine Bowl. He earned Air Force's Brian Bullard Award, which is the program's highest honor, and he is just one of seven players from Air Force to be selected in the NFL Draft.



UAB ATHLETICS
*New UAB Defensive Coordinator Steve Russ.*

Russ is a native of Stetsonville, Wis., and he and his wife Betsy have two children, Mackenzie and Tyler. Mackenzie just concluded her career as a member of the Air Force volleyball team.

## Registration (from Front)

**Jen Baker**
jen@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala. —** Registration for softball, T-ball and baseball through Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) is open now through Feb. 13, 2025.

According to CPRST, signups are for kids aged 3-12. Practices will begin in March, with two weekly practices on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

Games will be played during the week in April and May.

Get more info at www.facebook.com/CPRSTAthletics or register online at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program.

## Course (from Front)

**Gauge Day**
gauge@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala. —** Rapid Response Training LLC is hosting an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course at the Good Hope Volunteer Fire Department beginning Jan. 4, 2025. The program is designed to provide participants with essential skills for delivering basic life support in emergency situations. Classes will start at 6 p.m. and run through March 29.

The EMT course covers comprehensive topics, including patient assessment, airway management, trauma care, and handling medical emergencies.

Included in the $1,100 tuition are the EMT 12th Edition textbook, background check, drug screen, class polo, NREMT initial exam, badge and physical exam.

Payment plans are available to those needing them. Students can pay a $100 deposit followed by 11 biweekly payments of $83.33, with a final payment of $83.37.

The program is tailored for individuals aiming to pursue careers in emergency medical services, whether through fire departments, EMS agencies, hospitals or law enforcement.

Rapid Response Training LLC emphasizes mentorship, competitive pricing and a commitment to quality education.

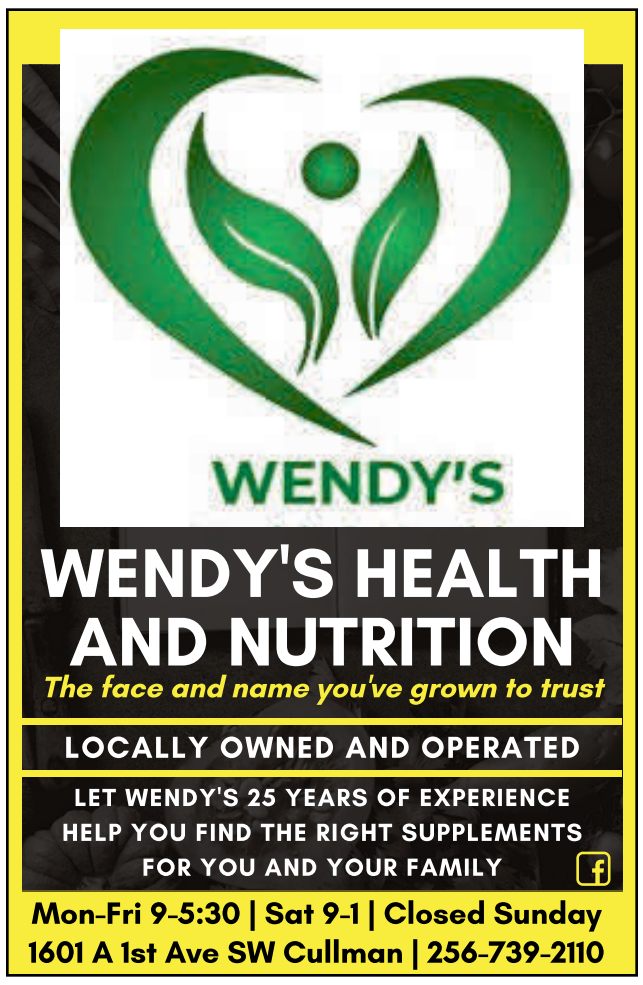
"Rapid Response Training LLC is dedicated to providing unique and high-quality training solutions for emergency responders," states the organization.

"We offer a variety of courses including CPR, EMR, EMT, AEMT, fire classes, EMS refresher classes, ACLS, PALS, and NAEMT. Our programs are available both in-person and online, and we pride ourselves on our AHA training site certification and unique mentorship program."

Spaces for the EMT course are limited, and early registration is encouraged.

To learn more or to enroll, visit www.rapidresponsetraining.us, call 205-210-8968 or email info@rapidresponsetraining.us.

The Good Hope Volunteer Fire Department is located at 2105 Super Saver Road, Cullman, AL 35055.



# Enrollment (from Front)

**Special to The Cullman Tribune**

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — In 2024, Wallace State Community College, under the leadership of president Dr. Vicki Karolewics, was recognized as one of 10 national finalists for the prestigious 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, experienced record-breaking enrollment, announced capital investments of more than $55 million that will enhance the college's educational facilities and expand program offerings in coming years and hosted successful college and programmatic reaffirmation of accreditation visits. By all accounts, the college has just finished one of the best years in its history.

"Wallace State's record enrollment and the numerous national accolades we've received this year reflect the dedication of our faculty, staff and students, and the support of our alumni, friends, partners, residents, elected officials, our legislative and Congressional delegations, the Alabama Community College System and so many others. In this season of gratitude, I thank you, all, for supporting our mission of learning that transforms lives and communities," said Karolewics.

A recent statewide economic impact study showed that for every dollar invested in Wallace State, more than $11.50 is returned to society.

The college adds approximately $212.6 million to the local economy annually and supports 3,348 jobs across its four-county service area, providing an economic boost to the region on par with hosting the World Series 27 times, and larger than the area's entire utilities industry.

**Growth in student success**

The college experienced record enrollment for the fall 2024 semester, with 6,473 students registered, besting the previous record fall enrollment of 6,391, which occurred more than a decade ago in fall 2010.

Approximately 2,450 degrees and certificates were awarded to the Class of 2024, including 1,100 during the May commencement ceremony, which had near capacity attendance.

The Adult Education program also experienced growth, educating more than 1,000 students between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Retention rose for the third consecutive year to 68%, among the highest in the nation, and professional licensure and job placement rates for programs across the college are better than 90%.

**National recognition**

In June, the college was named a finalist for the $1 million 2025 Aspen Prize by the Aspen Institute, becoming the first in the Alabama Community College System to reach the top 10 level for the prestigious prize given out every two years.

In the three previous cycles, the college was named among the top 150 community college in the award process. The recognition highlights the institution's commitment to outstanding performance in critical areas such as teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success and equitable outcomes for students of color and low-income students. The winner of the Aspen Prize will be announced April 18, 2025.

**Pacesetting leadership**

In April, Karolewics was recognized by the American Association of Community College for her service on the Board of Directors, where she served two three-year terms, including serving on the Executive Board.

In October, Karolewics was selected as one of 25 innovative leaders nationwide to participate in the Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship.

This year-long professional development program focuses on improving access, completion and post-graduation success for students. She was also recognized for her leadership by the Birmingham Business Journal and Business Alabama.

"Dr. Karolewics' leadership and dedication to excellence has fostered a culture of inspiration and innovation among employees and created an environment where students thrive.

"Under her leadership, student enrollment and engagement have surpassed pre-pandemic levels and placed Wallace State among the most highly regarded institutions in the nation.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have her as our president," said one Wallace State student services employee, echoing the sentiments of many.

**Growth and expansion**

In February, Wallace State opened a Workforce Training Center on the campus of REHAU in Cullman offering a focus on short-term programs across diverse high-demand fields.

In August, at the grand opening of the Center for Welding Technology and Innovation Center, the college announced more than $48 million in capital investment, including a $35 million STEM Gateway Building that will house all the college's first-year student in mathematics, English, humanities, speech and chemistry, as well as the Culinary Arts program, a digital learning center and a tutoring center.

A new Automotive Technology facility and a new facility for the Machine Tool Technology program were also announced.

The college also announced new program offerings related to electric vehicles (EV), including options in Advanced Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology and Mechatronics, Electronics and Robotics.

**Record fundraising**

In November, the Wallace State Future Foundation set a record at the 20th Student Investment Luncheon by raising $385,000 for scholarships for WSCC students. Almost $180,000 was generated through seven new scholarships, $146,000 through event sponsorship and more than $60,000 during the live and silent auctions.

The college announced more than $3 million in new grants from the Alabama Community College System, Gene Haas Foundation, TVA and the NJCAA Foundation and a $1.5 million Congressional earmark through Congressman Robert Aderholt's, R-Alabama, office for a new Advanced Technology Center for Electric and Autonomous Vehicle.

That is in addition to continuing grants and special allocations from U.S. Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, Appalachian Regional Commission, National Science Foundation and the Women's Fund of Alabama and others for Adult Education, Perkins, Student Support Services, Educational Talent Search, Title III, CDL, public safety, scholarships and other priorities.

**Athletic achievements**

In athletics over the past year, Wallace State teams secured Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) championships in men's and women's cross country, men's basketball, men's and women's tennis and softball. Tradition's Bank Arena at Tom Drake Coliseum received a new floor and track, and seating and graphics are being updated.

A major new turf project is underway on the baseball and softball fields for the spring 2025 season. Wallace State also announced the return of men's soccer and the addition of women's flag football to the college athletics line-up, bringing the total number of teams to 14.

**New programs**

Along with the new EV program options, the college also added Digital Fabrication option through the Engineering Technology program.

The college announced new nursing evening classes and a university joint enrollment option with Athens State, adding to an existing nursing partnership with UAB. Many new workforce credit options have been added, such as pharmacy technician, heavy equipment operation, fiber optics and more, along with free Skills for Success training.

Wallace State currently offers more than 200 options in academic, health and technical programs of study leading to an associate degree, certificate or transfer, as well as workforce-credit training and adult education.

An Achieving the Dream Leader College, Wallace State is ranked by Southern Business and Development among the Top 3 institutions in the South for workforce development, named a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing and the National Security Administration, rated the Top Online Community College in Alabama, a Military Friendly Institution and an All-Steinway School, Wallace State is an outstanding place for students to pursue their education and career goals.
























# Shelters (from Front)

rainfall that could lead to localized flash flooding, and a tornado or two. Don't wait until the day of the storm to begin protecting yourself. If the forecast calls for severe weather, begin preparing now. Stay Weather Ready by visiting http://weather.gov/safety/tornado."

The Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has provided a list of available storm shelters for inclement weather. If you are not in a substantial structure, please go to a shelter. For the safety of shelter occupants, especially small children, please do not take pets to shelters unless one specifically notes that it is pet friendly.

**LIST OF SHELTERS WITH OCCUPANCY**

**Town of Baileyton**
- 112 Fairview Road – 96-plus
- 130 Cemetery Road – 86-plus
- 600 Fire Station Road – 86-plus

**Berlin VFD**
- 3581 U.S. Hwy. 278 E, Berlin (in the old VFD building behind the new building) – 40-plus

**Bethsadia VFD**
- 454 County Road 804 – 86-plus

**Brushy Pond Senior Center**
- 2729 County Road 143, Bremen – 48-plus

**Chapel Village/Jones Chapel**
- 74 County Road 1034 (just off U.S. Hwy. 278) – 96-plus

**Colony Senior Center**
- 12980 Alabama Hwy. 91 S – 48-plus

**Town of Colony**
- 65 Byars Road (Adjacent to town hall) – 86-plus

**Crane Hill Senior Center**
- Basement of Cullman County Sheriff's Office Satellite Station, 15140 County Road 222, Crane Hill – 100

**Cullman Senior Center**
- 1539 Sportsman Lake Road – 89-plus

**City of Cullman**
- 1511 Sportsman Lake Road (across from Cullman County Fairgrounds) 396-plus, kenneled small animals allowed
- Beech Center, 1803 Beech Ave. SE – 150-plus

**Town of Dodge City**
- 130 Howard Circle (town hall basement) – Unknown capacity

**Dodge City VFD No. 2,**
- 7150 County Road 223 – 96-plus

**Fairview Housing Authority**
- 96 Countryside Acres Road – 96-plus

**Town of Garden City,**
- 501 First Ave. SW (by Town Hall) – 396-plus

**City of Good Hope**
- 134 Municipal Dr. (city hall basement) – 75-plus
- 301 Day Gap Road – 96-plus
- 301 Municipal Dr. (behind city hall) – 96-plus

**Gold Ridge VFD,**
- 5225 County Road 1545 – 96-plus

**City of Hanceville**
- 202 Bangor Ave. (behind city hall) – 96-plus
- 203 Michelle St. NW (CW Day Park) – 96-plus
- 1407 Commercial St. (Steppville) – 96-plus

**Hanceville Senior Center**
- 1500 Spruce St. SE (behind senior center) – 48-plus

**Town of Holly Pond**
- 60 Finley Road (Adjacent to town hall) – 86-plus

**Logan VFD**
- 4203 County Road 818, Logan – 96-plus

**Smith Lake Park**
- 416 County Road 385 (behind office) – 96-plus

**Stony Lonesome OHV Park**
- 10075 AL Hwy. 69 S – two units – 144

**Town of South Vinemont**
- 60 Ridgeway St. (behind VPVFD No. 2) – 192

**Vinemont-Providence VFD No. 1**
- 576 County Road 1355 – 192-plus

**Walter VFD**
- Next to Dollar General, 32655 Alabama Hwy. 91, Cullman (Walter community) – 70

**Town of West Point**
- 3990 County Road 1141 (next to town hall) – 96-plus
- 11160 AL Hwy. 157 (behind WPVFD No. 1) – 96-plus

**Cullman County EMA shelter rules**

- No pets. Only service animals for the disabled are allowed in the shelter.
- No smoking. Smoking is not allowed inside the shelter.
- No alcohol. Consumption of alcohol is not allowed in or around the shelter.
- No drugs. Use of "recreational drugs" is not allowed in or around the shelter.
- No firearms or weapons of any kind are allowed in shelters.

These rules are strictly enforced for each of the shelters on the list. Other rules, specific to each shelter, may be in place and shall be followed.

Shelters will be opened during a tornado watch and/or a tornado warning.

The shelters will be closed as soon as the danger has passed, and the watch has been canceled by the National Weather Service or allowed to expire.

**It is highly recommended that those seeking shelter in the city of Cullman use the community shelter on Sportsman Lake Road across from the Cullman County Fairgrounds or the basement at the Beech Center. One pod at the shelter on Sportsman Lake Road has been designated for owners with small pets in carriers.

Become familiar with shelters located near your home. Monitor weather conditions and remain alert for sudden changes.

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# Obituary Announcements: Dec. 25-27



**Robin Elaine Winton, 67**

Robin Elaine Winton, age 67, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 24, 2024, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Ms. Winton was born on Jan. 9, 1957, in Anchorage, Alaska, to Dorothy Smith and Air Force Sergeant James Harold Winton. Ms. Winton was a graduate of Cullman High School and Wallace State Community College, and worked for decades in the newspaper business, including both the Cullman Times and Cullman Tribune. She was an avid reader, loved animals, and enjoyed spending time with both her family and friends. Ms. Winton was a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. She is survived by daughter Samantha Vest, brother Byron Winton, nephew Tyler Earwood and wife Katherine, nephews Trenton Earwood and Adam Neatherton, niece Trinity Earwood, great-niece Harper Grace Earwood, and former brother-in-law Tim Earwood. The family will hold a service for Ms. Winton on Jan. 2, 2025, at Calvary Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be at noon with service to follow at 2 p.m.

**Patricia Gail Freeman, 64**

Patricia Gail Freeman, age 64 of Vinemont, Alabama, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024. She was preceded in death by her mother, Sybil Geraldine Loggins Glasgow; father, John Paul Glasgow; sisters: Alice Clark and Lisa Liddicoat; and a brother, Douglas Glasgow. Patricia is survived by children: Melissa Comer, Adam (Christi) Engler, Melody (Matt) Evans, Charlie (Tara) Freeman, Joe Freeman, and Cody (Hanna) Freeman; Grandchildren: Hunter Comer, Kayly and Kace Engler; Sofia, Amelia and Gabriel Evans; Skye River, Miriah and Brently Freeman; Chase Freeman, Savannah, Gauge and Riley Freeman; sisters: Kathy Glasgow and Deborah Glasgow; brother, Ronald Cooper and a host of other family members and friends. The family will announce a memorial service at a later time. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Bobby Joe Whatley, 80**

Funeral Service for Bobby Joe Whatley, age 80 of Hanceville, will be at noon on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Vinemont First Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. – noon on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Whatley passed away on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, at his residence. He was born, April 9, 1944, to Herbert Whatley and Issey Whatley. He was preceded in death by his parents: wife, Linda Ruth Whatley and daughter, Melissa Whatley. Survivors include his children: Sandy (Bruce) Corrick, Greg (Lucrecia) Whatley, Jennifer Weaver and Jessica Dye; grandchildren, Chasity, Lynnsie, Amanda, Dalton, Harley and Saddie; great grandchildren, Lydia, Emilee, Mason, James, Jaxson and Beckett and 9 brothers and sisters.

**Bonnie B. McQuillin, 88**

Bonnie B. Driver McQuillin, age 88 passed away peacefully on Dec. 24, 2024, at Summerford Health & Rehab. She was born Sept. 26, 1936, to Artis and Alma Driver in Arley Alabama. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. She is preceded in death by her husband, William J. McQuillin Jr.; her parents; brother, Spruiell Driver; sister, Irene Gravitt and daughter in law, Gwen McQuillin. She is survived by, her son, Russell McQuillin; daughter, Debbie (Bill) Brumbeloe; grandsons, Eric (Joy) Brumbeloe, Alex Brumbeloe and Jake (Kennedy) McQuillin; two great grandchildren, Paisley McQuillin and Gabriel Brumbeloe; she is also survived by her sister, Thelma (Joel) Thompson and brother Lehman Driver along with a host of nieces and nephews. Family graveside service at Friendship United Methodist Church, no visitation is planned.

**Allen Shearer Hall, Jr., 69**

Allen Shearer Hall, Jr., age 69, of Mount Olive passed away at his residence on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024. A full obituary and memorial service details to follow. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Caleb Benjamin Falls, 28**

Brother Caleb Benjamin Falls sadly passed away on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, at the age of 28. Caleb was born to Michael Allen Falls and Rachelle Ellen Falls on July 3, 1996, in Columbus, Georgia. Caleb was a very loving person and was loved by all who knew him. He was aglow with spirit in his love for Jehovah, and without question, looked forward to living in paradise. Caleb never hesitated to show kindness to others and was always willing to be there for them. Many friends commented that Caleb made them feel very warm and loved. Caleb's passion was for art, and he created many pieces that reflected how he felt about life. Although he did not pursue a career in art, it was always there for him if he wanted; however he preferred to spend his life serving Jehovah. Caleb also loved to make people laugh and almost always had a smile on his face. The day before he passed, Caleb was spending joyful, quality time with his family and friends from 3 different congregations. Caleb was a brother of four siblings, Seth, Gideon, Ivana, and Gebrielle, and cherished his relationship with them. They loved playing video games, listening to a wide variety of music, working together in the ministry and EATING! His death was unexpected, but we do not believe that he suffered. His family will deeply miss him and we look forward to welcoming him back in the paradise. Caleb would not want us to mourn too long but would want us to appreciate life and spread the joy that he had for people. Caleb is survived by his parents, Michael and Rachelle Falls; his siblings, Gideon and his wife Amber, and her child; Seth and his wife Dani and their children; his younger sisters, Ivana and Gebrielle. He is also survived by his uncles and aunts, Roy Falls and his wife Leah and their children; Ralph Falls and his wife Mary and her child; Steven Falls and his wife Elizabeth and their children; Christopher Falls and his wife Sabella and their children; Catherine Jones and her husband Don and their child; Nicholas Scott and his wife Marsha and their children; Jeremiah Scott and his wife Jade and their children; Simeon Scott and his wife Ashley and their child; and his grandmothers, Gertraude "Trudy" Falls, and Vivian Scott. A celebration of life visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. There will be a celebration of life service held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at 3 p.m. at Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall, Cullman, Alabama.

**Peggy Joyce Sansing, 85**

Funeral services for Peggy Joyce Sansing, 85, of Blountsville, will be 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Fairview West Cemetery in Hanceville. Bro. Johnny Bennefield will officiate services. The family will welcome friends at Hanceville Funeral Home on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mrs. Sansing was born on Sept. 21, 1939, in Warrior, Alabama to the late Early and Janet Lamont-Weldon. She passed away Dec. 26, 2024, at her residence in Blountsville, Alabama. Survivors include her children, Patricia Langley (Calvin), Michael Sansing, Timmy Sansing, Charles Sansing, David Sansing (Linda); grandchildren, Leigha Flanagan (Joseph), Bethany Byrne (Jimmy), Kristy Sansing, Justin Sansing, Steven Sansing, Chad Sansing (Whitney), Nick Fields (Maddie), Caitlin Sansing, Caleb Sansing; great grandchildren, Isaac Abbott (Peyton), Kyndall Abbott, Anna Byrne, Alivia Byrne, Evie Sansing, Carly Fields, Baylor Fields, Rowan Fields; great-great grandchildren, Karrigan Abbott; sister, Betty Campbell; and her brother, Paul Weldon. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Sansing was preceded in death by her husband, James Sansing; sisters, Ruby Sansing, Evelyn Bahr; brothers, Robert Weldon, John Weldon, Billy Weldon, Sonny Weldon, and Jerry Weldon. Serving as pallbearers will be Joseph Flanagan, Beth Byrne, Chad Sansing, Nick Fields and Kristy Sansing. Honorary pallbearers will be Derek Bennefield, Leigha Flanagan and Caleb Sansing. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sansing family.

**Rev. Charles Ernest Ervin, 90**

Rev. Charles Ernest Ervin, age 90, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024. Charles was a loving husband and father. He served as a minster and elder of the Church of God Anderson and was loved and respected by all who knew him. Charles is survived by his wife, Phyliss Evrin, his sons Ronald Ervin and Charles G. Ervin, his granddaughters Jordan Adams and Katelan Strickland and his great grandchildren Alexis Carter, Conner Carter, Caroline Adams and Charlotte Adams. Charles's Family will receive friends Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Longview Church of God, (2025 County Road 1269, Vinemont, AL) followed by a celebration of life funeral service at 2 p.m. Charles will be laid to rest in Hays Church Cemetery, 1630 Hays Cemetery Rd, Hayden, AL 35079. To leave condolences for the Ervin family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Charlotte Anne Millican, 75**

A memorial service for Charlotte Anne Millican, 75, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. A gathering of family and friends will be from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Millican was born Dec. 7, 1949, in Cullman County, Alabama to the late Charles "Bud" Pope and Dovie "Bootie" Crawford-Pope. She passed away Dec. 25, 2024, in Hanceville, Alabama. Mrs. Millican is survived by her daughter, Sharon "Sam" Millican Miller (Mark); grandchildren, Wesley Millican (Samantha), Mitchell Millican (Darlene), Alexis "Lexi" Millican; great grandchildren, Sonny Millican, Waylon Millican, Tylan Price; sisters, Diane Pope Crocker, Susie Pope Crocker, Carol Pope; and her brother, Terry Pope. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Millican was preceded in death by her husband, Sonny Millican; son, Mark Millican; and her brother, Danny Pope. Hanceville Funeral Home is proud to serve the Millican family.

## Free Obituary Listings

**Have your funeral home contact us**

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

*Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.*

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

# The real Christmas story

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



Once upon a time, long, long ago, there lived a young lady named Mary. Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. Before they were wed, and while she was still a virgin, Mary was found to be with child. God sent an angel named Gabriel to explain to Mary what was happening. Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus."

Joseph, being a just man, and not wanting to make Mary a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

But while he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Now it came to pass in those days, that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered to pay taxes.

Everyone went to the city they were from to be registered. Joseph went from Nazareth, in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. Mary accompanied him.

So, while they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her baby. Because so many had come to Bethlehem to register, there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn. So, Mary brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger.

Now there were in the same country shepherds out in the fields watching over their sheep by night. An angel of the Lord appeared before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. They said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you. You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger." Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

After the angels left them, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see this great thing that had happened. Just as they had been told, there they found Mary and Joseph, and Babe lying in a manger.

Now when they had seen Him, they told everyone what they had been told about this Child. All who heard them marveled at those things. The shepherds returned home glorifying and praising God for what they had seen and heard. Others, including wise men from the East, came to see Jesus too.

Yes, I tell this story at least once a year, every year, because this is the real story of Christmas. Many interesting and amusing stories have sprung up around this holiday, but none that begin to be as important as the true story of Christmas. May you have a great and wonderful Christmas, and always remember He is the real reason for the season! Merry Christmas my friends!

**Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-728-5514 (office).**

HISTORY

# Files from Yesteryear: Dec. 31, 1931

**From the files of Dec. 31, 1931**

Mrs. Bonnie Allison Entertains at Bridge.

Tuesday evening Mrs. Bonnie Allison entertained a few of her friends with a delightful bridge party at her home in the city.

Bridge was played at three tables. Those enjoying Mrs. Allison's hospitality were Misses J. Phillips, Leona Torrey and Dovie Ruehl, and Mesdames Bess Morrow, Belle Culpepper, Horace Wells, S. V. Foust, Herman Lee, Walter Allison, A. C. Edwards and H. Eddleman.

High score was made by Mrs. Horace Wells and low score was made by Miss Jimmer Phillips.

**SINGLETON FAMILY REUNION CHRISTMAS**

On Christmas day a family reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Singleton, on the west side, with the following in attendance:

The mother and grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Singleton, daughter, Miss LaMae and son, James, of Decatur, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Kilpatrick of Hartselle, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wright of West Plains, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Grady Singleton of Monroe, La.; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Owen of Cullman, and Miss Pursie Butler of Texas.

In the evening a singing was enjoyed with Ellis and Cranford Burns, two prominent young men of our city, leading the singing.

**HANCEVILLE R. 1 NEWS**

Hanceville R. 1, Dec. 30.—Miss Estelle Hudson spent Christmas week with her aunt, Mrs. Etta Miller at Bremen.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hudson took Xmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hudson.

Misses Vivian and Jewel Pitts and brother were guests of Mrs. Maggie Hudson and children on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Miller, Ben Brazil, Mrs. Zora Cone and children, Jadie Cone, David, Andrew and Robert Cone were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Hudson Sunday.

Misses Vivian and Jewel Pitts spent Sunday morning with Miss Bessie Woods.

We are glad to report Grady Barringer is back from the hospital and is doing fine.

Mrs. Grimmett and children spent Sunday with Mrs. George Martin.

Misses Evelyn Grimmett and Ruby Martin spent Sunday evening with Miss Annie Quick.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hudson and children took supper with his sister, Mrs. Hicks.

Miss Bessie Woods spent Sunday night with Misses Vivian and Jewel Pitts.

We are sorry to learn of the death of Sam Crockman.

Horton Whaley and Charles Hestra spent Sunday with their cousin, Paul and James Woods.

Mr. and Mrs. John Harris spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pink Pitts.

Miss Magdalene Moore and mother spent Sunday with Mrs. Coffman.

**HALF GROWN PEARS CHRISTMAS DAY**

Mr. Williamson, the efficient superintendent of the Cullman county pauper farm, brought to the Tribune office last week three half grown pears and informed us that there was a tree on the farm full of the second crop of pears.

# POET'S CORNER

## Leaf from Leaf, Christ Knows | By: Christina Rossetti

Leaf from leaf Christ knows;
Himself the Lily and the Rose:
Sheep from sheep Christ tells;
Himself the Shepherd, no one else:

Star and star He names,
Himself outblazing all their flames:
Dove by dove, He calls
To set each on the golden walls:

Drop by drop, He counts
The flood of ocean as it mounts:
Grain by grain, His hand
Numbers the innumerable sand.

Lord, I lift to Thee
In peace what is and what shall be:
Lord, in peace I trust
To Thee all spirits and all dust.

# CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 28

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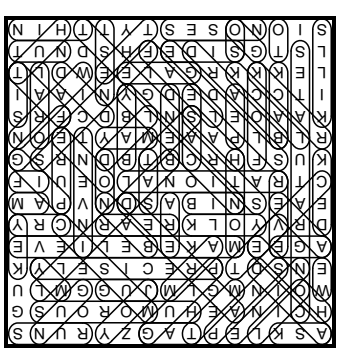
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DEC. 28

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Now Available in Cullman County
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Cardboard | Plastic | Paper | Metal | Glass

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**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!**

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315 MAIN ST. NW, HANCEVILLE
MON-TUES-THURS-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30
WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
256-352-2221

...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

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**Bill Smith**

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6.3 ECOTEC3 V8 WITH DFM | X31 OFF-ROAD PACKAGE | 6 SPOKE 18" MACHINED ALUMINUM WHEELS




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