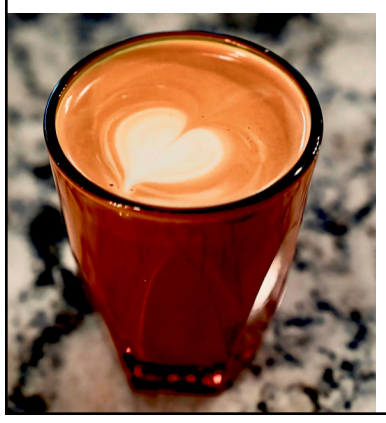


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WEATHER

59 43

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

PARTLY SUNNY

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Hanceville holds on top Vinemont in area tournament 44-33

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PREP FOOTBALL

Cullman hires Trent Walker as new Bearcats head coach

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Schools Board of Education met at Cullman High School's Tillman Hall Friday morning and introduced Trent Walker as the Bearcats new head football coach. Walker, a CHS alum, replaces Danny Stiff who stepped down from his position earlier this month. Walker is returning to his alma mater after spending the previous four seasons as the head coach at Lawrence County. Walker also spent five years working as an assistant coach at Cullman under previous Bearcat head coaches Mark Britton, Matt Plunkett and Oscar Glasscock.

"I'm extremely grateful and humbled to be selected as the next head foot- » PAGE 5



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman High School Head Football Coach Trent Walker is introduced at Friday morning's school board meeting. »

CPD officers achieve FTO certifications







FACEBOOK/CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Left to right are Ryan Whisenhunt, Josh Spinks and Michael Bryant.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Three Cullman Police Department officers - Josh Spinks, Ryan Whisenhunt and Michael Bryant - recently achieved their Field Training Officer (FTO) certifications.

Chief Joey Duncan said an officer aspiring to be a Field Training Officer must have a genuine desire for the role.

"They should possess a minimum of three years of experience with the Cullman Police Department, or alternatively, two years with the department along with at least two additional years with a certified law enforcement agency," Duncan said.

"Additionally, they must demonstrate the ability to be a positive role model for recruits.

"A recommendation from supervisors is required, highlighting their positive attitude, experience, leadership qualities and job accomplishments."

Duncan said Field Training Officers are selected through a rigorous interview process conducted by the Field Training Coordinator and command staff.

"Officer Josh Spinks previously served as Airborne Infinitary with the 82nd Airborne Division in the U.S. Army and deployed for a combat mission," he said.

"Before joining Cullman Police Department, he was a deputy with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. He is an instructor in ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) and less lethal techniques. Josh is also a sniper with the Cullman PD Tactical Unit."

Duncan said Whisenhunt previously served as the GIS Manager for Morgan County 911.

"He's been an officer with Cullman PD since 2018," he said.

"He is currently a certified Fire Investigator, EMS instructor and Basic Life Support (BLS) provider, and is enrolled to become a Traffic Homicide Investigator."

Bryant retired from the Alabama Army National Guard as a Sergeant First Class with multiple combat deployments, said the chief.

"He has over 15 years of supervisory experience in the private sector before joining Cullman PD," Duncan said. "Michael is also a member of the Cullman PD Tactical Unit."

CATA Culinary Arts program hosting monthly lunch event Feb. 6

» PAGE 8

2025 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show this Sunday, Feb. 2



CULLMAN REGIONAL FOUNDATION

The 2025 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show will take place Sunday, Feb. 2, at 4 p.m. in the Cullman High School auditorium.

» PAGE 2

Library hosting Empty Bowls event

» PAGE 6

Native Trees for Me: Lunch & Learn to help residents choose the right trees – Feb. 5

» PAGE 2

PET OF THE WEEK

Houston, we have adoptions on the way



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Houston

» PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 31

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 31, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 27
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1653
- domestic violence; CR 703
- harassment; CR 1386
- harassment; CR 672
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 437

Jan. 28
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- giving false ID to avoid arrest; CR 1617
- unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle; Teem Rd.

Jan. 29
- burglary; CR 724
- trespassing; CR 109
- unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle; assault; CR 750
- unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle; CR 490
- theft of property; Hwy. 278E
- burglary; CR 532
- domestic violence; CR 1196

ARRESTS

Jan. 27-29

Calvert, Barry E.; 63
- assault-harassment

Cowan, Deuntae M.; 33
- FTA – receiving stolen vehicle

Davis, Michael K.; 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Duncan, Devin S.; 24
- FTA – public intoxication (3 counts)
- FTA – assault-simple assault (2 counts)
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon
- FTA – criminal mischief
- FTA – reckless endangerment
- obstructing justice using a false identity – fictitious person

Fields, Ivan J.; 44
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)

Golden, April L.; 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Hankins, Joshua; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hutto, Bailey L.; 22
- PROBATION VIOLATION – receiving stolen vehicle

Johnson, Bama N.; 53
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of methamphetamine

Jones, Hagen E.; 30
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – improper tag light
- FTA – failure to register vehicle
- FTA – refusal to display insurance
- FTA – driving without drivers license

Jones, Melanie R.; 36
- GJ – possessing forged instrument

Kyle, Angel A.; 39
- forgery-counterfeiting
- burglary-residence-no force
- theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- fraudulent use credit/debit card

Lee, Robert L.; 31
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- drug trafficking

Leonard, Shaun A.; 44
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Little, Danny A.; 45
- public intoxication
- attempting to elude a police officer
- criminal mischief – damaged property

Norris, James E.; 45
- DUI

Palmer, Jakob A.; 21
- harassing communications

Parson, Eddie V.; 59
- FTA – DUI

Pate, Jeremy B.; 35
- theft-firearms

Roberts, Zachary A.; 19
- sex offense-rape-strong arm

Strickland, Christine N.; 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Swann Jr., Johnny G.; 43
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Taylor, Brandi L.; 50
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – public intoxication
- possession of methamphetamine

Watson, Tammy L.; 47
- permitting dogs to run at large

Willie, Latosha M.; 38
- GJ – assault-child abuse-simple-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 29
- Unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; person; miscellaneous; Braun St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $86; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 2nd Ave. SW

Jan. 30
- forgery; America's First Credit Union; forged check

ARRESTS

Jan. 29-30

Hall, Justin T.; 35
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- obstructing justice using false identity

Massey, Corina L.; 24
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cockrum, Jordan B.; 34
- theft of property-4th degree

Puentes, Guillermo; 45
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Parson, Eddie V.; 59
- FTA – DUI

Moreno, Cody W.; 29
- DUI

Christian, Alisha B.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

Griffin, Jonathan B.; 41
- FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA - violation of a protection order

Barnett, Stacy L.; 39
- theft of property-4th degree

Vickers, Henry C.; 84
- theft of property-4th degree

Weaver, Jason J.; 32
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

McKinney, Michael W.; 44
- FTA - driving without license
- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - improper lane usage

Rush, Danah L.; 26
- FTA – theft by deception
- FTA - fail to stop exit parking lot
- FTA - insurance violation

Hessom, Terrence O.; 30
- violation of domestic violence protection order

Shelton, Daniel W.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

Manning, Courtney D.; 37
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Native Trees for Me: Lunch & Learn to help residents choose the right trees – Feb. 5

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman residents interested in planting native trees and shrubs can gain expert guidance at the upcoming Lunch & Learn: Native Trees for Me on Feb. 5 at noon. The event, hosted by the North Alabama Agriplex in partnership with the Cullman County Natural Resources Planning Committee, will be led by Cullman County Extension Coordinator, Dr. Kira Sims.

This informative session is designed to help participants make informed decisions ahead of the annual Tree Sale on Feb. 8. The cost to attend is $10 per person, which includes a light lunch and program. With limited space available, early registration is encouraged.

Dr. Sims emphasized that the program is tailored to both new and experienced gardeners. "Participants will learn characteristics about each plant with the goal of educating them on making the best purchasing decision," said Sims. "Information will include mature plant size, cultural requirements like light, water and soil needs as well as attributes such as fall color, edible fruit and flower color. This information will also be available on the day of the sale."

The Lunch & Learn will highlight seven native tree species and seven native shrub species, which will be available for purchase at the Tree Sale. The sale will take place at the North Alabama Agriplex on Feb. 8, from 9 a.m.-noon or until sold out. Trees will be sold for $3 each on a first-come, first-served basis, with purchase limits in place for the first hour. Available species include black walnut, flowering dogwood, sassafras, sourwood, southern magnolia and sycamore trees. Shrub options will consist of American elderberry, beautyberry, common witch hazel, arrowwood viburnum, oakleaf hydrangea and pawpaw. Species availability is subject to nursery stock.

For Sims, this event is an opportunity to educate residents on selecting plants that will not only thrive but also benefit the local environment. "In Extension, we use the phrase 'right plant, right place' as a reminder that plants are not a 'one size fits all.' This approach will not only save the client money, but it will help them find something they will enjoy," she explained.

Proceeds from the tree sale will directly support the natural resources education in Cullman County for youth and adults. "Along with learning about the specific trees, this allows the community to support local education focused on natural resources stewardship," she added. "Clients will also be purchasing high-quality trees and enhancing the natural resources of their own spaces."

To register for the workshop, visit www.agriplex.org/WPtest/lunch-and-learn or call the North Alabama Agriplex at 256-297-1044. The venue is located at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW in Cullman.

Show (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Students from the Cullman community are preparing to showcase their talents to benefit nursery and pediatric services at Cullman Regional on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 4 p.m. in the Cullman High School Auditorium in the 2025 Cullman Regional Foundation Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show.

The program celebrates the variety of talent among area youth and will feature musical and theatrical performances by more than 60 children.

The event was started in 1993 by Dr. Eugene Bownes, one of Cullman's most beloved pediatricians.

The program allows the Foundation to purchase special items for the hospital to help care for infants and pediatric patients. Proceeds from the event have purchased a variety of patient care items over the years.

Engaging the students in the show allows them to be exposed to a philanthropic event at an early age. Through their participation they will give back to help advance health care services. The participants make donations at the time of their auditions, sell tickets and sell sponsorships for the show.

The 2025 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show promises to deliver a wide range of talents from solo and ensemble dance performances to vocal and instrumental performances. Tickets may be purchased for $15 on the day of the program.

"We are excited to once again host the variety show, giving students the opportunity to showcase their talents," said Maria Stanford, Foundation executive director. "We encourage the community to take part and show your support for this cause benefiting the nursery and pediatric care at Cullman Regional."

For more information contact the Cullman Regional Foundation at 256-737-2565 or crmcfoundation@cullmanregional.com.

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
C.M.G., * CASE NO.: JU 24-334.02
a minor, DOB: 04-25-2024. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

The unknown father of the above child born to Tina Marie Garrison on April 25, 2024, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources by the 3rd day of March, 2025, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 15 day of January, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

FILED IN OFFICE
JAN 15 2025
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Probate County, AL
88

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MERRILL JAMES WALLACE, * CASE NO.: PC2024-458
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration, having been granted to the undersigned on the 22nd day of January, 2025, 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.

Rebecca Wallace
Personal Representative

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

TO PUBLISHER: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

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

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

Houston (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Meet the adorable Heeler/Rottweiler mix, Houston, the Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week!

He is approximately 1 year old and has medium energy. This fun, compact, unassuming fellow will stick by your side without question.

He learns quickly and loves a challenging adventure, so he's always up for fun times. He also looks to you for encouragement and guidance. His sweet soul will grab your heart!

His adoption fee is $130, which includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip. Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you arrive and Houston has been adopted, don't fret as he has many friends awaiting new homes! Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

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Send resume to: Jana Schroeder, REHAU Automotive LLC, 2424 Industrial Dr SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Include job title.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Music Every Thursday Night in February at the Bethel Community Center
4-8 p.m. at the center, just off U.S. Highway 278, west of Cullman on County Road 1117. Bluegrass, gospel and country music. Musicians are welcome with acoustic instruments only. Covered dish supper and everyone is invited. Please join us! No entry fee, but donations are appreciated for building upkeep.

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.



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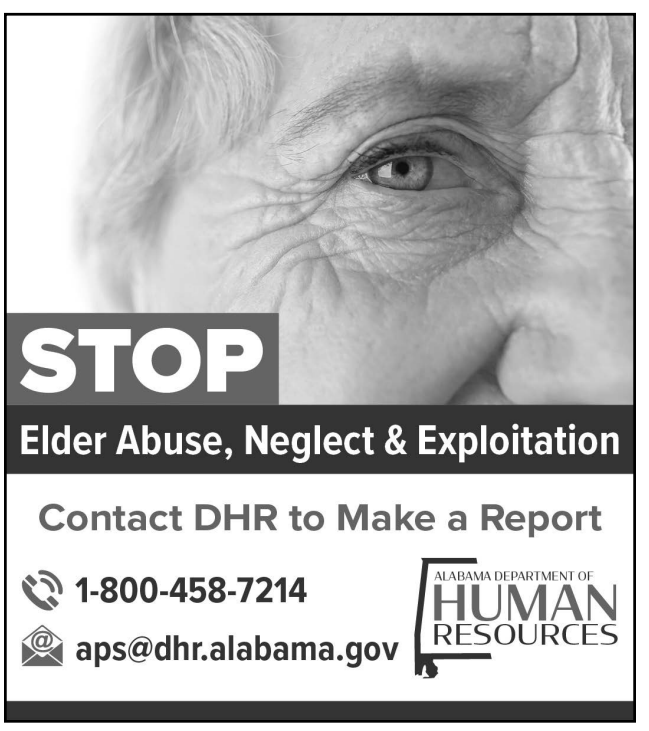
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W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist







PREP BASKETBALL

Hanceville holds on top Vinemont in area tournament 44-33

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — This year's 3A, Area 11 Tournament tipped off at Hanceville's Lane Horton Gymnasium Thursday night with a matchup between the Bulldogs and the Vinemont Eagles. Hanceville was able to build a 25-10 lead in the first half and the Bulldogs fended off a late push from the Eagles to secure a 44-33 win and a spot in the area tournament semifinals.

Baskets by Will Conquest and Colton Gillis gave Vinemont an early, 4-1 lead but Peyton Twilley knocked down a three to tie the score at 4 with just over two minutes remaining in the first quarter. Sam Abney hit a pair of free throws to put Hanceville back in front, but Conquest scored just before the end of the first to tie the game at 6 going into the second.

Twilley laid one in, Abney hit two more free throws and Drake Bentley scored inside to put the Bulldogs ahead 12-6 early in the second quarter. Twilley drilled a three to make it 15-6 but a pair of baskets from Gillis on the other end stopped the run and trimmed the lead to 17-10 later in the period.

Bentley hit a pair of free throws to make it a 20-10 game with less than two minutes to play in the first half and after a Jacob Keith basket made it 22-10, Bentley buried a three in the final minute of the second quarter to give Hanceville a 25-10 lead at halftime.

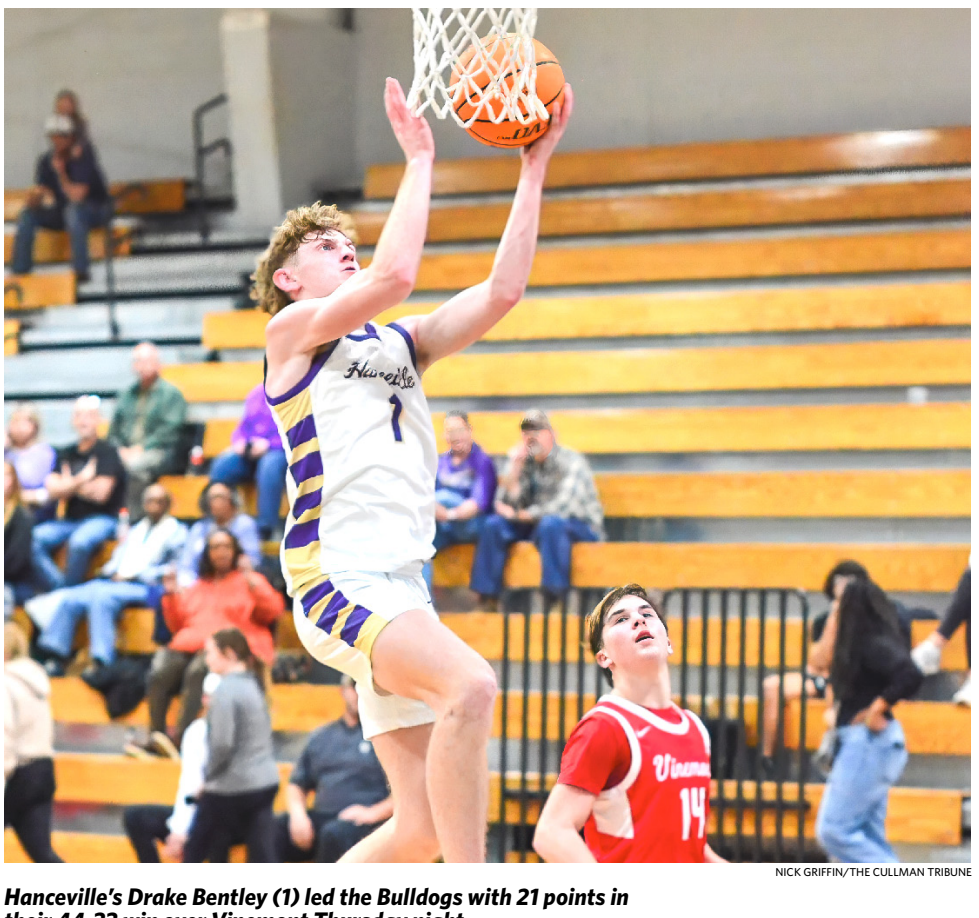
Bentley converted an and-one play at the line to make it 28-10 and after another bucket from Conquest on the other end, Bentley laid another one in to keep the Bulldogs in front 30-12. Twilley knocked down a three to give Hanceville a 33-14 lead but after another Bentley basket made it 35-14, the Eagles ended the third quarter on a 7-0 run to cut the lead to 35-21 at the start of the fourth.

Baskets by Twilley and Bentley kept the Bulldogs ahead 39-23 with five minutes remaining but Cheston Wilhite hit a pair of free throws and Charles Parr laid one in to trim the lead to 39-27 midway through the period.

Twilley and Conquest exchanged baskets to make it a 41-29 game and Vinemont was able to bring the lead down to 41-33 with less than a minute to play. However, the Bulldogs sank three of their next four free throw attempts to put the game out of reach and secure a spot in the area tournament semifinals.

Bentley led the way for Hanceville with 21 points in the win, followed by Twilley with 14. Conquest led Vinemont with 10 points in the loss and Gillis added nine.

Hanceville will head to Locust Fork to play the Hornets on Saturday at 5 p.m.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville's Drake Bentley (1) led the Bulldogs with 21 points in their 44-33 win over Vinemont Thursday night.

Broome's double-double leads No. 1 Auburn over LSU

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

BATON ROUGE, La. — Delivering another player of the year performance, Johni Broome led No. 1 Auburn to an 87-74 win over LSU Wednesday at Maravich Center, the Tigers' 12th consecutive victory.

"It's a Quad-1 win," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said. "That's a great win for our ballclub. That's a good LSU team. We grinded it out. We've got to play better if we're going to keep winning. It's tough to win on the road. Very happy with the win."

Broome recorded with 12th double-double of the season, pouring in 20 of his 26 points in the second half, while grabbing 16 rebounds and adding three blocked shots and a steal to help Auburn improve to 7-0 in SEC play with its fourth conference road win.

"My teammates had my back," said Broome, who helped Auburn outrebound LSU 47-34. "That's what my teammates depend on me and count on me for, to close possessions like that."

"We went to him, and he finished everything," Pearl said. "Over time our physicality wore them down. Johni was dominant again, particularly in the second half. When everybody was fatigued, Johni's physicality took over."

Miles Kelly scored 13 points, Chad Baker-Mazara scored 11 points and led Auburn with seven assists, and Tahaad Pettiford added 10 points.

Ja'Heim Hudson was big off the bench, scoring seven points on 3-for-3 shooting, including a 3-pointer, while adding two rebounds and an assist.

"I've been staying right and staying ready, as BP says," Hudson said. "Staying in the gym, staying locked in. I can shoot it. I've been staying confident and today it showed."

Leading by 12 at the half, Denver Jones opened the second half with a 3-pointer that put Auburn ahead by 15.

Hudson stopped a 5-0 LSU run with his 3-pointer, but the Bengal Tigers responded with a 7-0 run to pull within five points, forcing an Auburn timeout with 12:59 to play.

Pettiford answered with a 3-pointer and the Bengals Tigers would get no closer than six over the final 12 minutes.

Limited by foul trouble in the first half, Chaney Johnson hit a pair of 3-pointers in the second half, helping Auburn's power forwards go 3-for-3 from long range in the half to preserve the Tigers' lead.

"Tremendous," Pearl said of Johnson and Hudson's contributions.

"When our 4-men start making those shots, what we do offensively is going to look even better."

Auburn forced 15 first-half turnovers on its way to a 41-29 halftime lead, thanks to 11 steals and a 12-0 run that erased LSU's early lead.

"We knew we needed to turn them over," said Pearl, whose team finished with 22 points off 20 LSU turnovers. "We were aggressive without fouling."

Kelly led the visiting Tigers with 10 points in the half, making 2 of 5 3-pointers. Baker-Mazara added nine points and four assists in the opening half.

Auburn outrebounded LSU 24-17 in the half, including 15 offensive rebounds, yet totaled only two second-chance points.

Auburn (19-1, 7-0) remains on the road Saturday, travelling to Oxford, Mississippi, to play No. 23 Ole Miss at 1 p.m. CT on ESPN and the Auburn Sports Network.

"It'll be one of the biggest tickets in that building's history," Pearl said.

"This league is such a grind. The pieces are there for us to make a run. We've got to stay healthy and defend without fouling."



ZACH BLAND/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn's Johni Broome finished with 26 points and 16 rebounds in the Tigers' 87-74 win at LSU on Wednesday night.

No. 4 Alabama outlasts No. 13 Mississippi State on the road, 88-84

Steven Gonzalez
UA Athletics

STARKVILLE, Miss. – For the third time this season, the No. 4/4 Alabama men's basketball team came away with a road win over an Associated Press top-15 opponent, defeating No. 14/13 Mississippi State 88-84, Wednesday night at Humphrey Coliseum. With the win, Alabama head coach Nate Oats has tied Wimp Sanderson's record for most AP top-25 wins in program, capturing his 25thvictory.

Alabama's (18-3, 7-1 SEC) Chris Youngblood put on a performance scoring a team-high 23 points, setting a new career-high with seven three-pointers while Mark Sears recorded a game-high nine assists. The Crimson Tide's duo of Sears (12 points) and Youngblood (11 points) combined to score 23 of Alabama's 44 points in the second half.

Mississippi State (16-5, 4-4 SEC) was led by Josh Hubbard scoring a career-high 38 points, shooting 14-28 from the field.

Head Coach Nate Oats Post-game Comments

"That was quite the game if you like big shot-making, this was a good game to be at. (Josh) Hubbard is pretty good and we didn't do a very good job on him, but he made some tough shots.

"I thought Chris (Youngblood) stepped up because he said let me take him and I thought he did the best job of anybody. He (Hubbard) went for 38 points so we have to do a better job, but we made some big plays elsewhere to make up for the fact that we didn't do a good job on Hubbard and we didn't shoot well from the free throw line. They are a tough team and have some of the toughest guys in the league in my opinion.

"I thought Cliff's (Omoruyi) block saved the game in my opinion because it would have put them up one point with under 30 seconds left. I thought a lot of guys made a lot of big plays and (Mark Sears) had a great bounce back game. A lot of big plays and a huge road win over a really good team."

Team stats

- Alabama won its 25th game over an AP top-25 opponent under head Nate Oats, tying Wimp Sanderson's program record
- The Crimson Tide captured its third win over an AP top-15 team this year on the road
- Alabama tied its program record for most AP top-25 wins in a season, winning its seventh of the season
- Alabama had three players score double-figures led by Chris Youngblood's 23 points
- Mark Sears led all players with a game-high nine assists to go along with his 15 points
- The Tide outrebounded the Bulldogs 41-35 led by Mouhamed Dioubate's nine rebounds

First half

- Chris Youngblood led Alabama in the first half with 12 points, converting four three-pointers
- Alabama's bench was effective in its minutes, combining for a +32 on UA's plus-minus
- Half of Alabama's 10 assists in the first half came from Mark Sears, recording five
- Mississippi State was led by Josh Hubbard's 13 points in the first half
- Alabama's bench was exceptional to start the game, scoring 13 of its first 18 points of the game led by Labaron Philon's five points
- Late in the half the Tide would go on a 10-3 run, taking a 35-27 lead at the 5:36-mark
- Mississippi State responded with a 7-0 to tie the game at 37-all with two minutes left in the half
- Alabama ended the half on a 6-2 run to go into halftime with a 44-39 lead

Second half

- Alabama shot 66 percent in the second half from three-point range, led by Youngblood's trio of makes
- The Tide scored eight points off Mississippi State's four turnovers while the Bulldogs scored three points off Alabama's nine turnovers
- Sears and Aden Holloway kickstarted Alabama's offense in the second half, scoring 15 of UA's first 19 points in the half
- The Bulldogs took its first lead of the half (65-64) at the 10:14-mark
- With the game tied at 80-80 with just under four minutes left Alabama took the lead off a Grant Nelson three-pointer, giving the Tide an 83-80 lead with 2:30 left in the game
- Alabama would never relinquish the lead to come away with the 88-84 victory



UA ATHLETICS

Chris Youngblood (8) led the Crimson Tide with 23 points in their 88-84 win at Mississippi State Wednesday night.

Up next

- Alabama will return home to face Georgia on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Coleman Coliseum

- Tipoff is set for 3 p.m. CT and will be televised on the SEC Network

Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene hosts Coffee with a Cop

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — For over 10 years, Coffee with a Cop has been bringing the community closer to local law enforcement. The latest event, hosted Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene continued this tradition by giving residents a chance to get to know local officers in a comfortable setting.

Pastor Joe McNulty, who also serves as a volunteer chaplain for both the Cullman Police Department and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, said it's important to have and nurture relationships between law enforcement and the community.

"What I hope that they'll take away is that these are great people — worthy to be respected and honored," he said.

"But I also hope they see that both law enforcement and the church are important parts of the community.

"We can partner together to make our community a better place to live, and that's the whole intent of this event."

McNulty said he was honored to be able to be a part of law enforcement's mission and serve his church.

"For me personally, it's an honor to be a volunteer chaplain with the sheriff's office and the police department," he explained. "I love our community, and I love giving back. That's what my church loves to do, too — this is a loving church."



ANNABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

This year's Coffee with a Cop event was held on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene in Cullman.

Walker (from Front)

ball coach of Cullman High School.

"This is a program full of pride and tradition, and I am excited about the opportunity to return home and lead the Bearcats," Walker said.

"I would like to thank Mr. Kallhoff, Mrs. Tuggle, Coach Dean and the school board members for entrusting me with this program and its young men.

|Our staff will work diligently to build a program that our faculty, school, and community can be proud of both on and off the field."

Walker also has experience as a graduate assistant on the Auburn University coaching staff during the 2010 SEC Championship and BCS National Championship season, as well as stints at Virginia Military Institute and Gadsden City.

He was selected as 2023 Decatur Daily Large School (5A-7A) Coach of the Year, as well as 2023 Class 5A Region 8 Coach of the Year.

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff discussed the search process at Friday morning's meeting, highlighting the qualities they were looking for in the next Bearcats head coach.

"We had close to 40 apply for the position. We conducted six interviews and three follow-up interviews over a two-week period.

"Mrs. (Allison) Tuggle, Coach (Mike) Dean and I participated in all of the interviews, all of the interviewees had experience as head football coaches and all interviewees were thoroughly vetted by us contacting school administrators, athletic directors and head coaches. The considerations we had when interviewing were, 'What is the best fit for our student athletes? Who will maximize their potential on and off the field? Will this person provide structure, leadership, clear expectations and discipline? And will this person be the best fit for the Cullman High School faculty and staff, the best fit for the Cullman community and will they work best with the administration?'," Kallhoff said.

"Our recommendation today has four years' experience as a head coach in Alabama. He turned a historically poor performing 5A team into a playoff team by his third season with them. He has seven years' experience as an assistant coach and coordinator in Alabama, six years' experience coaching at the college level and he will bring the core beliefs of hard work, accountability, positivity, toughness and having a winning attitude."

Walker admits that he didn't give much thought to returning to his alma mater as a head coach early in his career but knew when the opportunity presented itself that it's where he felt called to be.

"What a special day for me and my family. I knew it'd be special but when I walked in and saw all the black and gold again it got kind of surreal being back here," Walker said. "When I first got into coaching, I wouldn't say I planned on being back at my alma mater, it never really crossed my mind. I was entered in at the college level and wanted to kind of chase college glory if you would. I wanted to go all over the country and see different places and work in different states, but God intervened in my life and led my path back home."

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Library hosting Empty Bowls event

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) will host an event in partnership with Empty Bowls of Cullman County on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

CCPLS Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore said this is a one-time promotional event for the 20th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner, which is set for Feb. 17, at First United Methodist Church.

"The program takes place at 10 a.m. for our regular story time and at 4 p.m. for an additional program where all ages are welcome," Creekmore said. "The program will include the reading of two stories, a showing of the pottery they make for the fundraiser and a craft for the children."

Creekmore said patrons do not need to bring anything to participate in the program.

"The program will be led by Tanya Shearer and Christy Brock on Tuesday, Feb. 4," she said. This is our first Empty Bowls event."

The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System is located at 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman. It can be reached by phone at 256-734-2720.

The Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner will be held in Hearin Hall at First United Methodist Church from 4-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 30-31

Peggy Harrison Ambrose, 77

Funeral Service for Peggy Ambrose, age 77 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Mac Buttram and Robert Lancaster officiating; burial at Valley Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Miss Ambrose passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at Crestwood Medical Center. She was born Oct. 29, 1947, to Clarence Harrison and Marjorie Harrison. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her sons, Matthew Harrison Ambrose and William Thomas (Tammy) Ambrose, III; grandchild, William Thomas Ambrose, IV; brothers, Charles (Pat) Harrison and Jeff (Christina) Harrison. Peggy graduated from Cullman High School, after that she attended Florence State University, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. From there she taught 5th grade English at Monrovia Elementary School for 32 years and while teaching at Monrovia achieved her master's degree in elementary education at Alabama A & M. After retirement Peggy moved back to Cullman, AL and taught at Wallace State Community College.

Unita Faye Bryant, 57

Memorial Service for Unita Faye Bryant, age 57 of Cullman, will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on Feb. 4, 2025, at 2 p.m. with Gene Persall officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Bryant passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025. She was born Dec. 13, 1967, to Ray and Dorothy Price. She was preceded in death by her parents and a step-grandson Ryan Money. Survivors include her husband, Jerry Bryant; son Dustin (Andrea) Mika; daughter Myranda Mika; stepsons Micheal and Tony Bryant; stepdaughter, Sherri Merritt; granddaughters, Brooklyn and Kadence Mika, Aliyah McMillian; grandsons Alex and Aiden Moser; step grandchildren, Hannah and Devin Money, Brody, Jasper and Albrie Bryant; brother, David Price; sisters Judy Childers and Debbie Fowler.

Richard 'Ricky' Louis Madaris, 67

Richard "Ricky" Louis Madaris, 67, of Holly Pond, Alabama, went home with the Lord on January 22, 2025, after the most heroic battle against pancreatic cancer. He passed at home surrounded by family. Ricky was born Dec. 27, 1957, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Robert and Alice Vedell Madaris. He is preceded in death by both parents, a brother, Charles Madaris and a sister, Robin Allen. Survivors include his wife, Robin Davis Madaris of Holly Pond, two daughters, Ashley Madaris of Vinemont, Alabama, Alissa Madaris (Drake Jordon), of Holly Pond, two granddaughters, Lakelyn Ege and Lily Hipp. Brothers, Terry Madaris (Dena) of Riverside, Alabama, Scott Madaris (Tery) of Carrollton, Georgia. Sisters, Tammy ((Jack) Mason of Locust Fork, Alabama, Christine (Glen) Glaze of St. Louis, Missouri, and Colleen Buddenhagen of Birmingham, Alabama. Also, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives, along with his furry companions, Squeaky, Renton and kitties he rescued. Ricky attended Erwin High School and worked as a heavy equipment mechanic for most of his life. He was mechanically gifted and could fix anything he put his mind to. He also leaves behind a wonderful work family at both BSE Industrial Contractors and R&M Equipment Rental and also his loving and faithful church family at Desperation Church. The family extends a special thank you to Desperation Church as well as Southern Care New Beacon Hospice for their phenomenal care given to both Ricky and the family. Ricky enjoyed the simple things in life. Time spent with family, friends, watching football, and above all, his beloved church. His love for the Lord and spreading the word was everything to him, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A Celebration of his amazing life will be held at Desperation Church, 510 Fifth Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, on Friday Jan. 31, 2025. Viewing at 10am and sermon at 11 a.m. with Pastor Andy Heis and Jerry Mitchell officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Desperation Church at desperationchurch.tv.

Viola Graves, 97

Funeral service for Viola Graves, 97, of Vinemont will be at 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Graves Gap Cemetery, Bro. William McClellan officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday from 11 p.m. - 1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Graves was born March 4, 1927, to William Edward and Bertha Pannell McClellan. She was a warm, sweet, loving soul. She was always making people laugh and feel loved. She was loved by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Paul Graves; grandson, Michael Sterling and a number of brothers and sisters. She is survived by three daughters and two sons, Virginia Breedlove (Danny), Mary Lowery, Roger Graves (Glenda), Theresa Baker (Joey) and Terry Graves (Sandra); fifteen grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, family and friends. Pallbearers will be Aaron Baker, David Partridge, Terry Graves, Roger Graves, Alex Graves, Joey Baker. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Kathy Reneea Teichmiller, 70

Funeral Service for Kathy Reneea Teichmiller, age 70 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Buddy Perkins officiating; Visitation will be Sunday evening, February 2, 2025, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and Monday, February 3, 2025, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Teichmiller passed away on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at her residence. She was born Oct. 30, 1954, to Wendell Franklin Smith and Melba Walker Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Mark Teichmiller and brother, Wade Smith. Survivors include her son, Joey (Danielle) Teichmiller; daughter, Jennifer (Tooie) James; grandchildren, Katelin (Zach) Yahn, Chey (Nathan) Spears, Austin and Shelby Teichmiller, Kristin Yahn, Raven (D.J.) Picard; great grandchildren, Bentley, Zayne and Aylin Teichmiller, Alexandria, Lane and Abel Spears, Montana Yahn, Taygen and Paisley Yahn and Waylon Leathers; sisters, Wendy (Vince) Williams and Debbie (Billy) Shaw; aunt, JoAnn (Bud) Reed; nieces and nephews, Phoenix Smith, Josh (Shanda) Brooklyn and Hannah Shaw.

Charles Andrew Walls, 57

Charles Andrew Walls, known to most as Andy, passed away on Jan. 29, 2025, at the age of 57. Mr. Walls was born in Boaz, Alabama, on Sept. 6, 1967, to the late Chester Walls and the late Jo Anne Long Walls. Andy was a hard-working truck driver who spent many hours transporting steel coils. Mr. Walls absolutely loved his job. Andy also enjoyed farming. His farm was home to various animals including his turkey, Eugene, who he had a love-hate relationship with. Andy delighted in his horses, that he often hitched his wagon to, before taking them for a long ride. Mr. Walls had a love of music, and he enjoyed time on the lake, but more than anything, Andy loved being at home with his family. He loved his wife and children and just living life with them brought Andy joy. Andy was a dedicated and loving husband and father, and he will be missed so very much. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work and love that will live on through his family for generations to come. Mr. Walls is preceded in death by his parents; son, Jonathan Walls; and brother, Robert Walls. Those left to treasure Andy's memory includes his wife, Heather Walls; daughter, Amber Battles; son, Kohlton Walls; step-daughter, Kaylie Cone; granddaughter, Kaydence Battles; brothers, Richard Walls, Roger Walls; sisters, Syble "Sissy" Brown, Neeley Walls; mother-in-law, Amanda Kean (John Seibert); father-in-law, Gregory Kean; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, from 11 a.m. until services begin at 1 p.m. All services will be held in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow services in Riverside Cemetery where Mason Stewart, Brandon Hardin, Allen "Sonny" Livingston, Todd Cameron, Robert McMinemon, Bubba Cahela, Garry Kanaday, Shane Hammon, and Tyler Hardin will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Walls family.

Obera 'Bea' Talley Mack, 96

Obera "Bea" Talley Mack, age 96, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Woodland Village Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center on her 96th birthday. Obera is survived by daughter Donna Cheatham Maner (Donnie Maner), grandson Vincent Taylor Cheatham, Jr, granddaughter Christy Cheatham Phillips, great granddaughters Amelia Phillips and Olivia Phillips Obera is predeceased in death by her husband Walter Jackson Mack, son Larry Wayne Mack, son-in-Law Vincent Taylor Cheatham Sr., brothers Tom Talley, Donnie Talley, and Junior Talley. A visitation for Obera will be held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, Parlor G & H, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055, until the celebration of life funeral service at 2 p.m. With an interment to follow at Cullman City Cemetery, 812 Ninth Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John Evangelical Protestant Church 256-734-0344.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A nice little snow-cation

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Well, I said, "Let it snow," and it did. Thankfully, this one was no blizzard, but it was deep enough to make some snow cream. It was even big enough to be named. It was called Winter Storm Enzo. The strange thing about this snow was the further south one went, the more snow they got. It was a complete reversal of what happened a couple of weeks ago. This time, they even had snow on the beaches of the Gulf Coast. The beaches that normally have white sand had several inches of white snow, but there didn't seem to be many snow bathers. Cities like New Orleans and Pensacola had record snowfall!

I do realize that our little holiday was no day at the beach for everyone.

Those who had to be out in it, like truck drivers and utility workers, put their lives at risk to do what needed to be done.

Ashley, our daughter, is a hospital nurse. She didn't miss a day of work. Fortunately, because we live only a few miles from the hospital, rather than drive the 20 miles to her house, she safely made the short drive each day to stay at our house. Although she slept for most of her time with us, we enjoyed having her back home.

We had a really good covering of the white stuff here in Opelika.

There was enough snow for all the fun things like building a snowman, riding a sled and having a snowball fight. I didn't do any of those things, but I did have a couple of bowls of snow cream.

When I was younger, I would have stayed outside in that stuff all day long. My how things change as we get, well, older. I did not admit to being old, I said "older." There is a difference. Eighteen is older than 17, but 18 is not old.

Anyway, I digress. I did not do the things I once would have done, but I did enjoy the snow. It was kind of like when I do go to the beach. I usually don't play in the water anymore...I sit on the balcony and look at the water.

When I get to feeling a little energetic, I might take a stroll on the beach, unless it has snow on it! I mostly looked out our windows at the snow, except when my dachshund, Cocoa (15), needed a bathroom break. She's old, too. She didn't run and play, except to run back to the house as soon as she finished her business. I did enjoy watching the neighborhood children slip and slide and throw snowballs. I was tempted to join them, but with a slight prayer for willpower, I resisted the temptation!

Jean and I had a stay-cation for a couple of days, but I called it a snow-cation. I cooked a big pot of chili. I love chili, even in the middle of the summer, but it tastes even better when it's cold and especially when there's snow.

I'm not the chef at our house, but I do cook a mean pot of chili. For dessert, we had snow cream. Jean put a large bowl out on the sidewalk shortly after the snow started falling. It filled it up in no time.

When I was growing up my recipe was to add milk, sugar and vanilla flavoring. Jean made ours with sweetened condensed milk, but that's all she will allow me to tell you!

Well, I will tell you this, it was so good I even went out and gathered up another bowl of snow! Now, bring on springtime, please!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 2, 1928

From the files of Feb. 2, 1928

GROUND HOG SEES SHADDOW FEB. 2nd—BAD WEATHER FORECAST

When Mr. Ground Hog looked as he emerged from his winter home Thursday, February second, he saw his shadow. He tarried outside in the sunshine only a short while for his shadow told him bad weather would last for at least six weeks longer.

WATSON'S BARBAIN STORE

Has just unloaded at Store No. 2 60,000 pounds Best Flour. 300 barrels of Pillsbury's Best XXXX.
5 pound sacks ----- 20c
24½ lbs sack ----- $1.00
49 lbs Sacks ----- $2.00
98 lbs sacks ----- $4.00
Barrel ----- $7.95
Come quick, it is going fast, no more at this price when this is gone. W. T. Vandiver, advertisement. Manager.

NEW AMBULANCE FOR HANCEVILLE

Oscar Fischer, undertaker, has installed a new modern ambulance for service at his Hanceville undertaking parlor.

The ambulance is of the newest up-to-date design embracing all latest improvements in combination ambulances and hearses. The new ambulance was put into service Thursday in Hanceville.

BERLIN NEWS

Cullman R. 3, Jan. 31.—O. I. Walker has almost finished his new building.

The Berlin basket ball team won another victory Friday evening, January 25th, by defeating Centerdale.

A singing given by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Handley Sunday night was enjoyed by all present.

J. E. Easterwood is suffering from a cancer being removed from his ear.

Miss Myrtle Johnston spent the weekend with her parents south of Cullman.

Miss Joanna Hall is very ill at her home.

A Negro Minstrel will be given at Berlin on Saturday night.

February 4th, also a play of white characters. Admission 15c and 25c.

A number of young people from here attended the party at Henry McGriff's Saturday night.

Everybody remember the singing in the afternoon at the Berlin Baptist church Sunday.

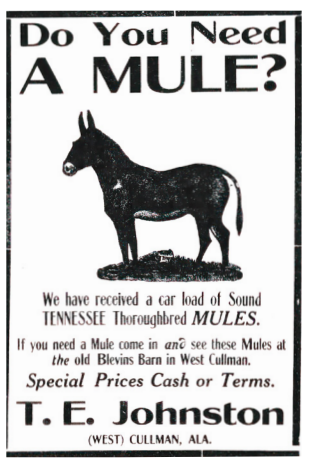
CANNING DEMONSTRATION A SUCCESS.

The demonstration in Canning Chicken held at Mrs. J. H. Smith's in Simcoe, January 21st, under the direction of Miss Isadora Williams of Auburn, was quite a success inspite of the extreme cold weather which prevented leaders from three Clubs being present. Twelve women were present to observe and take part in canning the twelve young hens furnished by Mrs. Smith. The following products were made: 6 quarts canned chicken with bone, 3 pints without bone, 7 pints and 18 one-half pints of soup mixture containing ground chicken, rice and celery, and one-half pint each of chicken livers and gizzards. Chicken broth and fat are also useful products of these cannings.

The above work was made more pleasant by the delicious dinner served by Mrs. Smith, and Miss Edna Smith, which included some of the chicken.

QUARTETT CONCERT AT FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH FEB. 18, 7 P. M.

The Fairview-Smith Quartett assisted by the Eva Quartett will give a concert at the Fairview church February 18th, 7 p. m. The proceeds of this concert will be used to help buy a new piano for the church. Everybody invited. Admission 15 and 25c.



POET'S CORNER

A Winter's Noon | By: Randy C. Hale

Today at noon, It's 25 degrees outside.
The weatherman says it feels like 17,
as if 25 is not cold enough.
The sun is shining, but so far away.

I hear the gravels crunch under my feet
walking to my favorite spot, a chair
under an oak tree facing west.
The cardinals are in the trees, and
I've filled the feeders for them to
fly down and feed.

God bless us and those who walk
on all fours, who fly beneath
the cloudy skies or swim above the
ocean floor. Who creep and crawl
beneath the leaves or spin their webs
and fly as balloons into the wind.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 1

H A Y A D S A N K V D R R I D
O E D N D I R T D I D O O L I
U O A D V A N T A G E S S O F
R N A L W R P O I E L O E A T
S O O N T M U T R A G G E D M
R D A B S H F A S S E U E S A
J U G R L P F I E T N L O T S
O O S P I E S S I E O L F N K
B T I H P R U B Z R U S F A E
P H S U E B O W E N G R I P D
W E I T T D U A S H H S S X D
H R G S S W E D I M A U E A R
O S H A L L O W S M Y S M A D
Y O U R I I W I U P U B T W E
J A W T T O L N P A W S D E W

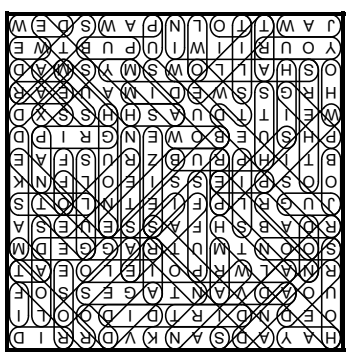
Adapts
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Health
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Sank
Sea
Seize
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Shallow
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 1

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

ANSWERS:



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



BILLY POPE

The completion of the rebuilding of the Gulf State Park Pier was one of the highlights of 2024.

Rainer: ADCNR strives to continue trend in 2025 after great success in 2024

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

To say 2024 was an outstanding year for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) would border on understatement, and plans for 2025 will continue that trend, according to ADCNR Commissioner Chris Blankenship.

Through a variety of funding sources, ADCNR has utilized more than $218 million for Alabama State Parks improvements, has facilitated the investment of more than $385 million in Coastal Alabama, and has ensured more than $37 million has gone to boating and fishing access improvements. In additional good news, 660,397 hunters and anglers supported conservation and Alabama's outdoors recreation industry through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses.

ADCNR is much larger and more complex than most people realize. It is made up of four Divisions – Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Marine Resources, State Parks and State Lands – and the size of its budget has moved it into the Tier 1 agency category in Alabama state government along with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Human Resources, Medicaid and the Department of Mental Health.

Commissioner Blankenship said most Alabamians have no idea of the variety and scope of work that ADCNR is responsible for in the state.

"Most people who interact with the Department usually interact through an activity they do," Commissioner Blankenship said. "In other words, if you're a hunter and use a wildlife management area (WMA), you might think hunting is all we're responsible for. Or if you go to State Parks, you might think parks is all we do. It's the same with boating access and fishing. Actually, ADCNR is really a broad Department.

"We do a lot of different things, particularly on the coast with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill restoration work and with GOMESA (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act) funds. We manage all of our state's natural resources, State Parks, the Forever Wild program, and offshore oil and gas exploration and management," Commissioner Blankenship said. "We're also managing a little more than $1 billion in Deepwater Horizon restoration projects."

Commissioner Blankenship hopes to enlighten the public on ADCNR's vast and varied responsibilities.

"I think we have managed our resources well in the state, both game and fish, freshwater and saltwater," he said. "We have great fisheries from one end of the state to the other. Our deer season is longer than anywhere else in the country. I think the primary responsibilities of the Department are well executed, something we can be really proud of. One thing we've been very successful at the last few years is obtaining and managing funding to do a lot of infrastructure improvements for public access around the state.

"What I'm most proud of is the amount of property we've acquired through the Department for public access. We've added more than 86,000 acres since I've been Commissioner and Governor Ivey has been in office. For a state the size of Alabama, that's a pretty good bit of land. That has added to a lot of our WMAs and State Parks and has created new WMAs. On the coast, it's protected some critical habitat that will allow the public to have access in some of the fast-growing areas in Baldwin and Mobile counties."

Another facet of ADCNR's work that makes Commissioner Blankenship proud is the improvement in State Parks throughout the state.

"One thing I'd like to point out is how much investment we're making in State Parks in 2024 and into 2025," he said. "That $218 million was used on projects that were either completed in 2024 or that we have bid, with construction taking place in 2025. That is an amazing number. We have renovations going on in all of our parks, from one end of the state to the other."

The largest State Parks projects include a new hotel at Cheaha State Park and an executive campground at Gulf State Park as well as rebuilding the cabins on Lake Shelby at Gulf State Park and the $14 million rebuilding of Gulf State Park Pier.

"We're also totally renovating Lake Lurleen State Park near Tuscaloosa," Commissioner Blankenship said.

"We spent $13 million totally renovating the Oak Mountain State Park Campground.

"We've made a lot of other improvements at other parks that will make a huge difference, not only for the enjoyment of the public but it will also produce revenue for State Parks that will keep us self-sufficient moving forward."

In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster affected all of the Gulf Coast states, and the restoration projects associated with the settlement continued in 2024 and into 2025. Commissioner Blankenship said about $385 million was invested in Coastal Alabama in 2024, including numerous Deepwater Horizon projects that have finished design and permitting and have begun construction.

"That includes the $13.5 million Gulf Shores Ecotourism Project and the Fairhope Working Waterfront at the Fairhope Pier that will be about $10 million," he said. "We also have some very large projects funded by NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), like the Dauphin Island Causeway that was about $28 million. The East End Beach renourishment on Dauphin Island was about $26 million. We have two projects that are being implemented by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, a $19 million restoration project in Theodore Industrial Canal and a $20 million project on Fowl River. We've also had investments from GOMESA in Mobile and Baldwin counties in 2023 and 2024 of about $98 million. We anticipate another $30 million in GOMESA funds for projects in 2025."

One of ADCNR's missions in the past several years has been to upgrade and increase the public's access to the bountiful waters of the state.

"We've had a very strong initiative in cooperation with Innovate Alabama for boating access around the state," Commissioner Blankenship said. "We have more than $30 million in boating access projects that are underway or will be later in 2025."

A ribbon cutting is scheduled in February for the renovation of the Brown's Creek Public Ramp on Lake Guntersville. A ribbon cutting was held this week for the expanded facilities and upgraded ramp at Mount Vernon.

"The new ramp and facilities at Mount Vernon was a $2 million project that will make it first-class," Commissioner Blankenship said.

"We're partnering with Florence on McFarland Park Boat Ramp on the Tennessee River. That park is really nice. We will cut ribbons for new ramps in Monroe, Tuscaloosa, and Choctaw counties very soon.

"In Baldwin County, we also funded the County Road 6 Boat Ramp and the renovations of the Chocolatta Boat Ramp on the Causeway. In Mobile County, the Billy Goat Hole Boat Ramp on Dauphin Island is being totally renovated, and we're building a new ramp at Cedar Point. The Billy Goat Hole Ramp is probably our most used ramp, especially during red snapper season.

"I am so thankful for the opportunities we have to do good work for outdoor recreation in Alabama. These investments will pay dividends for many decades."



CATA Culinary Arts program hosting monthly lunch event Feb. 6

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) Culinary Arts program will host a lunch on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the school. The cost is $10 per person.

Culinary Arts Instructor Amie Veal said this is her 12th year teaching Culinary Arts at CATA and the program have been hosting this event since she began teaching.

"The meals begin in October of every school year," Veal said.

"The date and menu is always posted the week prior to the meal. The date/menu can be found on our CATA Facebook page and CATA website at the beginning of each month. Meals must be pre-ordered two days in advance."

She continued, "The meal is dine-in or carry-out and includes salad, entree, side, bread, dessert and a drink. The event is held on the first or second Thursday of the month. Each meal is prepared and cooked by our Culinary Arts students. All of the Culinary Arts students are involved in the preparation and cooking of the meal."

RSVPs for dine-in and to-go plate orders should be placed no later than Monday, Feb. 3, by 11:30 a.m. Call 256-734-7740 or email aveal@ccboe.org.

CATA is located at 17640 U.S. Highway 31.