

The Cullman Tribune

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OBITUARIES

Lavinia Joyce McMinn, Richard Leonard Starkel, Carl Bruce Hancock, Cecil Thomas Spears, Stewart 'Anthony' Piper, Howard Bervin Millican, Haleigh Beth Moore, Rayburn Alvin Federer, James Larry McGriff, Bruce Roland Surrett, Sr.

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WEATHER

57 38

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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Cullman County Commission proposes $3 lodging fee to fund new agricultural center

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Administrator John M. Bullard outlined a proposal from the Cullman County Commission for a $3 per-night lodging fee to fund the construction of a new agricultural center. The fee, if approved by the legislature, would apply to short-term stays in Cullman County, including hotels, motels, inns, tourist cabins, RV parks and other accommodations regularly rented to transients.

Bullard explained the fee would be dedicated to Cullman County Parks and Recreation.

"This funding would be committed to Cullman County Parks and Recreation to pay for construction of the new agricultural center that has been proposed," he said.

While several potential sites for the center are under consideration, the commission has not yet voted to finalize a location. » PAGE 7



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center is pictured in August 2023

District Court hosts area juniors for mock hearing



CONTRIBUTED

Cullman County District Court hosts mock hearing

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Area juniors visited Cullman County District Court this month as part of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Cullman County program.

Cullman County District Judge Chad Floyd said most local schools sent at least two students, and his daughter was among the students in the group from Cullman High School.

Of the Youth Leadership group and their activities this month, Floyd said, "They meet monthly and spend the entire day developing the leadership skills of those young participants. On that date, they went first thing and met with (Cullman) Mayor (Woody) Jacobs and (City) Clerk Wes Moore at the City of Cullman. They » PAGE 6



CONTRIBUTED

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker shares at the mock hearing event

Bremen man held without bond following alleged shooting



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SLIDE INTO SAVINGS WITH BILL'S DEALS!



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 27

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 27, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 23

- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1107
- harassing communications; CR 1059
- harassing communications; CR 172
- theft of property; CR 1564
- domestic violence; CR 728
- theft of property; CR 568
- criminal mischief; CR 1059
- giving false name to law enforcement officer; domestic violence; Sheraton Rd.

Jan. 24

- domestic violence – aggravated assault; CR 62
- theft of property; Hwy. 157
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1609
- harassment; Hwy. 278W
- theft of property; Pine L. Hanceville
- harassment; 2nd Ave. NW

Jan. 25

- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 69S
- possession of drug paraphernalia; resisting arrest; CR 672
- theft of property; Commercial St. SE
- criminal trespass; criminal mischief; CR 1087
- assault; CR 1141

Jan. 26

- domestic violence; Hwy. 69N

ARRESTS

Jan. 23-26

Arp, Danielle A.; 29
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Bennett, Billy D.; 31
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Bright, Andra K.; 52
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Cashman-Burnham, Felicia M.; 36
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Cole, Travis E.; 42
- FTA – DUI (other substance)

Cruce, Jeffrey B.; 54
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Gorff, Pamela S.; 41
- FTA – family offense-NS non-support-child

Heaton, Clara N.; 49
- cruelty to dog/cat

Hughes, Stephen L.; 55
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Johnson, Daniel L.; 38
- criminal trespass

Lawson II, James A.; 27
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Little, Danny A.; 45
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- resisting arrest
- criminal trespass
- reckless endangerment

Peebles, Ronald P.; 44
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Philyaw, Dereck D.; 37
- FTA – violation of a domestic violence protection order
- FTA – reckless driving

Ratliff, Matthew A.; 33
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Rodriguez, Armando; 33
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – obstruction-governmental operations

Sandlin, Isaac J.; 23
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- giving false identification to law enforcement

Stewart, Shawn R.; 46
- public intoxication

Vitkauskas Jr., Richard A.; 52
- assault-aggravated assault family-gun
- assault-aggravated assault-a to m aggravated assault (attempted murder)

Wright, Matthew O.; 34
- failure to deliver title

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 22
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157

Jan. 24
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $35; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; person; cash
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $161; Olive St. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; 2nd Ave. NE

Jan. 26
- identity theft; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree – menacing; person; Morningside Dr. SW

ARRESTS

Jan. 24-26

Blackwell III, George T.; 70
- FTA - expired tag

Martinez, Oliver V.; 21
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Dixon, Douglas L.; 34
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Puckett, Logan I.; 23
- unlawful possession/receiving a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Goodnight, Clayton J.; 36
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Ellis, Daniel A.; 44
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mentzer, Elizabeth A.; 26
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- unlawful possession/receiving a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Peebles, Ronald P.; 44
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Brooks, Crystal L.; 47
- Illegal possession of a prescription drug
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Williams, Christopher W.; 47
- trafficking
- certain person forbidden to possess a pistol
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Roe named to Presbyterian College Dean's List

Hal Milam
Presbyterian College

CLINTON, SC — Presbyterian College proudly recognizes the academic success of its students for the hard work they do in the classroom each semester.

The highest honor - the President's List - is reserved for students who achieve at the highest level each semester.

This past fall, Joshua Roe of Arab was named to the list for earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Inspired by the motto, "While We Live, We Serve," Presbyterian College celebrates an enduring culture of academic rigor, honor, and service worthy of being "America's Innovative Service College."

PC provides students of all faiths, identities, and backgrounds with a transformative education that equips them for impactful careers and empowers them to serve as powerful forces for positive community and world change.

PC's distinctive approach uses innovative service as a tool of self-discovery, an amplifier of problem-solving skills, and a catalyst of curiosity.

A PC education offers students a real-life proving ground to practice the grace-driven art and science of changing lives.

PC was founded in 1880 by the Rev. William Plumer Jacobs in the historic city of Clinton in the foothills of South Carolina.

The college offers various undergraduate majors and has established three graduate programs in occupational therapy, physician assistant, and pharmacy. PC student-athletes - the Blue Hose - participate in 19 sports at the Division I level.

5 local students named to University of Mississippi fall 2024 Chancellor's Honor Roll

Jacob Batte
University of Mississippi

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — The University of Mississippi recently announced students named to the fall 2024 Honor Roll lists.

The following local students were named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00:

- Alexander Brooks, of Arab, in the B.S.M.E. in Mechanical Engineering program
- Anna Hulsey, of Cullman, in the B.S.L.S. in Law Studies program
- Eli Keel, of Falkville, in the B.A. in Public Policy Leadership program
- Krislyn Scroggins, of Cullman, in the B.S. in Integrated Mktg. Communications program
- Patrick Wessel, of Crane Hill, in the B.Accy. in Accountancy program

"The remarkable students achieving Chancellor's Honor Roll are among the best and brightest at the University of Mississippi," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. "I commend them for their hard work and dedication resulting in their outstanding academic achievements and this well-deserved recognition."

To be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business.

Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action.

Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss' main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country's best college towns.

3 local UA Early College students named to Director's List

Stephanie Pettis
University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — For fall semester 2024, 587 University of Alabama Early College students were on the Director's List, obtaining a 3.6 or higher GPA for the term.

Local students include:

- Brylee Bishop of Baileyton, who attends Priceville High School
- Brooke Harding of Arab, who attends Arab High School.
- Alex Nacilla of Cullman, who attends Alabama Connections Academy

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service.

With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus.

A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers.

As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Letter (from Front)

Tanya Shearer
Contributor

It is hard to believe that 20 years ago the first Empty Bowls of Cullman County dinner was held on Nov. 17, 2003. From the very beginning, it was very apparent that God gathered the people together to make it happen: the potters, the culinary experts, musicians, businesses, churches, schools, etc. The first planning meeting was held on Sept. 29, and the dinner was held less than two months later. Organizers hoped serve 100-200 people and raise $2,000. However, when it was all said and done, over 600 people came to the dinner that first year and almost $6,000 was raised for the food bank.

There are many fond memories of that first year: running out of chili (high school students were sent out to area stores to buy chili), running out of bowls and basically running out of everything because the response from our community was so wonderful! At the end of the evening, Javon Daniel excitedly said, "This needs to be an annual event," and so it has become one. It definitely has become a very special, anticipated night in our community. It is truly a blessing every year to watch God at work through so many people using their gifts and talents: from the potters who work all year long, musicians the chefs, students and donations from the community make this evening special. And truly, all the honor and glory goes to God for the success!

Because of this, over the last 19 years Empty Bowls of Cullman County has raised $239,099 for our community food bank at Cullman Caring for Kids. The needs of the food bank have continued to grow over the last 19 years.

Last year in 2024, the food bank served 10,239 families consisting of 21,979 individuals; 6,321 were children younger than 18 - almost one third. The majority of the people coming to the food bank continue to be on a fixed income. The food distributed at the food bank is distributed once a month. The 75-80-pound bags of food are intended to provide a family of four nutritious food for three days.

Remember, money goes a long way at the food bank and you can help support and be a part of the Empty Bowls of Cullman County dinner in several different ways:

1. Buy a ticket (Your $15 donation will buy 105 lbs. of food)

2. Make a donation (a $100 donation will buy 700 lbs. of food)

3. Contribute an item for the silent auction

4. Tell others about the Empty Bowls dinner

The Empty Bowls dinner will be held in Hearin Hall at First United Methodist Church from 4-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17. The price includes an evening of Southern gospel music, performances by Brian Westbrook & The Misfits and Enell Baker, a keepsake pottery bowl, chili and a grilled cheese sandwich. Tickets are $15 and are available at Cullman Caring for Kids and First United Methodist Church. Carry outs will also be available. For more information, please call Cullman Caring for Kids at 739-1111 or First United Methodist Church at 734-6690.

Looking forward to seeing you at Empty Bowls on Feb. 17, 2025.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."
Matthew 25:35

Tanya Shearer

Crash (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Hanceville man has died following a single-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 5:06 a.m. Friday, Jan. 24.

Alabama State Troopers said Victor L. Boatright, 70, was critically injured when the 2010 Jeep Liberty he was driving left the roadway, struck a culvert and overturned.

They said Boatright was airlifted to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital for treatment.

On Monday, Jan. 27, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased while at the hospital.

The crash occurred on U.S. Highway 31 near County Road 486, approximately 1 mile south of Cullman, in Cullman County.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

Shooting (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — A Bremen man is behind bars following an alleged shooting Friday night, Jan. 24, that sent one person to an area hospital with gunshot wounds.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office on Saturday, Jan. 25, said Richard Anthony Vitkauskas, 52, of Bremen, was located in Winston County and placed under arrest.

Vitkauskas was transported to the Cullman County Detention Center and originally charged with aggravated assault; however, after conferring with Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, authorities said, Vitkauskas is being charged with first-degree domestic violence/first-degree assault, which is an Aniah's Law offense.

Under Aniah's Law, judges can deny bond to those who are charged with committing violent crimes.

Vitkauskas will be held without bond until an Aniah's Law hearing can be held.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said the safety and security of Cullman County residents will continue to be CCSO's top priority.

"I would like to thank our deputies and investigators for their hard work and diligence," he said.

"I would also like to thank the Winston County Sheriff's Office and Walker County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in bringing this incident to a close."

Authorities said the investigation into the incident continues.

Noah Galilee contributed to this article.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Grief Support Group
Every Sunday at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 615 Third Ave. SE. Contact Reverend Warren Ruland at 256-962 2521.

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

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.

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.

Cullman Public Library Storytime: 'The story of Empty Bowls in our town'
Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Story reading and pottery activity by Christy Brock and Tanya Shearer. Join us as we celebrate 20 years of Empty Bowls!

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. in Cullman.

Frame Loom Weaving Class
Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m. at the Cullman Senior Center. 60 and older. $42 per person, which includes all supplies. Seating is limited, so those interested are encouraged to sign up soon. The class will be taught by Emily Wallace with Handwoven Designs. Sign up at https://square.link/u/XjtHP68k or by stopping by the center. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. Get more info by calling 256-734-0145 or visiting Cullman Senior Center and Travel on Facebook.

Youth Rally
Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. At the Foot of the Cross Church, 2.25 miles north of Alabama Highway 157 on Eva Road. Tyler Williams and Ryan Wilburn preaching. Please join us for a great time in the Lord.

Fused Glass Art Class
Tuesday, March 18, at 12:30 p.m. at the Cullman Senior Center. 60 and older. For $22 per person, participants can make a fused glass flowerpot magnet to take home. Seating for the class, taught by Kimberly Love, is limited, so sign up soon. Sign up at https://square.link/u/mdLS2ZtL or by stopping by the center. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. Get more info by calling 256-734-0145 or visiting Cullman Senior Center and Travel on Facebook.



Fused Glass Art Class
with Kimberly Love
March 18th @ 12:30 pm
Come make a lovely Flower Pot Magnet that you will cherish forever!
$22 Per Person, seating is limited
Deadline to register is 3/4/25
Location
Cullman Senior Center
1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW
Cullman, Al. 35055
For more Info: 256-734-0145 or
email; kyoung@co.cullman.al.us

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SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 28, 2025

COUNTY TOURNAMENT

4 new teams collect county titles

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — This year's Cullman County Basketball Tournament concluded with four championship games at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum on Saturday and four new teams collected wins to earn county titles. West Point's boys and Good Hope's girls claimed this year's JV championships and both the Raiders and Lady Raiders earned wins to capture varsity titles.

Good Hope 60 – Holly Pond 42 (Varsity Boys Championship)

(2) Good Hope battled (4) Holly Pond in our final matchup from Championship Saturday at the county tournament and the Raiders got off to a hot start. Good Hope knocked down eight three-pointers in the first half and went into the locker room with a 36-23 lead at the break. The Raiders maintained their lead throughout most of the second half and kept the Broncos at bay to earn a 60-42 win and their second straight county championship.

Tucker Malin nailed a three from the right wing on the opening possession, then Jacob Haynes dropped in a floater to give Good Hope an early 5-0 lead. Sawyer Olinger laid it in on the other end to cut it to 5-2. Malin knocked down another three, then Cone laid it in to extend the Raider lead to 10-2 with 4:50 remaining in the opening period. Gavin Pace buried a trey from the right corner to make it a 13-2 game. Ty Dunn scored down low, then Cade Allbright added a free throw to trim it to eight at 13-5. Allbright hit a pair of baskets down low to cut it to 15-9. Malin scored the final five points for the Raiders, as that extended their lead to 20-11 at the start of the second quarter.

Allbright put in two more baskets down low to make it a 23-15 game. Tyler Byrd nailed a trey from the left wing to give Good Hope a 26-15 lead. Olinger knocked down a short jumper, then Carson Ryan added a free throw to cut it to 26-18 with a little over five minutes to go in the first half. Malin knocked down another three, Haynes laid it in, and Cone scored in the paint to stretch the Raider lead to 33-18. Olinger put in a basket in the paint, and Asher Thrift nailed a trey to trim it to 10 at 33-23. Pace buried a three just before the buzzer to put Good Hope ahead, 36-23, at the half.

It didn't take long for the Raiders to add to their lead in the third. Haynes scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw, then Malin knocked down a floater, and Pace nailed a three to stretch their lead to 44-23. Olinger laid it in, Thrift grabbed the offensive rebound and put it back in, and Allbright scored down to make it a 44-29 game. Pace, Haynes, and Kye McSwain each knocked down a three to put Good Hope, 53-29. They would take a 53-31 lead into the final period.

Fox Westall buried a trey, and Thrift laid it in to make it a 53-36 game. Malin hit a jumper from the free throw line, then Pace laid it in to give the Raiders a 57-36 lead. A three by Carson Ryan and a basket in the paint by Sam Hunt made it a 57-41 contest. Haynes' three-point play gave Good Hope a 60-41 lead and the Raiders went on to defeat Holly Pond 60-42 to take home the county championship.

Malin led Good Hope with 20 points in the win. Pace added 14 and Haynes finished with 13. Olinger led the way for Holly Pond 13 points in the loss and Allbright posted 11.

Varsity Boys All-County Team

- Ethan Day, Cold Springs
- Cheston Wilhite, Vinemont
- Peyton Twilley, Hanceville
- Cade Allbright, Holly Pond
- Sawyer Olinger, Holly Pond
- Landun Smith, Fairview
- Blake Rickard, Fairview
- Tucker Malin, Good Hope
- Tyler Cone, Good Hope
- Jacob Haynes, Good Hope
- Jay Lamar, West Point
- Jaxon Shelton, West Point
- Maddox Chapman, West Point

Varsity Boys All-County Tournament Team

- Tucker Malin, Good Hope
- Jacob Haynes, Good Hope
- Carson Ryan, Holly Pond
- Carson Jones, Fairview
- Landun Smith, Fairview
- Tyler Cone, Good Hope
- Gavin Pace, Good Hope
- Cade Allbright, Holly Pond
- Sawyer Olinger, Holly Pond
- Maddox Chapman, West Point

2025 Eli Thomas Memorial Scholarship recipient

- Jacob Haynes, Good Hope

2025 Joe Shults Award winner

- Jay Lamar, West Point

Good Hope 58 – West Point 51 (Varsity Girls Championship)

In Saturday's first varsity championship game, (3) West Point squared off the with the top-seeded Lady Raiders of Good Hope. The Lady Warriors got off to a fast start but the Lady Raiders were able to rally and take a 1-point lead into the locker room at halftime. Good Hope maintained a lead throughout most of the second half and fended off a late push from West Point to claim a 58-51 win and their fourth straight county title.

Laklin Shadix and Camryn Faulkner each scored baskets in the paint to give West Point a 4-0 start in the opening period and Patton Fell knocked down a three to make it 7-0. Lexi Marshall drilled a three on the other end to get Good Hope on the board and cut the lead to 7-3. Baskets by Caitlee Simmons, Fell and Jaelyn Faulkner made it a 13-5 game later in the period and Camryn Faulkner laid one in to stretch the lead to 15-5. Jolee McHan sank a pair of free throws and scored in the paint to trim the lead to 15-9 with 30 seconds remaining in the first quarter and West Point went into the second holding onto a 6-point lead.

Jaelyn Faulkner scored through a foul and tacked on the free throw to give the Lady Warriors an 18-9 lead early in the second quarter. Ava McSwain knocked down a three from the left corner and a mid-range jumper to help cut the lead to 18-15 later in the period. Ella Gossett drove to the basket and scored to make it a 1-point game midway through the second and McHan laid one in to give Good Hope its first lead at 19-18. Jaelyn Faulkner exchanged baskets with Marshall to make it a 21-20 game with two minutes to play in the first half. Jaelyn Faulkner drove to the rim and scored to give West Point a 22-21 lead with just over a minute remaining in the second quarter, but Sophie Konrad laid one in just before the buzzer to put the Lady Raiders in front 23-22 at the break.

Baskets by Konrad and Gossett kept Good Hope on top 27-23 early in the third and the Lady Raiders kept the momentum rolling with buckets from McSwain, Marshall and McHan to make it a 10-point game. Camryn Faulkner scored inside to trim the lead to 36-28 but Konrad answered with a three on the other end to give the Lady Raiders a 39-28 lead. Jaelyn Faulkner hit three of her next four free throws to trim the lead to 39-31 and »



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Raiders defeated Holly Pond 60-42 Saturday night to capture back to back county championships.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Lady Raiders defeated West Point 58-51 Saturday night to win their fourth consecutive county championship.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Warriors defeated Cold Springs 48-43 on Saturday to win this year's JV Boys county championship.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Lady Raiders defeated Cold Springs 43-40 on Saturday to win this year's JV Girls County Championship.

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12-14 Oz. Bag Classic or Diced
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5-8 Oz. Crumbles, Chunk or
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1 Lb. Roll
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16 Oz.
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1 Lb. Quarters
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$4.99 EA.



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9-16 Oz.
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16 Oz. Chub
Golden or White
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22-32 Oz.
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16 Oz.
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10 Oz.
Sweet or Dill
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4
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HUNT'S KETCHUP
20 Oz.
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QUAKER OATS
18 Oz. Old Fashioned
or Quick 1-Minute
$2.99 EA.



KELLOGG'S POP•TARTS
8 Ct., 12-19 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



FOOD CLUB BAKED BEANS
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



KNORR PASTA OR RICE SIDES
4-5.7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



RAGU PASTA SAUCE
RONCO PASTA
12-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
45 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5
$3.88 EA.



FOOD CLUB TUNA
5 Oz.
In Water
5 for $5



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
2 for $11



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
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24 Pk.
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COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE
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$10.99 EA.
$19.99 EA.

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CUPCAKE WINE
750 mL
Still
24 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$9.99 EA.
$26.99 EA.

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Deli Sliced
$3.59 LB.

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Deli Sliced
$6.79 LB.

BLUEBERRY CREAM CAKE
Benson's
28 Oz.
$7.99 EA.

she buried a three on the next West Point possession to make it a 41-34 game with just over a minute to play in the third quarter. Shadix was fouled just before the end of the period and she hit a pair from the line to cut the lead to 41-36 going into the fourth quarter.

McSwain laid one in to keep Good Hope in front 43-38 and Lucie Adams scored the next four points for the Lady Raiders to extend the lead to 47-38. Jaelyn Faulkner hit a pair of free throws to make it a 7-point game, but Konrad knocked down a baseline jumper on the other end to keep Good Hope ahead 49-40 with just over five minutes to play. McHan sank a pair of free throws to make it a 51-40 game midway through the fourth and McSwain took a steal the other way for an easy basket to make it 53-40. Shadix buried a three to trim the lead to 10 with three minutes on the clock and she scored in the paint on the next Warriors possession to make it 53-45. Camryn Faulkner laid one in to cut the lead to 6 with 1:30 remaining and she split a pair from the line later in the fourth to bring the lead down to 5. However, that was as close as the Lady Warriors could come and the Lady Raiders pulled away to win their fourth straight county championship with a 58-51 win over West Point.

McSwain led Good Hope with 14 points in the win and McHan, Marshall and Konrad each finished with 10. Jaelyn Faulkner led the way for the Lady Warriors with 18 points in the loss. Camryn Faulkner added 14 points and Shadix posted 11.

Varsity Girls All-County Team

- Ella Dickerson, Cold Springs
- Darby Nichols, Fairview
- Whitney Quick, Fairview
- Ava Thomas, Holly Pond
- Madison Butts, Holly Pond
- Maggie Nail, Holly Pond
- Reagan Robinson, Vinemont
- Caroline Miller, Vinemont
- Morgan Flanagan, Vinemont
- Jaelyn Faulkner, West Point
- Camryn Faulkner, West Point
- Laklin Shadix, West Point
- Ava McSwain, Good Hope
- Ella Gossett, Good Hope
- Jolee McHan, Good Hope
- Sophie Konrad, Good Hope

Varsity Girls All-County Tournament Team

- Reagan Robinson, Vinemont
- Vayda Yarbrough, Vinemont
- Patton Fell, West Point
- Camryn Faulkner, West Point
- Laklin Shadix, West Point
- Whitney Quick, Fairview
- Darby Nichols, Fairview
- Ava McSwain, Good Hope
- Ella Gossett, Good Hope

2025 Charlotte Cummings Memorial Scholarship recipient

- Kenady Graves, Cold Springs

2025 Bill Shelton Award winner

- Ava McSwain, Good Hope

West Point 48 – Cold Springs 43 (JV Boys Championship)

Saturday's second county championship game saw (1) Cold Springs clash with (2) West Point and it was a nail-biter between the Warriors and the Eagles. Cold Springs jumped out to an early lead in the first half, but West Point rallied to make it a 2-point game going into the fourth quarter. The Warriors then outscored the Eagles 14-11 in the final frame to capture this year's JV Boys county title.

Cold Springs got the scoring started with a rebound and putback by Wyatt Barker, but Teagan Heaton scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to give West Point an early 3-2 lead. Cash Dickerson hit a pair of baskets to put the Eagles ahead, 6-3. Cooper Johnson added a pair of baskets down low to extend Cold Springs' lead to 10-5 with two minutes to go in the opening period. J.J. Minck and Lindan Hill each traded baskets to keep it at a five-point game at 12-7 at the start of the second.

Johnson drained a trey from the right wing to give the Eagles a 15-7 lead early in the second period. Dickerson added one of his own from long-range to make it an 18-8 game. Baskets by Barker and Hill stretched their lead to 22-10. Sawyer Harris buried a trey from the right corner, then a three-point play by Minck cut it to 22-16. Another basket by Barker made it 24-16, but Harris scored the Warriors' final five points of the first half to make it a 24-21 game at the break.

Hill drilled a pair of free throws, then Barker scored down low to give Cold Springs a 28-21 lead. Heaton banked in a floater, then Rush Lamar added a free throw to cut it to 28-24 almost midway through the third quarter. Another rebound and putback by Barker made it a 31-24 game. Minck dropped in a floater, then Harris scored through a foul and ended up draining the free throw to trim it to just two at 31-29 late in the third. Later in the third quarter, Minck put in another floater to make it a 33-32 game. Eli Voce split his free throws, then Dickerson drilled a pair of technical fouls to give the Eagles a 36-32 lead. Harris' rebound and putback made it a two-point game going into the final period.

Jackson Reid banked in a three from the left corner to give West Point a 37-36 lead. Khale Bryam's three from the left wing made it a 40-37 game. A pair of baskets by Hill saw the Eagles retake the lead at 41-40. Harris buried a big trey from the top of the key to give the Warriors the lead right back at 43-41. Minck added another floater to make it a 45-42 game with less than three minutes to go in the game. Dickerson split from the free throw line to cut it to a two-point game, but a reverse layup by Harris and a free throw by Minck helped seal the 48-43 championship win for West Point.

Harris led the way for the Warriors with 18 points in the win. Minck finished with 15 and Heaton added seven. Barker posted 13 points for Cold Springs in the loss and Hill added eight.

JV Boys All-County Tournament Team

- Lindan Hill, Cold Springs
- Cash Dickerson, Cold Springs
- Wyatt Barker, Cold Springs
- Ayden Young, Good Hope
- JJ Minck, West Point
- Sawyer Harris, West Point
- Ty Babb, Fairview
- Rush Lamar, West Point

Good Hope 43 – Cold Springs 40 (JV Girls Championship)

We tipped off Championship Saturday at the Cullman County Tournament with a high-powered JV Girls battle between (1) Cold Springs and (2) Good Hope. The Lady Raiders built a 20-point lead in the first half, but the Lady Eagles put together a huge come from behind effort in the second half. Cold Springs got the lead down to 2 at one point, but was unable to complete the comeback and Good Hope claimed this year's JV Girls county title with a 43-40 win.

Gabby Richter laid one in to give the Lady Raiders a 2-0 start and Charlotte Druen drained a three to make it a 5-1 game later in the period. Duren drove to the rim and scored to extend Good Hope's lead to 7-1 with just under three minutes remaining in the first quarter. Kyleigh Graves drained a three to cut the lead to 7-4 but Richter scored inside with 30 seconds to play in the first to put the Lady Raiders ahead 9-4 at the start of the second.

Zoe Gibbs hit a jumper to make it an 11-4 game early in the second quarter and Duren's second three-pointer of the day gave Good Hope a 14-4 lead. Kynzlee Garmon laid one in to make it 16-4 and Brailey Johnson scored on the next Raider possession to stretch the lead to 18-5 midway through the period. Richter hit three of her next four free throws to make it a 21-5 game and she scored inside on the ensuing Good Hope possession to make it 23-5. Kotie Calvert knocked down a jumper to trim the lead to 23-7 with less than two minutes to play in the half but Ella Eisner responded with a pair of baskets on the other end to keep the Lady Raiders ahead 27-7. Johnson and Hagen Ellis exchanged free throws in the final 30 seconds of the half to make it a 28-8 game at the break.

The Lady Eagles got off to a strong start in the second half. Keiarah Fanning laid one in and Graves drilled a three to bring the lead down to 28-13. Graves added another basket on the next possession to make it 28-15 but after Gibbs split a pair of free throws, Richter scored inside to maintain a 31-15 lead for Good Hope. Allie Light split a pair of free throws and Ellis laid one in to make it a 31-19 game later in the period and Fanning knocked down a three to cut the lead to 31-22. Graves buried another three to make it a 31-25 game with 30 seconds remaining in the third and after hitting a pair of free throws, Light added a basket just before the buzzer to trim the lead to 31-29 going into the fourth quarter.

Gibbs was fouled on a made three-pointer and tacked on the free throw to put the Lady Raiders in front 35-29 early in the fourth. Richter scored inside to make it a 37-29 game and Gibbs buried another three to keep Good Hope ahead 40-29 midway through the period. Ellis drained a pair of threes on the other end to cut the lead to 40-37 with three minutes to play. Gibbs and Light exchanged baskets to hold the lead at 42-39 and Light split a pair of free throws to make it a 2-point game with just 30 seconds on the clock. However, The Lady Eagles weren't able to climb back any closer than that and Good Hope held on claim this year's JV Girls County Championship with a 43-40 win. Richter led the way for Good Hope with 13 points in the win, followed by Gibbs with 12 and Duren with nine. Graves led the Lady Eagles with 12 points in the loss, followed by Ellis with 11.

JV Girls All-County Tournament Team

- Zoe Gibbs, Good Hope
- Kynzlee Garmon, Good Hope
- Gabby Richter, Good Hope
- Hagen Ellis, Cold Springs
- Kyleigh Graves, Cold Springs
- Kenadi Pagan, West Point
- Kensli Redding, Fairview
- Brooklyn Merriman, Fairview

Sammy Confer contributed to this article.







COLUMN

Grandma groupies

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I heard a rumbling noise coming from the second floor of my house. Since we almost never go up there, I thought that one of our dogs might've cornered a squirrel that got in through the attic. I made my way up the stairs, walked in the bedroom and saw enough stuff laying on the floor to have a yard sale. It was my wife Carol rummaging through a closet.

"What in the Wide World of Sports are you doing?" I asked.

She gave me a look of disdain and said, "I'm going through our old albums. I've got to find a couple to take to the concert."

I should've known. Tonight, we were going to see Herman's Hermits, featuring lead singer and Carol's teen heartthrob, Peter Noone. For about a week, I've felt the anticipation building. Several times I've walked in our house and heard "I'm Henry the Eighth I Am" playing on our sound system. I have been constantly reminded that posters of Noone, aka Herman, were plastered on the walls of her teenage bedroom. I also knew she could sing every single word of every song by heart. And that she bought Tiger Beat magazine any time he was on the cover.

Consequently, when we discovered they were going to be appearing near us, I was threatened with a kitchen utensil until I vowed to buy tickets. Not just any tickets either. These had to be as close to the stage as possible, no matter the cost.

"You may not want to get that close," I said. "He's not going to look or sound like he did 60 years ago."

She gave me a look with bug zapper eyes. "Get tickets close to the stage." She didn't say, "...or else," but I understood. If I didn't comply, she might pour ammonia in my c-pap machine while I was sleeping. It's obvious the embers of a teen crush had once again been fanned into a raging flame. She wasn't alone. The evening of the concert, the venue was full of little old ladies who, like Carol, were amped up to see their former teen idol.

I didn't say a word, but I knew old rock bands could be hit and miss. We've seen McCartney, The Stones and The Eagles in the past few years - all of them were great. However, there are other 60s and 70s groups who should've hung up their microphones a while back.

Finally, Herman and his Hermits took the stage. My first thought was, "Wow, this guy must have an excellent plastic surgeon," because he looked good. Trim with nice, flowing hair. And when I heard the first notes of (something tells me) "I'm into Something Good," I was quite surprised.

His voice, while not the high pitch of his teen years, had aged quite well. I began to relax and enjoy the concert, which was a mixture of hits and banter with his fans. Herman worked the audience skillfully, talking to them with an easy, down-home charm. He even belted out a couple of songs from the aisles.

The former teenagers, now little old ladies, were lapping it up like a dog eating Gravy Train. One lady gave him roses. I thought I saw someone throw her granny panties (or maybe they were Depends diapers) at Herman while he was on stage. Dozens of women reached out to touch him. I even heard a collective sigh when he began crooning "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter," although it might've been more appropriate to sing, "Mrs. Brown, you've got a lovely walker."

Finally, he asked if anyone had one of his old records. Carol shrieked, jumped up and said, "I'm going down there!" With that, she barreled toward the stage, waving her albums like a flagman on a road crew. Unfortunately, another woman got there first, so Carol, shoulders slumped like a scolded child, ambled back to her seat. Naturally, I did what any sensible husband would do - pretended I didn't know her.

However, life is full of second chances. As the concert wound down, Herman announced that he would be signing autographs after the show. The minute they sang their last song, Carol bolted for the lobby. I didn't think a woman with two titanium knees could move that fast.

The autograph line grew shorter and she began saying, "I'm sooo nervous, sooo scared." I kept quiet and shook my head.

When her time came, she handed Herman the album covers and a newly purchased T-shirt, then sat down beside him and said, "I think I'm gonna cry!" He smiled genuinely and said in a British accent, "Don't cry, luv. It's all right."

At once, I begin snapping photos. Of course, I was told in no uncertain terms that the pictures must be perfect. I even got a tutorial on how to operate an iPhone camera - and I have an iPhone.

Within seconds, it was over, and we headed for our car. But Carol's teen-like behavior continued. She kept chanting, "I can't believe I just met Peter Noone! I can't believe I just met him!"

Finally, I could take no more. "Good grief," I said. "He's a singer in a band. It's not like he's Nick Saban."

She gave me the bug zapper look and said, "You're so immature. Nick Saban's just a football coach. How many albums has Nick Saban ever sold?"

I answered, "How many championships has Peter Noone ever won?"

It was a quite ride home.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

Hearing (from Front)

then went to the Cullman (Regional) Airport and met with (Director) Ben Harrison. Then, they came to the courthouse and met with employees of the Cullman County Commission, specifically County Administrator John Bullard. Finally, they ended their day in the District Courtroom."

He said he drafted a script so the students could experience a mock hearing.

"The script created a situation where a defendant had been charged with a crime and released on bond," Floyd said.

"While released on bond, the defendant allegedly violated the terms and conditions of his release, and the Court had to decide whether to revoke or modify his terms of release. I think it was a great experience for the children who got to attend the hearing."

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker was kind enough to join and "prosecute" the defendant, he shared.

"Attorney Michael Thornton provided a defense for the accused," Floyd said. "The defendant was played by Assistant District Attorney Mike Burleson.

"The victim was played by Community Corrections Director Cynthia Dodson. In addition to hearing from me, the children got to hear from District Attorney Champ Crocker, Defense Attorney Michael Thornton and Community Corrections Officer Craig Jackson. "The children asked great questions after the hearing to each of the presenters."

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Joey Orr said of Youth Leadership Cullman County, "Each month these students go on different field trips and hear from various speakers as they learn about the businesses and agencies that work together to make up this great county. "It is an eight-month program made up of selected juniors from all across Cullman County."

Get more information about the program at www.cullmanchamber.org/programs.

LEGALS

HE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
MARY SUE BANISTER, * CASE NO. PC2024-322
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

TO: DEBORAH SHASTEEN LONG, HUNTER SHASTEEN, J.J. SHASTEEN a/k/a JAMES S. SHASTEEN, III, LARRY SEMEVOLOS, AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF MARY SUE BANISTER, DECEASED.

Petition to Probate Will and for Letters Testamentary filed by William Thomas Blankenship, Petitioner, through Attorney Clint L. Maze. A hearing has been rescheduled on this matter for the **8th day of April, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.**, before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 23rd day of January, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice four (4) successive weeks is said newspaper.

Clint L. Maze
Attorney for Petitioner
Wilmer and Lee, P.A.
725 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, AL 35016

STATE OF ALABAMA)
) **NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, 3 Feb 3 2025 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Redstone Federal Credit Union
vs.
Roger J. Duke
145 Neptune Drive
Arab, Alabama 35016

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Angie Johnson, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Roger J. Duke, to the property, described as follows:

Lot 3, Saddlebrook Estates First Addition, together with a 1/100 interest in one acre of lake property which is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point which is located S57°50'E 1438.77 feet from the center of the NW1/4 of Section 33, Township 8 South, Range 1 East, Cullman County, Alabama; thence from the point of beginning N54°16'E 210.0 feet to a point; thence S20°44'E 210.0 feet to a pont; thence N54°16'W 210.0 feet to a point; thence N20°44'W 210.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1 acre, more or less.

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Writ of Execution issued on or about 20 November 2024 in case DV-2011-68 in the District Court of Marshall County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Roger J. Duke in and to the above-described real property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 7 day of January, 2025

BY: Matt Gentry, sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Baileyton, AL is accepting sealed bids for a two-year land lease. There are four parcels of land, and you may lease one or more parcels. Bids should be $ per acre. Bidding will close on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Parcel 1 – Oliver Place - 9.6 acres (corner of Oliver Road and Red Hill Road)
Parcel 2 – Fairview Road RIGHT - 5.0 acres (right side of Fairview Road behind Baileyton Fire Department)
Parcel 3 – Fairview Road LEFT - 5.0 acres (left side of Fairview Road)
Parcel 4 – Oliver Road - 5.1 acres (behind Parkside Catfish Restaurant)

Sealed Bids may be mailed or delivered to: Baileyton Town Hall-Sealed Bids.
Mail to: P.O. Box 116 | Baileyton, AL 35019
Physical Address: 55 Firestation Road | Baileyton, AL 35019

For more information, please call (256) 796-6447, or email town.clerk35019@gmail.com. For images of each parcel of land, please visit us on Facebook, at facebook.com/thetownofbaileyton.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA LEE PARRISH, Deceased * Case No. PC 2024-449

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration for Patricia Lee Parrish, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 23rd day of January, 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Callahan Parrish
Personal Representative

Amanda Hardin Schafner
Schafner Law
Attorney for Petitioner
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, AL 35210
256-490-3004

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
Cullman County, Alabama

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
BOBBIE M. DUKE, * CASE NO. PC 2025 - 012
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Jonathan Wayne Duke as Personal Representative of the Estate of Bobbie M. Duke, deceased, on the 24th day of January, 2025, 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.

Jonathan Wayne Duke
Personal Representative

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Personal Representative

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. CHA2025-01
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Cullman Housing Authority is accepting bids from qualified, licensed, and insured entities to provide janitorial services for various Cullman Housing Authority locations.

A pre-submission meeting will be held on **February 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** at Cullman Housing Authority, located at 408 Cleveland Avenue, Cullman, AL 35055.

Separate, sealed bids to provide this service will be received at **408 Cleveland Avenue, Cullman, Alabama 35055** until **2:00 P.M.** CST, **February 20, 2025.**

Electronic bids documents are available through Housing Agency Marketplace E-Procurement, by accessing the following website:

https://ha.internationaleprocurement.com/requests.html?company_id=78231

CHA reserves the right to reject any/or all bids, make the determination as to what is equal to the specifications and/or scope of work, or to waive any informality in the bids received, and to accept any bid, which, in its opinion, may be in the best interest of DHA.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
Marquisha Griffin, Executive Director

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Richard J. Lindsey,) Case No. PC 2024-443
)
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Patricia L. Lindsey as Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard J. Lindsey, deceased, on the 24th day of January, 2025, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Patricia L Lindsey
Personal Representative
Patricia L. Lindsey

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

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABONDONED MANUFACTURED DWELLING

Pursuant to Section 35-12A-B, Code of Alabama

Please take notice that the abandoned manufactured dwelling described below, along with all personal property located therein, will be sold in the manner provided in this Notice:

Please take notice that the Tan 2000 Cavalier 14x80 single wide manufactured dwelling VIN# ALCA1199260S43714 located at Smith Lake Marina & Resort LLC. 175 Co Rd 312 Lot# 18 Cullman, Al 35057 is considered abandoned and will be sold in the manner provided in this notice. The owner of the abandoned manufactured dwelling is believed to be Bruce Cheatham.

The sale will take place through private sealed bidding and the owner of Smith Lake Marina & Resort LLC, is authorized to purchase the manufactured dwelling pursuant to the method of sale described in this notice. The winning bidder must move the manufactured dwelling from the property of Smith Lake Marina & Resort LLC within 14 days after the award date stated herein.
Failure to remove the manufactured dwelling within such time will result in the bid being rejected.

All bids must be submitted in writing and received by Smith Lake Marina & Resort LLC on or before 12:00 noon 14 February 2025. The awarding of the manufactured dwelling will be given on or about 12:00 noon 17 February 2025. You may contact Lillie Tucker at 256-636-9696 or Keith Keel at 256-737- 7131 to schedule a time to inspect the manufactured dwelling.

Fee (from Front)

Initially, plans called for renovating and expanding the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center along U.S. Highway 31 North, but considerations for size, scope and parking shifted the strategy toward a new structure.

The estimated cost of the center is $20 million, though that figure could vary depending on site preparation costs.

Once the center is completed, the revenue from the lodging fee will continue to be allocated to Cullman County Parks and Recreation.

"The resolution states that these funds will be committed to Cullman County Parks and Recreation to pay for the center and other projects to improve the quality of life of Cullman County residents," Bullard said.

He added that the ongoing revenue would reduce reliance on general funds, which could then be redirected to other priorities such as roads.

Addressing concerns about the potential impact of the fee on local lodging competitiveness, Bullard said the new center would attract more events and increase demand for hotel stays.

"This would increase the room by $3 per night, and the ag center project will create more demand for stays in the hotels as we bring better events to Cullman," he said.

Many other counties in Alabama already receive dedicated lodging taxes, which are typically percentage based and increase with room rates.

In contrast, Cullman County's proposed $3 fee will remain static over time.

"The $3 fee will be the same from now on, effectively reducing the amount after inflation in the future," Bullard explained.

The Cullman County Tourism Bureau currently receives the county's lodging tax and uses it to promote tourism in the area.

Bullard said the commission would be open to partnerships with the bureau as the agricultural center project progresses.

Bullard emphasized that the commission is mindful of minimizing the tax burden on local residents.

"The County Commission is extremely concerned about keeping taxes as low as possible for Cullman County residents.

"This lodging fee will serve to help build the agricultural center without taking money away from the citizens' priorities like roads and public safety," he said.

For more details, Bullard provided the resolution passed by the commission on Jan. 23, which formally requests the Alabama Legislature approve the lodging fee.

The Tribune will report more on this story as it develops.

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

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SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 26-27

Lavinia Joyce McMinn, 86
Lavinia Joyce McMinn, age 86 of Logan died Friday, Jan. 24, 2025. Joyce enjoyed caring for people through her forty (40) year nursing career. She was preceded in death by her parents: Raymond and Frances Quattlebaum; son, Randall Dean McMinn and a granddaughter, Isabella Frances McMinn. Joyce is survived by her husband Marlin Dean McMinn; sons: Anthony David (Ashley) McMinn and Michael Darren (Tammy) McMinn; brothers: Charles Quattlebaum and Jerry Quattlebaum; 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The family will receive friends at Logan Baptist Church on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. until the celebration of Lavinia's life which will begin at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Cullman City Cemetery. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Richard Leonard Starkel, 100 (Updated)
Richard Leonard Starkel, age 100 of Crane Hill, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, at his residence. He was born, Nov. 8, 1924 to Leonard Elgar Starkel and Helen Starkel. He was preceded in death by his, parents; wife, Joan Shaw Starkel; daughter, Catherine Horton; sister, Dorothy Thomas, brother, William Starkel. Survivors include his daughters, Jodi (Kenneth) Lucas, Janet (Bruce) Gaddy, Susan (Chuk) DeMarsh, and Leslie (Eric) Norden, grandchildren, Jeffrey (Bethany) Bannon, Sean (Hannah) Gaddy, Andrew (Haley) Gaddy, Ian Norden, Zachary (Christa) Norden, Grace (Reid) Goodfellow, Case (Emilie) Norden, Kevin (Cate) Horton, Lindsey (Derrick) Duke, Kate (Attison) Swann; great grandchildren, Mason Gaddy, Palmer Gaddy, Starkel Gaddy, Lydia Brice Gaddy, Julian Goodfellow, Adelaide Horton, James Horton, Katie Duke, and Cooper Duke; and a host of family and friends.In lieu of please make donations to St. Jude's Hospital, 501 Street Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. There will be a graveside service at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo, Alabama on Jan. 31, 2025, at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Starkel will have full military honors.

Carl Bruce Hancock, 68
Graveside Service for Carl Bruce Hancock, age 68, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at Johnson Grove Cemetery with Johnny Freeman and Hilton Morris officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Hancock passed away on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at his residence. He was born Dec. 10, 1956, to Clarence Hancock and Clarice Hancock. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Danny Hancock; and nephew, Mark Hancock. Survivors include his wife, Melissa Hancock; daughter, April Stone; sons, Jason Hancock and Kenny (LaToya) Hancock; grandchildren, Kayla Stone, Weston Hancock, Alissa Hancock, Nelia Hancock; sister Joyce (Jerry) Wilcox; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Cecil Thomas Spears, 87
Cecil Thomas (Tommy) Spears, 87, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper, Alabama. He was born on Oct. 31st, 1937. Tommy was a devoted servant of God, loving husband, cherished father, and treasured friend. His life was a testament to faith, service, and love. For many years, Tommy faithfully served as a deacon at Hopewell Baptist Church, where he found joy in sharing his faith and ministering to others. His commitment to God and his church family left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Tommy also dedicated 38 years to the Birmingham Police Department, where he served with honor and distinction. His colleagues remember him as a compassionate, steadfast officer whose selflessness inspired those around him. Above all, Tommy was a loving husband and father who found great pride and joy in his family. His warm smile, kind heart, and steadfast faith left a mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Though his absence leaves a void, his legacy of faith, love, and service lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Tommy was preceded in death by his parents, the late Cecil and Clemmie Taft Spears. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Rose Slovensky Spears; sons, Randy (Linda) Spears and Stephen (Andrea) Spears; grandchildren, Maggie (Adam) Pitts, Sara Beth Spears, Sydney Spears (Andrew) Thomas and Emily Spears; great grandchildren, Davis, Parker and Sydney Pitts; brother, Ronnie (Diane) Spears; sister, Linda (Gene) Gravlee; and a host of nieces and nephews and cousins. Honorary pallbearers will be the City of Birmingham Police Officers. Funeral service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will precede the service with family visitation from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by friend visitation from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be a burial service immediately following the service at Hopewell Cemetery in Hanceville, Alabama. Rev. Truman Davis will be officiating the services. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to request donations be made to Samaritans Purse.

Stewart 'Anthony' Piper, 63 (Updated)
Stewart "Anthony" Piper, age 63 of Cullman, died Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025. He was preceded in death by his parents, W.O. and Berniece Piper and a brother, Tommy Piper. Anthony is survived by his daughter, Kayla Piper (Michael McPherson); son, Chris (Melanie) Piper ; Grandchildren: Landon (Ally) Piper , Gracie Piper, Jarryd Reel, Piper McPherson and Poppy McPherson; great granddaughter, Oaklynn Piper; siblings: Kenny Piper, Mitzi (Jerome) Wood, Bill (Pam) Piper, Mike (Regina) Piper and Jayson (Ewa) Piper, his beloved dog, Cooper and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A celebration of life visitation for Anthony will be held Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, from noon to 3 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055, followed by a celebration of life memorial service at 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family request that donations be made in Anthony's honor to your favorite charities. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Howard Bervin Millican, 93
Howard Bervin Millican was born on Jan. 14, 1932, and passed away on Jan. 24, 2025, and is under the care of Moss Service Funeral Home. Graveside Service will be held on Jan. 29, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Garden City Cemetery, 450 Water Avenue SE, Hanceville, Alabama. Interment will be held on Jan. 29, 2025, at Garden City Cemetery, 450 Water Avenue SE, Hanceville, AL.

Haleigh Beth Moore, 29
Funeral Service for Haleigh Moore, age 29 of Vinemont, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Keith Warden, officiating; burial will be at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon - 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Moore passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, at her residence. She was born, Jan. 1, 1996, to Donald Lee Taylor and Wendy June Suhr. She was preceded in death by her uncles, Danny Roy Sterling and Ronnie Lynn Taylor; great-grandmothers, Margie Wynell Wells and Ida Irene Sterling; grandfathers, James "Snake" Taylor and Walter Eugene Wells; and cousins Lisa Renee Lytle and Emily Bonita Rodgers. Survivors include her husband, Hunter Wayne Moore; sister, Kelsi Taylor (Joseph Wright); grandparents, Anita (Randy) Fowler; brother, Ashton Kai Suhr; nephew Traison Joe Wright; sisters in law, Happi Moore and Hiley Moore; mother, Wendy (Martin)Suhr; father, Donald (Kristi) Taylor; mother and father in law, Beverly (Les) Moore; grandmother, Dorothy Taylor; half-brother, Cody Allen Haynes; aunts & uncles, Johnny (Cindy) Taylor and family, Walter (Jessica) Wells and family, Rod (Joy) Taylor and family, Sunshine (Jason) Fox and family, and a host of cousins. In lieu of flowers please make donations in honor of Haleigh Moore to (Margaret Jean Jones Center) CCCDD of Cullman: 1807 Beech Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055

Rayburn Alvin Federer, 81
Rayburn Alvin Federer, age 81 of Cullman, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born July 2, 1943, to Alvin Federer and Ola Mae Federer. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include wife, Sherry Federer; stepson, Frank Lee (Dana) Long; stepdaughter, Cheryl (Jeff) Crider; daughter's, Annette (Scotty) Cryer and Bridget (Ricky) Benfield. 16 Grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

James Larry McGriff, 74
James Larry McGriff, 74, passed to his eternal home Jan. 25, 2025, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born in Cleveland, Alabama, to Ovis James and Lavara "Jo" Dial McGriff. Larry was a 1969 graduate of Holly Pond High School and was named All-County in basketball. He was drafted into the United States Army and reenlisted to proudly serve his country for eight years. Upon leaving the military he followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a carpenter, working with his father and brother until their deaths. He then worked for Walker Brothers in Baileyton, until his death. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed being outdoors. He was baptized on Sept. 14, 2014, at Cornerstone Revival Center. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Debra McGriff; a brother, Eugene "Blue" McGriff; as well as his paternal and maternal grandparents. He is survived by his daughter, Suzette Robbins, Athens, Alabama; son, Tyson (Samaria) McGriff; grandson, Camden Robbins; brothers, Kennith McGriff, Ronnie (Brenda) McGriff, Holly Pond, Alabama; Byron (Debbie) McGriff, Eva, Alabama; sister, Charlotte (Mike) Denney, Holly Pond, Alabama; sister-in-law, Judy McGriff, Holly Pond, Alabama; stepdaughters, Jessica Loegler, CeCe Howell; aunts, Elna Barnett, Carol White; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation on Tuesday evening, January 28, 2025, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Larry will lie in state at the funeral home on Wednesday morning, January 29, 2025, from 10 a.m. until services begin at 11 a.m., Frankie Stewart officiating. Burial will follow in New Hope #2 Cemetery where Will Newcomb, Chris McGriff, Kevin McGriff, Billy McGriff, Duston Denney, and John Leathers will serve as pallbearers with Jacob Gibbs serving as honorary pallbearer. The United States Army will render military honors at the graveside in appreciation of Mr. McGriff's service and sacrifice to our nation. Obituary provided by the McGriff family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the McGriff family.

Bruce Roland Surrett, Sr., 71
Bruce Roland Surrett Sr, age 71, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025. He was born in Cullman on May 24, 1953, to Clarence and Lillian Handley Surrett. He is preceded in death by his mother: Lillian Handley Surrett, Brother: Billy Surrett and Grandson: Randy Dingler. Funeral Services will be on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with burial following services in Pleasant Grove Baptist Cemetery. Bro. Tim McCormick will officiate. He is survived by his wife: Elaine Surrett, Daughter: Tanya (James) Neal, Sons: Bobby (Tammy) Surrett, Bruce Roland Jr.(Sarah) Surrett, Brian Keith (Sara) Surrett, Jason Oliver Surrett, Hunter Allan Surrett, Brother: Bobby Sr, (Janice) McMurry, Barry Surrett, 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Visitation is Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, from 9 a.m. until service time at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

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

Cullman City School Board: January meeting notes

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — At the January meeting of the Cullman City School Board, several items of interest were discussed, including notable progress in the district's strategic plan, including a reduction in chronic absenteeism from 14.51% in 2018 to 8.33% in 2024 and a significant investment of almost $750,000 in security upgrades.

Cullman City Primary School received the Alabama Attorney General's 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Award, becoming one of six schools in the state to receive the 2024 award. The district has upheld its one-to-one technology program for nearly 20 years, allocating $335,000 every three years to refresh students' Chromebooks.

Curriculum enhancements include Career Tech program expansion and increased dual enrollment participation, boosting AP success rates to nearly 80% and increasing the number of dual enrollment students to 401 students in the past year. The board noted how central administration has been restructured for better efficiency and what it called the competitive nature of teacher salaries. It also stated that administrative costs have been kept at 2.65% of the budget, which is below the state average. Investments have been made in the system's extracurricular student bus fleet, including the purchase of five buses since 2020, with three more on order, expected to arrive this May. More projects include the resurfacing of the soccer field and track as well as Cullman High School's STEM Project, which is set to kick off soon.

The recent PowerSchool data breach was discussed; the board said no Social Security numbers were compromised. PowerSchool has assumed all responsibilities for the data breach.

The board reported at the time about the breach:
"Cullman City School system was notified on January 7, 2025, of a recent cybersecurity incident involving PowerSchool, a widely used education software provider that provides our district's student information system.

"On December 28, 2024, PowerSchool identified unauthorized access to certain customer information through its PowerSource portal. The company has assured us that the incident is contained, and there is no evidence of ongoing unauthorized activity or operational disruptions.

"Affected data may include sensitive personal information such as names, addresses, and email addresses. Social security numbers were not impacted, as the Cullman City School system does not collect this information.

"PowerSchool has implemented enhanced security measures, deactivated the compromised credentials, and is offering credit monitoring and identity protection services for certain impacted individuals. The Cullman City School system is working closely with PowerSchool to communicate with families, educators, and stakeholders. Additional information will be provided to families and stakeholders of the Cullman City School system per the guidance of PowerSchool and the Alabama State Department of Education."

The calendar for the 2025-2026 school year was approved, with employees returning on Aug. 4, and students set to return on Aug. 6. There will be full weeks off for Thanksgiving and spring break, and two full weeks for Christmas break.



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