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The Cullman Tribune

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Good Hope advances to Elite 8 with 68-53 win over Dora

» PAGE 8

Local industry professionals gather for annual event

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Feb. 13, held its annual Industry Appreciation event at Terri Pines.

The event recognized local businesses and industries that make up the backbone of Cullman County's economy. Local officials, business leaders and individuals looking to network gathered to acknowledge the contributions of industries that support the county's job market and economic development.

Cullman Chamber representatives stressed the importance of local businesses and their role in shaping the community's success.

"We thank you for being the backbone of this community, for providing countless opportunities for our workforce, for innovation and for driving growth in the Cullman County region," said Chamber President Joey Orr.

The gathering also highlighted the strong » PAGE 8



SHERRY BROWN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer addresses the audience at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce's annual Industry Appreciation event at Terri Pines on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025.

'100 years of tradition and excellence'

Fairview High to celebrate centennial



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview High School is seen on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — In just a few weeks, Fairview High School will host its centennial celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on campus.

FHS Family and Consumer Science Teacher And Head Track And Field Coach Whitney Haynes said one of the things about the centennial celebration she is excited about is being able to recognize the efforts and contributions of people who have gone before.

"Celebrating the great things that have come about at Fairview because of people that have been committed to promoting excellence and tradition in our school and community," Haynes said. " I have enjoyed digging deeper into our school's history and early years! A lot of community people worked very hard to build and upgrade facilities through the years.

"Even within our home, we've had grandfathers that brought farm equipment to campus to help establish the football field, moms that worked years at the annual PTO turkey and dressing supper (that was reestablished this year), a grandfather that built the original rock bridge in front of the school to help pay tuition for his kids to attend school!" she continued. "And our home is not special - lots of Fairview families can share how their ancestors have contributed to make Fairview the school it is today. I really believe it is this connection to the community that makes Fairview School such a special to work and receive an education."

Seventh-grade Life Science Teacher Leslie Arnold said she did the math, and 75% of her life has been spent at Fairview High School.

"That includes 12 years as a student and 28 as a teacher; I live and breathe purple and gold," Arnold said. "I love to support my Aggies in all competitions, whether it be football or scholars bowl. Most of my favorite memories have been competition related and watching my Aggies win. The love I have for Fairview came from two men during my Fairview years, both as a student and a teacher. Coach Dafford Smith was my basketball coach during my junior year and he » PAGE 4

Empty Bowls coming this Monday, Feb. 17

» PAGE 5

'A huge step'

CHS breaks ground on career tech and STEM wing



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman City Schools celebrated the start of construction on its new career technology and STEM wing at Cullman High School on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025. Pictured is a rendering of what part of the wing will look like. » PAGE 8

McSwain, Atkins named January CCBOE/AmFirst Teacher, Staff Member of the Month

» PAGE 5

St. Bernard Prep senior spotlight: Madilyn Kerber



ST. BERNARD PREP

Madilyn Kerber » PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 14

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 14, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 10
- attempt to elude; CR 222
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747
- theft of property; CR 62
- assault; CR 1114
- domestic violence; CR 1193

Feb. 11
- harassing communications; CR 31
- assault; CR 824
- theft of property; CR 2120
- burglary; CR 813
- harassment; CR 636
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1663
- theft of property; CR 1108
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1367
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E
- domestic violence; CR 1295
- harassment; CR 1506

Feb. 12
- domestic violence; Alex Dr.
- theft of property; CR 463
- harassment; Whalye Ave. NE

ARRESTS

Feb. 10-12

Barnett, Sumer L.; 27
- possessing forged instrument

Blake III, Charles R.; 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Boyles, Julie B.; 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Boyles, Ricky D.; 60
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Cofield Jr., William A.; 44
- FTA – burglary-residence-force
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer (2 counts)
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property, $1500 or more

Cole Jr., Jack B.; 53
- PROBATION REVOKED – robbery-street-other weapon

Davis, Ronnie S.; 53
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- escape

Holmes, George R.; 53
- public intoxication

Hurt, Cody B.; 34
- assault-harassment

Linch, John D.; 30
- DUI (alcohol)

Manning, Adam J.; 40
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Manning, Priscilla G.; 44
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Nail, Heathelyn W.; 33
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Nichols, Charles L.; 61
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine

Raines, Brian A.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of methamphetamine

Rentz, Michael B.; 22
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500 (2 counts)
- FTA – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (6 counts)
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500 (3 counts)
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle

Smith, Jonathan K.; 50
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Stallings, Christi L.; 45
- attempting to elude a police officer
- DUI (alcohol)

Thoma, Edward E.; 58
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – terrorist threat

Williams, Christopher W.; 47
- attempting to elude a police officer

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 6
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $7,000
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $42; Hwy. 157
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

Feb. 7
- burglary-3rd degree; criminal mischief-2nd degree; Taco Marg LLC.; 1st Ave. NE
- forgery-3rd degree; Peoples Bank of Alabama; forged check
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $16; Olive St. SW

Feb. 8
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep; catalytic converters; Benchmark Way SW
- harassment; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Shoe Show; shoes; $50; Marktplatz Ctr. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $321; Hwy. 157

Feb. 9
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; 1st Ave. SE
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '04 Toyota Sequoia; $5,000
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $136; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; medication; Olive St. SW

Feb. 10
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '14 Chev. Silverado; 2nd Ave. NW
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '18 Ford Explorer; 2nd Ave. SW
- harassment; person; Logan St. SW

Feb. 11
- assault-3rd degree; person; Main Ave. SW
- theft of property-3rd degree; Express Oil Change; miscellaneous; $1,200; 2nd Ave. SW
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '18 Ford Fusion; $1,000; Ward Ave. SW

Feb. 12
- theft of loss property-3rd degree; person; wallet & contents; Marktplatz Ctr. SW

Feb. 13
- theft of property-4th degree; unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; Long Lewis Ford/person; hitch; $319; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Wimbs, Avery N.; 26
- FTA - driving while license suspended
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Baldwin, Adam N.; 38
- FTA - driving without license

Cooper, Helen; 73
- theft of property-4th degree

Akers, Nicholas J.; 51
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - driving without license
- FTA - switched tag
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Beasley, Anthony R.; 53
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (4 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - receiving stolen property-4th degree

Fossett, Asa H.; 19
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Neely, Robin M.; 61
- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - driving while license suspended (2 counts)
- FTA - switched tag
- FTA - insurance violation

Pace, Hunter L.; 26
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Summers, James F.; 46
- theft of property-4th degree

Muir, Taylor S.; 27
- DUI

Johns, Taylor N.; 26
- public intoxication
- unlawful possession/receiving of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

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

Bolton, Christina J.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

Aragon, Dale J.; 28
- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - expired tag

Lusk, Stephanie M.; 41
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Husted, Lacy H.; 40
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle
- making a false police report

Sandifer, Matthew J.; 40
- FTA - criminal tampering
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Taylor M.; 24
- public intoxication
- resisting arrest

Payne, George G.; 74
- FTA - DUI
- FTA - public intoxication
- FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA - criminal trespass-1st degree
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA - expired tag (2 counts)
- FTA - driving without license
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Clines, Brittany B.; 31
- domestic violence

Clines, Tyler C.; 30
- domestic violence

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANCES Y. MCNUTT, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-052

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to John McNutt as Personal Representative of the Estate of Frances Y. McNutt, deceased, on the 13th 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 the said Estate are required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

John McNutt
Personal Representative

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

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

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 6 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 *
ROBERT PAUL LINDSEY, * CASE NO.: PC2024-407
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to KALENNA QUICK, as Administrator, of the ESTATE OF ROBERT PAUL LINDSEY, deceased, on the 12th day of February 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.

Kalenna Quick
Administrator

Brandon C. Neal
Attorney for Administrator
217 – Second Avenue, East
Oneonta, Alabama 35121

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 12th day of February, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration upon the Estate of said decedent, having been granted to Patrick Hall on the 12th day of February, 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 Estates are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of said Judge of Probate, 500 2nd Avenue, SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama within six (6) months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Patrick Hall
Personal Representative

R. Leland Lesley
The Lesley Law Firm
Attorney for Estate
2908 Crescent Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama 35209
(205) 870-1986

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

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
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

Notice of Public Meeting

The Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the administrative conference room at City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE. The Committee will receive public comments for and against the alcohol license applicants listed: CPRST dba Omniplex, 1634 Field of Miracles Drive SW, Cullman, AL 35055 – Special Events Alcohol License.

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.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD NEVES, JR., aka, EVERETT RICHARD NEVES, JR., Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2023-308**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to LAURA NEVES, as Personal Representative of the Estate of RICHARD NEVES, JR., also known as EVERETT RICHARD NEVES, JR., deceased, on the 12th day of February, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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.

Laura Neves
Personal Representative

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

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

Holly Pond woman killed in multivehicle crash

Staff Reports
Contributor

HOLLY POND, Ala. – A Holly Pond woman was killed Wednesday, Feb. 12, in a multivehicle crash.

Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Betty C. Benefield, 88.

Troopers said the crash happened at approximately 3:45 p.m. They said Benefield was fatally injured when the 2011 Chevrolet Silverado she was a passenger in collided head-on with a 1997 Mack truck driven by John J. Davidson, 38, of Cullman.

After the initial impact, they said, the Chevrolet was struck by a 2021 Ram 1500 driven by Jeffery S. Kanaday, 55, of Hanceville.

Benefield was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the Chevrolet, Charles E. Benefield, 88, also of Holly Pond, was injured and transported to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital for treatment. Kanaday was also injured; he was transported to Cullman Regional for treatment.

The crash occurred on U.S. Highway 278 near County Road 1640, approximately 4 miles west of Holly Pond, 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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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. 15 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Feb. 16 - 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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Sunday Night Singing
Sunday, Feb. 16, at 5 p.m. with Bama Blu-Grace. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-338-9202.

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!

Holly Pond Lions Club Annual Beans and Greens Dinner
Saturday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club. Donations only. Proceeds will benefit our community service projects. We hope to see you there. Thank you in advance for your support. We will accept donated canned and non-perishable food items to benefit the food pantry located between Holly Pond Town Hall and the Holly Pond Volunteer Fire Department. Drop them off at the food pantry or when you join us at the Beans and Greens Dinner on March 8.

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.

Ladies' Conference
Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with lunch at noon. At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435 in Vinemont. Guest speaker Kristy Garrison Harris: Trusting God through every season. There will be games and door prizes. Please join us.



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LESLIE ARNOLD



CRYSTAL JONES

A selection of photos from a stroll down Fairview High School memory lane

Centennial (from Front)

continued to be a coach outside of the court throughout my life. His love of the Fairview community was seen throughout his life. Mr. Keith Pattillo was the high school principal during my time as a student and many years of my teaching career. He also lived and breathed purple and gold. He did so much for our school, especially seeing us through the devastating fire of 1999. Fairview has been blessed with a lot of great leaders; these are only two of the greats."

Third-grade Teacher Crystal Jones said she attended Fairview K-12 and graduated from FHS in 2000 and has always loved how Fairview is a small town, but honestly like a family.

"My junior year ('98) playing volleyball we made it to the Elite 8 in state," Jones said. "We were the first team to make it that far in volleyball. I remember the entire school lining the road and cheering for us as we left to go to Birmingham. Everyone was excited for us to go and represent our school. I also remember the summer of '99 in June when my mom woke me with the awful news that our school was engulfed in flames. By the time we got there it was a complete loss, but we all gathered together again as a family. This time it was not cheerful, but holding on to each other remembering the good times made it easier to process. It was hard going to school our senior year in trailers, but we all, students and faculty, did our best to make it a year to remember. These were both times that we supported one another. The high on the mountain and the low of the valley. Just like a family, we were there for each other."

Jones said she is excited to see people she has not seen in years because they have moved or relocated come back to celebrate. She said it will be like a huge family reunion.

Alumni Association President and Teacher Shannon Ray Black said one memory that sticks out is the 1992 Boys' Basketball Championship.

"It was the first championship in 26 years," Black said. "It was the last year to have the county tourney in school gyms. Standing room only and we defeated West Point in their gym. I am looking forward to seeing all the community and alumni and highlighting all the wonderful things that we are doing at Fairview School."

Haynes, a partner in planning the event, is also the FCCLA advisor and scholars bowl coach. She said she was about to start high school when the building burned in 1999.

"After spending a couple of years in the portable classrooms, I was part of one of the first classes to graduate from the 'new school,'" Haynes said. "The old building was so beautiful and honestly, iconic, in my memory. However, looking back, I realize that the building really wasn't Fairview. The people are who make Fairview a great school and community. Even our years in the portable classrooms were memorable, and I know so much of that is attributed to the outstanding administration and faculty, as well as the community, that worked to make those years just as great. Fairview is such a unique place, and we are so excited to celebrate 100 years of tradition and excellence."

The Fairview High School Centennial Celebration will take place on Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on campus. Vendor setup is at 9 a.m. with sales beginning at 10. There will be a 5K Fun Run/Walk at 8, as well as a Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show from 8-2. There will also be live entertainment in the auditorium. If it rains on the 12, the event will move to Saturday, April 19.

For more information, or to become a vendor, contact the school at 256-796-5106 or through www.facebook.com/fhsaggies. Fairview High School is located at 841 Welcome Road Cullman, AL 35055.





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Month (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools and AmFirst recognize a teacher and staff member each month of the school year who are going above and beyond in their professions.

Teacher of the Month: Wesley McSwain, agriscience, Cold Springs High

Wesley McSwain is the agriscience teacher at Cold Springs High School.

"The agriscience position is one that requires a diverse skillset and Mr. McSwain exemplifies that extremely well," said Eric Dickerson, CSHS principal. "Beyond his teaching, his extracurricular teams represent our school well and he constantly volunteers for activities for our school that makes our campus better."

Staff Member of the Month: Theresa Atkins, custodian, Harmony School

Theresa Atkins serves as custodian at Harmony School.

"She keeps everything looking wonderful, takes great pride in her work and helps wherever and whenever needed." said Kevin Sullins, Harmony principal. "She has a wonderful, positive attitude and treats the students like they are her own."



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured with students, left to right, are Cold Springs High School Principal Eric Dickerson (back), AmFirst Cullman Branch Manager Daniel Boggan, AmFirst Membership Development Manager Beverly Cochran and AmFirst Teacher of the Month Wesley McSwain.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured left to right are Harmony School Principal Kevin Sullins, AmFirst Staff Member of the Month Theresa Atkins, AmFirst Membership Development Manager Beverly Cochran and AmFirst Cullman Branch Manager Daniel Boggan.

Cullman County Schools thanks AmFirst for sponsoring this program. Each Teacher And Staff Member of the Month receives a $100 gift card.

Empty Bowls (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The 20th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner will take place Monday, Feb. 17, from 4-6:30 p.m. in Hearin Hall at First United Methodist Church in Cullman. The community favorite event raises funds for the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank.

In a letter the editor in January, Coordinator Tanya Shearer wrote in The Tribune, "It is hard to believe that 20 years ago the first Empty Bowls of Cullman County dinner was held on Nov. 17, 2003. From the very beginning, it was very apparent that God gathered the people together to make it happen: the potters, the culinary experts, musicians, businesses, churches, schools, etc. The first planning meeting was held on Sept. 29, and the dinner was held less than two months later.

"Organizers hoped to serve 100-200 people and raise $2,000. However, when it was all said and done, over 600 people came to the dinner that first year and almost $6,000 was raised for the food bank."

Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter shared, "It's a very simple fundraiser; they do chili, grilled cheese sandwiches and desserts. The event raises money for Cullman Caring for Kids' food bank, and all the costs that go along with it."

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

"Last year in 2024, the food bank served 10,239 families consisting of 21,979 individuals; 6,321 were children younger than 18 – almost one-third. The majority of the people coming to the food bank continue to be on a fixed income.

"The food distributed at the food bank is distributed once a month. The 75-80-pound bags of food are intended to provide a family of four nutritious food for three days."

Continued Sutter, "Mrs. Tanya Shearer is who heads up the entire thing and does an amazing job making sure everyone is doing and taking care of everything that needs to be done."

He said there is also a silent auction with numerous items donated by the community.

"We tried to make it a completely 100% family friendly event so that everyone can come without any worry of there being anything negative," Sutter said. "This truly is a great event."

Empty Bowls tickets are $15 and include the dinner, a keepsake pottery bowl and live Southern gospel music by Brian Westbrook & The Misfits and Enell Baker. Tickets are available at Cullman Caring for Kids, First United Methodist Church and at the door. Dine in or carry out. For more information, call Cullman Caring for Kids at 739-1111 or First United Methodist Church at 734-6690. The church is located at 320 Third St. SE in Cullman.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Bobby Nolen was hard at work Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at First United Methodist Church in Cullman, preparing for the 20th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner. The event will take place Monday, Feb. 17, at the church.

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Relay For Life 2025 season kicks off with meeting set for Feb. 20

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Relay For Life of Cullman County is gearing up for its 2025 season and invites the community to join the fight against cancer. The journey begins with the Kick-off Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship hall of First Baptist Church (501 Second Ave. SW). This event welcomes survivors, caregivers, teams, sponsors and anyone who wants to make a difference in the battle against cancer.

Cancer doesn't take a break, and neither can we. Fundraising is especially critical right now, as research efforts, patient support programs and early detection initiatives rely on community-driven contributions. "Every dollar raised through Relay For Life funds cancer research, patient services and life-saving programs," said event leadership Helen Allen. "With advancements in treatment and early detection, more people are surviving cancer than ever before—but there is still so much work to be done. That's why we need the community's support. Whether you form a team, donate, or become a sponsor, you have the power to make a real impact."

Allen also stressed the importance of early detection, prevention and education. "A cancer diagnosis is life-changing, but early detection gives patients the best chance at survival while avoiding aggressive treatments," she said. "Supporting research means better tests, better treatments and, ultimately, a future free from cancer."

The Kick-off Meeting on Feb. 20 is the perfect opportunity to learn more about how to form a team, volunteer or become a sponsor. The community is invited to step up and play a role in funding vital research and patient services that help families right here in Cullman County and beyond.

The 2025 Relay For Life of Cullman County will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 5 p.m. at Depot Park in downtown Cullman. The evening will be filled with live entertainment, food trucks, children's activities, vendors and powerful moments of remembrance and celebration — all dedicated to supporting the American Cancer Society's mission.

To register, join a team, make a donation or for more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal or contact Helen Allen at 256-709-4019 or helenma1941@gmail.com.

For more information about the American Cancer Society, including access to 24/7 assistance, visit www.cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345.

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Kerber (from Front)

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Prep

St. Bernard Prep senior Madilyn Kerber is no stranger to tradition — or to making her own mark. A lifelong student of Catholic schools, Kerber is carrying on a family legacy at St. Bernard, where her father, aunt and uncles once roamed the halls. But if you ask her teachers, coaches and classmates, she isn't just following in footsteps — she's blazing her own trail.

A powerhouse in the classroom and on the field, Kerber is a five-time All-State - Cross Country winner, a three-time third-place State Track finalist and a dedicated team captain for St. Bernard's soccer team. For years, she was the lone female runner representing St. Bernard in cross country — an achievement that speaks volumes about her perseverance and drive. As if that weren't enough, she also serves as senior class president, proving her leadership isn't confined to athletics.

Kerber's dedication extends beyond the St. Bernard campus. She's made three trips to Washington, D.C., to participate in the March for Life campaign and was selected for the prestigious Youth Tour with the Cullman Electric Cooperative, where she gained an inside look at Congress.

Her rigorous academic schedule includes four AP courses — Government, Biology, Calculus and English — preparing her for the next big step in her journey.

But beyond her accolades and achievements, Kerber is a young woman with a big heart. She cherishes time spent with her family, especially her "Pops," Alan Kerber.

"My grandfather taught me to enjoy working and to be a hard worker. I never stop — I'm always doing something," Kerber shared with a smile. Whether she's volunteering at Cullman Caring for Kids, stocking food pantry shelves or mowing Sacred Heart Cemetery with her grandfather, Kerber embraces service as part of her life's calling.

When asked about the most valuable lesson she's learned at St. Bernard, Kerber credited her former soccer coach, Mr. Drake: "Cross country and soccer taught me how to persevere. Sometimes you have to suffer," she joked. That resilience will no doubt serve her well as she prepares for college. With Presidential Scholarship offers from both Alabama and Auburn, Kerber has a tough decision ahead, but her sights are currently set on Auburn University, where she plans to study business before pursuing a law degree at the University of Alabama.

As she prepares to pass the torch, Kerber is thrilled that her younger sister, Lilly, will be joining St. Bernard next year. "I look forward to watching her grow here," she said proudly. Her parting advice to underclassmen? "It's important to choose good friends who want you to be your best self. I have the Dalys (Sean, Luke and Cash). They are gentlemen and just like brothers to me. They take good care of me."

Kerber is the daughter of Tim and Kim Kerber of Cullman and the granddaughter of Alan and Kim Kerber. With a bright future ahead, she leaves behind a legacy of excellence, determination and service — a true testament to the spirit of St. Bernard Prep.

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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 13-14

Lena Elizabeth Johnson, 76
Funeral service for Lena Elizabeth Johnson, 76, of Vinemont will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Center Cemetery in Bankhead Forest, Rev. G.T. Robertson officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Johnson passed away Feb. 12, 2025, at her residence. She was born April 8, 1948, to Floyd and Clercy Inez Sellers Steele. She loved all children and it didn't matter if they were hers or someone else. She treated them all the same. She loved Conway Twitty and Billy Ray Cyrus. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brothers and sisters, Pete Steele, Maxine Johnson, Rhonda Steele, R.V. Steele, Harvey Steele, Ira Steele. Survivors include her sons, Gary Carter, Paul Skinner, Ray Skinner; daughter, Angie Calloway; brothers, Robert Steele, Shorty (Starlon) Steele, Sam Steele; sisters, Stella King, Sarah (Lawrence) Hawthorne, Nadine Carvell; seven grandchildren, Allen Carter, Justin Williams, Justina Williams, James Calloway (Katie), Jill Linton, Daniel Calloway, Angel Calloway; nine great grandchildren; family and friends. Pallbearers will be Allen Carter, Scott King, Chris Cook, Ryan Yarbrough, Chris Sterling, Landin Williams.

Alice Jeanette Rackley, 84
Alice Jeanette Rackley, 84, of Arley, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John L. Rackley; her parents, Warren L. Lefan Sr. and Annie Ruth Lefan; her daughter, Linda Diane Bates; and her sister, Renee Lefan, and grandson Curtis Noll. Alice is lovingly remembered by her children: Gene (Donna) Coleman, Johnny (Debra) Rackley, Edwin (Judy) Coleman, Deborah (Craig) Noll, and Anita (Scott) Oden. She is also survived by her brother, Warren (Shirley) Lefan Jr.; her sister, Evie Margaret (Kenneth) Holmes; 17 cherished grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; and a dear friend, Rose Pair. She leaves behind many other family members and friends who will miss her dearly. Family and friends are invited to gather on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama, where a celebration of Alice's life will begin at 3 p.m. Alice proudly served as a United States Marine, demonstrating her dedication and love for her country. Military Honors burial will take place on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at 1:15 p.m. at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Tunnel to Towers Foundation and Ruff Rescuers United in Alice's memory. To share condolences with the family, please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home is honored to serve the Rackley family.

Myrl Imagene Wynn, 94
Funeral service for Myrl Imagene Wynn,94, of Vinemont will be at 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, at. Blair Congregational Methodist Church with interment in adjoining cemetery, Rev. Tim Holder officiating. The body will lie in state from 12-1 at the church on Monday. Visitation will be Sunday night from 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the church Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Wynn passed away Feb. 13, 2025, at her residence. She was born on Sept. 1, 1930, to Elijah Martin and Effie Oma McAbee Shoemaker. She was a substitute teacher and secretary at Jones Chapel, Battleground and Dowling Jr. High Schools. She was a member of Blair Congregational Methodist Church where she served as the treasurer and secretary. She loved quilting, ceramics and sewing, she also enjoyed camping, and organizing and working the clothes closet at her church. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Oza 'Joe' Wynn; and brother, Gilbert Shoemaker. Survivors include her son, Randy (Rhonda) Wynn; grandchildren, Rashan Wynn (Patrick) Fulenwider and Ryan Wynn; great-grandchildren, Blade Fulenwider, Jayda Fulenwider and Austin Levi Wynn, and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Pallbearers will be Ryan Wynn, Patrick Fulenwider, Blade Fulenwider, Skip Griffin, Shawn Scofield, Matt Bice; honorary pallbearer, Austin Wynn.

Bruce Alan Carpenter, 65
Bruce Alan Carpenter, age 65 of Vinemont, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born Jan. 5, 1960, to Lonnie Carter Carpenter and Juanita Carpenter. He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and sister-in-law, Kim Carpenter. Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Sandra "Sandy" Carpenter; sons, Adam Carpenter and Kevin (Amanda) Carpenter; brothers, Dennis Carpenter and Jeff (Tayra) Carpenter; nieces, Kayla, Alyson (Colin), Alyssa, Feribah Auston Claire and Madison; nephews, Kyle and Nathaniel, mother and father-in-law, Fred and Ramona Merrill; brother-in-law, Steve Merrill and a host of aunts, uncles, family and friends. Bruce worked as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) at Cullman Regional and Crestwood Medical Center for his career. The only thing he enjoyed doing was volunteering his time with the Sheriff's Office as a reserved deputy. He did this until his health prevented it, as well as his love for his family and friends, Bruce's love for and trust in Jesus came to be how he viewed everything in his life. He often shared with others how Jesus had sustained him through a number of major health issues. It was important to him that they know that love too. Bruce will be missed by all that knew him. A special thank you to the Staff at Dialysis Clinic, Inc. in Cullman, Alabama. A Celebration of Life will be held at Northbrook Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. prior to the service.

James 'Jim' Anthony Stevens, 80
James Anthony Stevens, age 80 of Cullman, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025. He was born Aug. 29, 1944, to Lavert Stevens, Sr. and Una Belle Stevens. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Lavert Stevens, Jr.; sisters, Judy Stevens and Gwenneth Stevens Flynn. Survivors include his wife, Susan Stevens; daughters, Dawn (Jay) Gunther and Rochelle (Mike) Reyer ; son, James Anthony (Natalie) Stevens, Jr.; stepson, Brian Jerold Anzalone; grandchildren, Burke Mancus, Jr., Bradley Reyer, Beau Reyer, Heather Greene, Bailey Greene, Erin Greene, Foster Stevens; great grandchildren, Rennan Jones and Finn Reyer, and sister, Kathy Stevens Smith.

Judy Faye Hudson, 71
Funeral services for Judy Faye Hudson, 71, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Phillip Doss will be officiating the service. The family of Mrs. Hudson will welcome friends for visitation at the funeral home on Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Graveside services will not be announced. Judy Hudson, a loving mother, devoted grandmother, and cherished friend was born on July 7, 1953, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Virgil and Theola Russell-Caldwell. She passed away on Feb. 13, 2025, at her residence in Hanceville; leaving behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and love. Judy had a heart as big as the meals she lovingly prepared. Cooking wasn't just something she did- it was an extension of her love, a way to bring family and friends together around the table. She poured her heart into every dish, making sure no one ever left her home hungry. She found joy in the simple things- casting a fishing line into the water, spending time with her beloved children and grandchildren, and singing along to her favorite bluegrass tunes. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she found great comfort in going to church and living as a devoted Christian. She had a giving spirit, always willing to share whatever she had with anyone in need. Judy also had a special place in her heart for her puppy dogs, who brought her endless companionship and happiness. She loved the thrill of thrift shopping, finding treasures in the most unexpected places. But above all, she loved her family fiercely, offering them unconditional love, support, and wisdom. She will be remembered as a loving mother, a wonderful grandmother, and a best friend to many. Her kindness, laughter, and warm spirit will be deeply missed, but the love she gave so freely will live on in the hearts of those who knew her. Those who are left to carry out her legacy are her children, Jeremy (Kim) League and Christina (Mike) Butler; grandchildren, Odie (Carmen) League, Abigail (Chance) Martin and Olivia Butler; great granddaughter, Devina League; siblings, William Caldwell, Shirley Karl, Tona Lashley and Margaret Cassell; and a host of nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Hudson was preceded in death by her husband, Larry Hudson; son, Joey Hudson, granddaughter, Raven League; and a host of others. Hanceville Funeral home is honored to serve the Hudson Family.

Delma Mary Hancock, 92
Delma Hancock, 92 of Cullman passed away on Feb. 11, 2025. She loved music and her dogs, and was an avid sports fan who never missed an Atlanta Braves baseball game or a Crimson Tide football game on TV. Mrs. Hancock is preceded in death by her husband, Curtis Earl Hancock; parents, Frank W. and Ivy Faulkner Coulson; sister, Joan Brinkley; and her great-great grandson, Joseph Bankston. She owned a successful childcare business and loved teaching, singing, and playing with her little ones. Mrs. Hancock is survived by her daughters, Debbie (Michael) Couch and Janet (Doug) Wix;son, Steven (Dawn) Hancock; grandchildren, Rachel Bankston, Faye (Bill) Dukes, Katie Couch, Shelby (James) Kahlau, Michael (Tanya) Spraggins and Alex Hancock; four great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other family and friends. Celebration of life services for Mrs. Hancock will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Moss Service Funeral Home, Linda Martin officiating. Her family will receive friends prior to the service from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Burial will be in Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery. To leave condolences for the family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A holiday is simply 1 day

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Editor's note: Written prior to Valentine's Day

You probably won't get the day off from work, or school, on Valentine's Day. You will be hard pressed to find a Valentine's Day parade. Actually, Valentine's Day is not even a legal holiday. All the stores and restaurants will be open like on any other normal day. In fact, many restaurants will be packed that evening, so if you need reservations at your favorite place, you'd better call early. The mail will still run. You could possibly even receive a card from someone that day. The sender might even tell you they love you.

Yet, in spite of all these facts, I read that over half of our nation's population celebrates this special day. We spend a ton of money on valentines. According to the National Retail Federation, Americans will spend $27.5 billion on this non-holiday holiday. That is an average of around $188.81 per shopper. Fifty-seven percent of those shoppers will buy candy as a gift. I know you thought flowers were the most popular gift, but it is candy. I, personally, had much rather eat a piece of chocolate, or a dozen pieces of chocolate, than a dozen roses or tulips!

Now, there is a logical explanation for this candy statistic. Most guys love candy, especially chocolate. This guy is one of those. Most guys know if we give a big box of candy to our wife or girlfriend, she will share with us! In fact, I usually end up eating more of it than Jean does. That may be why she prefers tulips!

We do all those things simply because we love someone and want them to know it. Well, that and the fact that we don't want to end up in the proverbial "doghouse" if we don't give anything. But, have you ever thought about the fact that this holiday, or non-holiday, is really just another day, or at best just one day. That's one day out of 365 days.

The question that comes to my mind is, what do we do on the other 364 days? If we show no signs of love on those days, does what we do and give on this one day make up for all the others? If we act like a jerk all year long, can we make up for that in one day? If we are never home, or never spend any amount of time with the ones we love, is one special day enough time to cover for all those others? Excuse me, I think I've gone to preaching...maybe even meddling!

February is usually one of the busiest months of the year for me. That is because churches and groups have Valentine's banquets in February, and I get invited to do programs for many of them. Since the creation of my Bro. Billy Bob character, 23 years ago, I have been gone almost every year on Valentine's Day. That doesn't mean Jean and I don't have a special night out, but it does mean our special night out usually is not on Feb. 14. This year I'm taking her to a banquet at our church, and I'm not the program. I am the last of the big spenders!

You know what I honestly believe? It is not necessarily a particular day that matters, but it is that we have a day. In fact, it really is not just having a day, but many days. I believe that most people would rather have more time spent with the one they love than to receive all the gifts in the world on one particular holiday...that's not even a holiday.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 14, 1935

From the files of Feb. 14, 1935

National Speaker to Be Here
Dr. F. Scott McBride, general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of America, will speak at the Cullman county court house Saturday, February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. He is said to be one of the most brilliant speakers in America. Come and hear him on this vital liquor issue.

New Books at City Library
Forty new books have been added to the City Library. These are books that will interest the most critical reader and anyone looking for interesting and entertaining literature. Among the new books are "Stars Fell on Alabama" (we paid $3.00 for this book), "Education of a Princess" by Marie, the four latest books by Pearl S. Buck, "So Red the Rose" by Stark Young. If you want to know Russia and read some thrilling adventures read "Escape From the Soviets" by Tchernavin (we paid $2.50 for this book). We have much of the latest and choicest reading for you in our new stock.

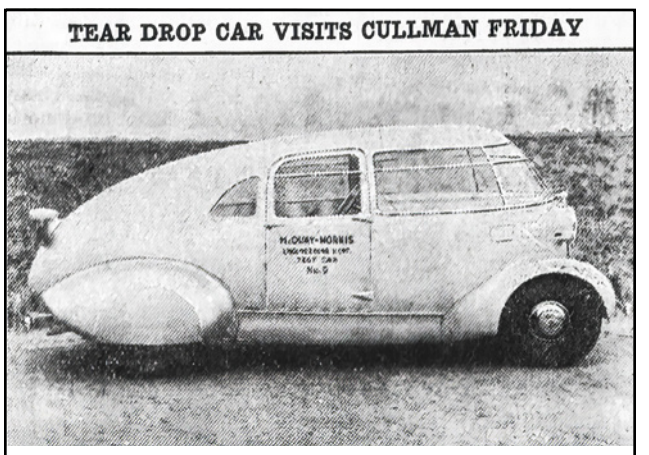
We want to interest the men and women of town who really like good books. We are trying to build up the city library and make it an institution in town that we can be proud of. We are offering you now forty new books for which anyone ought to be willing to pay the small sum which we are asking for an annual subscription card. This card entitles the holder to 104 books per year. Books may be kept a week.

Please note: The Library is now located in the City Hall. The City has given us permission to use the City Council room. Please use the side door entrance. We invite you to examine the new books.

Mrs. Henry Meyer.

County Basketball Tournament to Be Held at St. Bernard
For the first time in the history of Cullman county a basketball tournament in which high schools or over may enter a team will be held at St. Bernard. The exact date of the tournament has not been determined but it is expected to come off the last week in February. No independent teams will be allowed to enter, making it strictly amateur. The district tournament for high schools will be held on the 1st and 2nd day of March. The county tournament will afford those teams that are desirous of entering the district tournament, an opportunity to accustom themselves to tournament play.

Teams that have already filed their entrance are: Cullman, Hanceville, Fairview, Holly Pond, West Point, St. Bernard Varsity, St. Bernard Preps, Logan. We are still waiting to hear from Vinemont and White City. No entrance fee is required.



This unusual automobile visited Cullman last Friday, driven by Robert G. McCullough, test engineer. Its peculiar shape gives it the name of Tear Drop. The body design is intended to reduce wind resistance. The car is the property of a large auto parts manufacturing company, and is equipped with all parts made by this company. Every known test appliance reveals the actual performance of this machine under actual driving conditions.

POET'S CORNER

Red Rover | By: Randy C. Hale

When we were in elementary school,
our biggest concern was what we
were having in the lunchroom and if
the weather was nice enough to go
outside during recess.

Our teachers lined up in their chairs,
creating a boundary that we knew
not to cross.
There was no required agenda but to
roamed free, running, sliding, climbing,
throwing an old leather football and
playing games.

"Red Rover," was a popular game.
Teams facing one another would call,
"Red Rover, Red Rover send David or
Sandra over," and the chosen would
come running, attempting to break
through the interlinking of hands that
formed a small human chain.

"Red Rover" I understand is banned
from most playgrounds for being too
dangerous, and being clothesline does
come to mind. So, I'm sure that
"Piggy Back Fighting" is definitely
a no-go or a football game we called
"Smear."

On the playground, there might
be a brief fight between two boys,
and I'm sure the girls thought
we were subterranean slugs.
(crawled out from under a rock)
But there was no threat of gunmans
or exploding bombs.

I guess we thought our teachers had
superpowers and as old as Methuselah
could handle anything like our parents
did back home.
It was our responsibility to watch for
them when they stood to leave, and we
would quickly comprise our crooked
little lines to return to class.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 15

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

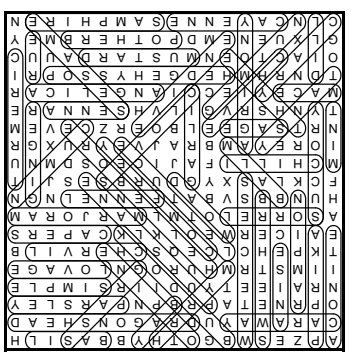
Aconite
Agrimony
Angelica
Anise
Balm
Basil
Bay
Burdock
Capers
Caraway
Cayenne
Chervil
Chilli
Chive
Clary
Cloves
Comfrey
Cumin
Dill
Dragon's head
Endive
Fennel
Garlic
Ginger
Grass
Hedge hyssop
Hellebore
Lettuce
Lovage
Mace
Marjoram
Mint
Mustard
Myrrh
Nutmeg
Orpine
Paprika
Parsley
Pot herb
Purslane
Rampion
Rue
Sage
Samphire
Senna
Sesame
Simple
Sorrel
Succory
Sweet herb
Tansy
Thyme
Turmeric
Watercress
Woad

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 15

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



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

Event (from Front)

collaboration between local businesses, economic development teams and City and County officials in the growth and opportunity across the county.

City and County representatives were commended for their seamless partnership, which was touted as playing a key role in attracting new businesses to Cullman, as well as supporting existing ones.

Many other individuals were also recognized for their contributions to the area, including Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics; Alabama Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary, Workforce Development Division and Director of AIDT Ed Castile; and ADC Assistant Director of Business Development Robert Smith.

Check out a gallery from the event on The Cullman Tribune's Facebook page.

Step (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools celebrated the start of construction on its new career technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) wing at Cullman High School on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Officials with Cullman City Schools, the City of Cullman and local agencies assembled at Cullman High School to formally break ground on the project, which will see the addition of a new two-story wing located behind the current agriculture class/shop on Fourth Street.

The new facility will provide cutting-edge space for STEM programs, cybersecurity, health science, educators and training, computer science and marketing classrooms. The project will also include 3,900 square feet of dedicated space (on the lower level) for modern manufacturing, as well as 150 additional parking spaces for students and staff.

"I believe Cullman City Schools is one of the leading Alabama school systems in career technical education and STEM initiatives," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "Three years ago we created a kindergarten-through-high school STEM alignment, from exposure to exploration, for the application of STEM concepts. Today's groundbreaking is a huge step in our alignment of these priorities."

Kallhoff also thanked Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs and the Cullman City Council for their partnership, as well as staff and administration across Cullman High School and the school's career tech and STEM departments.

"We are grateful for the partnership with Cullman City Schools and the ability to help provide this opportunity for local students," Cullman City Council President Pro-Tem Johnny Cook added.

Cullman City Schools has developed programs that are aligned with local and area industry needs, with courses of study focused on engineering, computer science, health science, cybersecurity, educators and training, animal sciences and marketing.



NORTHWEST REGIONAL

West Point falls to Arab in 51-50 thriller

Nick Griffin
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After a dominant performance against Ardmore in the Sub-Regional, the West Point Lady Warriors were back in action Thursday morning, taking on Arab in the Sweet 16. The Knights got off to a fast start in the first half, but West Point battled back to take the lead in the second half. The Warriors led by 5 at one point in the final period but couldn't fend off Arab in the final two minutes, bringing their season to an end with a 51-50 loss.

West Point Head Coach John Welborn was proud of his team for rallying after falling behind early but the Warriors couldn't make the plays they needed down the stretch to secure the win.

"We got down early and battled all game to get back in it and went up by 5 and then we come down and lose somebody in transition and leave them wide open for a three to cut it to 2. Then you just have to make foul shots at the end. I preach it every game; foul shots win or lose ball games. And kids don't realize it. When we're practicing shooting foul shots and they're talking about somebody's Instagram or somebody's Snapchat, they're not focused on foul shots. I preach it all the time that foul shots win or lose ball games and foul shots lost the ball game for us today because we couldn't make them," Welborn said.

"I knew it was going to be a battle. I knew they were really physical. We were trying to box out and we were getting shoved all the way under the net a lot of times. I'm proud of the way they fought, they battled hard. We didn't shoot the ball very well from the three-point line and that's been another one of our Achilles heels all season. In the first quarter we didn't shoot it well at all and if we make two or three of those in the first quarter, it's a different ball game."

Lily Livingston traded baskets with Camryn Faulkner to start the game and after Laklin Shadix split a pair of free throws, Jaelyn Faulkner drilled a three to give West Point a 6-2 lead.

Livingston responded with a basket and a pair of free throws to tie things up at 6 and Hailey Price hit a pair from the line to give Arab an 8-6 lead. Price and Livingston both scored inside to make it a 12-8 game later in the first and after Price knocked down a three, Julie Stapler tacked on a free throw to put the Knights in front 16-8 going into the second.

Jaelyn Faulker laid one in to trim the lead to 16-10 at the start of the second quarter but after McKennah Tidmore split a pair of free throws, Lexi Mann knocked down a three to maintain a 20-10 lead for Arab. Baskets by Shadix and Kealie Harbison cut the lead to 23-14 later in the period and Livingston exchanged three-pointers with Jaelyn Faulkner to make it a 26-17 game.

Shadix scored in the paint with two minutes to play in the second to bring the lead down to 27-19 and she knocked down a three on the next possession to make it 29-22 with one minute on the clock. After a pair of Bennett Elrod free throws, Simmons hit a free throw, Harbison finished an and-one play at the line and Jaelyn Faulkner drove to the rim for a basket to cut the lead to 31-28 going into the halftime break. West Point scored six points in the final 37 seconds of the half.

Chastain laid one in and Mann hit a pair of free throws to stretch Arab's lead to 35-28 early in the third quarter. Caitlee Simmons drained a three to trim the lead to 36-31 later in the period and Jaelyn Faulkner drove to the rim for a basket to make it a 38-33 game with just under three minutes to play in the third. Elrod scored to give the Knights a 7-point lead, but Jaelyn Faulkner knocked down a three to cut the lead to 40-36 and just before the end of the quarter, Shadix drained a jumper to make it 40-38 going into the final frame.

Simmons drilled another three to put West Point in front 41-40 at the start of the fourth quarter. With the game tied at 42 later in the period, Jaelyn Faulkner's big game continued with another three-pointer that put the Warriors ahead 45-42 with five minutes to play.

Price scored off a turnover to trim the lead to 45-44 but Jaelyn answered with a basket on the other end to maintain a 47-44 lead for West Point. Harbison laid one in to give the Warriors a 5-point lead with just under two minutes remaining, but the Knights wouldn't go away.

Chastain drilled a three to cut the lead to 49-47 with one minute on the clock but after Harbison came up with a steal on an inbound pass, Jaelyn Faulkner split a pair of free throws to keep West Point up by 3 with 34 seconds to play. Chastain drew a foul and sank both of her foul shots to make it a 1-point game with 25 seconds on the clock and after the Warriors missed a pair of free throws on the other end, Livingston scored with five seconds remaining to put Arab on top 51-50. West Point was unable to answer the late basket as the final seconds ticked away and the Knights took a thriller over the Warriors 51-50 to advance to the Elite Eight.

Jaelyn Faulkner led West Point with 22 points in the loss and added six rebounds. Shadix put together a double-double performance with 12 points and 13 boards. Harbison finished with seven points and seven rebounds and Simmons added seven points as well.

Arab was led by Livingston with 17 points in the win. Price and Chastain each added nine points and Mann posted five points and 10 rebounds.

The Knights will be back on the court Monday at 4 p.m. to face either Scottsboro or Priceville in the Northwest Regional finals.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL

Good Hope advances to Elite 8 with 68-53 win over Dora

Sammy Confer
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Good Hope Lady Raiders were back in action at the Northwest Regional Wednesday afternoon to play Dora in the Sweet 16 and for the third time in four seasons, the Lady Raiders will be playing in the Elite Eight. Good Hope jumped out to a 23-6 lead in the opening period and kept the Bulldogs at arm's length the rest of the way to seal a 68-53 win and punch its ticket to the Northwest Regional finals.

Lady Raiders Head Coach Justin Aby was happy to get the win and advance but wants to see more focus from his team on the defensive end when they hit the court again on Tuesday.

"This time of year, obviously the most important stat to get is the W but on our end, I think there's a lot of things we need to clean up.

"Just overall our energy and our effort weren't great," Aby said.

"I felt like we didn't get a lot of the 50/50 balls tonight so at this point of the year, regardless of who we play next, I think our energy, our effort and our intensity is going to have to be better in order for us to keep playing basketball."

Good Hope started out the game red-hot on both sides of the court.

Ava McSwain and Jolee McHan each knocked down a short jumper to give the Lady Raiders an early 4-0 lead.

McSwain drilled a three from the left wing, then Sophie Konrad laid it in to extend their lead to 9-0. Lexi Marshall scored five straight points to put Good Hope ahead, 14-3.

Konrad laid it in, then later in the quarter, McHan knocked down another short jumper, and Ella Gossett drained a trey from the right wing to give the Lady Raiders a 21-5 lead late in the first quarter.

Konrad put in another basket on their final possession of the first quarter, and Good Hope would go into the second quarter up, 23-6.

Lucie Adams hit a pair of baskets to give the Lady Raiders a 27-8 lead early in the second.

A pair of three-point plays by Dora cut it to 27-14 with a little over five minutes to go in the first half.

Marshall laid it in, then McSwain added a three from the left wing to make it a 32-17 game.

A 6-1 run by the Lady Bulldogs trimmed the deficit to 33-23 late in the first half. Gossett and Marshall each knocked down a three to give Good Hope a 39-23 lead, but a late three-point play by Dora cut it to 39-27 at the break.

The scoring slowed down some in the third quarter. A rebound and putback by the Lady Bulldogs made it a 41-31 game almost midway through the third.

McSwain drained a three, then Gossett added a basket down low to put Good Hope ahead, 46-31.

McSwain nailed a short jumper, then Marshall laid it in before the buzzer to extend their lead to 52-35 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Gossett knocked down a pair from the line, then she later added a three from the right wing to give the Lady Raiders a 57-38 lead early in the final period.

Adams' three-point play made it a 60-40 game. Five quick points by the Lady Bulldogs cut it to 60-45, but McSwain scored five quick points of her own to extend Good Hope's lead to 65-47. Konrad scored off a Dora turnover, and Gossett added a late free throw to put the finishing touches on a 68-53 win for the Lady Raiders.

McSwain finished with 22 points for Good Hope.

Gossett added 14 points, six rebounds and seven assists, and Marshall posted 12 points and five assists in the win.

McHan recorded five points and a game-high nine rebounds as well.

The Lady Raiders will be back on the court to face either Deshler or Cordova in the Northwest Regional finals on Tuesday.

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