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WEATHER

72 | 55

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Holly Pond topples Vinemont 54-42 to win area title

» PAGE 4

Fairview Council talks ball fields, park progress

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The Fairview Town Council at its monthly meeting on Feb. 3, discussed ball fields and the progress on the proposed new park.

Michael McLeskey with Speed Softball requested to lease Clint Barbee Field from the Town of Fairview. His plans include constructing a building to host practices, complete with batting cages. The group would reserve the space for practices on Wednesdays and Sundays, leaving the area available for park games the rest of the week. McLeskey agreed to help be a caretaker for the grounds as part of his rental agreement. The council agreed to consider a formal proposal upon approval from its lawyer.

Regarding progress on the new park the » PAGE 6



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Mayor Keith Henry maps out park plans at the Feb. 3, 2025, meeting of the Fairview Town Council.

CCSO, MCSO hold K9 Detection and Tracking Seminar



CHAD WHALEY

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, hosted a K9 Detection and Tracking Seminar Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 3-5, 2025, with around 40 teams from across Alabama and as far away as Louisiana participating.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 3-5, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, hosted a K9 Detection and Tracking Seminar.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said participants received not only classroom training, but also hands-on scenario-based training.

"I am very proud of the work being done by our K9 Unit here at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office," Gentry said. "Having narcotics and tracking K9s, as well as an explosive detection K9, is an invaluable asset for Cullman County.

"Around 40 teams participated in this three-day event. These teams came from all across the state of Alabama and from as far away as Louisiana. Various sites throughout Cullman County were utilized to provide a wide array of training opportunities."



CHAD WHALEY

Participants were also given the option to be certified in narcotics detection, explosives detection or tracking through the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA).

CCSO Director of Canine Operations Matthew Bales is over the Cullman County K9 Unit at the CCSO and was one of the NNDDA instructors.

"I am grateful for all their hard work and dedication," Gentry said. "I would also like to express my gratitude to the Morgan County Sheriff's Office for collaborating with us to make this training possible. I am so thankful to be able to host a training like this and to have such a great turnout. I am proud to say that we have one of the best K9 units in the entire state."

Cullman man killed in single-vehicle crash

» PAGE 2

Circuit Court issues directive for nursing mothers called to jury duty

» PAGE 6

Ivey delivers 2025 State of the State address



SCREEN CAPTURE/WVTM13

Gov. Kay Ivey delivered the 2025 State of the State address on Tuesday night, Feb. 4.

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Baileyton Council increases recreation sports league fees, forgoes salary increases

» PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

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Soft Taco

» PAGE 2

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 5

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 5, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 29

• theft of property-4th degree; Books-A-Million; general merchandise; $171; Cullman Shopping Center

Jan. 30

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $39; Olive St. SW

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $44; Olive St. SW

Feb. 3

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

• theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $72; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Feb. 3-4

Sanford, Christopher L.; 40

• FTA - driving without license

• FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree

• FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

• FTA - violation of protection order

Kratz, Jesse P.; 43

• receiving stolen property-4th degree

• criminal trespass-3rd degree

• FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Graves, Jennifer Y.; 45

• making false report

Hughes, Jordan A.; 29

• FTA - expired tag

Sanders, Acie Z.; 24

• FTA – speeding

Evans, David E.; 45

• theft of property-4th degree

• criminal trespass-3rd degree

Gonzalez, Garcia O.; 45

• FTA – insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



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.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Friday, Feb. 7 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, Feb. 8 - 8 a.m. Men's breakfast
• Sunday, Feb. 9 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

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

29th Annual Cullman High School Jazz Band Big Band Dance
Friday, Feb. 14, from 7-9 p.m. at Loft 212, 212 Fourth St. SW. Admission is $10. All ages welcome. Not a chaperoned event. Supervision recommended for ages 14 and younger.

20th Annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner
Monday, Feb. 17, from 4-6:30 p.m. in Hearin Hall at First United Methodist Church. 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.

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.

At the Foot of the Cross Church 4th Annual Homecoming
Saturday, March 1, at 2 p.m. at the church, 2101 County Road 1435 in Vinemont. Joyful Hearts, Short Creek Gospel Trio and Family Tradition will be bringing music! Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided! Come join us for a wonderful day in the Lord!

United Way of Cullman County Crawfish Boil 2025
Friday, March 14, from 5-7 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing. $50 all you can eat. Join us for an evening of fun, food and giving back! The bayou-bred team from Hank's Sports Bar will be boiling up fresh crawfish and veggies right on-site! Goat Island Brewing will be serving the perfect drafts to pair with your meal. Featuring the Rally Stripe Band! Get tickets at https://tinyurl.com/crawfishtix.

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.

Soft Taco (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Soft Taco, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, is a beautiful terrier/hound mix who is approximately 3 years old. He is a low- to medium-energy little guy who is truly an unassuming fellow.

He is the type of guy who walks on his leash like the gentleman he is. Soft Taco's calm demeanor makes him the perfect candidate for a companion/reading/therapy/hiking dog!

He truly is a renaissance guy! Those caring for him said, "He tugs at my heart," so hopefully he does with someone else!

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. Now, if you arrive and Soft Taco has been adopted, don't worry, as he has many friends just waiting for their forever homes!

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

Crash (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was killed in a single-vehicle crash Wednesday, Feb. 5, at approximately 2:10 a.m.

Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Koby E. Tankersley, 23.

Troopers said Tankersley was fatally injured when the 2001 Ford Ranger he was driving left the roadway, struck a fire hydrant and then a cable box.

After the impact, they said, the Ford overturned and struck multiple trees. Tankersley was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The crash occurred on County Road 616 near County Road 468, approximately 4 miles west of Hanceville, in Cullman County.

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


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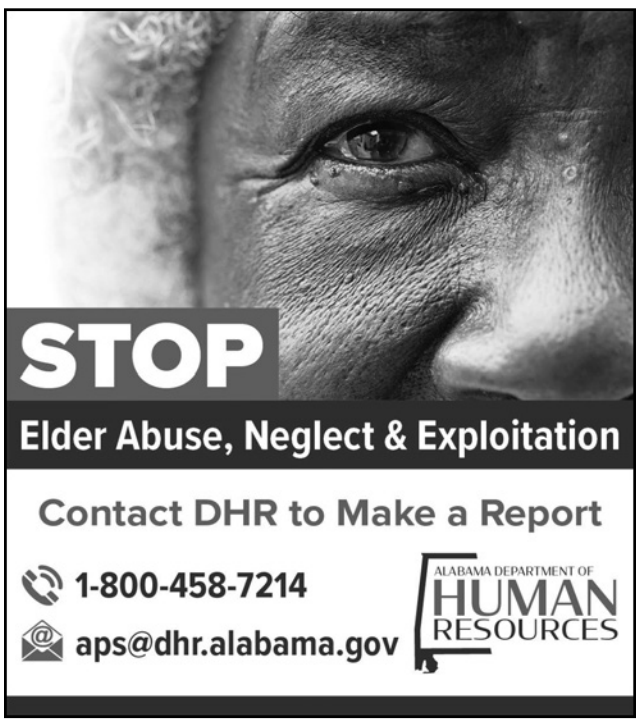
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PREP BASKETBALL

Holly Pond topples Vinemont 54-42 to win area title

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos defeated Vinemont 54-42 Monday night to win this year's 3A, Area 11 Tournament.

VINEMONT, Ala. – After posting wins in the semifinals Friday night, Vinemont and Holly Pond were back on the court Monday night to play for this year's 3A, Area 11 Tournament Championship. After a tight first quarter, the Lady Broncos outscored Vinemont 16-4 in the second quarter to create separation and fended off a late run from the Lady Eagles to secure a 54-42 win and the area title.

Morgan Flanagan laid one in to give the Lady Eagles a 2-0 start but a basket and a pair of free throws from Ava Thomas put Holly Pond ahead 4-2. Reagan Robinson then ripped off eight straight points to give Vinemont a 10-4 lead but baskets by Thomas and Alana Phillips cut it to 10-8 by the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was dominated by the Lady Broncos, starting with a Millie McBee basket that tied the game at 10. After Maggie Nail split a pair of free throws, McBee laid another one in to make it 13-10 but Carley Stephens answered with a bucket on the other end to make it a 1-point game. However, the Lady Broncos dominated the rest of the way, outscoring Vinemont 11-0 in the remainder of the period to take a 24-12 lead into the locker room at halftime.

McBee laid one in to make it a 26-12 game at the start of the third quarter but a pair of baskets from Robinson on the other end trimmed the lead to 26-16. Holly Pond answered with another 11-0 scoring run to pull ahead 37-16 late in the third but Vinemont capped the quarter with three-pointers from Vayda Yarbrough and Caroline Miller to cut the lead to 37-22 at the start of the fourth quarter.

McBee drove to the rim for a basket and Thomas converted an and-one play to keep the Lady Broncos in front 42-24 early in the fourth. Robinson and McBee exchanged baskets to make it a 44-26 game and buckets from Stephens and Miller trimmed the lead to 46-30 midway through the period. Madison Butts knocked down four straight from the free throw line to maintain a 50-34 lead for Holly Pond late in the fourth quarter. The Lady Eagles made a late push to chip away at the lead and Flanagan drained a three as time expired, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Bronco lead and Holly Pond held on to win the 3A, Area 11 championship with a 54-42 win.

Thomas led the Lady Broncos with 19 points in the win. McBee finished with 12, Nail added 11 and Butts posted 10. Robinson led Vinemont with 14 points in the loss and Stephens added nine.

Holly Pond will be back home to host a sub-regional game on Friday and Vinemont will be on the road for its sub-regional matchup.

All Area Tournament Team

- Alana Phillips, Holly Pond
- Ava Thomas, Holly Pond (MVP)
- Maggie Nail, Holly Pond
- Millie McBee, Holly Pond
- Madison Butts, Holly Pond
- Reagan Robinson, Vinemont
- Morgan Flanagan, Vinemont
- Caroline Miller, Vinemont
- Alex Twitty, Hanceville

PREP BASKETBALL

Cold Springs Eagles, Lady Eagles defeat Falkville to win area championships

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Eagles defeated Falkville 68-63 Monday night to win this year's 2A, Area 11 Tournament Championship.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles defeated Falkville 56-21 Monday night to win this year's 2A, Area 11 title.

BREMEN, Ala. – The Cold Springs Eagles hosted both the girls' and boys' Class 2A, Area 11 tournament championship games Monday night and both Eagle squads were taking on Falkville. The girls' game was never in doubt as Cold Springs rolled past Falkville 56-21 and in the boys' game, the Eagles held a double-digit lead at the start of the fourth quarter and had to hold off a late rally from the Blue Devils to secure a 68-63 win.

Cold Springs 56 - Falkville 21 (Varsity Girls)

Ella Dickerson scored a quick basket to put Cold Springs on the scoreboard first. Paizley Whitlow scored down low to give the Lady Eagles a 5-2 lead. Falkville split from the line to cut it to 5-3, but it would be all Cold Springs after that. Kenady Graves scored five straight points, Whitlow added another basket in the paint, Macie Huffstutler hit a pair from the line, and Graves hit another basket down low to extend their lead to 16-3 at the start of the second.

Huffstutler and Graves combined to score the first 12 points of the second quarter for the Lady Eagles, as that gave them a 28-3 lead. Aleah Addison drilled a trey, Dickerson dropped in a floater, and Hagen Ellis drained a three of her own to push their lead to 36-5 at the half.

Hollyn Bruer hit a pair of free throws, and Dickerson scored five straight points to give Cold Springs a 42-9 lead. Huffstutler hit three free throws to make it a 45-9 game.

Ellis hit another three and Baylee Perdue scored down low to put the Lady Eagles ahead, 51-11, at the start of the fourth. Avery Gerstman buried a trey to make it a 54-17 game.

A basket by Ellis made it 56-19, and Cold Springs would go on to defeat Falkville, 56-21, to take home the Class 2A, Area 11 championship.

Graves finished with 13 points for Cold Springs. Huffstutler added 12 points. Dickerson collected nine and Ellis posted eight points.

Kenady Graves, Ella Dickerson, and Hollyn Bruer made the All-Tournament team for the Lady Eagles.

Cold Springs 68 - Falkville 63 (Varsity Boys)

Cold Springs got off to a strong start to the game. Matt Williams dropped in a floater, Breydon Hallmon scored down low, Ayden Black laid it in, and Hallmon scored the next three points to give the Eagles a 9-0 lead. Ethan Day drilled a three, and a rebound and putback by Hallmon stretched their lead to 14-0. Black knocked down a floater to put Cold Springs ahead, 16-4, at the start of the second.

Black drilled a trey to give the Eagles a 19-6 lead early in the second. A pair of rebounds and putbacks by Hallmon made it a 23-9 game. Hallmon hit a pair of free throws and later added another basket down low to make it a 27-16 game. Falkville hit a three to cut it to 27-19, but they didn't have an answer for Hallmon down low, as two more rebounds and putbacks by him gave Cold Springs a 31-19 game. Lindan Hill added a basket down low, and Day put in a floater to make it a 35-20 game at the half.

Another floater by Black gave the Eagles a 37-20 game early in the third, but eight straight points by the Blue Devils trimmed the deficit to 37-28. Baskets by Williams and Hallmon extended Cold Springs' lead to 41-28. A pair of Falkville threes cut it to 43-34.

Later in the quarter, a basketby Hill gave the Eagles a 49-36 lead. Black got fouled after shooting a three and ended up hitting all three free throws to make it a 52-37 game. The Eagles would take a 52-39 lead into what would be a wild fourth quarter.

The Blue Devils went on a 12-3 run to start out the fourth quarter, as that trimmed the deficit to 55-51.

Two huge baskets by Hallmon made it a 59-51 game, and later in the quarter, a pair of free throws by Black kept the Eagle lead at eight at 61-53. Falkville was far from done, though, as a 6-0 run cut it to 61-59 with 51 seconds remaining in the contest. Day hit both of his free throws, and Williams split his free throws to make it a 64-59 game. Hill threw down a dunk to increase Cold Springs' lead to 66-60. The Blue Devils drained a trey to cut it to 66-63, but Day drilled a pair of free throws to help the Eagles seal the 68-63 win in the area championship.

Ayden Black, Breydon Hallmon, and Ethan Day made the All-Tournament team for Cold Springs. Hallmon led the way for Cold Springs with 27 points. Black posted 16 points, and Day finished with 13 points.

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles and Eagles will host their sub-regional matchups this Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Marshall honors CCPS for Safe Schools award

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Primary School was honored for its efforts and commitment to school safety, with the campus one of only six schools in the State of Alabama to be named a 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Awards Winner. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall visited CCPS to present school leaders their plaque and award.

To be selected as a Safe Schools Initiative Winner, schools go through a four-phase application and review process led by judges with knowledge about school safety trends. The schools were noted for developing innovative safety programs and taking practical, effective steps to combat the threat of violence. For example, the badge entry and camera system implemented at CCPS, as well as storm shelter features, were among the new innovations at the school noted in the honor.

CCPS in Cullman is joined by Orange Beach Middle and High School, UMS-Wright Preparatory School, Ladonia Elementary School, Russellville Elementary School and Elvin Hill Elementary School as the six winning schools.

"The safety of our schoolchildren is always on the forefront of our minds and hearts. That is why it is important to highlight and promote the innovative efforts to improve student safety through the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative," Marshall said in a statement.

"Their dedication and resolve to provide a safe environment for learning is an inspiration to us all. I look forward to continuing to spotlight the best school safety ideas for school administrators, resource officers, parents and students."

CCPS Principal Elizabeth Shaddix noted safety has always been an incredibly high priority, and the duty of being entrusted with the youngest learners in the district is never one they take lightly. "This process started two years ago when a core team of school faculty attended a safety conference. We identified priorities within our school in regard to safety measures we wanted to implement. In addition, school safety is prioritized in the district's strategic commitments," she explained. "When I found out we were the recipients of this award, I was extremely proud of our faculty and staff. This demonstrates each person's commitment to keeping our students safe. I would like to say a special thank you to our CCPS safety team, including Ross Jochum, Lorene Howell, Sharon Pruett, Erika Lee, Heather Battles, Keri Bates, Christy Free, Marci Watts, Tyler Skinner, Heather Morrow, Jean Marie Yearwood and SRO Daniel Palisay."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall visited Cullman City Primary School to present school leaders their 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Award.

As part of the selection process, an in-depth site visit was held at CCPS, with parents, community stakeholders and school staff participating in safety rounds to gather feedback and implement changes.

Ivey (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey on Tuesday night, Feb. 4, delivered her latest State of the State address.

Below are her remarks, in their entirety.

Lieutenant Governor Ainsworth, President Pro Tem Gudger, Speaker Ledbetter, Speaker Pro Tem Pringle, members of the Alabama Legislature, Chief Justice Stewart, justices of the Alabama

Supreme Court, distinguished guests – and my fellow Alabamians!

It is an honor to join you all this evening as we begin another productive legislative session.

From Rainsville to Cullman... Huntsville to Birmingham...Tuscaloosa to the Loveliest Village on the Plains...from the Black Belt to the Wiregrass...from our Capital City to Mobile...

...and yes...all the way to the Gulf of America...we live in the greatest state in the greatest nation on Earth.

All of our work must continue to focus on making sure Alabama remains the best state in which to live, work and raise a family.

Y'all, if there is one thing to know about us Alabamians, it is to never count us out. You call us a football state, and we might just become a basketball state.

You say we are not innovative, and we will rightfully earn Space Command headquarters.

You say we are stuck at the bottom in education, and our students will show you the highest gains in the country.

There is nothing...I mean nothing...an Alabamian cannot achieve, and it remains the highest honor of my life to serve our people as governor these next two years. Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our state is strong, and opportunity abounds for all of Alabama.

There's more work ahead, but like I said: Don't ever count us out.

You certainly can't count out Abbie Stockard. Growing up, Abbie probably did not imagine she would one day represent Alabama on the Miss America stage. And she didn't just representus... she won it!

A product of the Vestavia Hills public schools, Abbie is currently pursuing her nursing degree from Auburn University. Competing in the Miss America program earned Abbie tens of thousands in scholarship money – about which I am sure mom and dad are glad – and it has allowed her to champion Cystic Fibrosis awareness. Abbie will now take her message across the country, and she is already representing Alabama – and America – well.

And while you will always be Miss Alabama to us, we are so thrilled to welcome our own Miss America, Abbie Stockard, to the Alabama State Capitol this evening! Abbie, please stand and let us recognize you.

I am also grateful to the McGill-Toolen Catholic High School Choir for traveling from Mobile to be here with us. Thank you for sharing your God-given musical talents this evening.

This past fall as we kicked off another academic year, I, again, had the opportunity to visit several schools around our state, including St. Mary's, right down the road from McGill-Toolen. We were proud to celebrate the passage of the CHOOSE Act – Alabama's education savings account program.

Beginning next school year, these ESAs will give more Alabama families greater flexibility in choosing an education that suits their child's individual needs. Importantly, we are funding students, not systems.

Already in the first month of the application period, we have an outstanding 18,000 student applicants, and we have received them from every single county.

The number of applications will only grow in the next two years as program eligibility becomes fully universal.

Clearly, taxpaying Alabama families want school choice! And thanks to your work, they are getting just that.

We are most successful when we engage parents in our students' educational journeys. After all, our parents are our first teachers.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is helping us put books directly in the hands of Alabama families each month. Since we officially launched the program in our state, one million books have been sent to the mailboxes of enrolled families, and I am excited to report that we now offer this program in all 67 counties.

Our friend Dolly is not just working nine to five for Alabama, she is opening the world of reading to so many families across our state. Thank you, Dolly!

As governor, I have had the chance to meet thousands of our students, and I always remind, especially our elementary students, the importance of reading well. First, you learn to read, and then you ultimately read to learn.

After its first year of full implementation, the Alabama Literacy Act is proving it is working. The nation's report card showed our fourth graders, once again, have increased their reading scores – and it's happening across all proficiency levels and demographics.

On this occasion last year, it was a special privilege to host ABC Elementary School from my home county of Wilcox who made tremendous reading gains. Having a quality education is going to be their ticket to a successful life.

In Alabama, that is our primary goal – ensuring every child in every zip code can receive a strong education.

Thanks to both the Literacy and Numeracy Acts, our educators are unlocking students' potential to reach their dreams.

As we place hundreds of math coaches in schools and work our way towards full implementation of the Numeracy Act, we are already seeing the results.

Now, unfortunately, not all of us are blessed with an engineering brain like our friend Senator Chambliss, and we remember how difficult and frustrating math class could be.

This evening, I am excited to have with us some students who have math figured out...and they are 4th graders from Danville-Neel Elementary School in Morgan County.

Y'all, these students made the highest math gains in the state last year jumping up a whopping.....35 percentage points.

Boys and girls, congratulations on this achievement. Please stand and let us recognize you.

It is because of the great work of teachers and communities, like Danville-Neel, across this state that Alabama saw the largest jump in math scores in the country last year.

Our Turnaround Schools initiative is also delivering real results. Schools that were once among our lowest performing are now outpacing the average growth rate at other schools. Thanks to this initiative, we will no longer have failing elementary schools in Alabama.

We begin this legislative session with great momentum following last week's announcement on our historic reading and math gains.

When I took office, Alabama ranked 49th in reading. Today, we are 34th. And in math, Alabama ranked 52nd. Today...we are 32nd.

Ladies and gentlemen, our students, teachers and families are changing the narrative when it comes to education in Alabama. We are, in fact, not just a football state...Alabama is an education state.

It is vital we continue investing wisely in programs that deliver results: Programs like theCHOOSE Act, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the Literacy and Numeracy Acts, as well as our Turnaround Schools Initiative.

We will continue allowing these successful education reform policies to take shape while taking an active approach to do everything we can to support our students, teachers and families.

According to a recent survey, 72% of high school teachers in the country reported that cell phones are distracting students.

We have also learned from parents that teens are spending an average of almost five hours every day on social media, and it is having a negative impact on their well-being.

Don't get me wrong: Our phones and social media are fantastic tools, but we have to know the time, the place and how to use them.

Schools in our state are already taking action, and we want to support that statewide.

Senator Donnie Chesteen and Representative Leigh Hulsey will carry a bill to put a ban on cell phones in schools. The legislation will also require local boards to adopt Internet safety policies and provide students social media training.

Let's create the best learning environment for our students and get this bill to my desk so I can sign it into law.

In Alabama politics, we don't exactly follow the rule of never asking a lady her age...and that's ok. So, while we are on my age, I will share one of its many benefits: MeeMaw will tell you exactly like it is!

First, if a teacher wants to start a family, she should have the proper maternity leave. That is why I am proud to have Senator Vivian Figures and Representative Ginny Shaver joining forces this year to pass a good, responsible parental leave bill to support both our state workers and teachers.

Next, there are only two genders: Male and female. I look forward to finally putting my signature on the What is a Woman bill by Representative Susan Dubose.

And last, there is a place for the Ten Commandments and other key historical documents in our classrooms.

We will always be a state that supports our strong Alabama values.

Part of what makes Alabama the best state in which to live, work and raise a family is that we have opportunities for our men and women to earn a solid wage and provide for their families.

This evening, I am proud to report that since I have been governor, over $55 billion dollars have been invested in our state, creating some 93,000 jobs and counting.

In Alabama, we understand how to make a successful business climate. Our new Senate Pro Tem Gudger is a small business owner himself, and I have been proud to partner with him, and all of you, to help build on our economic momentum.

Part of building a strong economy is having strong infrastructure. Transportation infrastructure, digital infrastructure and water and sewer infrastructure. We are tackling it all.

I am proud to report that thanks to Rebuild Alabama alone, we have embarked on nearly 500 road and bridge projects across every single county in the state.

Alabama is also being recognized as a national model for broadband deployment. Since taking office, we have supported over 200 expansion projects, which will allow more than 142,000 more addresses to be connected to high-speed internet.

For the first time, the state has directed funding towards 495 water and sewer infrastructure projects statewide, and that is largely thanks to the work of ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. And after 15 years of serving our state in this capacity, Lance will retire in May. Lance, we commend you and wish you well.

The Alabama momentum is real. And while we are creating a record number of jobs and maintaining low levels of unemployment, we still have a lot of work to increase our labor force participation rate.

Through our passage of the Working for Alabama legislation last year, we are establishing the new Alabama Department of Workforce to replace the Department of Labor. I am excited to have Secretary Greg Reed leading these efforts.

We must ensure a path for everyone who wants a job to get one, especially our veterans.

To our Alabama veterans: You have our utmost respect and admiration. You have taken care of us, and so now, we must take care of you.

We will work to make sure you have all the resources readily available.

I am proud to support legislation from Senator Andrew Jones and Representative Ed Oliver to make the Department of Veterans Affairs part of the Governor's Cabinet.

We will also restructure our Board so that our veterans – of all eras across every military branch – are best represented. The goal is to have a Board that is a team player within the executive branch and can fiercely and effectively advocate for the unique needs of veterans of every generation – and their families.

Our veterans are not only part of the fabric of our great nation. They are our fellow Alabamians.

They are our neighbors, our colleagues, family and friends. Here with us from Huntsville this evening is an Army veteran, Jae Barclay, along with his beautiful family.

Jae was serving in Afghanistan when a land mine exploded and engulfed his body in flames. That same day was his and his wife, Sierra's, first wedding anniversary. And just seven days later, they welcomed their first daughter, Addison.

In natural fighter fashion – in Alabamian fashion – he not only survived, he came home and overcame unimaginable obstacles and lives an outstanding life. He has a great job and a loving family. He is living the American Dream, and it is because of brave veterans like Jae that we can all live the American Dream.

Jae, what an honor it is to have you here with us. Please stand and let us thank you for your outstanding service to our nation.

The safety and security of our people is paramount.

A top security concern of every American is protecting our borders.

Securing the Southern Border is securing Alabama's border. And today is a new day in America with President Trump at the helm. He has wasted no time in leading on this very important issue.

Our own U.S. Senator Katie Britt is also an important champion of securing our borders. She is showing Washington, D.C. that Alabama means business. The Laken Riley Act is now law with President Trump's signature, and I am urging Congress to pass Senator Britt's Wall Act that will help finish building the wall and eliminate federal benefits for illegals. It's time to restore common sense.

Here in Alabama, we are supporting President Trump in his mission. I have directed my cabinet agencies – including the Alabama National Guard and ALEA – to continue standing ready to lend assistance where needed.

At the same time, we know every state in the nation is grappling with increasing public safety challenges, but I believe Alabama can lead on tackling this problem.

Bolstering public safety is my number one priority this session, and I am proud to partner with Speaker Ledbetter and a bipartisan group of legislators in putting forward a package of bills that will back the blue and combat inner city gun violence.

To back the blue, we will provide law enforcement with enhanced legal protections that allow them to carry out their duties courageously and effectively – without fear of Monday morning quarterbacking in the courts.

We will support long-serving law enforcement families through dependent scholarships. Y'all, our men and women in blue put everything on the line. They need to know: Alabama has their backs.

We will crack down on inner city violence by enhancing penalties for dangerous felons with guns. We will expand Aniah's law, boost our successful Metro Area Crime Suppression Unit, ban Glock switches, and we will enhance supervision of high-risk juveniles. Working together, we will create a safer Alabama.

Finally, we must not just be strong on crime – but also smart on crime.

While we are moving forward in building two new men's prisons and graduating a record number of corrections officers, we must also see that DOC resources are reserved for the worst of the worst offenders. That is why I am supporting the Second Chance Act. This commonsense reform will help us focus our taxpayer dollars on the most pressing public safety needs.

A safe Alabama is a secure future for Alabama, and a secured future is our goal. So, now, let's look ahead and keep making great strides for the people who call Alabama home.

Let's pass responsible budgets that do not grow government. Let's support our students, teachers and families.

Let's support our economy and high-wage jobs.

Let's ensure more money stays in our taxpayers' pockets.

Let's support our veterans. And let's foster safe communities.

Y'all, I am proud of Alabama. I am proud of our citizens. I am proud to continue leading our state forward. And I am humbled to be a governor of all the people.

The people of Alabama deserve our very best. Future generations of Alabamians deserve our hardest work today.

This is our opportunity. So, let's not waste a moment.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless each of you and the great state of Alabama!



Fairview (from Front)

council has been discussing for several months, it heard from consultants with engineering firm CDG Engineering, who addressed the council regarding what grant money will cover versus what the Town will have to pay for from local funds.

Mayor Keith Henry reassured the council that many groups have volunteered resources and labor stating, "I have commitment for equipment usage... (and) a good bit of the concession stands...We can take bids on what else we need done."

In other business, the council discussed:

- Patching Wesley Avenue and Butler Street is underway
- 181 players have signed up to play spring youth T-ball/ softball/baseball
- Council members must complete and file ethics forms by March meeting

The next Fairview Town Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 3, 2025, at Fairview Town Hall, located at 7525 Alabama Highway 69.

Directive (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Presiding Judge Gregory Nicholas recently issued a directive clarifying the status of nursing mothers called to jury duty. According to Nicholas, nursing mothers have always been excused in Cullman County, but a recent Alabama Supreme Court order prompted county court systems to define their policies in writing.

Judge Nicholas' statement

"There has been some confusion regarding nursing mothers summoned for jury service as a result of an incident that occurred recently in another county. While we have always excused nursing mothers in Cullman County who have received a jury summons, the Alabama Supreme Court recently ordered all presiding judges in each judicial circuit to adopt written guidelines to address the issue. In 2016 a local rule was adopted that authorized specific court officials to excuse or defer jury service in advance of court for a juror experiencing an extreme hardship. Pursuant to the Alabama Supreme Court order, a local rule adopted in 2016 now specifically states that actively nursing an infant qualifies as a recognized hardship. Hopefully, this will relieve any anxiety that nursing mothers may have in our county who receive a summons for jury service. While jury service is an important duty of citizenship, local judges understand that sometimes a person is simply unable to serve as a result of a legitimate hardship and the law allows for deferment of jury service to a later date."

Judge Nicholas' order

Whereas the Alabama Supreme Court recently issued an order instructing all presiding circuit judges of this State to adopt local procedures that permit prospective jurors claiming an undue or extreme physical or financial hardship to obtain an excuse from jury service before the prospective juror's summoned date; and

Whereas a local administrative order was previously adopted authorizing certain individuals in this judicial circuit to grant excuses from jury service for reasons of undue hardship prior to the date jurors are scheduled to report; and

Whereas it is generally acknowledged that a mother actively nursing an infant constitutes a hardship and qualifies the mother to be excused or deferred from jury service pursuant to Code of Alabama § 12-16-63(b)(2);

Whereas, even though serving as a juror is one of the most important duties of American citizenship and provides individuals with an opportunity to directly participate in the administration of justice in their community, there sometimes exist circumstances that make jury service impracticable.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. A prospective juror summoned to appear for jury service in this judicial circuit may request, in advance of the summoned date, to be excused or to have his or her service postponed to a later date because of any undue or extreme physical or financial hardship.

2. Any prospective juror who is actively nursing an infant or who is the sole care giver for another person who is unable to care for himself or herself due to mental or physical deficiencies or tender age shall qualify as a person entitled to be excused from jury service pursuant to § 12-16-63, Ala. Code 1975. An individual summoned for jury service who is able to obtain an appropriate substitute caregiver during the period of jury service does not qualify as a sole caregiver.

3. A request for postponement or to be excused from jury service because of an extreme hardship may be made in advance of the date a prospective juror is summoned to appear by filing a request at juror.alacourt.gov, using a smart phone, tablet, or computer. If a prospective juror does not have internet access a request may also be made by contacting the Cullman County Circuit Court Clerk either in person or telephone. An individual seeking to be excused or to have jury service postponed shall provide sufficient facts to enable an authorized court official to make an informed decision regarding the request.

4. Pursuant to Section 12-16-145 of the Code of Alabama (1975), for good cause shown, the following named court officials shall have authority to excuse or postpone jury service of a summoned juror: Circuit Court Clerk, Lisa McSwain; Lisa Andrews; Cherie Griffin; Debbie Nelson; and Ashley Wilhite. Except for those individuals named herein, the authority of any court official designated by a previous order to excuse or postpone jury service to a future date is hereby revoked. The authority of designated court officials to excuse or postpone jury service shall not apply in capital murder cases. In those cases, only a judge shall be authorized to excuse jurors in conformity with existing court rules and procedures.

5. The Cullman County Circuit Court Clerk is directed to create and to maintain a written or electronic record identifying each individual that has been disqualified or excused from jury service or whose service has been postponed pursuant to this Order. In addition, the record shall contain a brief statement as to the reason for the disqualification, postponement or excusal and the name of the court official making the decision. All records regarding excusing a prospective juror or postponement of jury service shall be maintained for a period of at least four years or as may be otherwise ordered.

6. A decision on the request to be excused or to postpone jury service to a later date shall be made by an authorized official as soon as reasonably practicable upon receipt of the request. The prospective juror shall be promptly informed of the decision regarding his or her request to be excused from jury service by telephone, email or by letter mailed at least four days prior to the date listed on the juror summons.

7. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude a prospective juror from asking to be excused from jury service due to hardship on the date listed in the jury summons, but any such request shall be made prior to the beginning of voir dire.

8. A copy of this Order shall accompany each juror summons issued to individuals summoned for jury service in the 32nd Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama.

9. The Cullman County Circuit Court Clerk shall provide a copy of this order to the Administrative Director of Courts.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2013 Chevrolet Malibu Vin 1G11B5SA8DF183211

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Ponder Wrecker Service, 2600 AL HWY 157, Cullman AL, 35058, on March 4, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
)
HORACE COLLINS BROWN,) CASE NO.: PC-2024-406
An alleged incapacitated person.

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP

TO: SHERRI CHISM, SCOTT A. BROWN and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a *Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship* has been filed by Martha Brown, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, Alex J. Chaney. A hearing on said *Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship* has been **re-scheduled for the 25th day of February, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, Probate Office Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 28th day of January, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35056

PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
)
JAMES COLLIER COGGIN, II,) CASE NO.: PC-2024-370
An alleged incapacitated person.

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AND CONSERVATOR

TO: THOMAS BRINDLEY COGGINS, II and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a *Petition for Permanent Appointment of Guardian and Conservator* has been filed by Attorney Heath E. Meherg, for Petitioner, Thomas Coggin III. A hearing on said *Petition for Permanent Appointment of Guardian and Conservator* has been **reset for the 12th day of February, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, Probate Office Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 22nd day of January, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Heath E. Meherg
Attorney for Petitioner
409 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
BRADLEY MILLS RICHIE, * CASE NO.: PC2024-094
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to MICHAEL RICHIE, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF BRADLEY MILLS RICHIE, deceased, on the 21st day of January 2025, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

MICHAEL RICHIE
Personal Representative

John R. Jacobs
Maples, Tucker & Jacobs
P.O. Box 845
Birmingham, Al 35201-0845

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 21st day of January, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA) IN THE PROBATE COURT
) IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JUDY MCCUTCHEON, DECEASED
CULLMAN COUNTY) Case Number PC2025-017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to James McCutcheon as Personal Representative of the Estate of Judy McCutcheon, deceased, on the 3rd day of February 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Jeffrey S. Brown
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 2688
Decatur, Alabama 35602-2688

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BARBARA LANEY, * CASE NO.: PC2024-445
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary for Barbara Laney, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 3rd day of February, 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 the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

C. Blake West
Personal Representative

Amanda Schafner, Attorney for Petitioner
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, Alabama 35210
Amanda@SchafnerLaw.com
(256) 490-3004

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

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, from Qualified General Contractors will be received by the Awarding Authority: Cullman City Board of Education, 301 1st Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055, until 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, February 25, 2025, for:

ELEVATOR REPLACEMENT FOR CULLMAN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
ARCHITECT JOB NO. 24-79

At such time and place, the bids will be opened and read. Bids that are received via mail and not presented at the bid opening are to be considered non-responsive. It is the responsibility of the bidder to assure that bids are presented at the time of the bid if they choose to mail the bid. Contractors must notify the Awarding Authority if a bid is to be received by mail.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Cullman City Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the proposal, but in no event more than $10,000.00, must accompany the bidder's proposal for each project. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance as required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Drawings and specifications for the project may be viewed on the Digital Plan Room at Alabama Graphics (algraphicsplanroom.com). Private Jobs with Password. Password is lathan.

Prior to issuance of plans and specifications, all Contractors must provide evidence that they are properly licensed for the classification of work for this project. Evidence shall be in the form of a copy of current license clearly indicating all classifications, or sub-classifications, bid limits, license number; and expiration date.

General Contractor Bidders may obtain digital copies of drawings and specifications from the Architect for each project upon receipt of Application for Bid. General Contractors will then be placed on Official Bidders List. Hard copy sets of drawings/ specifications will be available to General Contractors for purchase directly from the document printer: Alabama Graphics. Addenda and other proposal information will be issued only to holders of drawings and specifications distributed by the Architect and on the Official Bidders List. Release of contract documents to the bidder does not imply acceptance of the bidder's qualifications by the Owner or Architect.

Bids received from General Contractors who are not on the Official Bidders List may not be accepted or opened. Lathan Associates Architects, P.C. makes no guarantee for plans and specifications obtained by Contractors and Vendors from sources other than the printed contract documents provided by their firm. Contractors and Vendors who base their pricing from contract documents obtained from other electronic sources, either in part or whole, do so at their own risk.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof, issued either with the original contract documents or by addendum. General Contractors shall not use Proposal Forms other than those provided in the contract documents.

All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975. The Bidder must display current General Contractor's License Number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered, or it will not be considered by the Architect or Owner. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgment, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

Cullman City Board of Education
Awarding Authority
Lathan Associates Architects, P.C.
205-988-9112

Jubilee Coffee and Wine Bar marks grand opening

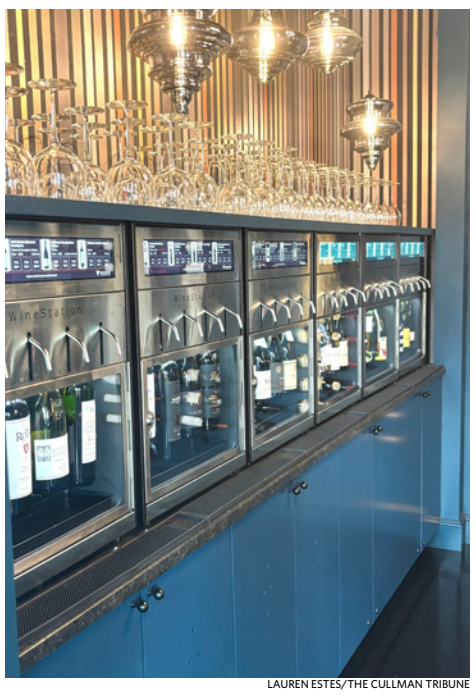


KATIE FINE

Jubilee Coffee and Wine Bar hosted its ribbon cutting and grand opening Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, with over 50 attendees present. Jubilee Coffee and Wine Bar is located at 515 Fourth St. SW, Suite 101, in the Cullman Savings Bank/Flying Fifty Hotel building.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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551 COUNTY ROAD 1652 CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35058
Dark Oak Bed Headboard/footboard, oak kitchen table with 6 chairs, Pottery Barn Comforter with matching curtains/pillow shams/ pie safe/pictures/bed spreads/ entertainment center/large glass front curio cabinet, TV stands/desk and much more.
CASH ONLY

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 4-5

Billie Faye Glover, 94
Funeral services for Billie Faye Cornett Glover, 94, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Hopewell Cemetery, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Thursday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to work with the family. Faye was born Nov. 15, 1930, to parents James Monroe and Vola 'Junia' Cornett. She was a census taker for the U.S. government and enjoyed working and crocheting. Faye was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Jack Cornett and Henry Hardie Cornett; sister, Elouise Huffstuttler. Survivors include her two sons, Don Robert Glover and Dan Craig Glover; brother, Ronnie Cornett, sister Dorotha Waters; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great great-grandchildren; and family and friends.

Dalton Lane Herfurth, 25
Celebration of Life Service for Dalton Lane Herfurth, age 25 of Vinemont, will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at Desperation Church with Pastor Andy Heis officiating; Visitation will be from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at Desperation Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Herfurth passed away too soon on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. He was born April 9, 1999, to Jason (Tina) Herfurth and Robbie (Jeremy) Baggett. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, "Mee Maw" Betty Vaughn; grandparents, "Pawpaw" Jack Greene, "Mee Maw" Sandy Greene; great grandfather, "Gran" Charles Herfurth; great grandmother, "Mom Beck" Rebecca Herfurth, cousins, Clay Tipton and Nicholas Lovell. Survivors include his parents; daughter, Brynlee Rose Herfurth; sister, Christi (Wesley) Yarbrough; brothers, Joey (Joy) Duncan, Zack Duncan, Hunter (Chloe) Herfurth; grandparents, Charles (Diane) Herfurth; girlfriend, Jessica Lynn Dye and daughter Stormi. Family remembers Dalton as a loving son, brother and father to his girls. He loved nature and hunting and fishing with his brother. He had the biggest smile and kind nature about him. He would help anybody, anytime. He will be dearly missed.

Wendy Kay Wilhite, 58
Wendy Kay Wilhite, age 58, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025. Wendy was a loving wife and mother. Wendy dedicated her life to higher education and served as an educator teaching math. Wendy is survived by her husband, Terry Wilhite; her children Peyton Wilhite(Josh), Maddie Wilhite and Elijah Wilhite(Kristen); her sisters Nena Goodwin and Sandra Goodwin. and a host of extended family and friends. Wendy was preceded in death by her parents Billy and Virginia Goodwin. A celebration of life graveside service for Wendy will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at 2 p.m. Wendy will be laid to rest in Cullman City Cemetery, 812 Ninth Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055-4812. To leave condolences for the Wilhite family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Jimmie Don Buchanan, 77
Funeral Service for Jimmie Don Buchanan, age 77 of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Abbott officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Buchanan passed away on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at his residence. He was born July 31, 1947, to Richard Henry Buchanan and Lola Mae Duskin Buchanan. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Julie Buchanan. Survivors include his wife, Kathy Buchanan; son, Paul (Victoria) Buchanan; daughter, Tracy Blossom; stepdaughters, Cindy (Mike) Butler, Sharon (Roger) Allred and Renda Abbott; stepsons, Alan (Jill) Pair and Jason Pair and a Host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends.

Cora England Lowry, 83
Cora England Lowry, 83 of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Feb. 2, 2025, surrounded by her family. Born on June 5, 1941, she lived a life defined by kindness, devotion, and unwavering loyalty to those she loved. One of nine siblings, Cora cherished her family, caring for them and spending time together throughout her life. Their relationships were built on love, grace, and a wonderful dose of good humor and fun. In 1967, she married Doyle "Gus" Lowry, and for 53 years, they shared a marriage grounded in love, understanding, and deep appreciation for each other. For 39 years, Cora was a dedicated employee of Greif Brothers Inc., where she was known for her strong work ethic, loyalty, and the lasting friendships she formed with her coworkers. Cora lived generously and positively. She worshipped and served faithfully and joyfully at First Presbyterian Church. She welcomed everyone with an infectious smile and a gracious heart. Her cooking was legendary. Holiday meals, especially her Thanksgiving feasts and summer BBQs, were cherished traditions. She adored Gus, her children, her grandson Louis, her siblings, visiting with friends, church suppers, shopping trips with Glenda, reading a good book, and watching sports or Westerns on TV. Even as her health declined in recent years, Cora met each challenge and transition with remarkable cheerfulness and grace, leaving a lasting impact on her family and caregivers. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gus; her parents, William Howard England and Mabell Kilgo England; and her sisters, Francis England, Sybil Monk, Pamela Brown, Patricia Lee, Sandra Mathis, and Wanda Witcher. She is survived by her sons, John (Katharyn) and Steve; her grandson, Louis; her sister, Glenda James; her brother, Michael England; and many beloved nieces and nephews. A reception and visitation will be held from 12 a.m. - 1 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, at Cullman First Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to First Presbyterian Church in her memory. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Rebecca Ann Moore Elliott, 73
Funeral services for Rebecca Ann Moore Elliott, 73 of Birmingham, will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethel Methodist Cemetery in Eva. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday from 12-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to work with the family. Mrs. Elliott was born March 24, 1951, to parents Hubert Wesley and Euleta Moore. She was a very caring person and worked as a microbiologist for almost 50 years. She loved God and her family and enjoyed spending time studying her Bible. She will be greatly missed. Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Kenneth Moore, Ronald Moore and Alan Moore; and infant sister, Elaine Moore. Survivors include her husband William 'Bill' Elliott; sisters, Delene Shedd, Kay Price, and Natasha Kelley; several nieces and nephews; and a host of family and friends.

Dana Lee Reyes, 55
Funeral Service for Dana Lee Reyes, age 55 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Ebenezer Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Reyes passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, at her residence. She was born, April 4, 1969, to Robert Taylor and Shirley Taylor. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Brenda Jeffers and brother, Ronald Taylor. Survivors include her 2 sons, Antonio (Raydeen) Taylor and Eric Taylor; three grandchildren, Aubrey Taylor, Zaysten Taylor and Amelia Taylor; two sisters. Ronda (Randall) Guess and Janie Abner; brother, Robbie (Lonie) Taylor.

Etta Christeen Tolbert, 88
Etta Christeen Tolbert, age 88 of Cullman, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at Woodland Village nursing home. Christeen was a long-time seamstress at Cullman Lingerie. Christeen was a lifelong member of Beulah Church of the Nazarene in Crane Hill. She was an important part of the church family, specializing in her musical, financial and caring ministries. She had a heart of giving and always tried to keep the peace. The giving and caregiving heart demonstrated itself in her being a wonderful caregiver to both her mother and her husband until their passings. She is preceded in death by her parents: Floyd Abraham and Velma Vercy Sharpton Williams; Husband, Hubert Tolbert; an infant son; and her brothers: Jerry Williams and Leon (Carol) Williams; Christeen is survived by her brother, Carl (Hester) Williams and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025 from 2 p.m. until the Celebration of Christeen's life which will begin at 3 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Baldwin Heights Cemetery. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Moss Service Funeral Home
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Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.



JILL BISHOP-HOLLIS

Pictured at the UAH Art Expo for High School Students 2024 are UAH Art, Art History and Design Department Chair Jill Johnson and student Elianna Hollis next to her award-winning self-portrait.

CHS senior Hollis shines at 2024 Art Expo for High School Students

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) was the place to be on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, as the university hosted the 2024 Art Expo for High School Students in Wilson Hall. Elianna Hollis, a senior at Cullman High School, placed first in the Expo's Works on Paper division.

Exceptional work was showcased from high school students in north central Alabama from the visual arts. Student art submissions were displayed on the UAH campus from Oct. 24-Nov. 16. The 2024 Art Expo culminated with a Saturday afternoon filled with activities that included tours of the art facilities for the student artists, active demonstrations of technology used in the arts, delicious food for the student participants and their guests, engaging interactions with the UAH Art, Art History and Design faculty members and an exciting awards program.

Student art judged for the competition included a wide range of mediums, including works on paper, painting, digital media and design, mixed media, 3D art and photography.

Awards of Merit were selected by a review committee of UAH Art faculty, led by Jill Johnson, department chair of UAH Art, Art History and Design. Honorable Mention, Third Place, Second Place, First Place, runner-up Best in Show, and Best in Show winners were announced during the awards program. Hollis' entry, titled "Fade," was a self-portrait drawn entirely with colored pencils.

Winners received certificates of merit and large art portfolio cases filled with a variety of professional art supplies. Hollis is the president of the CHS National Art Honor Society and is the daughter of Paul Hollis and Jill Bishop-Hollis of Cullman.

The award-winning art (including Hollis' self-portrait) can be viewed online at www.uah.edu/images/colleges/arts-humanities-social-sciences/art/expo/art_expo_2024.pdf.



Baileyton (from Front)

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — The Baileyton Town Council at its Feb. 3 meeting talked sports fees and salary increases, decided to increase the former and forgo the latter.

Registration for youth softball/baseball/T-ball is open now through Feb. 28. The council discussed the rising cost of paying umpires and maintenance.

Keeping in competition with other local recreation leagues, which it said charge upward of $80, Mayor Windell Calloway suggested an increase to Baileyton's registration fees.

"I would like us to increase the price $10 per child," he proposed.

"The Town of Baileyton offers a discount for families with multiple children participating. Rates are now $55 for one child, $100 for two children and $110 for three children.

According to Alabama law, every four years the council may vote to propose a raise for council members. February 2025 marks the beginning of a new term for the Baileyton Town Council, so the issues of a raise was presented.

Calloway made clear, "I am not advocating either way; I just have to make it known to you."

Councilman Dewayne Sumner made a motion to proceed with the current pay rate without increase. The council agreed unanimously.

In other business:

- The council conducted a first reading of an ordinance concerning electronic ballot counters. The ordinance will be approved or denied at the March monthly meeting.
- Calloway discussed Baileyton Bargain Days. He stated, "The last Bargain Days did really well. We made over $5,000. We will have another one on March 1."
- Sumner suggested working with the fire department to increase options for warming centers in the community in case of emergency situations.

The next Baileyton Town Council meeting will be Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall, located at 95 Fire Station Road.

'Cultivating Cullman': Chamber Luncheon spotlights local agriculture

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce recently held its latest Community Luncheon, this time with a theme of "Cultivating Cullman," with special guest, Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Deputy Commissioner Tami Culver Allen.

The event, held at Stone Bridge Farms, had a large turnout, and Culver Allen shared insights into Alabama's agricultural sector and highlighted the impact of the department's work.

She discussed Sweet Grown Alabama, described on its website as "a non-profit foundation that enhances marketing opportunities for Alabama farmers by connecting retailers and consumers to Alabama grown foods and other agricultural products."

Culver Allen stressed the importance of supporting local farmers and how essential they are to the backbones of local communities.

"Without the farmers in our communities, our food supply chain would not look like what it looks like today, and we are so thankful for growers and producers because they are truly doing the Lord's work," she said.

Sweet Grown Alabama operates independently to ensure the program's continuation even when a new commissioner moves in, she explained, saying the program provides residents with recognizable labels so that when they buy products, they can easily identify locally grown and produced goods, strengthening the local agricultural economy.

Culver Allen said local farmers and programs like Sweet Grown Alabama help form a connection with buyers and locally grown products help support local businesses, food security and the state economy.

As we face a decline in generational farming, she explained, it's more important than ever to recognize the value of local agriculture.

Learn more about Sweet Grown Alabama at www.sweetgrownalabama.org.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 31, 2025, held its latest Community Luncheon, this time with a theme of "Cultivating Cullman."

Hanceville's McKean named to Abilene Christian University fall 2024 Dean's Honor Roll

Wendy Kilmer
Abilene Christian University

ABILENE, Texas — Abilene Christian University has named Kaci McKean of Hanceville to the fall 2024 Dean's Honor Roll. McKean is a senior Art major.

McKean is among more than 1,800 students named to the fall 2024 Dean's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Abilene Christian University serves a diverse student population of about 6,700 with world-class teaching in a Christ-centered community. Founded in 1906, this national research university offers online and residential undergraduate and graduate programs. Students choose from 87 baccalaureate majors that include more than 171 areas of study, as well as 71 areas of study in master's degree and specialist programs and four doctoral programs.

ACU's mission is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. Learn more at acu.edu.

Cullman's Jiang named to fall 2024 Dean's List at Georgia Tech

Ayana Isles
Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Allen Jiang of Cullman made the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

Read about other accomplished scholars at www.gatech.edu/academics/student-achievement and learn about Georgia Tech's goal to attract, retain and inspire more students by visiting https://transformingtomorrow.gatech.edu/lives.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public research universities in the U.S., developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees, as well as professional development and K-12 programs for fostering success at every stage of life.

Its more than 53,000 undergraduate and graduate students represent 54 U.S. states and territories and more than 143 countries.

They study at the main campus in Atlanta, at instructional sites around the world, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than $1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

For more information, visit gatech.edu.