RANDY'S
SMALL ENGINE
PARTS & REPAIRS

YOUR ONE STOP SHOP
FOR ALL YOUR 4 STROKE AND 2 STROKE PARTS AND REPAIR

WE SELL PARTS FOR AND SERVICE ALL:
LAWN MOWERS | GENERATORS |
PRESSURE WASHERS | TILLERS |
LOG SPLITTERS | STRING TRIMMERS |
BLOWERS | CHAINSAWS

1605 3RD ST NE, CULLMAN
256-775-6229
GibbsSmallEngines@gmail.com
MON - FRI:
7:30 - 4:00
SAT:
8 - 12

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 17



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

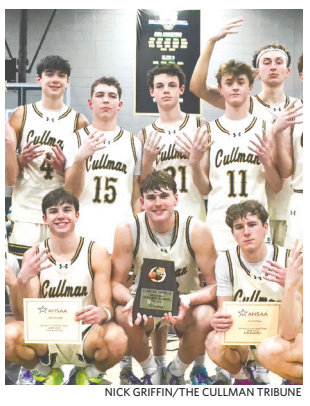
OBITUARIES
Robert Allen Shoemaker, Koby Eugene Tankersley, Timothy Wayne Roberts, Jerry "Beaver" Mathis, Lonnie Williams Harris, Jr., Paul Charles Herrick
» PAGE 6

WEATHER
75 47
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
PARTLY SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3

Games
» PAGE 7



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Cullman comes from behind to top Jasper 66-61, wins 4th consecutive area title

» PAGE 4

EDAA welcomes Jamie Troutman as new board president

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Jamie Troutman has been appointed president of the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) Board of Directors, officially assuming the role during the organization's Winter Conference. She will serve a one-year term, leading EDAA's efforts to support economic growth and development across Alabama.

Troutman, who serves as assistant director and governmental affairs at the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA), has a long-standing history with EDAA. She previously held leadership positions on the EDAA Executive Committee as secretary/treasurer and vice president and has contributed to several key initiatives. her involvement includes serving » PAGE 8



CONTRIBUTED

Jamie Troutman

Celebrity 1st grader: 'Hot Rod' Gibbs



ADAM GIBBS

Holly Pond first grader "Hot Rod" Lincoln Gibbs all decked out for a rodeo performance

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond first grader "Hot Rod" Lincoln Gibbs, 7, turned heads in Biloxi recently during the 30th annual Professional Cowboy Association Rodeo Finals.

Father Adam Gibbs said his son has worked as a little funnyman and hype guy at many sanctioned events in the Professional Cowboy Association.

"He has worked in Freeport, Florida; Evergreen, Alabama; Foley, Alabama; and Cullman, Alabama; which are all sanctioned events in the Professional Cowboy Association," Gibbs said. "Each year the Finals committee decides who gets the opportunity to perform at the finals in Biloxi, Mississippi. This was the second year for him to do so."

Gibbs said his son was also the entertainer during a high school championship shootout.

"He performed his 'kid in the box' act and talked on his microphone throughout the 90-minute performance," Gibbs said. "He was raised on the road in a bus, out on the road for weeks at a » PAGE 5

Bremen man continues to be held without bond following alleged shooting



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Richard Anthony Vitkauskas

» PAGE 8

Cullman City Primary School kindergarten registration info for 2025-2026

» PAGE 8

Hands-on small farm equipment training workshop for beginning farmers and veterans Feb. 20

» PAGE 8

OP-ED

Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts is a piece of Cullman that was missing all along



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The 22 talented students who took the stage for the inaugural Treasures in Song: An Heirlooms Recital, are joined by their teacher and Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts founder, Paige Clabo.

» PAGE 8

SLIDE INTO SAVINGS WITH BILL'S DEALS!
Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE
ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP
*Notates all rebates applied, must have 2005 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.
GMC DEALER OF THE YEAR
6 TIMES IN A ROW!
WAS $96,435
NOW
$89,435*
5.9% FOR 84 MONTHS WAC
NEW 2025 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD DENALI ULTIMATE
STK#58016
6.6L TURBO DIESEL | ALLISON 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC
BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

© 2025 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 7

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 7, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 3

- burglary; CR 1807
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM304
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1716
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1394
- trespassing; CR 1087
- theft of property; I65NB 308MM
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; tampering with physical evidence; Doc Clemmons Rd.

Feb. 4

- domestic violence; CR 38
- domestic violence; CR 998
- domestic violence – criminal mischief; obstructing government operations; CR 1725
- harassing communications; CR 1273
- menacing; harassment; CR 1389
- possession of dangerous drugs; US. 31
- theft of property; Schwaiger Rd.
- trespassing; criminal mischief; CR 33
- trespassing; CR 1087

Feb. 5

- assault; CR 616
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- harassing communications; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 1598
- domestic violence; Chad Dr.
- unauthorized use of vehicle; CR 1116

ARRESTS

Feb. 3-5

Brice, Brittany L.; 36
- permitting dogs to run at large

Chaney, Alex J.; 21
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-3rd degree
- criminal mischief – damage to private property
- obstruction – governmental operations

Chaney, Maliki W.; 21
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-3rd degree

Cofield, George D.; 74
- possession of dangerous drugs

Evans, David E.; 45
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Hawkins, Brayden C.; 24
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hines, Timothy W.; 53
- burglary-residence-force

Hurt, Cody B.; 34
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle
- sale of stolen property

Hyde, Bronada F.; 48
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Johnson, Johnathon S.; 44
- Assault-domestic-harassment-family

Jones, Hagen E.; 30
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence

Little, Benjamin J.; 44
- possession of dangerous drugs
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – burglary-non-residence-no force
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – burglary-residence-force
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – criminal mischief-damaged property
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- burglary-residence-force
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle
- criminal mischief-damaged property
- theft-pickpocket, $500-less than $1500

London II, Dennis C.; 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of cocaine

McNabb, Mesha E.; 36
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Pate, Jeremy B.; 35
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- receiving stolen property, $500-less than $1500

Pickel, Jason S.; 42
- PROBATION VIOLATION – auto theft

Puckett, Logan I.; 23
- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-aggravated assault police officer-strong arm

Ramey, Shelton W.; 49
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – display of invalid insurance
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – improper lane usage
- FTA – leaving the scene of an accident
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – switched tag

Rasberry, Roman D.; 23
- attempting to elude a police officer
- buying/receiving stolen property

Ray Jr., Phillip E.; 46
- PROBATION VIOLATION – auto theft

Steel, Thomas J.; 35
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

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

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 31
- criminal mischief; person; damage to '21 Toyota Tundra; $1,000; Co. Rd. 222
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $58; Olive St. SW

Feb. 5
- extortion-2nd degree; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; person; damage to '11 BMW; 13th St. NE
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $337; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Feb. 5

Sandlin, Isaac J.; 23
- public intoxication
- FTA – driving without license

Piper, Daniel C.; 40
- harassment

Hyde, Bronada F.; 48
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Burns, Shawn L.; 45
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Duncan, Devin S.; 24
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Nixon, Byron G.; 51
- theft of property-4th degree

Duncan, Devin S.; 24
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Wimbs, William J.; 50
- FTA - driving without license (2 counts)

Miller, Bradley L.; 34
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Fillmore, Brittney D.; 35
- theft of property-4th degree

Smith, Rickey K.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)

Fanning, Nathan D.; 40
- FTA - public intoxication (4 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - disorderly conduct

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!
Unclaimed/Abandoned Vehicles, Mobile Homes & Surety Bonds
JSE:Alabama's Vehicle Title Recovery Service!
We can help with most Titled Vehicles in Alabama, including Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's & Trailers. Stop in, by phone or online!
Free Phone Consultation
Call 1-256-850-0527
www.JSEAL.com

Frontier FOUNDATION & CRAWL SPACE Repair
ALL THINGS BASEMENTY!
256-418-8189
ALFrontierRepair.com
✓ Healthy Crawl Spaces ✓ Dry Basements
✓ Stable Foundations ✓ Level Concrete
✓ Humidity Control ✓ Radon Mitigation
$300 OFF ANY PROJECT
Not to Exceed 5% of project. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotional financing. Must be presented at time of inspection. Limitations may apply. Expires 03/01/2025.

MANAGER SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT:
HEAD OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT:
REHAU AUTOMOTIVE LLC, CULLMAN, AL.
MANAGE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS, SAP SYSTEMS, LOGISTICS, INVENTORY, AND SUPPLY CHAIN PLANNING. SUPERVISE LOGISTICS PROFESSIONALS.
Reqs: Bachelor's in Supply Chain Mgmt, Industrial Eng. and Mgmt. or related field (or foreign equiv.) plus 60 mos. exp. as Supply Chain Manager, Logistics Manager, Project Manager Logistics or similar; 60 mos. exp. with SAP systems related to supply chain mgmt and/or logistics in the auto industry (exp. may be concurrent). Alternative req's in lieu of degree: 84 mos. exp., incl. 24 mos. in supply chain mgmt and/or logistics and 60 mos. exp. with SAP systems related to supply chain mgmt and/or logistics in the auto industry as Supply Chain Manager, Logistics Manager, Project Manager Logistics or similar (exp. may be concurrent but must total 84 mos.). Rare North American travel (1-3 days per trip).
Send resume to: Jana Schroeder, REHAU Automotive LLC, 2424 Industrial Dr SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Include job title.

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.

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-018

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA SUE HOLLIS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Donna Jo Wright Putman Butler and Sandy Kay Hollis Chapman on the 4 day of February, 2025, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Donna Jo Wright Putman Butler and Sandy Kay Hollis Chapman
Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
CLEO SHROYER, * **CASE NO.: PC 2025-008**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that *Petition for Summary of Distribution* received the 9th day of January, 2025, made court record the 13th day of January, 2025, by Larry Richard Shroyer, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, Jerry L. Kilgo, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Larry Richard Shroyer
Petitioner

Jerry L. Kilgo
Attorney for the Estate of Cleo Shroyer
413 1st Ave., S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

DONE this the 6th day of February, 2025.

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

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

Pursuant to Alabama code 32-13-1, Earl's Body Shop, Inc, will offer for sale at public auction the following vehicles on

March 31, 2025 at 7:00 AM

2001 Honda Civic	1HGES16541L001727
1997 Honda Civic	2HGEJ632XVH100291
2007 Chev Colorado	1GBDS14EX78151905
2005 Toyota Sienna	5TDZA23C155324536
1996 Nissan Truck	1N6SD11SXTC322020
2011 Buick Lucerne	1G4HA5EM9BU130853
1991 Chev S10	1JGCC514Z5M813527
2020 Chev HHR	3GNBABDB8AS585909
2004 Nissan 350Z	JN1AZ34E24T062119
2012 Chev Impala	2G1WG5E37C1104069
2007 Chev PT Cruiser	3A4FY58B37T569020
2007 Nissan Altima	1N4AL21E57N419982
2002 Saturn Vue	5GZCZ63B22S814241
2011 Honda Civic	19XFA1F85BE003657
2019 Nissan Sentra	3N1AB7APXKY239473
2002 Buick Century	2G4WS52JX21249268
2016 Chev Equinox	2GNALCEK0G6225390

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

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-HANCEVILLE
HAS THE FOLLOWING OPEN POSITIONS:
ENROLLMENT CLERK
ELECTRICAL/MECHATRONICSINSTRUCTOR
IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST
POLICE OFFICER
SUCCESS ADVISOR
For more information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 256-352-8029.
Wallace State Community College is an equal opportunity employer. EOE

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY
COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

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
• 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.


A-1 Battery Sales
AUTO – TRUCK – TRACTOR
Quality Batteries For Every Need
Since 1979
2152 Co. Rd. 1169 • Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (Office): 256-734-9438

Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden FAMILY PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

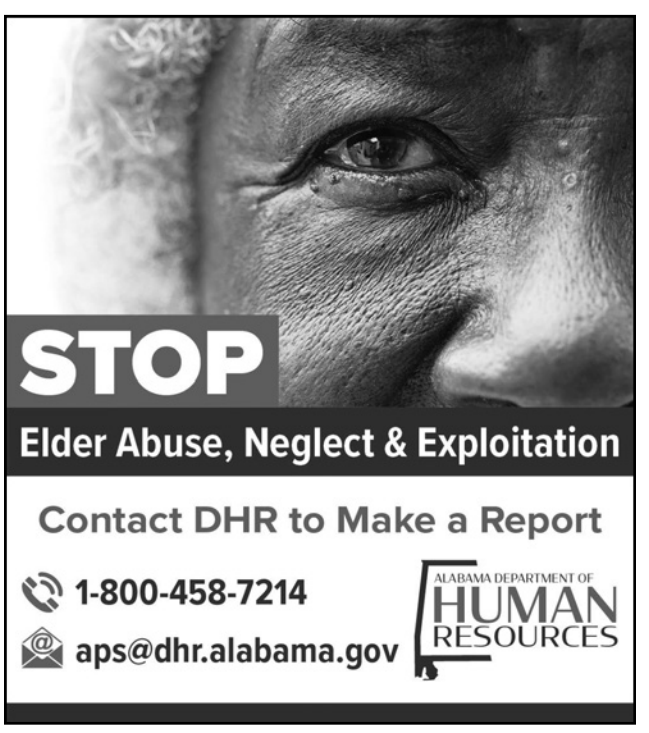
ANNUALLY BASED RATES

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

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







THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 8, 2025

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman comes from behind to top Jasper 66-61, wins 4th consecutive area title

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Bearcats came from behind to defeat Jasper 66-61 and claim this year's 6A, Area 13 championship Wednesday night.

CULLMAN, Ala. – The stands were packed in Bearcat Arena for this year's 6A, Area 13 Championship Game Wednesday night and the crowd enjoyed another thriller between Cullman and Jasper. The Vikings led by as many as 17 at one point in the opening period but the Bearcats continued to climb back and chip away until finally pulling ahead in the fourth quarter. Cullman finished the final frame strong to earn a 66-61 win over Jasper and claim its fourth consecutive area championship.

'Cats head coach Stu Stuedeman shared the message he gave his team after falling behind early and was proud of the way they continued to fight despite the early deficit.

"Stay the course, chop the leg, keep hitting singles, keep playing for each other and wake up on defense," Stuedeman said.

"We did that and I'm so proud of them because they could've gone away. It's hard in a three-team area because you have the bye, and I'd rather play.

"It looked like we hadn't played in a week but kudos to our guys. They did an unbelievable job of just staying the course."

The Vikings got off to a fast start, knocking down a pair of three-pointers to take a 6-0 lead.

Brooks Loftin laid one in to cut the lead to 6-2 and after Jasper put another six points on the board, Preston Gay drilled a three to make it a 12-5 game.

The Vikings pulled ahead 21-5 at one point but Loftin split a pair of free throws and Sam Dorough scored inside to trim the lead to 23-8 going into the second quarter.

The Bearcats battled back in the second. Jake Dorough scored eight of the next nine Cullman points to bring the lead down to 31-17 midway through the period.

Then Sam Dorough followed with six straight points of his own to make it a 34-23 game.

Evans Wilson laid one in and Gay knocked down another three to cut the lead to 8 with less than a minute remaining in the second quarter.

Sam Dorough converted an and-one play at the line in the final 30 seconds of the half to bring the lead down to 36-31 at the break.

Baskets by Loftin and Sam Dorough made it a 38-35 game early in the third quarter.

Loftin scored through a foul and tacked on the free throw to tie things up at 38 and after Jasper moved back in front by five, Gay drained another three to cut the lead to 43-41 later in the period.

Baskets from Jake Dorough and Gay tied the game at 45 with just over a minute to play in the third.

Jasper took a 50-45 lead in the final minute of the period, but Loftin laid one in to make it a 3-point game and Jake Dorough buried a three from half court just before the buzzer to tie the game at 50 going into the final frame.

Sam Dorough scored early in the fourth to give the 'Cats their first lead of the night at 52-50.

Gay turned a steal into an easy basket to keep Cullman in front 54-53 midway through the period and Jake Dorough converted an and-one play at the line to give the Bearcats a 57-53 lead. Wilson scored inside to make it a 59-53 game with three minutes remaining and Jake Dorough finished another three-point play at the line to maintain a 62-57 Cullman lead with less than two minutes on the clock.

The 'Cats finished things off at the free throw line in the final 90 seconds, securing a 66-61 win and the area title.

Jake Dorough led the Bearcats with 19 points in the win. Sam Dorough followed with 17, Gay posted 13 and Loftin added 12.

6A, Area 13 All-Area Team selections

- Gray Hopper
- Brooks Loftin
- Sam Dorough
- Jake Dorough
- Evan Wilson
- Preston Gay

6A, Area 13 All-Tournament Team selections

- Jake Dorough (MVP)
- Preston Gay
- Sam Dorough

Cullman will be back home at Bearcat Arena Saturday night at 6 p.m. to host a sub-regional matchup against Clay-Chalkville.

PREP BASKETBALL

St. Bernard downs Addison 42-33 to win area title

Todd Walker
Correspondent



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Saint Bernard Lady Saints defeated Addison 42-33 Monday night to win this year's 1A, Area 14 championship.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Addison traveled to St. Bernard to play for the 1A Area 14 title against the top seeded St. Bernard Lady Saints and it was a very tight game except for the second period which proved to be the difference in the contest. St. Bernard came away with a 42-33 victory to capture the tournament title as well as the regular season title.

The first period had the Lady Saints, led by Ella Davis, jump out to a 10-7 lead. Addison's Emma Cleghorn got a putback to cut it down to 10-9, then after an Addison steal, Point Guard Gracie Roberts hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to give Addison the 12-10 lead.

The Lady Saints were led by Davis who had 8 points and 5 rebounds. Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 6 points and Katie Barrett had 3 rebounds.

The second period had St. Bernard turn up the heat on defense and the Lady Bulldogs struggled. The Lady Saints dominated the second period outscoring Addison 16-6 to take a 26-18 halftime lead. The Lady Saints scored 9 straight points at one point to pull away. It began with a Caroline McBride layup, Rowan Hines hit a three, Davis had a layup and McBride had another putback. McBride led St. Bernard with 7 points, while Lady Saint Sarah Woods grabbed 3 rebounds. Addison had Karson Wyatt with 3 points and 3 rebounds.

Addison came out a little more focused in the third period and outscored St. Bernard 9-8 to cut the lead down to 7 going into the fourth. With Addison down 28-18, the Lady Bulldogs went on their own 8-0 run to cut the lead down to 2 at 28-26. Ava Bartlett hit a 6-footer, Barrett had a layup and Roberts hit another three-pointer. Davis stopped the Bulldog run with a deep three-pointer and then Katie Chamblee had a putback to stretch the lead back up to 33-26. The Lady Bulldogs wouldn't get any closer. Davis had 6 points and Chamblee had 2 rebounds. Addison was led by Bartlett with 4 points and 6 rebounds.

With St. Bernard leading 34-27 going into the fourth period, the game got chippy on both sides.

There were several hard fouls and the officials let them play. The Lady Saints won the hard foul war and the period 8-6.

This gave the Lady Saints the 42-33 victory. St. Bernard was led by Woods and McBride with 3 points. Avery Hines had 3 rebounds. Addison was led by Barrett with 3 points and Bartlett with 2 rebounds.

St. Bernard and Addison both advance to the state tournament and will play a yet to be determined opponent on Friday. St. Bernard will host while Addison will be on the road.

St. Bernard Head Coach Tim Burleson comented, "I am so proud of the girls, I believe this is the first time in about 20 years that the girls have done this.

"Several of these girls have been through some tough seasons here and they have persevered and gotten better. They have continued to practice and improve and they have never given up."

St. Bernard Freshman guard Ella Davis said, "I am so happy to win and this is a big win for my team and my school.

"I know that we, as a team, worked so hard to get better this year. I mean we put in the extra work to make the extra pass, get the rebound and just get better as a team and as individuals. I thought that we could be a pretty good team at the start of the year, but you never know for sure until you start playing."

Unofficial stats

St. Bernard was led by Davis with 16 points and 8 rebounds. McBride had 10 points and 4 boards. R. Hines had 5 points and 3 rebounds. Chamblee had 4 points and 4 boards. A. Hines had 4 points and 3 rebounds. Woods had 3 points and 4 rebounds.

Addison was led by Roberts with 9 points and 2 rebounds. Bartlett had 8 points, 11 boards and 4 steals. Wyatt had 7 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 3 steals.

Barrett had 7 points and 6 rebounds. Lauryn Cunningham had 2 points, 2 rebounds and 4 assists. Emma Cleghorn had 2 points and 4 rebounds.

Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts to host Audition Workshop Feb. 15

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Aspiring performers looking to sharpen their audition skills will have a unique opportunity to learn from industry professionals at the upcoming Audition Workshop hosted by Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts. The event will take place on Feb. 15, from 2-4 p.m. at Cullman Technology Village.

This interactive workshop, open to all experience levels, will offer valuable insights into the audition process, including resume formatting, vocal performance feedback and a Q&A session with industry professionals. Participants will also have the opportunity to perform a 90-second song cut and receive direct feedback to improve their audition presence.

"This workshop is great for people of all ages," said Paige Clabo, owner and artistic director of Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts.

"Students who are going to college auditions, children looking for performing arts camps this summer and adults looking for North Alabama Community theater auditions this summer.

"We hope to see the community there for a fun afternoon of learning."

The fee for the workshop is $40, and only 30 slots are available, making early registration highly recommended.

Participants should bring a laptop, iPad or something to write with, along with a 90-second cut of a song they sing best.

To register, visit www.heirloomsfineandperformingarts.com or https://tinyurl.com/hfpaform. For more information on the workshop or other Heirloom Fine & Performing Arts questions, call 256-339-8876 or email Paige at paigeclabo@gmail.com.

Cullman Technology Village is located at 105 Clark St. NE Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Gibbs (from Front)

time until he started kindergarten in the fall of 2023. We used to go from Miami, Florida to the Canadian border and west to Oklahoma. We worked about 100 per year."

The adventure started because Gibbs has announced rodeos for a living since 2013.

"His mom and I were together until he was 3 years old," Gibbs said. "She was a production and music person. He and I continued to rodeo until he started school. I decided that him getting a good start in school was the most important thing. We still go to one rodeo every month and every weekend during May-August, just not every weekend year-round now. He grew up in a playpen at some of the largest rodeos in the country. He loves the rodeo, but has fallen in love with life outside of it as well. He has friends at home and loves sports. He makes straight A's and he averages six points per basketball game on a first-grade team at Arab."

When asked, Lincoln Gibbs said he loves to tell his "Snowman" joke, "Call the cops" joke and sign autographs.

"As his dad, I tell him, 'This is all you," Gibbs said. "If you want to go out tonight, I just need a couple hours prior to the show starting so I can get him ready. Sometimes he'll work a while then play with friends, sometimes he's in all night (two hours) and then sometimes he says, "I'm not working tonight; I'm playing. Most parents want their kids to live their dream, but if he decides to quit today, it's okay. Whatever makes him happy is all that matters."

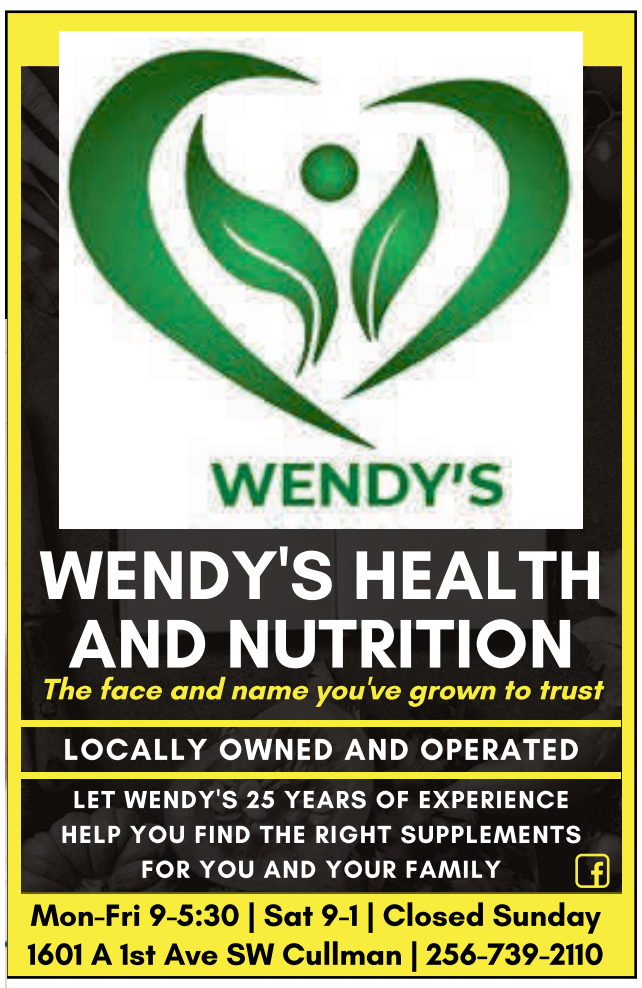




ADAM GIBBS

"Hot Rod" Lincoln Gibbs loves watching the show wherever he is



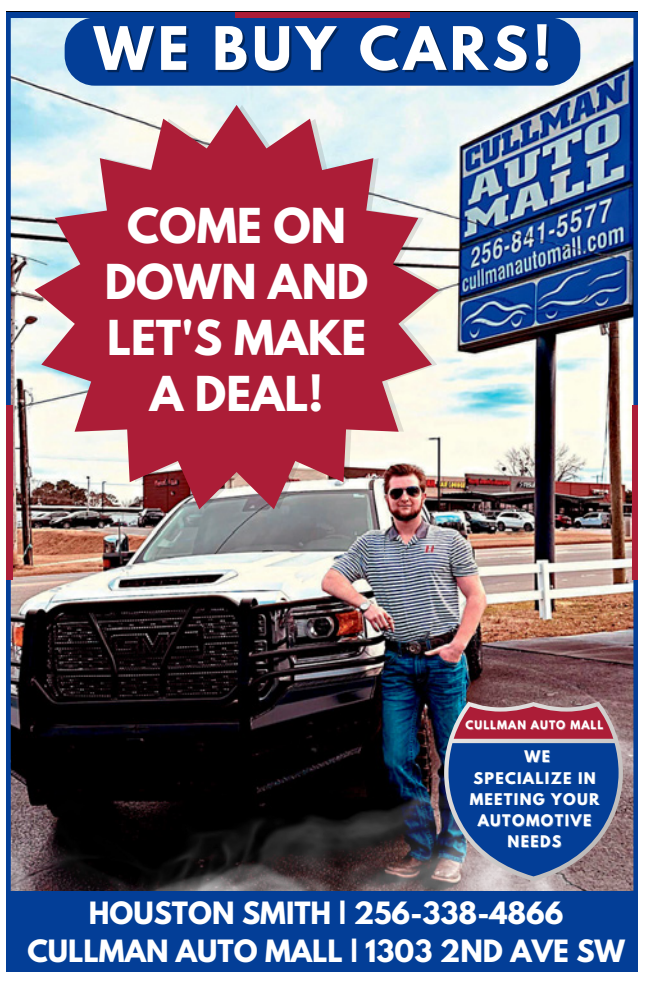












LOGISTICS SYSTEMS/ ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR:

REHAU AUTOMOTIVE LLC, CULLMAN, AL.

POSITION IN THE AREA OF SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS AT COMPANY SPECIALIZING IN POLYMER SYSTEMS FOR AUTO INDUSTRY.

Position oversees material flows, system accuracy, and booking processes; manages logistics, quality, and production data; REQS: Bachelor's in Logistics Management or related, + 12 mos. experience in/with: data analysis and troubleshooting; MS SQL Server, AS/400 or successor systems; MS Excel; electronic data interchange & mfg. logistics in auto sector; mfg. execution systems and RFID; and 12 months exp. in role responsible for communication of new processes to factory employees. Alternatively: HS diploma/GED or foreign equiv. plus 36 mos. exp. in/with aforementioned areas/systems/role.

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

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + **COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS**

SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Deacons of Diocese of Birmingham hold annual retreat at St. Bernard Abbey

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Deacons of the Diocese of Birmingham, along with their wives, gathered for their annual retreat at St. Bernard Abbey, where Abbot Marcus Voss, OSB, served as the Retreat Director. The three-day retreat, held from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, welcomed 60 participants who stayed at the St. Bernard Retreat Center, with conferences conducted in the St. Bernard Byre.

The retreat began with a social on Thursday evening and the fellowship was enjoyed by the attendees. On the following day, three conferences were presented, followed by an additional session on Saturday morning. These discussions focused on the references made about deacons in the New Testament regarding their roles and responsibilities as they are practiced in the Catholic Church today.

In addition to their roles and responsibilities, Abbot Marcus devoted one conference to the need for daily prayer in the regular schedule of a deacon. During this conference, Abbot Marcus led the participants in the ancient prayer style, called "Lectio Divina." He said, "The prayer of 'Lectio Divina' seeks to receive the word of God into our hearts so we too respond to the divine presence."

The final conference concluded with a reflection on the sacred promises made by deacons at the time of their ordination, reinforcing their commitment to their vocation.

Throughout the retreat, participants shared meals in the Brahma Room of St. Bernard Dining Hall, providing additional opportunities for fellowship and discussion.

"It certainly was a pleasure to be with the deacons for their annual retreat," said Abbot Marcus. "In the early years of the Deaconate Program, I served as a member of their faculty during their formation years. I've known some of these deacons for a very long time and it was most enjoyable to be with them again."

In conclusion, Abbot Marcus said, "The Diocese of Birmingham often uses the facilities of St. Bernard Abbey for spiritual renewal and enrichment. We were honored to have hosted this event for the Deacons of the Diocese and look forward to welcoming them again in the future."

MOVING SALE

FEBRUARY 8,2025 8 AM - 1 PM

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

VIRGIL B. FOWLER

Real Estate and Insurance

AGENCY

Quality Since 1935

734-3821

vbfowlerinsurance.com

Successors to

WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE

" Established 1885 "

Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 6-7

Robert Allen Shoemaker, 89

Funeral service for Robert Allen Shoemaker, 89, of the Blair Community will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethel Baptist Cemetery in Blair. Rev. Steve Rodgers will officiate. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Shoemaker was born July 11, 1935, to Robert H. and Verna McAbee Shoemaker. He was affectionately known as "Paw Paw". He loved writing songs, playing the guitar and making music. He loved music, old country, bluegrass, and gospel. He loved his family and especially his grandson. He followed him to all his athletic events and kept up with all his stats. He taught him to be a machinist like he was. Robert loved to fish, and loved old cars. Robert was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Charles Shoemaker; sisters, Vilene Shoemaker Lynn, Joyce Shoemaker Pigg, and Reba Shoemaker Rooks. Survivors include his daughter, Betty Jean Musmeci; brother, David Shoemaker; sister, Gail (Virgil) Dotson; grandson, Robert (Chasidy) Lipsey; great-granddaughter, Ellie Jo Lipsey; family and friends. Pallbearers will be David Allen Shoemaker, Michael Shoemaker, Kenneth Dotson, Virgil Dotson, Kevin Shoemaker, Adam Pack.

Koby Eugene Tankersley, 23

Funeral Service for Koby Eugene Tankersley, age 23 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Robby Williams officiating; burial at Bethlehem East Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Tankersley passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025. He was born Dec. 15, 2001, to Robert Lee Brown, Jr. and Ashley Brown. Survivors include his fiancé, Alexis Alldredge; sons, Koda and Brooks Lee Tankersley; brother, Hunter Brown; sister, Derekia Pope, Nana and PawPaw, Andrew and Shirley Tankersley; Maw and Paw, Fannie and Lawrence Brown; nephew, Weslee Pope; aunt, Sonya (Tony) Gaither.

Timothy Wayne Roberts, 54

Celebration of Life Service for Timothy Wayne Roberts, age 54 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. Roberts passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at his residence. He was born November 2, 1970. He was preceded in death by his mother Linda Roberts; mother-in-law, Helen Bowen and son, Alex Roberts. Surviving family members include his wife, Melinda Roberts; son, Jesse Roberts; best friend, Kent (Roxie) Glover and a host of family and friends.

Jerry "Beaver" Mathis, 66

Funeral services for Jerry "Beaver" Mathis, 66, of Bremen will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Ryans Creek Baptist Church. Mr. Mathis will lie in state from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. prior to the service. Burial will follow the service at Johnson Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, Feb. 7, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Ryans Creek Baptist Church. Jerry "Beaver" Mathis, age 66, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025.

0 Beaver was a loving husband, daddy, father-in-law, and grandpa. Beaver dedicated his life to his family, his work on earth, and loving others. Beaver and Angie had a special everlasting love that was undeniable and could easily be envious of. According to Beaver, he married his 'high school sweetheart'. Beaver and Angie built a beautiful life together raising their three daughters. He so proudly supported his girls in everything they did. He loved them with all his heart and was always the best girl dad. He was blessed with the men that married his girls and became his sons. His grandkids were his pride and joy. He loved them with his whole heart and was always ready to tell you all about them. Beaver loved to work and took pride in every aspect of it. He attended an apprenticeship school to become a Journeyman Ironworker. He was a skilled welder, iron worker, carpenter, poultry farmer, and ultimate jack of all trades. He loved and left a lasting impression on everyone he met. To know him was to love him. In 1996, Beaver was saved and baptized after accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Through all the obstacles he faced, he never lost sight of God's grace. Beaver is survived by his wife, Angie Mathis (45 years); his children Laressa (Brett) Johnson, An'Drea (Steven) Huff, Kaytlyn (Ethan) Shadix; his grandchildren Cooper Johnson, Collins Johnson, Analyn Huff, Ayla Kate Huff, Gray Shadix, Weston Shadix; his mother in law Allie McSwain Cordes; his siblings Buster(Cathy) Mathis, Marlene(Leon) Garmon, Darlene (Phillip) McSwain, Tommy(Karen) Mathis, Tina(Frank) Turner, Lisa(Larry) Campbell, Cherrie (Gary) Miller, and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Beaver was preceded in death by his parents Ray and GayNell Mathis; his father-in-law Evon McSwain; his brother Ronnie Mathis. Serving as pallbearers will be Buster Mathis, Phillip McSwain, Brett Johnson, Steven Huff, Ethan Shadix, Cooper Johnson, Gray Shadix, Weston Shadix. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mathis family.

Lonnie Williams Harris, Jr., 76

Lonnie Williams Harris Jr., of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 4, 2025, at the age of 76. Mr. Harris was born on May 3, 1948, to Lonnie William Harris, Sr., and Betty Francis Cornelius Harris. Lonnie was a hard-working man who spent many years maintaining and repairing the refrigeration system of the chicken plant, and he also maintained a thriving farm. Mr. Harris raised cattle, and he was a beekeeper as well. He found a ride around the farm on his mule brought him peace as he looked across the beauty of the land and the crops and animals he raised. Lonnie enjoyed the outdoors and loved to dove hunt when he found the time. Mr. Harris was also a family man. He and his wife, Donna, were married for 50 years and had two children together, and they were thrilled when they were blessed with four grandchildren. Mr. Harris leaves behind a legacy of dedication, love, and devotion and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Mr. Harris is preceded in death by his parents. Those left to cherish the memory of Mr. Harris includes his beloved wife, Donna Malone Harris; children, Brandi Harris Tapscott (Matthew), Brandon Harris; grandchildren, Ethan Tapscott, Adalynn Tapscott, Brody Harris, and Cooper Harris; brother, Daryl Harris (Jo); nephew, Anthony Harris; and a host of loving family and friends. The Harris family will host a Celebration of Life for Mr. Harris on Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 3 o'clock p.m. Services will be held at Duck River Baptist Church with pastor Caleb Elrod officiating. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Harris family.

Paul Charles Herrick, 63

Paul Charles Herrick, age 63, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025. A celebration of life memorial service for Paul will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Special thanks to Rev. Charles Youngson for being with the family during this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace Episcopal Church in Cullman 256-734 – 6212. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

I have gone back to college

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I am most thankful to have had the opportunity to get a college and seminary education. There was a time in my younger life when I had a hard time seeing how any of that could ever be a possibility. My parents encouraged me to do well in school, but I was not encouraged to pursue an education past high school. They didn't discourage such, and they weren't necessarily opposed to higher education; it simply wasn't a matter of great importance. That might be explained by the fact that neither of them attended beyond grade school. I am quite proud of the fact that in spite of that, three of my parents' four children completed college degrees. I am the youngest of the four.

My dad passed away during my sophomore year in high school. Things were tough financially for my mom and me after that, so I knew she would not be able to send me to college. I am so grateful for Alabama's community college system, or junior college, as they called it back then. I could afford $67 per quarter, so I enrolled at Northeast Alabama Junior College. At that same time, I also enrolled in Samford University's Extension Program, which offered classes at DeKalb Baptist Association, in my hometown of Rainsville. My first two classes there were with two of Samford's best professors: Drs. Gilbert Guffin and Sigurd Bryan. Those two godly men encouraged me to apply for admission to Samford when I finished my basics at Northeast. They told me about scholarships and grants that were available to help students like myself. By the time I was ready to attend Samford, I had a wife. You might think that only made it harder to go, but actually it made it easier. She and I took turns going to school. With those scholarships, grants, God's grace and Jean's tireless help and support, I was a member of Samford University's graduating class of 1978, with a B.A. degree in religion. Then with the help of the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptist, I was able to complete a master's degree through New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Twelve years later, I went back to school again at that seminary and earned a doctorate. When I wasn't going to school, Jean was, and she earned three degrees of her own in elementary education and administration.

Please don't get the idea that I am bragging. Honestly, I am quite humbled by the fact that I was afforded such opportunities to get a wonderful education. That only happened by the grace and power of God, and with much prayer and assistance from others. I am eternally grateful to Southern Baptist, Alabama Baptist, to all who endowed scholarships and especially to my wife and soulmate of almost 50 years.

When I completed my last degree, 25 years ago, I thought that would be my last time to be in school. Then, last week, after all those years, I went back to college one more time. This time, I am standing behind the podium, rather than sitting in a desk in front of it. And, of all places, I have the privilege of teaching a class for my alma mater, Samford University, in one of its extension programs. It is almost like I am right back where I first started in those classes in Rainsville, Alabama, more than 50 years ago. This quarter, I am teaching a class on the Pauline Epistles of the New Testament. Who knows, perhaps I will have the joy of encouraging some student's further education, much like Dr. Guffin and Dr. Bryan did for me!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 8, 1945

From the files of Feb. 8, 1945

To and Fro
By EAGLE EYE

For several years many people have talked about the possibilities of planting shrubs, etc., on the triangle on the east highway made by the St. Bernard road and the State Highway 31 but no one has done anything about it. However, the Empire Nursery is now landscaping this plot under the direction of Horace Baker. It will be dedicated as a memorial to Lt. John T. Smith, son of Mrs. C. W. Ham, of Cullman, who was killed on August 31, 1943, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Lt. Smith and Mr. Baker had the same birthday, February 7, and had been life long friends.

Former Cullmanite John C. Bybben who with his family now lives in Long Beach, Calif., sent the Tribune editor a clipping from the Long Beach Independent, daily newspaper, describing the commissioning of the U.S.S. Cullman at the Consolidated Steel Corp's. shipyard in California on January 25. This 455 foot transport, named for Cullman County, is designed to carry Allied forces close to enemy territory, lower its landing craft with lightning speed, and send its men and supplies ashore.

At Rotary this week Noel Neighbors led a lively program about the street and house numbers in Cullman. (If you are a fellow resident in our community wonder if you could tell a stranger how to find a place in the central part of Main Street?)

Latest word received by William R. Griffin from his brother, Lt. Howard Griffin, was a card written by the latter from a German prison camp on November 27, 1944. Howard was optimistic about being freed at an early date. Our fellow townsman checked the location of the camp and found it to be approximately fifty miles east of Berlin.

The commendation of their ranking officials for the efficient manner in which they have performed their duties has been received by S/Sgt. Tom K. Keller, airplane mechanic, of Cullman, and the men of this engineering section of an Air Force Command Unit in Belgium. The citation stated that the cooperation, hard work, and attention to duty of Sgt. Keller and his men have contributed materially to the successful tactical operations in combat against the enemy.

Basketball fans will have the opportunity of seeing games in the Cullman County High School gym on Friday and Saturday nights. Cullman plays Ryan at 7:30 p.m. on February 9 and St. Bernard at the same time on February 10.

A treat is in store for music lovers of Cullman on Sunday, February 25, when the First Methodist Church will present the Birmingham Southern Choir in a program at five o'clock in the afternoon. Thirty-five choir members under the direction of Raymond Anderson will present the program which will feature vocal and instrumental selections.

Two graduates of the Holly Pond High School, Georgie Amos and Mildred Sanford, are members of the thus far victorious Central Park basketball team. These girls are now residing in Birmingham where they are employed by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company.

Only one of the nine who applied at the Navy recruiting station at the Cullman Court House on Tuesday failed to pass the physical examination. The eight who were accepted in Birmingham on Wednesday are Harold Roberts, Harold Holley, Thurman McManus, Dorsey Camp, Arnold Garner, Le Roy Thornton, Austin Buchanon and Cecil Farr.

For the past 30 months T/Sgt. Max L. Buettner, Jr., has been serving overseas where he participated in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns for which, he has been authorized to wear that campaign ribbon with two Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He is now a Mobile Repair Unit Chief with the Air Force Service Command in Italy.



SGT. and MRS. BENJAMIN HERMAN REID are pictured following their wedding on January 22. Mrs. Reid is the former Nina Kathryn Gantt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Gantt, of Steppville, and Sgt. Reid is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Reid of Cullman.

—Photo by Schlosser

POET'S CORNER

A Token of Love | By: Randy C. Hale

In his Bible marked with hi- lites and pen.
Was scripture he read over and over again.
Stories of others who trusted in God.
Abraham's journey, Moses' plod.

The words of Jesus printed in red.
The young boy's dinner which five thousand fed.
Paul to the gentiles, so thankful he came.
The story of salvation, in heaven our names.

But in the back of his Bible was a a small written note.
Inside of a card that a child's hand wrote.

It said, "Dear Daddy please always be mine."
A simple love message on a heart valentine.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 8

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

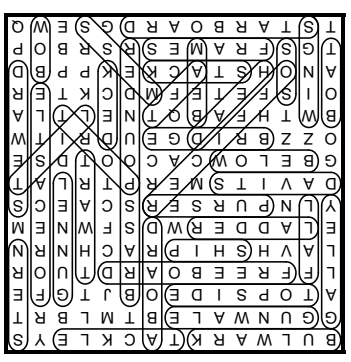
Aboard
Aft
Beam
Below
Boat
Bow
Brass Pounder
Bridge
Bulwark
Davits
Deck
Fall
Forecastle
Frames
Freeboard
Galley
Gunnel
Gunwale
Head
Ladder
List
Mess
Officer
Port
Purser
Ship
SOS
Stack
Starboard
Stern
Steward
Tackle
Thwart
Topside
Wings

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 8

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

ANSWERS:



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

Hands-on small farm equipment training workshop for beginning farmers and veterans Feb. 20

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Small and beginning farmers will have the opportunity to explore essential farm equipment at the upcoming Small Farm Equipment Demo - Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer Workshop on Feb. 20, from 1-4 p.m. This free event, co-hosted by the Cullman County Extension Office and the North Alabama Agriplex, will be held at Wallace State Community College's Horticulture Complex.

Designed specifically for small-scale farmers and military veterans, this workshop will introduce participants to key pieces of farm equipment that will be available for rent later this year through the Alabama Extension Operation Grow Hardware & Equipment Loan Program (HELP).

The equipment demonstrated will include a plastic mulch layer and lifter, seed and plug planters, a tiller and a flail mower, all tools used primarily for horticultural crops such as annual fruits and vegetables.

"This workshop is a great opportunity for farmers looking to expand their operations without immediately investing in expensive equipment," said Dr. Kira Sims, Cullman County Extension coordinator.

"Through the Operation Grow HELP program, small and beginning farmers will have the chance to rent farm equipment at a lower cost and determine if it's a worthwhile investment for their farm."

The Demo Day will provide participants with a hands-on introduction to these tools, covering equipment safety, functionality and best practices for use.

Attending the event will also serve as the required training for farmers who wish to rent equipment once the program becomes available later this year.

While the equipment rental program is still in development, Alabama Extension encourages farmers interested in renting or purchasing any of the demonstrated equipment to attend.

"This is not an event for homeowners; it's specifically for small and beginning farmers," Sims emphasized.

The workshop will be led by Alabama Extension Agents with direct experience operating farm equipment, giving participants a chance to gain practical insights and ask questions in a collaborative, hands-on environment.

Though the event is free, space is limited and online registration is required. Farmers are encouraged to register early by signing up at www.aces.edu/go/demoday.

For more information, contact Dr. Kira Sims at 256-737-9386 or kira.sims@auburn.edu. The Wallace State Horticulture Complex is located at 801 Main St., Hanceville, AL 35077.



Man (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — A Bremen man has been behind bars since an alleged shooting Friday night, Jan. 24, that sent one person to an area hospital with gunshot wounds. On Thursday, Feb. 6, a local judge issued a "no bond" ruling, meaning he will stay in jail until at least his next hearing or his trial.

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

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

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

Vitkauskas was held without bond until an Aniah's Law hearing could be held.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, Crocker went to court to argue in favor of the no bond decision and received the "no bond" ruling.

According to court documents, Vitkauskas' charges are now first-degree domestic violence/assault and attempted murder.

Crocker said the testimony was that Vitkauskas shot the female victim nine times, broke her phone and fled the scene, which was the victim's home.

"After hearing the evidence, Judge Wells R. Turner ordered the defendant will be held without bond in this case," Crocker said.

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

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

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

Noah Galilee contributed to this article.

Troutman (from Front)

as conference chair, participating in the Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, and leading the Wage & Benefit Survey Committee.

"I am honored to serve this esteemed organization and contribute to the economic growth of our great state," said Troutman. "Alabama has experienced remarkable progress in economic development, but there is still much work to be done. As president, my focus will be on strengthening EDAA's mission through education and legislative advocacy, ensuring our members receive the professional development, networking opportunities and legislative representation that set this organization apart."

Jim Searcy, executive director, EDAA, said, "We are pleased to welcome Jamie Troutman as the new president of EDAA's Board of Directors.

"Her vision and leadership will be instrumental in driving EDAA's mission forward, fostering growth and creating new opportunities for economic success across Alabama."

EDAA is a membership-driven organization with over 600 members, including economic development professionals, industry leaders and business stakeholders. Through collaborative efforts, the organization plays a key role in shaping state policies and driving industrial growth.

For more information about EDAA and its initiatives, visit https://edaa.org.

Cullman City Primary School kindergarten registration info for 2025-2026

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Primary School is looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, with calendar dates and registration information now available for incoming kindergarten students.

Kindergarten registration details

A parent meeting for incoming kindergartners is set for 5 p.m. on March 4, 2025, in the Cullman City Primary School gym. Registration will be open before the meeting, from 3:30-5, as well as after the meeting from 6-7.

Documents needed for registration include the student's birth certificate; a rent, mortgage or lease agreement; a current power bill; updated immunization form; parent or guardian's driver's license; and any custody/divorce paperwork, if applicable.

Additional kindergarten registration dates will also be held on March 14, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; April 11, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; and May 9, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

All upcoming kindergarteners registered by May 9 will receive a letter from the school by mid-July with their kindergarten teacher's information.

Parents or guardians of upcoming kindergarteners not registered by that date will receive their child's kindergarten teacher's information at CCPS Open House.

Piece (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

Whew.

I must have said that in my head a dozen times on Thursday, Jan. 30, as I watched the students of Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts step onto the stage. Each of them had spent weeks preparing, practicing and refining their performances, all leading up to this moment — to stand before their family and friends and sing their hearts out.

Twenty-two young ladies took to the stage that night, each selecting a song that reflected her own voice, her own style and her own story. From powerhouse ballads by Adele to worship-filled songs by artists like Lauren Daigle, to ending the night with the powerful performances of Broadway, the stage became a patchwork of genres and experiences, woven together by the sheer passion of these young performers.

Initially, I had come to cover the event, planning to write a follow-up article about this promising new performing arts studio led by Paige Clabo, a Cullman native who once graced the stages of Dollywood as a star performer. It was supposed to be a celebration of the local talent she was coaching — a showcase of what this new program had to offer.

But somewhere during the night, something shifted for me.

One of Paige's students, Addie Wood, took to the stage to sing a song called "The Truth," by Meagan Woods. Addie had an incredible voice, the type that makes you hang on to every word. There was depth in her voice, the kind that makes you feel something.

I sat there, unexpectedly emotional. Maybe it was the song itself. Maybe it was the simple, unfiltered air of worship that she brought to the room.

Or maybe, just maybe, it was the fact that I sat there beside my 7-year-old son, watching him soak in the music, the same way I had once done as a young dreamer in high school getting to watch stars in the making on stage.

And then it hit me.

This, Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts, was a piece of Cullman that had been missing.

As a high schooler, I had longed for something like this, a place that nurtured talent, where young artists could stand in the spotlight, find themselves in their talents and chase their dreams. And now, right in front of me, was a new generation getting that very opportunity.

For students in schools that lack the resources to invest in fine arts or where funding is overwhelmingly allocated toward athletics with little consideration for the other half of the student body, Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts offers a new opportunity.

It provides a dedicated space for young artists to develop their talents, build confidence and chase dreams that might have otherwise gone unexplored.

Rest assured, this comes with the dedication of a committed, passionate teacher in Paige Clabo, whose belief in her students was evident in every interaction. From the moment she took to the stage to open the recital, her voice was full of intentional affirmation and a face that glowed with pride throughout the night.

There was a moment during the recital that stood out as a true testament to her leadership and dedication to her students. One student struggled through her song and got lost in the words. Instead of allowing her to falter, Paige stepped onto the stage, took her hand and calmly asked for the song to be restarted.

Teachers face a choice in those moments: allow a student to fail and learn from it or walk beside them through the struggle to help them come out stronger and more confident. Paige chose the latter. The young singer, now reassured and supported, completed the song on the second attempt, met with roaring applause and a standing ovation from Paige herself.

To me, this recital served as more than just a showcase of talent, it was a glimpse into the future.

A future where young performers in Cullman have a real chance to dedicate themselves to their craft. A future where they have a mentor who believes in them and a stage where they are encouraged to be bold.

As I sat there watching, I couldn't help but reflect on what this meant for my own kids. Whether my boys play sports, which they love, or discover a new passion or talent through performing arts, I love to know that I have the option to give them an opportunity that I never had access to.

Don't get me wrong, I am forever grateful for the opportunities that I had at Vinemont High School.

But for students who wanted to pursue a career in acting or the performing arts, the opportunities simply weren't there.

Whether due to a lack of resources or simply not having the faculty with the knowledge of how to foster such dreams, students lacked the environment necessary to explore that path. It was something many students at the time noticed and something that, for a long time, I was unsure would ever change.

But that's not the case anymore.

Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts isn't just for one type of performer; it's for anyone of any age or experience level who wants to learn, grow and chase their dreams in the arts.

So, thank you, Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts, for a night of wonderful entertainment that I got to share with a community of family and friends who came to praise the hard work and bravery it takes to stand on the stage as a young person and sing like these 22 young ladies did.

Thank you, Paige, for creating something that was missing in Cullman for far too long. Thank you for allowing me to witness your proud heart, standing in ovation for each of your students and praising them for their accomplishments.

And to the students, thank you for sharing your talents with us. Whether you're just beginning your journey or are already far down the road, I encourage you to lean on your leader, encourage your friends around you and continue to be bold and work toward your dreams. After all, it's people like Addie Wood, a young performer who doesn't even know me, who was able to bless me with nothing more than a song and allowed me to have a moment to cherish with my son.

I look forward to seeing Heirlooms grow and attending many more recitals and events. After all, it only takes one visionary to spark a dream — and that dream multiplies through the students who now have the chance to chase theirs.

For more information on Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts, call 256-339-8876 or email Paige at paigeclabo@gmail.com. For any other information, visit www.heirloomsfineandperformingarts.com.