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WEATHER

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

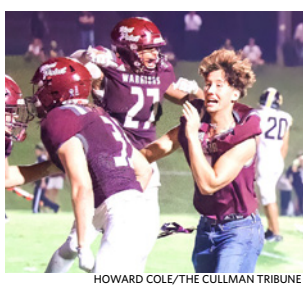
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HOWARD COLE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

A look back at some of the best games of 2024

» PAGE 4

Local businesswoman files lawsuit alleging assault, fraud, emotional distress

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A local businesswoman, Melissa Gail Curtis, has filed a lawsuit against Jeffrey T. Tolbert, Smith Lake Resort LLC and Trident Marina LLC, alleging a series of grievances including assault, fraud and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Curtis owns Lake League Real Estate, while Tolbert owns Trident Marina and Smith Lake Resort LLC and is the chairman of the Cullman Tourism Bureau.

The verified complaint, filed on Dec. 30, 2024, in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, outlines a tumultuous series of alleged events spanning over a year. Curtis, a resident of Cullman County, asserts that she was misled and manipulated by Tolbert under the guise of a lucrative business partnership.

According to the lawsuit, Curtis first met Tolbert in September 2023 » PAGE 5





FACEBOOK, TRIDENTMARINAS.COM

Melissa Curtis and Jeff Tolbert

Back to school: SRO style



CONTRIBUTED

SRO Bill Fisher, foreground

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Former Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputy and school resource officer (SRO) Bill Fisher recently came out of retirement to join the Cullman Police Department as an SRO for Cullman City Primary School.

"The reason I returned to law enforcement is I wanted to be a servant again," Fisher said. "I spent the last nine months selling new and used vehicles. It is not the same as being a servant of the people. I searched for a new job since leaving sales at Long-Lewis Auto Group Cullman, formerly Eckenrod Ford Lincoln. This was in the middle of the month of September. I started a business, Fisher Civil Process, serving civil papers for mainly local attorneys. The business was good, but I needed something more rewarding."

Fisher said he was recently at a fundraiser for the Alabama Sheriffs Youth Ranches and the idea of returning to the force took shape.

"It was at that event that I was contacted by a Madison County deputy," Fisher said. "He said he would hire me as a school resource officer. I had been keeping up with local news and knew that the City of Cullman had appointed Joey Duncan to police chief. The assistant police chief is Brandon Patterson. I knew both them from my time at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. I called Police Chief Joey Duncan and he said there was a part-time position open as a school resource officer. I told him I was interested and he said 'Well, put in an application.' I did just that."

Fisher began his new job as SRO at Cullman City Primary School in December.

"My goal working in this new position is to keep everyone safe," he said. "The next main goal is to encourage everyone around me, especially the students coming to school. There is so much negativity out in the world. Sometimes it takes a smile or words of encouragement to help people. The children are our future and they need to know they are safe. I am looking forward to making a positive difference at the school and community. Hopefully I can influence a young person to wear the badge to protect us when I am fully retired."

Fisher said he was an SRO at Fairview and Parkside from 2003-2005.

"One of the best assignments I ever had » PAGE 5

Library hosting Puzzle Tournament Jan. 11

» PAGE 3

'Our best year ever'

Curt's Closet shares year-end report, looks forward to 2025



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Curt's Closet's achievements in 2024 include a second warehouse and improved parking area.

» PAGE 8

Brown's Creek Public Boat Ramp in Guntersville reopens after facility upgrades

» PAGE 3

Hope Horses to host annual Casino Night Feb. 15

» PAGE 6

'A life saver and a blessing'

Good Samaritan Health Clinic shares year-end report



JOLANDA HUTSON

Artist's concept of the new Good Samaritan office coming in 2025

» PAGE 8

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Bill Smith

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 3

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 3, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 30

- theft of property; CR 842
- domestic violence; resisting arrest; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- burglary; CR 1386
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 1422
- domestic violence; CR 813

Dec. 31

- burglary; CR 1474
- domestic violence; 2nd Ave. SW Garden City
- assault; CR 568
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; resisting arrest; Hwy. 69S
- burglary; CR 818
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 818

Jan. 1

- theft of property; CR 1154
- harassing communications; CR 1082
- burglary; CR 1112
- dog bite; CR 1684

ARRESTS

Dec. 30 – Jan. 1

Baggett, Jonathan M.; 41
- FTA – public intoxication

Barbee, Stephanie N.; 47
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Brand, Scottie L.; 42
- FTA – criminal trespass

Brown Jr., Michael W.; 53
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Carter, Devario J.; 36
- theft-from banking institution

Dekle, Neal A.; 38
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- resisting arrest

Gibson, Jerry L.; 44
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – reckless endangerment
- FTA – possessing stolen property

Henry, David A.; 36
- sex offense-sexual abuse-2nd degree - more than 15 years older than the victim

Hill, Cade D.; 25
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- promote prison contraband
- PAROLE VIOLATION/ REVOCATION – possession of dangerous drugs
- PAROLE VIOLATION/ REVOCATION – theft-miscellaneous
- PAROLE VIOLATION/ REVOCATION – possessing stolen property

Hinkle, Joseph F.; 45
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Hudson, Kevin; 49
- FTA – criminal mischief
- FTA – theft of services, up to $499
- FTA – theft – utility tampering

Keasler, Christopher D.; 52
- FTA – drivers license – not in possession

Lynn, Brent T.; 35
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

McKleroy, Justin W.; 36
- FTA – drug trafficking
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- family offense – non-support-child
- auto theft

Quick, Logan G.; 19
- FTA – contributing to delinquency of a minor

Smith, Jonathan K.; 50
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Westbrook, Leah D.; 33
- forgery-checks
- forgery-counterfeiting
- theft – miscellaneous
- theft – miscellaneous, less than $500

Williams Jr., Theodore V.; 36
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Willoughby, Christy W.; 47
- arson-residence

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 26

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $378; Olive St. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Mitchell Rd. NE

ARRESTS

Dec. 31 – Jan. 2

Mann, Jacob C.; 28
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - resisting arrest
- FTA - obstructing governmental operations
- FTA - expired tag

Swafford, Aaron C.; 36
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - DUI
- FTA - driving while suspended

Williams Jr., Theodore V.; 36
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree

Huddleston, Jason A.; 35
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - driving while license suspended
- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - switched tag

Seals, Melissa D.; 23
- theft of property-4th degree

Smith, Patrick V.; 19
- DUI

Keasler, Christopher D.; 52
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Bircheat, Robert E.; 42
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - insurance violation

Jones, April L.; 51
- DUI

Leps, Corey D.; 40
- DUI
- attempt to elude

Aguilar-Ferto, Juan P.; 46
- attempt to elude
- resisting arrest

Piper, Daniel C.; 40
- obstructing governmental operations

Pannell, Brandon L.; 40
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Criscoe, James M.; 37
- theft of property-1st degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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LEGALS

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NELDA MCCLENDON, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2024-288

NOTICE
PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION OF SMALL ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that a *Petition for Summary Distribution of Small Estate* filed by LeAnn Waldrep, Petitioner, by and through attorney C. Blake West; 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.

LeAnn Waldrep
Petitioner

C. Blake West
Attorney for Petitioner
417 4th Ave SW, Ste 270
Cullman, AL 35055

To: PUBLISHER OF ***The Cullman Tribune***

Please publish the above 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 2nd day of January, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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
JUDGE OF PROBATE

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
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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Library hosting Puzzle Tournament Jan. 11

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) is hosting a Puzzle Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m.

CCPLS Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore said this is the library's second tournament, and they are excited to bring it back.

"We hope to make this a quarterly program occurring on Saturdays," Creekmore said. "Participants will be provided a puzzle here at the Cullman library on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 11. Teams will need to be at the library by 10 a.m. to register and set up. Teams may have four to six members of all ages."

Anyone interested in participating can email Cullmanpubliclibrary@gmail.com so the library can be prepared with enough puzzles.

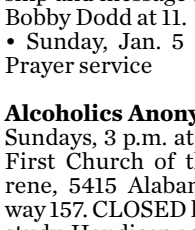
Creekmore said teams will have two hours to complete a 500-piece puzzle.

The first three teams to complete the puzzle will win a small prize.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/cullmancountypubliclibrarysystem.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Cullman County Republican Women Monthly Meetings
Second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman VFW. President Cathi Bradford: "We are going to begin training to track legislation in Montgomery. If you need information, you can directly message me on Facebook." Full meals at 5:30. Meetings start at 6.

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
• 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.

The Foot of the Cross Church Revival
Jan. 12-15. Sunday at 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday at 7 p.m. 2.25 miles north of Alabama Highway 157, on Eva Road. Evangelist Ryan Wilburn.

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.

Polar Bear Plunge
Saturday, Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. at WildWater and the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center. Two names will be drawn from the participants who take the plunge! One winner will receive a one-year family membership CWAC and one winner will receive a four-pack of 2025 season passes to WildWater! You MUST be present to win! The event is FREE to enter, and we are accepting optional donations for our partner, Special Olympics! Register at www.waiverfile.com/b/CullmanCityParksRecreation/Waiver.aspx.

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Brown's Creek Public Boat Ramp in Guntersville reopens after facility upgrades

Staff Reports
Contributor

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala. — The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has reopened the Brown's Creek Public Boat Ramp in Guntersville, Alabama, after the completion of facility upgrades. The boat ramp is just off Highway 69 on Lake Guntersville.

During the closure a new three-lane launching slab and a new 150-foot floating access pier were installed. The facility also features 64 trailer spaces and security lights, and is Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessible.

ADCNR and the City of Guntersville will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, to celebrate the completion of the renovation project. The ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. Additional information about the event will be posted to www.outdooralabama.com when available.

This boating access improvement project was completed through a partnership between ADCNR and the City of Guntersville. Funding for the project was primarily provided through the Wildlife Restoration Program under the federal Pittman-Robertson Act. Additional funding was provided by the City of Guntersville and Innovate Alabama, a statewide public-private partnership focused on entrepreneurship, technology and innovation with a mission to help businesses grow roots in Alabama.

WFF operates 20 additional free public boat ramps on Guntersville Reservoir. For information and locations of other public access areas, visit www.outdooralabama.com/freshwater-boating-access or call the WFF Fisheries Section at 334-242-3471.

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Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 4, 2025

PREP SPORTS

A look back at some of the best games of 2024

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – 2024 was packed with some amazing games on the gridiron, the hardwood and more that had crowds on the edge of their seats from start to finish. From amazing comebacks to closely contested games, here are the best games that I covered in 2024.

Cold Springs at Vinemont (Varsity Girls Basketball) (Jan. 4)

It was close early on. A rebound and putback by Malaya Taylor and five straight points by Ella Bruer gave Cold Springs an early 7-4 lead. Reagan Robinson scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to cut it to 9-8. A trey by Caroline Miller tied things up at 11, but the Lady Eagles finished the quarter out strong, as baskets by Taylor, Maci Brown, and a rebound and putback by Ella Dickerson gave them an 18-12 lead going into the second.

Bruer drilled a trey and Kenady Graves put in a basket in the paint to make it 23-12 early in the second, but Vinemont went on a run of their own to get back in the game. Vayda Yarbrough and Maggie Burks each drained a trey, then Robinson scored the next four points to cut it to 23-22. A late layup by Robinson gave the Lady Eagles a 26-25 lead at the half.

Vinemont carried that momentum over into the third quarter, as Whitney Quick buried a three, Robinson knocked down a layup, and Miller hit a trey of her own to stretch their lead to 34-25. It was Cold Springs' turn to go on a run of their own, as back-to-back baskets by Brown and Dickerson, a pair of Ciara Calvert free throws, a Brown three, and a basket down low by Taylor gave them a 36-34 lead. Both teams traded leads late in the quarter. A trey by Bruer gave Cold Springs a 40-39 lead, but Miller countered with one of her own from the left corner to give the Lady Eagles the lead right back at 43-41 going into the final period.

Quick drained a pair of treys to push Vinemont's lead to 49-45, but Dickerson drilled three free throws to cut it to 50-49. Two free throws by Quick made it 53-49, but Dickerson drained a jumper and a pair of free throws to make it a 54-53 game. Dickerson knocked down a big shot to tie the game up at 55. Carley Stephens split her free throws to give Vinemont a 56-55 lead, but Cold Springs forced a late turnover and Dickerson scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to give them the lead right back at 58-56. A pair of free throws by Brown helped seal the 60-56 win for the Lady Eagles.

West Point vs. Cold Springs (JV Girls Basketball) (Jan. 24)

This game saw its fair share of big runs and big baskets. Kenzie Nix knocked down a layup, then Brooklyn Sutter drained a pair from the line and later added a basket to give West Point an early 6-2 lead. It didn't take long for the Lady Warriors to get out to a double-digit lead, as four points each by Hanna McKenney and Mary Beth Penn and a jumper by Lacey Smith pushed their lead to 16-5 going into the second.

Cold Springs started out the second quarter by going on a run of their own. Baskets by Baylee Perdue and Kaydance Williams, plus a trey by Macie Huffstutler, and a layup by Maddie Davis cut it to 16-14. Williams knocked down another basket to cut it to 18-17, but a basket in the paint by Penn made it 20-17. Huffstutler scored five straight points to give the Lady Eagles their first lead of the game at 22-20. West Point tied the game up at 22 on a short jumper by Smith, and that ended up being the score at the break.

Huffstutler put in a driving layup and later buried a trey to give Cold Springs a 28-24 lead. Nix knocked down a basket in the paint, Penn drilled a pair of free throws, and Sutter added a driving layup of her own to give the Lady Warriors the lead right back at 30-28 going into the final period.

A rebound and putback by Penn made it a 32-28 game early in the fourth. The Lady Eagles then proceeded to score the next six points, as a basket down low by Williams gave them a 34-32 lead. Huffstutler drained a short jumper, and Williams and Huffstutler each split their free throws to make it a 38-33 game late in the contest. Penn's rebound and putback cut it to 38-35, but Huffstutler hit three huge free throws down the stretch, as that helped seal the 41-35 win for Cold Springs.

Fairview vs. West Point (JV Boys Basketball) (Jan. 27)

It was a defensive battle from start to finish between Fairview and West Point. Colton Thrower drained a trey, and Ayden Ennis added a basket in the paint to give the Warriors a 5-2 lead. Asa Sutter knocked down a free throw, and Teagan Heaton put in a layup to make it an 8-4 game going into the second.

Conner Scott knocked down a floater, and Zayden Cruce put in a jumper to tie the game up at eight early in the second quarter. Later in the quarter, J.J. Minck banked in a floater, and Heaton put in a basket in the paint to give West Point a 14-10 lead, and the Warriors ended up taking a 14-11 lead into the locker room.

Camden Collins scored off a Warrior turnover to cut it to 14-13, and Calin Collins' three-point play tied the game up at 16. Ennis drilled a trey to give West Point a 19-18 lead, but Kolt Redding, Cruce, and Ty Babb each hit a free throw for Fairview, as that gave them a 21-19 lead going into the fourth.

Cruce put in a shot to give the Aggies a 25-21 lead early in the fourth, but a steal and a layup by Franklin, plus a huge three-point play by Sutter gave the Warriors the lead right back at 26-25. Franklin collected another layup off a turnover to make it 28-25, but Collins drained three big free throws to tie the game up at 28. The biggest shot of the game came from Cruce, as his three from the left wing gave Fairview a 31-28 lead. Collins helped seal the 33-28 win for the Aggies with a pair of free throws.

Susan Moore at Vinemont (Varsity Boys Basketball) (Feb. 6)

The Vinemont Eagles hosted the Susan Moore Bulldogs in this year's Class 3A, Area 13 championship game, and it was an exciting game from start to finish. Vinemont got out to a quick 6-0 lead behind a basket in the paint by Isaiah Jones, a free throw by Dawson Wilhite, and a trey by Kaden Graham. Susan Moore, though, scored the next eight points to take an 8-6 lead and later went on another run to end the quarter, as they stretched their lead to 15-11 going into the second quarter.

Jaxon Holcomb dropped in a floater, and Jeremy Harbison put in a reverse layup to tie the game up at 16. Another big run by the Bulldogs gave them a 24-17 lead, but the Eagles finished the first half strong. Jones hit a pair of shots, then Graham put in a layup and Jones knocked down another jumper to give Vinemont a 26-25 lead at the break.

A technical foul on Susan Moore allowed Vinemont to add on to their lead, as Jeremy Harbison hit both shots from the line and later added a shot in the paint to make it 30-25. An 11-5 run by the Bulldogs, though, gave them the lead right back at 36-35, and they would take a 39-38 lead into the fourth quarter.

Susan Moore quickly pushed their lead to 45-38 to start out the fourth, but Harbison drained a pair of big treys to cut it to 47-44. The Bulldogs made it 49-44, but a free throw by Harbison, then a steal and a layup by Holcomb trimmed it to just two at 49-47. Bryson Bush's big rebound and putback tied the game up at 49, and the area championship would be decided in overtime.

Neither team scored for almost four minutes in overtime, before a pair of free throws by Jones gave the Eagles a 51-49 lead. Susan Moore, though, took over after that, as they scored the final seven points of the game, and they ended up defeating Vinemont, 56-51, to win the area championship.

West End at Holly Pond (Varsity Baseball) (March 19)

West End jumped out to a 2-0 lead to start out the game, but Holly Pond responded in their half. Brody Howard's RBI single brought home Sawyer Olinger, then Kollin Brown hit an RBI triple on the first pitch to tie the game up at two. Tristan Hibbert drove in a run on a ground ball, as that gave the Broncos a 3-2 lead. Holly Pond made it 5-2 in the second on an RBI groundout by Rex Harrison and a sacrifice fly by Olinger. The Patriots cut it to 5-4 in the top of the third.

A wild pitch allowed Howard to cross the plate in the third, as that made it 6-4. Boston Gibbs hit an RBI single in the fourth to push the Bronco lead to 7-4, then Brown added a two-run single and Howard drove in a run on a sacrifice fly to make it 10-4. West End, though, got a rally started in the top of the seventh, as they cut it to 10-9. Sam Hunt, though, quickly put a stop to their rally, striking out the final hitter, as they held on to defeat the Patriots, 10-9.

Holly Pond at Good Hope (Varsity Softball) (April 23)

Good Hope got on the scoreboard first in the bottom of the first inning. Lizzy Steed hit a leadoff double and moved up to third on a passed ball. A sacrifice fly by Kylee Smith gave them a 1-0 lead. Natalie Miller scored on a fielder's choice to make it 2-0 in the second. Good Hope made it 3-0 in the third on an RBI single off the bat of Haley Lay. Holly Pond got on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth. Molly Neal hit a double and later scored on a passed ball to cut it to 3-1.

Steed hit an RBI double in the Lady Raider half of the fourth to make it 4-1, then Smith drove in a run on a ground ball to push their lead to 5-1. The Lady Broncos got a two-out rally started in the top of the fifth. Back-to-back errors allowed Maggie Nail to score to make it 5-2. Ellie Burks hit an RBI double, then Neal scored on a passed ball, and another error allowed Burks to cross the plate, as that tied the game up at five.

Good Hope quickly loaded the bases with nobody out in their half. Maggie O'Neil hit a two-run double to give them a 7-5 lead, then Brooklyn Lambert scored on a double play to make it 8-5. Holly Pond cut it to 8-6 in the top of the seventh on a ground ball by Alivia Farr, but Good Hope collected the final out to help seal the 8-6 win over the Lady Broncos.

West Point at Vinemont (Varsity Girls Basketball) (Dec. 3)

Vinemont jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead early in the opening quarter, but Camryn Faulkner's trey and Kealie Harbison's rebound and putback cut it to 10-8. Harbison buried a three to make it a 12-11 game, and Caitlee Simmons tied it up at 13 on a pair of free throws. Arleigh Thomason split her free throws, and Flanagan put in a basket in the paint to give the Lady Eagles a 16-13 lead after one.

Vinemont held a slim 20-16 lead early in the second. West Point, though, countered in a big way, as Jaelyn Faulkner put in a pair of treys and Harbison knocked down a short jumper to give them a 24-20 lead. The Lady Warriors held a 27-23 lead late in the quarter, but Holcomb put in a basket down low, and Flanagan drilled a pair of treys to give the Lady Eagles the lead right back at 31-27. Vinemont would take a 31-29 lead into the locker room.

A pair of free throws by Stephens made it a 35-31 game almost midway through the third quarter. Simmons knocked down a layup, Patton Fell drained a trey, and Laklin Shadix knocked down a pair from the line to give West Point the lead right back at 38-37. A pair of late baskets by Robinson gave Vinemont a 41-38 lead going into the final period.

Flanagan's trey from the right corner and Robinson's basket down low stretched the Lady Eagle lead to 47-42. Shadix's rebound and putback made it 47-44 and later scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to cut it to 49-47. Fell scored in the paint to tie it up at 49, but Robinson and Holcomb each hit a basket to give Vinemont a 53-49 lead. Another basket by Shadix, plus a three by Jaelyn Faulkner trimmed it to just a one-point game at 55-54. Robinson split her free throws to make it a two-point game, and West Point's last attempt to win the game fell just wide of the mark, and the Lady Eagles held on to defeat the Lady Warriors, 56-54.



HOWARD COLE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Warriors celebrate after Hunter Hensley's game-winning touchdown pass to Bryant Moon against Priceville on Oct. 4, 2024.

A Patriot at the Pentagon on 9/11:
A Hero's Story



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PLEASE CALL AND RESERVE FOR BREAKFAST BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 - 7:30 AM
Seventh Street Baptist Church
708 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055

Lawsuit (from Front)

at a local restaurant to discuss his vision for a major resort development on Smith Lake.

During this meeting, Tolbert allegedly painted a picture of a groundbreaking project that would generate significant financial returns. He allegedly promised Curtis commissions exceeding $10 million if she joined the venture.

Curtis, who was intrigued by the opportunity and motivated by the promise of financial gain, allegedly began dedicating her time and resources to the project. However, Curtis claims, the partnership was riddled with misrepresentation and deceit from the outset, leaving her feeling trapped and powerless as events unfolded.

The lawsuit describes a trip to Big Cedar Lodge in Missouri, arranged by Tolbert. Curtis alleges that Tolbert falsely portrayed the trip as an opportunity to showcase his vision for the Smith Lake Project.

To her surprise and discomfort, she claims, she discovered upon arrival that Tolbert had arranged for them to share a single room with one bed. Curtis claims that Tolbert made unwanted physical advances during this trip, including pulling her onto his lap despite her objections.

This behavior, according to Curtis, marked the beginning of a pattern of inappropriate conduct.

In subsequent interactions, Tolbert allegedly continued making advances, even engaging in public acts that left Curtis humiliated, she alleges.

One such incident detailed in the lawsuit involved Tolbert taking watermelon from her hand with his mouth, an act she found deeply inappropriate and embarrassing.

Despite Curtis' repeated rebuffs, she alleges, Tolbert's actions persisted, escalating her discomfort and emotional distress.

Curtis' professional life, she said, centered on her successful real estate business, also suffered significant setbacks as a result of Tolbert's conduct.

The complaint alleges that several employees, including a key real estate broker, left her firm due to the upheaval caused by Tolbert's actions and the reputational damage they inflicted. Curtis claims that Tolbert's behavior not only undermined her credibility within the community, but also disrupted her ability to manage and grow her business effectively.

Adding to her distress, Curtis alleges, Tolbert's insistence on intertwining personal and professional matters forced her to step back from her established career to focus on the Smith Lake Project. This shift, compounded by the alleged harassment, left her vulnerable to financial and emotional harm.

The lawsuit brings multiple counts against Tolbert and the companies he is allegedly intertwined with, including assault, fraud, breach of partnership agreement, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Curtis is seeking compensatory and punitive damages, asserting that the harm caused by Tolbert's actions warrants significant legal redress.

She has also requested that all costs and attorney's fees incurred in bringing the case be covered by the defendants.

The complaint highlights the complexity of the case by alleging that Smith Lake Resort LLC and Trident Marina LLC are mere alter egos of Tolbert, used to further his personal interests. This assertion, if proven, could have wide-reaching implications for the legal responsibilities of business entities in similar cases.

This case has raised questions about professional integrity and personal boundaries within business relationships.

The allegations have sparked discussions about the responsibilities of business leaders to maintain ethical conduct and the consequences of failing to do so.

With a jury trial requested, the lawsuit is set to proceed through the legal system, promising a potentially lengthy and contentious battle.

The defendants have yet to respond publicly to the allegations, leaving many in the community eager to see how the case unfolds.

Tolbert contacted The Tribune Friday afternoon and provided the following statement by email: "These allegations in this classic extortion suit are false. This suit was filed on the heels of me choosing to retain a new real estate partner who is better suited and better networked for the clientele we will be serving with the Smith Lake Hotel and Golf project. My attorneys are handling this as I am focused on the Resort Project which will create tremendous economic impact and excitement for the entire state of Alabama and Cullman County."

David Allen Henry arrested on sexual abuse charge

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — David Allen Henry, 36, of Trafford, Alabama, was arrested on Dec. 31, 2024, by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office on an outstanding warrant related to a sexual abuse charge. The warrant stems from an incident earlier this year.

Henry faces a charge of second-degree sexual abuse, with the alleged victim being more than 15 years younger than him.

He is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center with a bond set at $50,000.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
David Allen Henry

Christy Willoughby arrested for violating diversion and conditional release orders

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Christy Willoughby, 47, of Cullman, on Dec. 31, 2024, was arrested by deputies from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office for two separate court order violations. These charges stemmed from a previous incident involving arson.

Willoughby faces a diversion violation, stemming from an arson case from March 2024 and a conditional release violation related to the same case.

The arrest came after the Cullman Police Department responded to an incident on Dec. 26, 2024.

Following the investigation, CCSO deputies took Willoughby into custody.

She is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center without bond.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Christy Willoughby

SRO (from Front)

at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office was being an SRO," Fisher said. "I still have students tell me 'Hey, you were my DARE officer,' 'You were my SRO,' etc. A lot of them now have children of their own."

Being that Fisher has nephews and a new grandson, he said, he is hoping to stay in this position for the long haul.

"I hope to be here serving at least until my nephews have graduated from Cullman High School," he said.

"This along with our grandson graduating from Cullman Primary School in the future. I love our city and our community.

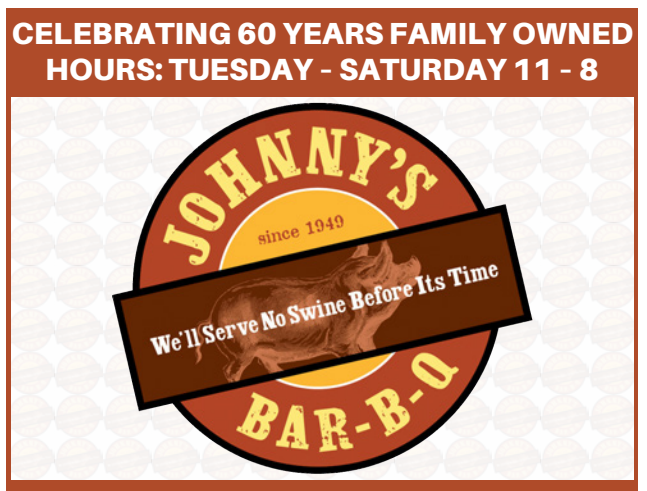
"I love what the badge represents and being able to serve our citizens. I am so grateful for this opportunity again."

















THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 4, 2025

Hope Horses to host annual Casino Night Feb. 15

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Hope Horses will host its annual Casino Night on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6-10 p.m. at Loft 212. The event will feature casino games, food and auctions to support the Hope Horses therapeutic riding program for 2025.

Tickets for Casino Night are $100 per person and include starter chips, a catered meal by Johnny's Bar-B-Q and drinks.

Guests will enjoy popular games like blackjack, Texas Hold'em, craps and roulette, along with live and silent auctions to round out the night.

"Hope Horses is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing safe and effective therapeutic horsemanship opportunities to children and adults with physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs," stated Kelsey Scott, executive director of Hope Horses.

"As a nonprofit organization, Hope relies strictly on community-driven support."

Proceeds from the event will directly support the 2025 operational costs of the Hope Horses therapeutic riding program, which serves children and adults with physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs. As the only PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) Center in north Alabama, Hope Horses makes a significant impact on Cullman and the surrounding counties.

"Hope Horses is dedicated to providing safe and effective therapeutic horsemanship opportunities," Scott explained.

"Hosting a Casino Night fundraising event provides individuals in the community with the opportunity to come together for a fun-filled night and raise money for the Hope Horses therapeutic riding program."

Attendees are encouraged to reserve their spots early and may reserve them online at https://secure.givelively.org/donate/hope-horses-inc/casino-night-2025.

For more information, contact krice@hopehorsesinc.com or visit www.hopehorsesinc.com.

For those unable to attend but wishing to support the cause, donations can be made directly to Hope Horses, Inc. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, all contributions are tax-deductible.

Loft 212 is located at 212 Fourth St. SW in Cullman.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 1-3

Kim Fowler Smith, 68
A Memorial Service for Kim Fowler Smith, age 68 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Larry Guthery officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Smith passed away on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024, at University of Alabama Hospital. She was born, Dec. 15, 1956, to George Fowler and Dorothy Fisher Fowler. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Anna Holcomb, brother-in-law, Charles Smith and brother-in-law, Gary Smith. Survivors include her husband, Jerry Smith; daughter, Tommye (Rodney) Pruett; son, Chad Smith; granddaughters Ryan (Ross) Lockhart, Alexa (Thomas) David and Kaleigh (Jordan) Madison; grandsons, Michael Reinhardt, Jesse Holcomb and Josh (Brandi) Pruett; great grandchildren, Sunnie Elaine, Samuel David, Cooper, Jack, Ellie, Tyson and Rylan; sisters, Karen Baxley and Mary (Carlos) Fleming; brothers, George (Debbie) Fowler and Chris (Venadis) Fowler; sister-in-law, Patsy Caroll and sister-in-law, Joyce McCartha,

Wesley Neal McKoy, 43
A celebration of life service for Wesley Neal McKoy, of Logan, Alabama will be 4 p.m. Jan. 3, 2025 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Wesley, a kind and gentle soul with a heart full of music and love, passed away on Dec. 29, 2024, at the age of 43. Wesley was a man who found joy in life's simple pleasures and shared his warmth and talents with everyone fortunate enough to know him. Born to Neal and Donna McKoy on Jan. 18, 1981, Wesley grew up in a home filled with love and care, a foundation that shaped his life. He adored his parents and always sought to make them proud. Wesley had a deep passion for music, which brought him happiness and was a source of connection with others. Whether listening to his favorite songs or humming a tune, music was his constant companion. His compassion extended beyond his personal life, as he found joy in taking care of others. Wesley's natural ability to make people feel valued and understood was one of his most cherished qualities. He was the best small engine mechanic around, a title earned not only through skill but also his dedication to doing every job with care and precision. Friends and neighbors could always count on Wesley to fix things with a smile. Wesley also took great pride in his work at Harrison Outdoors. He loved his job and he spoke fondly of the relationships he built there. Wesley's memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all those he touched with his kindness and talent. Survivors include his son, Tripp McKoy; parents, Neal and Donna McKoy; brother, Levi (Sarah) McKoy; spouse, Jessica Henry; stepsons, Chase Henry and Dylan Barker; nephews, Legend McKoy and Paxton Williams; and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the McKoy Family.

Emsley Underwood Pullium, 67
It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Em and "Honey" Pullium, age 67, on Dec. 21, 2024. Honey, as she was lovingly known by many, was a loving mother, wife, grandmother, and friend. Her kindness, warmth, and generosity leave us with a lasting impact for everyone fortunate enough to know her. Cullman Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the family. Born on Dec. 25, 1956, to Milton Freemon Underwood and Merle Lassiter Underwood, Em grew up with a deep sense of emotional intelligence and an ardent love for nature. She was preceded in death by her beloved son, Mac Pullium, and parents, Milton and Merle. Honey is survived by her devoted husband of 44 years, James Pullium, their children, Paul Godwin, Jamie Pullium, and Sara (Angel) Mitre, and her many grandchildren who brought her immense joy and fulfillment. Honey was deeply involved in the lives of her grandchildren, many of whom she helped raise. Her influence in their lives was profound, and she was a constant source of love, guidance, and support. A lifelong lover of animals, Honey had a special place in her heart for dogs. She never turned away a stray, always offering shelter, food, and love to those in need. Her compassion for animals was matched only by her generosity and love for others. Her home was always open to anyone who needed advice, a place to rest, or a shoulder to cry on. Whether it was a hot meal or a comforting presence, Honey was always ready to help, with a smile and a heart full of love. Honey's legacy is one of everlasting joy and kindness, selflessness, and unwavering love. She believed in the power of a helping hand and lived her life in service to others, always seeking to make the world a better place for those around her. Her family and friends will remember her for her nurturing spirit and her ability to make everyone feel welcome and cared for. A private memorial service will be held to honor her life at a later date to be shared. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to an animal shelter or charity of your choice in Honey's name, in tribute to her lifelong love of animals. Honey's memory will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her. Her love, her kindness, and her legacy of helping others will remain a lasting inspiration to all. Rest in peace, Honey. You will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Allen Shearer Hall, Jr., 69 (Updated)
A Celebration of life for Allen S. Hall, Jr, 69, of Mt. Olive will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at Ryan Creek Baptist Church 24849 County Road 222, Bremen, AL 35033. Visitation will be 2 p.m. and service to follow at 3 p.m. The floor will be open to share your favorite stories if you choose or you can write them and bring them with you. There will be a memory dropbox to leave your thoughts. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Obituary lovingly written by family: Allen was born on July 9, 1955, to Allen and Gladys Hall. He passed away on Monday, Dec. 23, 2024. He was preceded in death by his father, Allen S. Hall, Sr and his Grandparents Troy & Laura Hall. He is survived by his children, son, Troy Allen Hall(Brandy), Daughter Laura Farmer, grandson, Owen Gooch, Mother Gladys Hall, Sisters, Becky Freeman(Johnny), Susan Jones(), Brother Bruce Hall(Leigh), and a host of Nieces Nephews and friends that adored him. Allen was a lighthearted person with a strong work ethic. He was well respected in his field of work as a superintendent in the construction industry. He had many awards and magazine features in Southern Homes & Gardens due to his skilled craftsmanship. He oversaw the construction of many commercial and residential properties from the Birmingham Metro area, to the Shores of Smith Lake and the Beaches of Florida. His brother Bruce worked alongside him on many of these projects as an electrician. Not only could he build a beautiful home and run a successful crew he could build a truck from the ground up. There wasn't much he couldn't do. Throughout the years, he enjoyed hunting and fishing with his son Troy and many of his friends. He loved music and was always singing or whistling a tune. Allen chose to live a simple life surrounded by sentimental things that brought him joy. He wore a smile and brought a laugh and a hug everywhere he went. He believed in working hard, living simple, and being good to people. He loved his church, his colleagues, family and friends and they all loved him back. He will be greatly missed. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Stephen Dwight Foshee, 70
Funeral Service for Stephen Dwight Foshee, age 70 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at Center Grove Baptist Church with Bro. Jason Vinson and Rev. Nathan Chambers officiating; burial at Center Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at Center Grove Baptist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Foshee passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, at his residence. He was born March 30, 1954, to James Charles Foshee and Betty Norris Foshee. He was preceded in death by his father, James Charles Foshee; grandparents, Curt (Arzell) Norris and grandparents, James (Myrtle) Foshee; father-in-law, Hershel Brock; mother-in-law, Ozell Brock; brothers-in-law, Cliff Merrit and Steve Barbee. Survivors include his wife, Janice Foshee; son, Scotty (Layla) Foshee, daughter, Lacey (Corey) Sizemore; granddaughter, Sadey (Trent) Gorham; grandson, Parker Foshee; granddaughter, Kinzey Sizemore; grandson, Cordell (Dallas) Minor; great grandchild, Charlotte Minor; mother, Betty Norris Foshee; sisters, Kim (Doug) Cobb and Janet Alley and Becky (JT) Steel; sisters-in-law, Sandra (Jackie) Chambers, Becky Barbee, and Ruth (Jimmie) Johnson and a Host of nieces and nephews. He was retired from the Alabama National Guard. He was a member and deacon at Center Grove Baptist Church and enjoyed doing mission work with the East Cullman Baptist Association. He was the director of East Cullman Disaster Relief. Thank you to everyone for their prayers during this time. Thank you to Amedisys Hospice for their loving care.

Lala B. Powe, 95
Funeral Service for Lala B. Powe, age 95 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Logan Sampson officiating; There will be no visitation. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. In loving memory of Lala Powe born August 15, 1929, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025. She was preceded in death by her father, Horace Bradley; mother, Bevie Bradley; husband, Walter Powe; son, Wayne Bradley; brother, Donald B. Bradley; sisters, Katherine Williams and Mattie Mobley. She is survived by, her brothers, Harold (Linda) Bradley and Billy E. Bradley and a host of nieces and nephews.

Donna J. Slatton, 79
Donna J Slatton, age 79 of Cullman, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born Sept. 8, 1945, to Dominic Joseph Sidoti and Opal Sidoti. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Loyd Slatton; son, Daniel Slatton; great grandchild, Braelyn Slatton. Survivors include her sons, David (Bobbie) Slatton and Dennis (Toni) Merhar; daughter, Michelle Crane; daughter-in-law, Pamela Slatton; grandchildren, Anthony (Katie) Townsel, Joseph (Tabatha) Slatton, Ashley (Chris) Clay, Lauren (Mark) Clay, Tyler Slatton, Matthew (Risa) Crane, and Maddie Crane and 12 great Grandchildren. No services are planned at this time.

George Nation Dodd, 78
Funeral services for George Walter Nation Dodd will be Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Paul Campbell officiating. Burial will follow the service at Union Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. George Walter Nation Dodd was born in Gardendale, Alabama to Walter Averigo Dodd and Jeffie Mae Nation Dodd on Sept. 8, 1946. He lived a full and varied life, living all over the United States and following a multitude of careers. From a Michigan builder to a California farrier, he enjoyed life to its fullest, pursuing interests like music, golf, collectibles and Harley Davidsons. George returned to Alabama in 1998 where he met the love of his life, Faith Hammock, and instantly became a part of the family. The next 26 years were filled with making happy memories as PaPaw, leading his grandchildren in adventures in soakies, getting 'gas-a-fuel' and riding along in dump trucks and heavy equipment. When he wasn't playing with his grandchildren, George was likely to be found in the swing enjoying the afternoon with Pug or off on a cruise where he spent many hours eating ice cream. George will be remembered as a kind and patient man who always helped anyone in need and touched many lives with his generosity. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Averigo Dodd and Jeffie Mae Nation Dodd, a brother-in-law, Odie Heorle and the love of his life, Faith 'Pug' Hammock. He is survived by his sister, Angie Heorle, children Jamey (Jenny) Hammock, Nancy (Jason) Keith and Jeff (Vicki) Hammock, grandchildren Mallory (Clay) Rollo, Morgan Hammock, Joseph Keith, Jacob Keith, Mattie Claire Keith, Justin (Erin) Hammock and Jamey (Jessica) Hammock, and 7 great-grandchildren including his shining star, Cleo Josiah Rollo. Pallbearers are Jason Keith, Joseph Keith, Jacob Keith, Izayah Glenon, Clay Rollo, Drake Bentley and Chris Calvert, and honorary pallbearer, Ronnie Watts. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Aveanna Hospice, Hanceville Nursing and Rehab and Pop's Cafe in Hanceville for their loving support, care and friendship.

Eddie Joe Crook, 85
Eddie Joe Crook, age 85, of Springville, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025. Eddie is survived by his daughter Tracey Wooten (Thomas); his grandson Kyle Wooten; his sister Barbara Ann Rodriguez and his sister Evelyn Faye Ledford; and his brother Robert James Crook Eddie was preceded in death by his wife Ludie Ann Johnson Crook; his parents John Richard and Flora Leona Quick; his sister Mary Ann Roach; his brother George and his brother Roger Dale Crook; his grandson Zachary. A celebration of life visitation for Eddie will be held Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A a celebration of life funeral service will occur Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Eddie will be laid to rest in Mt. Hope Baptist Church, Crane Hill, Alabama.

Andrew George Thomas, 85
Funeral service for Andrew George Thomas, age 85, of Cullman will be Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Corinth West Methodist Church in Battleground (County Road 1101), with Rev. Kenny Blackwood officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from noon-2 p.m. Interment will be held at Corinth West Cemetery that adjoins the church. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Andy was born on Dec. 29, 1939, to Luther Amos Thomas and Mildred Marie Kelley Thomas. He passed away on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Barbara Thomas; one brother and one sister. He is survived by his wife of ten years, Shirley Faye Thomas; one son, Steven Andrew Thomas; one daughter, Connie Thomas Duke (Johnny); one brother, Jerrol Amos Thomas (Ida); two grandchildren, Sarah Beth Storck (Jeremy), and Michael Andrew Duke; great-grandchildren, Kolton Duke Storck, Brylee Danielle Stork; a host of nieces and nephews, and family and friends. Andy was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, friend and neighbor. He was always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need. He loved old Chevys and old tractors, and he really loved to sing. He will be remembered every day to come by those who knew and loved him. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Helen A. Foster, 92
Funeral Service for Helen A. Foster, age 92 of Huntsville, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Dr. David Chambers officiating; burial at First Baptist Church of Fairview. Visitation will be from noon - 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Foster passed away on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Crestwood Medical Center. She was born Nov. 18, 1932, to Arvis R. Akin and Jewel Faye Akin. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Verbon LC Foster; daughter, Sandy Harvell and sister, June McGee. Survivors include her daughter, Cathy Foster, grandchild, Ashley Harvell (Brady) Gamble; brother, Rusty (Susan) Akin; great grandchildren, Amelia Kate Gamble and Luke Foster Gamble.

Mildred Laura Woodard, 89
Mildred Laura Woodard, age 89, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents Ross and Tressie Woodard, sisters Maelene (Chalmus) Bryan, Sue (Clyde) Woodard, brothers Billy (Shirley) Coggins, Paul Woodard, and Joe Woodard. She is survived by her sisters Sarah Coggins, Thelma, and Annie Woodard, Brothers David (Clara) Woodard and Donald Woodard. A visitation for Mildred will be held Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A lie-in-state will occur on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church, 3500-3722 County Road 40, Arley, AL 35541 with funeral service starting at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery after the service. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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

I'll take an RC and a Moon Pie

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



It is made with two round graham crackers, about 4 inches in diameter, with a creamy marshmallow filling between them, dipped in a flavored coating. Perhaps the most popular flavor is chocolate, but they also come in vanilla, banana, strawberry and salted caramel. Pair one of those pies with a Royal Crown Cola, and you've got a snack fit for a king. In my case, a Bill King!

I can't tell you when I had my first RC Cola with a Moon Pie. I do know it was many moons ago...make that many Moon Pies ago. I've had my fair share of them since then, but I had my first ones in quite some time a couple of weeks ago.

I can't tell you which came first, the Moon Pie or the RC Cola. I can tell you, without a doubt, that those two in tandem are special.

In case you've never had that combo, you've missed one of the great sweet treats of the South. I'm not exactly sure why, but many of the old timers, like myself, I guess, called that soft drink an R.O.C. cola. I can tell you where you can get both of them, plus a Goo-Goo Cluster candy bar, too. A visit to Chattanooga, Tennessee, is not complete without a stop and shop at The Moon Pie General Store. They have all the standard flavors of Moon Pies, plus special ones like blueberry and lemon. Since their headquarters and bakery are right there in town, they are so fresh and soft they will melt in your mouth!

Jean and I have been to Chattanooga twice in the past two weeks.

Jean spent her childhood living in Chattanooga. Her aunt and uncle still lived there. When we learned that the Vienna Light Orchestra was coming to Chattanooga, we knew we had to go. I had also built several cigar-box guitars for folks up that way, so I figured I could drop off guitars, see the concert and visit our aunt and uncle.

The concert was unbelievable! It was two hours filled with beautiful music by a large orchestra and gorgeous vocals.

I could have stayed longer if they had played longer...and if the seats had been padded! Since the concert venue was located in the heart of Chattanooga, we decided to lodge down there. Honestly, I had no idea that Sticky Fingers BBQ, one of my favorites, or the Moon Pie store, were both located right around the corner from our hotel. I even bought some Moon Pies in beautiful tins that will make great looking guitars. I may have bought too many Moon Pies, so if you want one, come see me. We also made time for a visit with Jean's aunt and uncle while we were there. Little did we know that their 71st wedding anniversary would be two days after our visit.

They had been married slightly longer than I've been, well, anything. After all those years together, I watched with great delight as I saw them holding hands during our visit.

We certainly had no idea that less than a week later, he would be gone. We made a return trip to Chattanooga last Saturday to say a final goodbye. I had the honor of speaking at his funeral.

Life is short...even for those who live to be 92. Enjoy yours! Have a Moon Pie, or two, and with an RC Cola. Go hear some great music, go see those you love while you still can and, most of all, be ready when it's your time to leave.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Jan. 5, 1950

From the files of Jan. 5, 1950

Knight Circle Has Delightful Meeting

Mrs. W. R. Rainey and Mrs. O. M. Fisher were co-hostesses on Dec. 19 to members of the Knight Circle of the First Baptist Church.

Mrs. R. E. Lee and Mrs. H. Clay Smith presented the program and the members exchanged gifts.

The hostesses, assisted by Mrs. Dennis Rainey, served delicious refreshments to the 21 members present.

Mrs. Robert Knight, Circle leaders, was presented a lovely orchid.

4-H Club News

BY DELIA GARRETT

The Cullman County 4-H Club Council was held on December 17, in the basement of the Methodist Church with fifty-two members attending.

The meeting was called to order by the vice-president, Ann Neal from the Logan Club.

After the devotional, Christmas carols were sung led by the song leader, Mary Frances Zinnmester of East Point Club.

After the business session of the meeting was held, the group was entertained by members of the 4-H Club String Band.

The band is made up of: Elwin Harbison, Bruce Harbison, Gerald Meade, Erwin Reid, and Dan Stewart.

Suzanne Rogers Celebrates 6th Birthday

Suzanne Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Toy Rogers, celebrated the sixth anniversary of her birth on Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 at Kiddie Klass.

Assisting with the games, and refreshments were Mrs. Gracie Tompkins, Mrs. J. M.-Gorham, Mrs. S. B. House and Miss Berthelle Gorham.

Those who joined Suzanne for the party were Butch Howard, Renee Scott, Gail, Sarah Evelyn and Junior Widner, Linda Hughes, Mary Ruth Kessler, Rita Bergin, Jimmie Demonia, Carol Ann Stephens, Nan Gould, Jackie Dial, Elaine Murphree, Mickey Lumpkin, Eugenia Call, Michael Ward, Chuckie McMeans, Joyce Ann Ziegler, Paulette Helton and Rodney Camron.

Ann McKoy Injures Elbow

Little Ann McKoy fell at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. O. McKoy on Friday as she was playing and badly sprained her elbow.

Ann thinks this is her unfortunate elbow since it is the same one she had broken about two months.

Cullman Officers Win Race; Catch Three

Three men were approaching their still near Bug Tussle when they were spied by Cullman officers and the race began.

However, it ended shortly with the three, Jim Freeman, Columbus Williams and Virgil Stewart, being caught by Cullman officers, O. W. Hancock, R. B. Moyers and Rayford Hyatt and A.B.C. Investigator J. C. Williamson.

The men were placed in jail and were released Friday on $1,000 bond each, charged with manufacturing whiskey.

Taken at the still, which was in operation in the woods were five gallons of whiskey and 500 gallons of mash.

Last fall at the Cullman Tribune sponsored Horseshoe Pitching Tournament a veteran from Route 2, Vinemont was runner-up Well, last Sunday this veteran's son was not runner-up but the champion. Horseshoe pitching James Cordie Wynn's son, James Kennon Wynn, was the first "arrival" in 1950 in Cullman County and therefore was "winnah" of the Thirteenth County Baby Derby.



POET'S CORNER

The Road Not Taken | By: Robert Frost, 1874-1963

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JAN. 4

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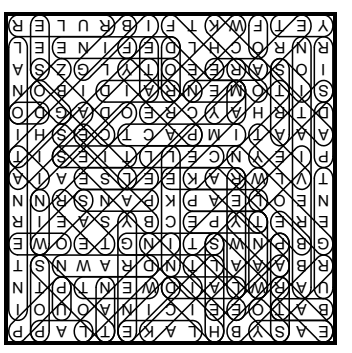
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JAN. 4

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ANSWERS:



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3	7	2	4	6	5	8	9	1
7	1	3	5	4	8	6	2	9
5	2	6	9	1	7	3	4	8
8	4	9	6	3	2	5	1	7

Recycling Collection
Now Available in Cullman County
for Residents and Businesses
Cardboard | Plastic | Paper | Metal | Glass

Reduce your garbage volume
with Bi-monthly Recycling Pickup
It's Free to Try!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ALL COMPETITORS PRICES OF LIKE PRODUCTS
COLLEGE TIRE
25% OFF ALL 225-65-17 NEW EXCLUDED
10% OFF ALL TIRES NEW EXCLUDED
TPMS SENSORS $40 INSTALLED
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

Curt's Closet (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Ashley Wilson, founder and director of Cullman-based Curt's Closet, shared with The Tribune her organization's report for 2024, as well as plans for the coming year.

Curt's Closet is a ministry providing clothing and accessories to children and youth ages 19 and younger, while offering help to adults and families as resources are available. It is no typical clothing closet, though; kids who meet eligibility requirements can "shop" in a setting that feels like a typical specialty boutique featuring only new and very gently used clothing, promoting their dignity by allowing them the retail experience but without having to spend a single cent. The organization also provides new toys and winter clothes through its seasonal program Curt's Christmas.

By the numbers
Curt's Closet served over 3,500 clients in 2024, through direct engagement and partnership with other local organizations including The Link of Cullman County, Cullman County DHR, WellStone Behavioral Health, Victim Services of Cullman and others.

Of those served, 90% were children and youth ages 4-18.

Curt's Christmas served 553 children and their families.

Growing infrastructure for growing opportunities
In 2024 Curt's Closet doubled its storage and volunteer capacity with a second onsite warehouse, and enhanced visitors' experiences with an improved parking area.

Wilson shared, "In 2024, finishing our new addition of our clothing warehouse was a huge accomplishment and a much needed space as our numbers continue to grow. The new warehouse houses our clothing, providing a much needed larger area to receive donations, and volunteer areas."

What's coming?
Curt's Closet has benefitted for several years from its popular "Clothed in Cullman" annual fundraising luncheon and fashion show.

Wilson revealed, "We are in the early stages of planning a new fundraiser in addition to our annual fundraiser, Clothed in Cullman. We are in hopes to make this announcement soon. The new fundraiser we believe will be something new to the area and provide fun for the entire family."

A community effort
"Curt's Closet is so appreciative of all of our donors, from clothing donations to the supporters who support us financially," said Wilson. "We appreciate all the donors who have joined us in our monthly sponsorships; this helps us tremendously. We appreciate Yearwood Construction and Brothers Concrete Supply for their hard work, dedication and support.

"We have many anonymous donors that have been a huge blessing to Curt's closet and the clients we serve; they know who they are, as well as the local business owners who go above and beyond to give back to our community: Monogram Plus, McGriff Tire, Specialty Pharmacy, Three Pears, Mary Carters, James R. Smith Trucking, Lloyd Consulting, Premier Bank, Tesha Brewer State Farm, First Federal Mortgage, just to name a few.

"I always hate this part because I leave out so many wonderful supporters, which says a lot for our amazing community."

Wilson said of the past year, "2024 was our best year ever. God has blessed our ministry beyond words. I give Him all the glory! So many people have joined forces with Curt's Closet to see that our mission and vision are met daily.

"Not only has Curt's Closet been able to meet the needs of so many that face clothing insecurities, but we have been able to provide multiple students with paid tuition to reach their goals and dreams through the Future Foundation at Wallace State, along with exceeding our numbers to provide Christmas for hundreds in our community. Curt's Closet also has an amazing team that spreads the love of Christ daily to give hurting people hope.

"As we see our numbers increase yearly, our numbers in supporters do as well. I say it all the time but we truly live in a community like no other. The support and encouragement suppasses all others. If Curt's Closet is ever in need of an item we make the call and in no time that need is met.

"Curt's Closet has an outstanding team. Each employee and volunteer of Curt's Closet is what makes our everyday tasks run so smoothly. I could not do it without each and every one of them. They not only bless our clients, this community, Curt's Closet but myself daily."

Get involved
Wilson encouraged everyone interested to get more information, find out how to donate money or goods, or sign up for the organization's newsletter by visiting curtscloset.org. You can stay up to date on what is going on, what is coming and how your donations are making a difference.

Save the date!
Thursday, May 8, 2025, will be the annual Clothed in Cullman fundraiser for Curt's Closet. Stay connected for more details.

Report (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Good Samaritan Health Clinic Director Jolanda Hutson recently shared with The Tribune her report on the organization's achievements in 2024 and exciting plans for the year ahead.

Good Samaritan Clinic is the only free health clinic for adult residents of Cullman County who are medically uninsured and without the ability to pay for health care services, operating as a primary care clinic with a full range of free services, including:

- Medications
- Lab work
- Diagnostic testing
- Referrals
- Dental extractions
- Mental health counseling
- Hearing evaluations
- Select vision care
- Social services
- Patient education
- Community health screenings

The clinic offers care for routine illnesses as well as comprehensive care for patients with chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol and COPD.

Good Samaritan operates five days a week and is staffed by eight employees including a certified registered nurse practitioner, two certified pharmacy technicians, an LPN who serves as a medical assistant/phlebotomist and a part-time social services advocate.

Meeting needs
"Good Samaritan Clinic meets a critical need for healthcare within the uninsured population," said Hutson. "According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation via ADPH, 21% of Cullman County adult residents are uninsured. This equates to over 10,000 people without health insurance in Cullman County ranking Cullman 11th in the state with only 10 Alabama counties having a higher uninsured adult population rate. In comparison, the state's average is 18% uninsured.

"Even with the Affordable Care Act, there are still many uninsured in our community. According to the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC), many individuals find themselves in a 'coverage gap,' where their income is too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to receive the public subsidies and tax credits necessary for them to purchase insurance on the health care marketplaces.

"The key to what we do through Good Samaritan Clinic is providing access to primary care for the uninsured in our Community. In doing so, we are not only preventing diseases that they may otherwise have had but also finding diseases in earlier stages where they can be treated, giving patients the opportunity to manage their conditions, leading productive, satisfying lives. We have seen that the uninsured population in our area is reluctant to seek medical care due to concerns about prohibitive cost, and when they do, often their illness has already progressed, making their prognosis less favorable and their condition costlier to treat.

"We are passionate about giving these individuals a way to maintain their healthcare services in order to be as healthy as possible. As a result, the clinic provides the uninsured with an efficient alternative to the hospital's emergency room, lessening the demand on our local hospital."

By the numbers
In 2023 (2024 stats not yet available), Good Samaritan:

- Served 622 unduplicated patients (12% increase from 2022)
- Accepted 249 new patients (almost 60% increase from 2021)
- Served 1,474 patient triage phone notes (36% increase from 2022)
- Served 3,958 total patient visits (23% increase from 2022)
- Referred 540 patients to a specialist
- Provided 434 mental health counseling sessions through Haven Counseling Services (15% increase from 2022)
- Dispensed 20,800 prescriptions with retail value of $5.1 million (2022 – 17,436 scripts)
- Delivered direct patient services valued at $6.2 million (2022)
- Received in-kind donated products/services valued at $1.2 million (2022)

How does the Cullman community benefit from Good Samaritan?
Hutson said, "While many of our patients are from a working household, they are unable to afford insurance and the high cost of healthcare. In addition, many have chronic medical conditions that require daily medications and frequent office visits. Without the clinic, these patients would not have a continuum of quality healthcare or prescriptions and would be forced to use the emergency room for their care, which is not sustainable for either the hospital or the community.

"It is much less costly to provide care in an office visit setting than in a hospital emergency room. According to Consumer Health Ratings, an average office visit in 2020 costs $335, compared to $1,150 for an ER visit. In addition, the average ER visit cost for someone uninsured was about $1,500 in 2020, up 23% compared to a year earlier.

"Many times, when an uninsured patient goes to the ER, the hospital ends up writing off their cost of treatment as charity care, ultimately resulting in increased health care costs for the insured. When the uninsured has the option to come to Good Samaritan Clinic, the hospital is able to provide more efficient and faster care for true emergencies. With access to quality care through Good Samaritan, the uninsured receive timely medical care before their condition worsens and are able to manage their conditions leading productive, satisfying lives. Their loved ones can also rest assured that they are receiving the best possible care available. In fact, Good Samaritan Health Clinic's patient care data is better than both the national and community averages."

New facility coming in 2025
In April Good Samaritan announced plans to relocate to a new facility. Since January 2004, Frank Brown had allowed Good Samaritan to occupy a portion of the main floor of the Folsom Center (Good Samaritan's current location) without paying rent, utilities, medical waste disposal or maintenance. That changed in 2022.

Hutson shared, "We started this journey in April of 2022 when the board of directors made the decision at our annual board/staff retreat to pursue a new location. We had heard that USA Healthcare (owners of our current location at 401 Arnold Street) had been sold, and the new owners had not offered a lease agreement nor any terms or length of tenancy."

Hutson told The Tribune that the organization hopes to break ground in March 2025 and open in the late fall of 2025. According to the announcement, the move has three goals:

1. Long-term mission fulfillment: By establishing this new facility, the Clinic will be better positioned to fulfill our mission over the long term, ensuring that we can continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve by expanding our reach and impact.

2. Prevention and wellness: The new facility will allow a prevention and wellness component to our service offerings. The addition of a cardio room will provide access to exercise facilities thereby empowering our patients to take proactive steps towards their health and well-being, ultimately contributing to a healthier population.

3. Exceptional care for all uninsured residents: The new facility will provide a desirable and exceptional option for all uninsured residents in our community. We are committed to ensuring that quality healthcare remains accessible to everyone.

Including purchase of the property and construction of the 5,040-square-foot building, the project is expected to cost $2.8 million. As of late December, Good Samaritan was within $200,000 of the goal.

"We are overwhelmed with God's provision and the community's support," said Hutson.

Thanks to many
In the fall 2024 Good Samaritan newsletter, Hutson wrote:

"I am thankful for the patients we serve who otherwise have no place to turn for their healthcare needs. While many say the Clinic is a blessing to them, we know that they are the ones being a blessing to us daily.

"I am thankful for our faithful donors who believe in our mission and enable us to provide quality continuity of care for the uninsured in our community.

"I am thankful for new relationships I have established in the community as a representative and ambassador for the Clinic.

"I am thankful for the Cullman community and beyond who have been incredibly supportive of our vision and dream of having a new location.

"I am thankful to serve alongside dedicated and compassionate staff who provide excellent care to our patients, being an encouragement to them along the way.

"I am thankful for our selfless volunteers who have a heart for our patients and freely give their time and talents without expecting anything in return.

"I am thankful for a network of physicians and dentists who see our patients in need of more specialized care.

"I am thankful to our board of directors who give their time and expertise for the betterment of the community.

"I am thankful for the 40+ campaign ambassadors who extended an invitation to friends and family to attend our Campaign Dinner, so many could learn about the Clinic and the difference it makes in our community each day."

Hutson encouraged The Tribune to share that list and not single out particular people or groups "because we literally could not do what we do without each and every one listed in that story."

Can you use Good Samaritan's service?
While patients must meet certain criteria to qualify (uninsured residents of Cullman County between 19 and 65 who meet income eligibility), you do not have to live in poverty to qualify. Eligibility criteria and patient application can be found at www.goodsamaritancullman.com. If anyone has questions or needs assistance completing the application, call 256-255-5963 for help.

Get involved
Good Samaritan accepts donations online at www.goodsamaritancullman.com. Donors may click on the red donate button for either Annual Campaign or New Facility Capital Campaign. To avoid the online transaction fee, donations may be mailed to Good Samaritan Health Clinic at 401 Arnold St. NE, Suite A, Cullman, AL 35055.

You can also support Good Samaritan Health Clinic through your investments while minimizing your tax liability by:

- Donating appreciated stock: You pay no capital gains taxes, and GSHC receives the full stock value once liquidated.
- Donating RMDs: Consider donating a portion of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement account, reducing your taxable income while making a meaningful impact.

For details, contact your financial advisor or Jolanda Hutson, jhutson@goodsamaritancullman.com or 256-255-5964.

Patients share
Following are testimonials shared with permission of the patients, whose full names are withheld.

Donna said, "I was afraid of the doctor to be honest...I was scared because I knew it was bad. And, I was scared to come (to the clinic) because I felt like they couldn't help me. I just didn't see myself as being important enough that somebody would help me. I was also afraid that I would be judged a great deal because I had let it get so bad. And, I didn't know what to do. I had a 20-pound tumor inside of me. I prayed about it a lot. I asked God to please help me because I didn't know what to do; God sent me some help."

Jeffery said, "Without being able to come here, my health wouldn't be good enough to work. My health is better since I've been coming here, and I 'live normal'. It's been a life saver."

Edith said, "I don't know where I'd be right now without the care I've received from Good Samaritan. Between premiums and deductibles, I would not have been able to afford my insulin and diabetic medications, blood work, or even be seen. I don't know what could have happened to me. It was a life saver and a blessing."

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