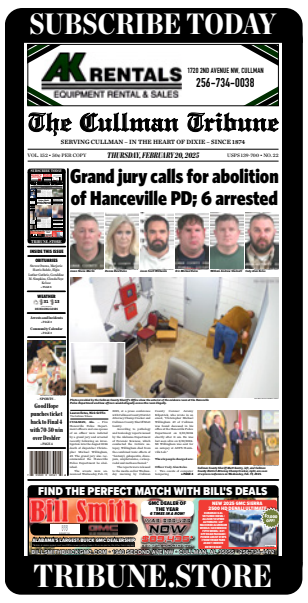
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The Cullman Tribune

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WEATHER

49 24

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

SUNNY

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CONTRIBUTED

– SPORTS –

Addison's Evans signs with Lurleen B. Wallace

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'Wine people are happy people'

Sipsey Winery opening in Cullman March 1



BART CRABTREE

Sipsey Winery offers several wines (fruit and grape varietals), apple and pear ciders, wine slushies, charcuterie and, starting a couple of weeks after opening in Cullman, it will offer pizza.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Sipsey Winery will open its Cullman location on Saturday, March 1, at 11 a.m. The winery is located in the Cullman Savings Bank/Flying Fifty Hotel building on the city's southwest side.

Owners Bart and Renda Crabtree said they will be having a grand opening at a later date.

"We will be officially open Saturday, March 1, at 11 a.m. at The Flying Fifty location," Bart Crabtree said. "Our Double Springs location is currently open to the public."

He gave a glimpse into his beginnings in the area.

"In the mid to late 1980s I moved to Cullman, Alabama, being convinced by my father there were a multitude of employment opportunities in the area," said Crabtree. "Contrary to that belief, I found very little opportunity. I reached back to a friend whom I knew had family in the area and asked for help. He did. His mother hired me as an orderly at a nursing home in Falkville. This was such a challenging working environment. Not only physically, but emotionally. But I started to look forward to the limited time I could spend with its residents. Their experiences, the stories of their lives, became intriguing. I worked there for a year and was offered a job with a home health agency in Cullman.

He continued what he referred to his "wine story," "Cullman was fertile with stories of lives well spent (and the occasional snare for the unobservant). From farmers, mayors, hospital administrators, monks, bakers, dentists and a governor; their stories still live on in me today."

Crabtree said a memory that stands out in his mind is a German farmer later in years from the Phelan/Berlin area.

"(He was) a widower who, I believe, anticipated our time together as I did," he remembered. "We talked about everything, but that particular day I had just left another individual that spent most of his life making spirits (except for the time he was in jail for it), so of course this had piqued my interest, and my thoughts continued in the conversation with this old farmer. So, I asked him, 'Have you ever made liquor?' A slight grin grew on his face, and he responded, 'I haven't, but I've made some wine.'"

A flurry of questions ensued, and the farmer, Crabtree said, was receptive.

"After repetitive volleys of inquisition, he said 'Let me show you,'" he smiled. "With a bit of a nudge from him we move towards the center of the room. He instructs me, while pointing with his walking cane, 'Move away that rug and pull up that door in the floor.' My mind started to wander to every horror movie I've seen to this point in my life. As I pulled up the trap door, I thought I shouldn't, but I did."

Crabtree laughed, adding that he recognizes one of his flaws (or strengths) is the curiosity of a cat.

"This day it was a strength," he said. "I looked down into the dark. He says, 'Go down the stairs; there's a light chain to your right.' I slowly descend below the floor, turned on the light and discovered barrels of wine. This led to many discussions about wine making and the history of the German families of the area. After that, wine making always piqued my interest, no matter where it was being made. Fast forward over three decades and multiple occupations (working for Cullman County, the Alabama Department of Public Health and the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal). It was time to slow down, so I retired from public work and 32 years of military service (reserve). I didn't totally walk away from all employment. I started to do intermittent contract work, and this is what led to us » PAGE 5

Good Hope pageants March 8



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2025 Fair Queen Representative contestants are, left to right, Jillian Zapaka, Lauran Falls, Anna Grace Pemberton and Cotton Calvert.



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2025 Miss Heritage Pageant (grades 11-12) contestants are, left to right, Lauren Falls, Chloe Brock, Anna Grace Pemberton, Cotton Calvert and Jessalyn Nichols. Not pictured are Mattie Wix, Kloe Abbott and Addyson Burgess.



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2025 Miss Heritage Princess Pageant (grades 9-10) contestants are, left to right, Lily Vaught, Aby Black, Kinzlee Barbie, Cahaba Falls, Tori Williamson, Evie Dorroh and Kloe White. Not pictured are Avery Mayo and Kaleigh Williams.

Staff Reports
Contributor

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope High School will hold its Fair Queen Representative Pageant on Saturday, March 8, beginning at 3 p.m. followed by its Miss Heritage and Miss Heritage Princess Pageants at (tentatively) 4. All pageants will be held at the school. Admission is $11 at the door.

St. Bernard Prep senior spotlight: Elle Tillitski



ST. BERNARD PREP

Elle Tillitski

» PAGE 6

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Bill Smith

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 21

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 21, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 18
- assault; CR 738
- burglary; CR 223
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 1251

Feb. 19
- theft of property; CR 703
- domestic violence; CR 610
- harassment; CR 438
- assault; Hwy. 69S
- theft of property; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 471
- possession of sawed off rifle-shotgun; unlawful possession with intent to distribute controlled substance; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; unlawful possession of certain chemical compounds; Hwy. 69S

ARRESTS

Feb. 17-19

Benefield, Harley D.; 26
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Blair, Austin F.; 18
- GJ – sex offense-force

Boatright Sr., Joshua A.; 46
- FTA – permitting livestock to run at large
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Brockman, Christi M.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Collins, Brandy R.; 32
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – tampering with physical evidence

Cox, Wendy M.; 39
- FTA – forged instrument

Davis, John P.; 25
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Dickinson, Chad E.; 38
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- unlawful possession of certain chemical compounds
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of sawed off rifle/shotgun

Edwards, Haylie N.; 23
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Floyd, Cassie M.; 30
- FTA – DUI

Freeman, Dalton M.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Freeman, John S.; 60
- permitting dogs to run at large

Graham, Kye E.; 20
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- unlawful possession of certain chemical compounds
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of sawed off rifle/shotgun

Handley, Kenny D.; 35
- GJ – sexual abuse-1st degree

Hendrix, Natasha N.; 29
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- unlawful possession of certain chemical compounds
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of sawed off rifle/shotgun

Hines, Timothy W.; 53
- burglary-residence-no force
- criminal mischief
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- theft-from residence, $500-less than $1500
- theft-miscellaneous

Marsh, Michael D.; 38
- FTA – DUI
- FTA – open container-alcohol in vehicle
- FTA – reckless driving

Matanane, Robert A.; 41
- GJ – sex offense-rape-strong arm

McCarn, Terry L.; 61
- GJ – incest with minor
- GJ – sex offense-victim under 12-offender over 16

Melvin, Mary C.; 41
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Murphey, Aaron D.; 28
- FTA – criminal mischief
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – public intoxication

Nail, Jonathan T.; 41
- burglary-residence-force
- attempting to elude a police officer

Pearson, Juwan I.; 28
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Rudulph III, Nat G.; 51
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Sellers, Lemuel G.; 58
- open container-alcohol in a vehicle
- DUI (alcohol)

Sneed, Cody L.; 40
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Vinson, Rayburn R.; 37
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Wilson, Jerald R.; 54
- GJ – sexual abuse-1st degree
- GJ – sodomy-1st degree

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 19
- retail theft of property-1st degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $15,483; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $110; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Feb. 19-20

Mullinax, Emily G.; 20
- theft of property-4th degree

Ramirez, Eric I.; 28
- theft of property-4th degree

Shaw, Stephanie A.; 34
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Williams Jr., Theodore V.; 37
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Hendrix, Natasha N.; 29
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Pearson, Juwan I.; 28
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Beasley, Austin L.; 23
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-050

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARY EDD FLETCHER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Marla N. Ayers on the 20th 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.

Marla N. Ayers
Personal Representative

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

THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO.: PC2025-024
CONRAD H. ELLARD, *
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Bruce Ellard as Personal Representative of the Estate of Conrad H. Ellard, deceased, on the 19th day of February, 2025, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Bruce Ellard
Personal Representative(s)

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

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 PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

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 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

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 WILLIAM JEFFREY BROTZGE, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC-2024-258

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

Case# PC2024-258
PB WIL Book 128 Page 652
Recorded in Above Book and Page
02/19/2025 4:16PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

TO: William Oliver Brotzge
1701 Bellmeadow Drive
Apt. 106
Lancaster, OH 43130

Lisa Kay Brotzge Bratcher
129 Crestwood Lane
Louisville, KY 40229

Carl Eugene Brotzge
3503 Dell Road
Louisville, KY 40229

YOU WILL HEREBY TAKE NOTICE that BARBARA J. BROTZGE has petitioned the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama for Probate of the Will in the Estate of WILLIAM JEFFREY BROTZGE, Deceased.

You are hereby notified that a date and time has been set for said hearing on said matter.

That said hearing shall be on the 8th day of April, 2025 at 11 o'clock a .m. at the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama.

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, Cullman, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

The Refuge Church of God Women's Conference 2025 set for March 1

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Refuge Church of God in Cullman will host its free Women's Conference 2025, "Come Bloom with Us," on Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Refuge Women's Ministry Leader Mandy Mann said the group had a collective desire to host an event for women.

"We chose the theme 'Come Bloom with Us' because we felt it included everyone at every season of their walk with God," Mann said. "Also, spring is around the corner, and with that, the promise of new beginnings and new friendships."

Mann said there is no cost to attend, but a love offering for the guest speaker and singers will be collected.

"We have a very talented singer, Haleigh Lamm, and an anointed guest speaker, Amanda Blevins, joining us," Mann said. "A luncheon is to follow with a focus on building friendships. We will end our day with a variety of drawings for door prizes. We look forward to taking the time to get to know each other more and bloom alongside one another while we share our love for Jesus."

The Refuge Church of God is located at 1115 U.S. Highway 278 East in Cullman.

Get more information at Facebook/The Refuge COG.

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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
• Sunday, Feb. 23 - 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.

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!

Cullman Rotary Club 52nd Annual Auction
Thursday, March 6, at Loft 212 beginning at 4:30 p.m. All proceeds go back to the club's local community service projects and local nonprofits.

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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PREP BASEBALL

Fairview collects 10-3 win over Cold Springs, Tuesday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The Fairview Aggies hosted their home opener against Cold Springs Tuesday night and after falling behind early, they plated five runs in the third on their way to a 10-3 win over the Eagles.

Cold Springs struck first in its opening at-bats. Ayden Black drew a leadoff walk and later scored on a wild pitch to give them the 1-0 lead. Fairview loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the second. Collin Nelson's sacrifice fly tied things up at one. Cold Springs broke the tie in the top of the third. A walk and an error had runners on the corners with one out for Boston Archer, and his two-run double on the first pitch gave them a 3-1 lead.

The Aggies quickly got the lead right back in their half. Camden Cullen hit a leadoff single and later came around to score on an RBI single by Jaxson Robertson to make it 3-2.

Later in the inning, Barett York hit an RBI single to tie the game up at three. Colton Jennings followed that up with an RBI triple, then Ben Bryan added an RBI single to give Fairview a 5-3 lead. Bryan later scored on a wild pitch to make it 6-3.

Robertson scored on a wild pitch in the fourth to extend the Aggie lead to 7-3. Fairview scored their final runs of the game in the sixth. Conner Scott and Cullen each scored on a wild pitch, then Jackson Earnest drove in a run on a ground ball to give the Aggies the 10-3 win over Cold Springs.

Robertson, Earnest, and York all finished with a pair of hits and an RBI for Fairview. Jennings (one hit), Bryan (one hit), and Nelson each added an RBI of their own in the win.

Jennings gave up just three hits and two earned runs in five innings, walked two, and struck out eight. Jonah Eckleberry gave up just two hits in his two scoreless innings of work and struck out three. For Cold Springs, Archer finished with a hit and two RBIs. Brady Phillips added a pair of hits, while Cooper Johnson and Brandon Chasteen each collected a hit of their own.

Hanceville 7 - Fairview 4 (Softball)
Hanceville got on the scoreboard first in its opening at-bats. Kynzlee Farr hit a one-out single and later scored on an RBI single by Bella Spinks to give them the early lead. Fairview countered in their half. Emily Benson and Ava Pruett each scored on a Lady Bulldog error to give them a 2-1 lead. It took until the fifth inning for Hanceville to get back on the scoreboard.

A pair of singles, plus a Lady Aggie error, put the runners on second and third to lead off the inning. Josi Jones tied the game up at two on an RBI single, and Spinks' second RBI single of the game gave Hanceville a 3-2 lead. On the same play, another error allowed Jones to cross the plate to make it 4-2. Spinks later scored on an error to extend their lead to 5-2.

Hanceville added to their lead in the seventh. Aaliyah Twitty drove in a run on a ground ball, then Spinks scored on a dropped third strike to make it 7-2. Fairview looked for some late-game heroics in their final at-bats. Back-to-back errors allowed Kylie Kovar to score to cut it to 7-3, then a sacrifice fly by Addison Phillips made it 7-4. Jones forced Ralie Gaines to ground out on the first pitch to help seal the 7-4 win for the Lady Bulldogs.

Spinks finished with three hits and a pair of RBIs for Hanceville, while Jones (three hits) and Aaliyah Twitty each added an RBI as well. For Fairview, Phillips finished with a hit and an RBI, while Pruett collected a hit in the loss.

Vinemont 10 - Cleveland 2 (Baseball)
It was a scoreless game going into the second inning, but Vinemont's offense quickly got going after that. A double and a single quickly put runners at second and third with one out, then Jake Hale lined a two-run double to right field, and Rush Sandlin followed that up with an RBI single, as that gave the Eagles a 3-0 lead. A pair of bases-loaded walks by Hayden Robinson and Chad Reynolds made it 5-0 later that inning.

An RBI single by Owen McKinney extended Vinemont's lead to 6-0 in the third inning. Rylan McRae followed that up with a bases-loaded walk to make it 7-0, then Hale scored on a fielder's choice to give them an 8-0 lead.

A ground ball and a wild pitch got Cleveland on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth, but the Eagles put up their final runs of the game in the top of the sixth. Reynolds scored on a wild pitch, then Kayden Henderson scored on an error to help seal the 10-2 win for Vinemont.

Robinson finished with two RBIs for Vinemont. Hale (two hits), Sandlin (two hits), McKinney (two hits), McRae, and Reynolds all collected an RBI in the win. Banks Borwick went five innings, gave up just two hits and two unearned runs, walked two, and struck out eight. Reynolds gave up just two hits, walked one, and struck out one in his two scoreless innings of work for the Eagles.

West Point 10 - Vinemont 0 (Softball)
West Point quickly broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the second.

A pair of singles put runners on the corners with one out, then Averee Folds hit a sacrifice fly to put the Lady Warriors on the scoreboard first. An RBI triple off the bat of Katie Beth Yovino made it 2-0 in the bottom of the third. Kylie Burks drove in a run on a ground ball, then Zailee Love scored on a passed ball to give the Lady Warriors a 4-0 lead in the fourth. Folds added an RBI single in the fifth to make it 5-0. RBI singles by Cabri Blackwood and Lauren Wyndham in the sixth pushed their lead to 7-0. Wyndham and Macie Brown each scored on an error to make it 9-0, then they scored another run later that inning to put the final score at 10-0.

Folds led the way for the Lady Warriors with two hits and four RBIs. Blackwood (two hits), Wyndham (two hits), Yovino (one hit) and Burks all added an RBI in the win.

Kara Jones went the distance for West Point, as she gave up just two hits, walked one, and struck out 10. Abby Kuykendall and Bryleigh Basinger collected the only hits of the game for Vinemont.

Jasper 9 - West Point 5 (Baseball)
West Point jumped out to an early lead in its opening at-bats. They had runners on the corners to start out the game, then Titan Thornton's RBI double to left field gave them the early lead.

Charlie Ashley followed that up with a two-run single to make it 3-0. Jasper made it 3-1 on an RBI single in the bottom of the second, but the Warriors quickly loaded the bases to start out the top of the third. Cade Welborn hit an RBI single and that was later followed by an RBI double by Hunter Graves, as that made it 5-1.

The Vikings loaded the bases in their half. A walk, an error, and an RBI single quickly tied the game up at five. Jasper broke the tie in the fourth, as a two-run home run gave them a 7-5 lead.

A pair of RBI singles by the Vikings in the sixth made it 9-5. West Point couldn't get anything going in their final at-bats, and they ended up dropping their game to Jasper 9-5.

Ashley finished with two hits and two RBIs for the Warriors. Thornton (two hits), Welborn (one hit), and Graves (one hit) all added an RBI in the loss.



CONTRIBUTED

Addison shortstop Lainey Joe Evans signed a scholarship to continue playing at Lurleen B. Wallace at Addison High School on Feb. 13.

PREP SOFTBALL

Addison's Evans signs with Lurleen B. Wallace

Todd Walker
Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — The library at Addison High School was full of students, teachers and parents on Thursday, Feb. 13 to witness the next step in one Bulldog softball standout's athletic career. Lainey Joe Evans signed a scholarship with the Lurleen B. Wallace Lady Saints out of Andalusia, Alabama.

Ms. Evans has been on Addison's varsity team since the eighth grade. She has primarily been a shortstop and has been an offensive leader for the Lady Bulldogs. Lady Saints Head Coach Kaitlyn Hadley has informed Ms. Evans that she will have every opportunity to play her freshman season. Lainey Joe said that she just wants to go down there and "have fun, help the team in any way that she can and hopefully help the team improve."

Ms. Evan's parents, Gary and Delinda Evans, were present and were obviously very proud of their daughter.

"We are so proud of her, of all the hard work that she has put in and that she will be able to continue doing what she loves," Delinda said. She added that Lainey Joe has come a long way since she first started playing softball. "Her confidence has improved so much, I mean when she went to her first softball practice, her dad basically had to drag her out of the car because she was so shy."

T.J. Deemer, Ms. Evans' Birmingham travel ball coach, made the trip north to attend the signing.

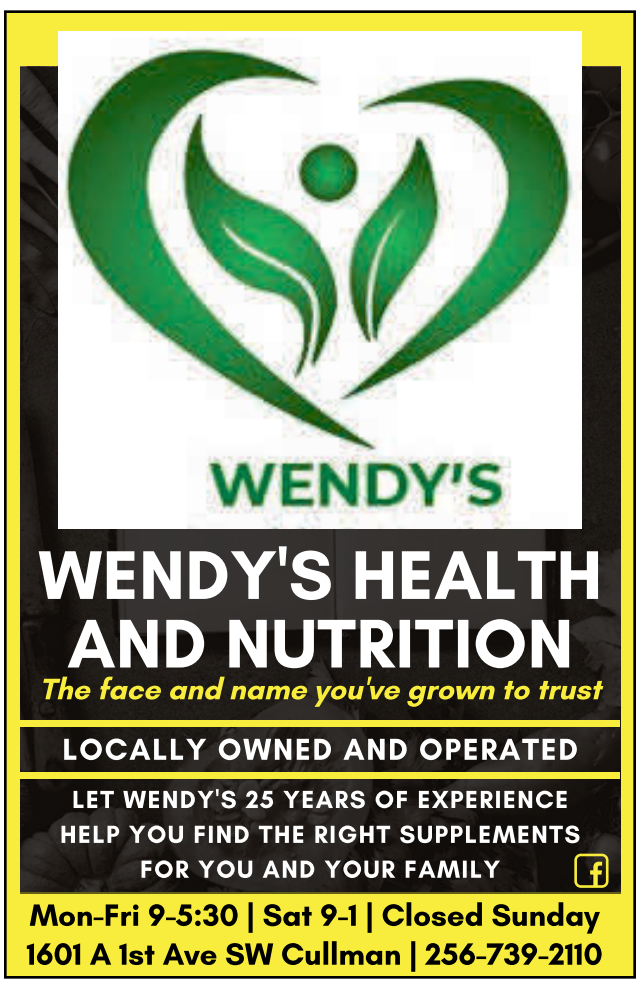
"Lainey Joe has the best work ethic of any player that I have ever had," Deemer said. "Lainey's work ethic will propel her to success well after she is done playing softball. It will lead her to success in life."

Lainey Joe had other offers to play softball but stated that after her visit to the Wallace campus in Andalusia and meeting with players and coaches she just felt at home."

Coach Hadley just has a way of making you feel like you belong. Like you are among family. I loved it there."

Lainey Joe still has to lead the Lady Bulldogs this season, before she takes off for the college ranks. I am sure that she will do everything she can to lead the Lady Bulldogs to a successful season and she will have a bright and successful college career.

Good Luck Lainey Joe!





Aderholt cosponsors bill requiring American-made flags

Staff Reports
Contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, on Friday, Feb. 21, announced in a media release that he is "a proud cosponsor of legislation introduced by Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) that would require all United States flags purchased by the federal government to be entirely manufactured in the United States from domestic materials."

"The American flag is more than just a symbol — it represents our nation's values, history and the sacrifices made by those who have fought to defend our freedoms," said Aderholt.

"It is only right that the flags flown over our federal buildings, military bases and other government institutions be made right here in the United States, using American materials and American labor."

Currently, he said, federal agencies are not required to purchase 100% American-made U.S. flags, allowing foreign-manufactured flags to be used. "The American-made Flag Act closes this loophole by ensuring that taxpayer dollars support American businesses and workers," said the release.

"This legislation is a common sense step in putting American manufacturing first," Aderholt continued.

"We have the ability and the resources to produce our own flags without relying on imports, and we should be doing everything we can to support American workers and industries."



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ADERHOLT

The American flag flying over the Veterans Memorial at Sportsman's Park in Cullman.

Winery (from Front)

opening the winery."

Crabtree said in the evenings there was little to do while working an out-of-town job, and one evening a fellow instructor invited him to a winery in Heflin owned by a close friend.

"This led to many evenings after work at the winery and at times helping - doing things like bottling," he said. "My friend is now the owner of the winery: Skipper Bailey-High Country Cellars."

He continued, "I really liked the winery environment and the processes were in line with my academic background in chemistry and microbiology. My wife decided to retire from the Cullman Electric Cooperative, so we agreed to start our own winery - one that would share the stories of our area, whether it is the Free State of Winston County, the Sipsey Wilderness/Bankhead National Forest, Smith Lake or the German heritage of Cullman. We share stories not only verbally, but on our bottles of wine as well."

Crabtree said Sipsey Winery offers several wines (fruit and grape varietals), apple and pear ciders, wine slushies, charcuterie and, starting a couple of weeks after opening in Cullman, it will offer pizza.

"We are working on a collaboration with a very popular pizza maker in Morgan County - stay tuned for future updates," he said.

"Ultimately, we will be offering pizza at both of our locations - Double Springs as well."

A few of Sipsey Winery's menu hits include sweet and semisweet wines: Blue Bridge (blueberry Moscato - a nod to Smith Lake/Duncan Bridge) and Free State (blackberry, blueberry - a nod to Winston County), its most popular.

"Our peach is a close third," Crabtree said. "Of our dry wines: Dei Vinea (red blend - a nod to St. Bernard Monastery) and Flying Fifty (a oaked Cabernet Sauvignon - a nod to a group of local businessmen that brought industry to Cullman). We also produce wines for Cullman festivals. Strawberry Queen (a strawberry rose'- a nod to past Strawberry Festival queens) and Gluhwein (spiced/mulled wine for the Cullman Christkindlmarkt). But experimentation is in our nature, so we try new things all the time. That is the beautiful thing about being a micro winery. Everything is small-batch crafted and hand bottled. That makes us very adaptable."

Crabtree smiled, saying, "Wine people are happy people." He encouraged everyone to come out and share their stories.

"Every small winery that I have been in contact with has been a family endeavor (just as ours) and this has made this extremely enjoyable through spending time with brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, sons, daughters and cousins," he said. "Another source of joy is the opportunity to spend time with others. My wife and I have been fortunate in that we've had the opportunity to spend time with small winery owners in Italy, France and the United States.

"Wine has long been associated with hospitality and community. For vintners, their wineries often become gathering places where people can connect, share stories and celebrate life's special moments."

Find Sipsey Winery in Double Springs at 24972 Highway 195. The Cullman location is at 515 Fourth St. SW, Suite 103. Get more information at Facebook/Sipsey Vineyard and Winery.

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Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts to launch 12-week Performing Arts Camp in March

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts is introducing a new 12-week Performing Arts Camp, designed to help young performers develop their acting, singing and dancing skills. Starting March 11, the camp will be held once a week at St. John's Church, with multiple class options available for students of varying ages and experience levels.

The after-school program, led by Heirlooms Founder and Artistic Director Paige Clabo, aims to create year-round programs to foster creativity, confidence and collaboration in interested young performers.

"We hope to begin offering spring and fall programs every year while also continuing with private vocal lessons," Clabo said.

This spring's Performing Arts Camp consists of four distinct programs tailored to different age groups and experience levels.

- **Little Treasure Troupe (ages 4-6) – Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m.**

This program introduces young children to the performing arts through acting, singing and dancing. Each week builds on the previous one, culminating in a fun showcase for family and friends.

- **Foundations of Performance (ages 6-10) – Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

This advanced curriculum blends singing, acting and dancing to nurture young performers' skills and confidence. Each week builds upon core techniques, fostering creativity and teamwork and culminating in a dynamic end-of-term showcase.

- **Heirlooms Youth Ensemble (ages 8-16) – Thursdays from 4-5 p.m.**

The Heirlooms Youth Ensemble program is designed to develop vocal skills, musicality and teamwork. Participants will learn diverse repertoire, vocal techniques and performance skills, culminating in a final concert for the community.

- **Heirlooms Triple Threat (ages 10-16) – Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

The Triple Threat program is designed for advanced students who are ready to excel in all facets of performing arts: singing, acting and dancing. This elite program challenges participants to refine their craft, pushing their limits to become well-rounded and versatile performers.

The 12-week camp runs through May 27 and will conclude with performances showcasing students' progress.

For those interested in enrolling, register at www.heirloomsfineandperformingarts.com. For more information on available programs or upcoming Performing Arts Camp, contact Paige Clabo at 256-339-8876 or paigeclabe@gmail.com.

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Tillitski (from Front)

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Prep

As she prepares to graduate from St. Bernard Preparatory School, Elle Tillitski reflects on a high school experience filled with adventure, academic achievement and personal growth. Having spent the last six years at St. Bernard, Tillitski has fully embraced student life, participating in cheerleading, volleyball, soccer and tennis while balancing a rigorous academic schedule that includes honors and AP courses such as environmental science and history.

This fall, Tillitski plans to attend the University of South Alabama in Mobile, where she will pursue a degree in business. With an open mind about her career path, she is currently considering real estate, law or becoming a stockbroker. "I haven't really made up my mind yet. Guess I will figure that out in college," she said with confidence.

Beyond the classroom, Tillitski is a well-traveled young woman who has explored destinations from Washington, D.C., on the March for Life to breathtaking landscapes in Alaska, Belize and Canada with her family. Among her many travel experiences, Park City, Utah, holds a special place in her heart. "My dad went there as a child, and he took us there. It was so cool to take the same snowmobile ride in the same place as he did," she reminisced. "That's also where I learned to snow ski."

Tillitski's love for adventure extends beyond the slopes. Inspired by her grandfather, Marty Roberson, she has tried her hand at flying, earning her private pilot's permit at Wallace State Community College while still a high school sophomore. "Although the plane is a two-seater, it's perfect for us to just fly around town and enjoy spending time together," she shared.

At St. Bernard, Tillitski has developed a strong appreciation for cultural awareness and personal growth. "St. Bernard has taught me so much about self-respect, image and becoming well-rounded, especially culturally," she explained.

She also cherishes the values instilled in her by her mother Suzanne Tillitski, her sister Lily (a sophomore at St. Bernard) and her grandmother Brenda Roberson, who taught her the art of being classy — along with sewing skills that helped her recreate a St. Lucy costume from her first-grade All Saints' Day celebration. She also says her stepmom Kimberly Fleming has taught her the value of hard work.

When she isn't studying or traveling, Tillitski enjoys gardening and spending time by the water, whether it's at the lake or along the Gulf Coast in Orange Beach, 30A or Seaside. A seafood enthusiast, her favorite dish is lobster, though she also enjoys crab and snapper.

As she prepares for her next chapter, Tillitski leaves her fellow students with a simple but meaningful piece of advice: "Be friendly to everyone, and stay away from drama."

St. Bernard Prep celebrates Tillitski's accomplishments and looks forward to the bright future that lies ahead for her.

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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 20-21

Paul Edward Sansing, Jr., 60
Paul Edward Sansing, Jr., of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 19, 2025, at the age of 60. Mr. Sansing was born in Ohio, on March 6, 1964, to the late Paul Edward Sansing, Sr., and Betty Faye Weldon Sansing Campbell. Paul was a carpenter by trade. He, with the help of his mother, raised four boys as a single father. Mr. Sansing loved horror and Sci-Fi movies and enjoyed watching them for hours on end when he had the time. Paul liked to camp, and he had a gift with flowers. He could take any broken or discarded item and fill it with flowers making something beautiful from something no one else wanted. He was a loving son, father, and Papaw who was always willing to help others. Paul will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Mr. Sansing is preceded in death by his father, a brother, Jonathan Sansing, as well as his son, Jeremiah Nathaniel Sansing. Those left to carry on the memory of Paul includes his mother, Betty Faye Campbell; sons, Christopher Burks, Paul Sansing III, John J. Sansing, Kyle Sansing (Anna); daughter Amber Sanders; brother, Anthony Sansing (Amanda); sisters, Sherre Sansing Hasenbein (Bill), Michelle Trimble (Nathan); grandchildren, Skyler Sansing, Brantley Sansing, Kiana Sansing, Noah Sansing, Jayden May, Kalea Boles, Keegan Boles; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family. A memorial service for Mr. Sansing will be held at a later time. If you would like to make a donation to help with Mr. Sansing's final arrangements, a link has been provided below. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sansing family.

Dale Edward Harden, 60
Dale Edward Harden, 60, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 15, 2025. Mr. Harden was born to the late Jonathan Lamar and Marlene DeWolfe Harden on July 22, 1964, in Miami, Florida. Dale was a hardworking man who sometimes had a stubborn streak. Even when he was standing his ground, Dale was always making those around him laugh. He and his dog Bryan "Circles" had a special bond and Dale enjoyed Circles company. Dale enjoyed fishing and Auburn football, but his true joy was found in spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Papaw Dale became a complete softie when it came to his family, and his children and grandchildren adored him as well. He will be greatly missed by many. Those preceding Mr. Harden in death includes his parents as well as a granddaughter, Adalynn Leopard. Mr. Harden's memory will be cherished by his loving family. He is survived by his children, Alicia Leopard (Justin), Jake Harden (Brittany), Garet Harden (Destiny); grandchildren, Canton, Emsley and McKenna Leopard, Emma, Paislee, and Easton Harden, Gryffin, Laynie, and Livie Harden; sisters, Cathi Parker (Michael), Deborah Harden; brother, Wayne Harden; three cousins; and longtime friend, Melissa Coker. Friends are invited to join the Harden family for a time of visitation on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. until services begin at 2:30 p.m., with Tim Johnson officiating. All services will be held in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow services in Etha Cemetery where Gryffin Harden, Canton Leopard, Justin Leopard, Dalton Woodard, Justin Parker, Nic Parker, and Matthew Parker will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Harden family.

William 'Will' Lucas Shaver, 38
William "Will" Lucas Shaver, age 38, of Clarksville, Tennessee passed away on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025. Will was a loving Father, Son, Brother and Friend. He will be missed by all those who knew him. Will worked as a Contractor for most of his professional career. He attended a total of Four years of college and finished his college career at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology with a degree in Construction. Will is survived by his mother, Sharon B. Shaver, and his father, William Joseph Shaver, Jr.; brother, Benjamin Joseph Shaver, (Deanna); daughters, Briar Grace, Mabel Nel and Fallon Rose Shaver; nephews, Henry and Grant Shaver; niece, Gwen Shaver, and grandmother, Nell Butts Q.{ana), as well as a host of extended family and friends. Will was preceded in death by his son, Gage Lucas Shaver; grandfather, Wilford C. Butts, and grandparents, Bill and Betty Shaver. William will be laid to rest at Garden City Cemetery, A graveside service celebrating Will's life will be held Saturday, Feb. 22,2025, at 1 p.m., 450 Water Avenue SE, Hanceville, AL 35070. Serving as pallbearers are Dustin Smith, Zach Wooten, Bryan Holden, Jared Basch, Corey Britton & Ben Shaver. To leave condolences for the Shaver family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Larry Kenneth Hayes, 72
A graveside service for Larry Kenneth Hayes also known as "Honey Bun", 72, of Hanceville will be 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Mountain Grove Congregational Christian Church Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon until 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Born Nov. 11, 1952, in Cullman, to Zula and Kenneth Hayes; Larry was a loving husband to Elizabeth Hayes, a supportive father to Bridget Kent, a faithful pop to Chloe Barbee and Callie Glasscock. Larry, a devoted family man and skilled carpenter, passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and generosity. With a remarkable 40-year career as a carpenter, Larry instilled in his family the importance of hard work and saving. He was a loving husband to his late wife Elizabeth, whom he affectionately called Baby Doll, and a devoted father and grandfather. Larry's love for his family was evident in the way he cherished every moment with them, from cruises and vacations to everyday life. He was also a passionate animal lover and devoted caretaker. His generosity extended beyond his family, as he faithfully donated to St. Jude's and helped those in need. Larry's memory will be cherished by all who knew him, and his legacy will continue to inspire his loved ones for generations to come. Larry Kenneth Hayes is survived by his daughter, Bridget (Amber) Kent; granddaughters, Chloe Barbee and Callie (Jase) Glasscock; mother-in-law, Wanda Butler; sisters-in-law, Amber Butler and Hannah Knight; brother-in-law, Jerry (Wendy) Nickens; 2nd cousin, Leesha (Shannon) Fischer; niece-in-law, Miranda Nickens; great niece-in-law, Lana Pigg; great nephew-in-law, Hayden Pigg. Also survived by his best friends, Melvin Thompson, and David Adams. He was preceded in death by his parents, Zula and Kenneth Hayes, and widowed by Elizabeth Hayes. Cancer took him from us, but his dignity remains unbroken.

Reyford Holbert Parker, Sr., 79
Visitation for Reyford Holbert Parker, Sr., age 79 of Cullman, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 19, 2025. He was born in Cullman on April 12, 1945, to Delmar and Ruby Parker. A visitation will be from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Reyford was a hard-working roofer and painter for the Cullman area for 50 years. He was a beloved father, son, brother and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Larry, Donnie and Troy Parker; sisters, Vernie Mann, Margaret McAnalley and Susie Chapell. Survivors include his beloved daughter, Tonea Parker Myers (Jonathan), a beloved grandson, Blayze Myers; sister, Anita (Skip) Vankeuren and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren & 5 estranged son's. He will be missed greatly. Lovingly written by his daughter Tonea.

Margaret Ann Holliday, 80
Funeral services for Margaret Ann Holliday, 80, of Alabaster will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Mulberry Baptist Cemetery in Blountsville. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Holliday a devoted woman of faith, a lover of literature, and a poet at heart passed away Feb. 20, 2025, in Alabaster, Alabama. Mrs. Holliday was born Feb. 22, 1944, in Hamilton, Alabama. Mrs. Holliday is survived by her children, Veronica Lee (Michael), Jennifer Stacy (Rickey), Luther Garrison Jr., Stacy Carden (Lee); nine grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Holliday was preceded in death by her parents, Klebs & Rebecca Holliday; son, William Shane Garrison; five sisters; and two brothers. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Holliday family.

Carol Evelyn Hulgan, 78
Carol Evelyn Hulgan age 78 of Cullman, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025. She was a long-time deputy sheriff. Carol was preceded in death by her parents: Charles and Bernice Franklin Cordes and her husband, Shearl Hulgan. She is survived by her sons: Brandon Naramore and Corey Naramore; step-sons: Garry & Barry Hulgan; brother, Tony Cordes; grandchildren: Jordan (Elita) Naramore and Lucas Naramore and several nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members and friends. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Charles Leon Denson, 80
Charles Leon Denson, age 80 of Addison, passed away Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born Aug. 11, 1944, to James and Ida Mae Denson. Charlie was known for his strong-willed spirit. He was a mentor to anyone who ever worked with, or for him. Charlie was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. He was truly a "Hero"- a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Visitation will be Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison. Charles will lie in state Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Addison, where the service will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Addison Church of God Cemetery. Brother Terry Blankenship and Brother Junior Garmon will officiate. Charlie is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Freeda Denson; son, Leon Denson and his wife Lisa; grandchildren Adam and Amber Denson; sister, Freda Pruitt and her husband Lanier; niece, Tammy Askew; nephew, Timmy Daughdrill and his wife Tiffany; sister-in-law, Brenda Allison and her husband William; brother-in-law, Edward Dunn; special friends, Rex and Paula Seymore; and numerous other great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Ida Mae Denson; and brother-in-law, Elwood Dunn. Memories and condolences may be shared at nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Kenneth Dale Free, Sr., 71
Funeral service for Kenneth Dale Free Sr. age 71 of Falkville will be Friday, February 21, 2025, at 3 p.m. at Peck Funeral Home Chapel with Brother Brian Murphy officiating and Peck Funeral Home directing. Military Honors provided by the United States Army. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until service time on Friday at the funeral home. Mr. Free, who was born September 17, 1953, in Falkville, Alabama to Truman Clyde "Pet" Free and Magaline Laverne Brown Free, died on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at his home in Falkville. He was a United States Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. He retired from the Copeland Corporation in Hartselle where he worked in the Maintenance department. He loved his family and enjoyed hunting and fishing. His pride and joy were his five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who will carry forward his enduring spirit and kindness. He was preceded in death by his parents whose guiding influence shaped the remarkable life he led. Survivors Include: Wife of 53 years: Carolyn Lindsey Free; two sons: Dale Free (Jainnie), Chris Free (Christy); three Brothers: Philip Free, Joe Free, Ronald Free; three sisters: Brenda Adamson, Shirley Posey, Connie Bailey; five grandchildren: Weston Free, (Snezhana), Sidney Free, Abigail Mann (Nicholas), Nathan Free (Katelynn) and Aydan Free; one great-granddaughter: Gwendalen Mann

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The importance of reunions

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



How do you have a reunion with a group of people when you have never met most of them? You can do that when the group is made up of people with whom you have something special in common.

Many reunions are with people who attended school together and maybe even graduated together. A couple of years ago, Plainview High School's class of '73 came back together to celebrate our golden graduation anniversary. None of us had changed one bit. (Please God, forgive me for that one.)

Churches have reunions, but they usually call them homecomings. Members don't graduate from church, but they do move away to another town or another church across town. In the last month, Jean and I have gone back to a couple of churches where I once served as pastor. Those returns were most enjoyable times of reunion.

Last week, I had a reunion of a most unusual kind. I did not know most of the people who attended, but we did all have something in common. We had all gone through cardiac rehab. Each year, for the past three years, East Alabama Medical Center has hosted a Heart-and-Lung Reunion.

This time last year, I was in the midst of 12 weeks of cardiac rehab, three times each week. It is amazing how we get to know some of those people and make new friends. There were only a couple of people from my group at the reunion, and a few others that I knew. It was good to see the old friends again, and to make some new ones, too.

As old folks tend to do, we compared and contrasted our surgeries, as well as how well we are doing now. We asked questions like, "Did you have stints or bypass?" The bypass folks then asked, "How many did you have?" We all know what that means, and you probably do, too, but just in case, it's how many bypasses did you have. I apologize to the stint patients, but we bypassers tend to think of ourselves as the A leaguers. Even among us, the more you had, the more you can, well, brag. Some guys are even known to show off their chest scars. We have scars on our legs, too, where they removed a vein to use for the graft, but those scars are much smaller and hardly worthy of rolling up a pants leg to show off!

Most of the drill sergeants that coached us through rehab are there, too. Actually, we love those folks because they are the ones who helped us get back up and going. They are also the ones that put these reunions together. We had refreshments, mostly heart-healthy ones, of course. We played games, like heart bingo. We had a speaker and testimonies. Most of all, we had a great time.

Reunions are fun and good for us. I grew up in the days when we had family reunions. I remember attending two or three each year. Grandparents and great grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins came from everywhere. There was always enough potato salad, fried bird, deviled eggs and pear salad to compete with Morrisons or a Western Sizzlin buffet, only better! It is sad that we don't still do these much anymore. I have cousins that I haven't seen since we were children. We don't even know our own kin anymore.

The Bible says, "Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some." That is true for church, but it is also true for families and those we've been together with in days gone by.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 22, 1934

FROM THE FILES OF FEB. 22, 1934

WEST POINT PEOPLE BITTEN BY MAD DOG TAKING TREATMENT

A dog suffering from rabies went wild in the West Point community, about nine miles west of Cullman last week, and was not killed until six people were bitten, also a number of animals and several dogs.

The victims of the mad dog were Charley Reynolds, Clyde Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and daughter and a son of Melburn Whittle.

When the mad dog was finally killed, the head carried to Decatur for examination, it was found the dog was badly affected with rabies. The Pasteur treatment was at once prepared and is now being given to the above-named people by their physician.

GOOD HOPE NEWS

Cullman R. 1. Feb. 22.—Miss Ruby Hinkle left today to take up her school at Battle Ground.

Mrs. Sim Calvert is improving nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Dodson and little Sonny spent Sunday in Birmingham.

Gene Weeks has returned home after a week's visit to Mr. and Mrs. Auburn Weeks.

The chicken supper given by Mr. and Mrs. Hendrix was very much enjoyed by the following young people: Misses Lula Griffin, Hilda Livingston, Ruth Weeks, Lyda and Christine Fuller, Clara Love and Mavis Hendrix. Messrs. Frank Livingston, Glenn Reid, Claude Woods, Brock and Newton Hendrix.

The school at this place is progressing nicely with a large attendance.

Francis Weeks, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Weeks, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Weeks.

Jess Day and son, Curtis, have returned from South Alabama.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schlichting have moved back to Florida.

WELTI BASKET BALL TOURNAMENT

The plans for the tournament which is to be held at Welti school Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, are well underway. Several teams have already entered and others have notified us that they would enter. We hope everyone will feel free to enter and help us to make the tournament a success. To those basketball supporters, let us call your attention to the fact that this tournament will feature some enjoyable games, since many of the players have had much experience. We hope if you like the sport that you will come and see the games.

There will be five players selected to compose the all-county team. The selections will be made by those who are capable of judging the technique of basketball.

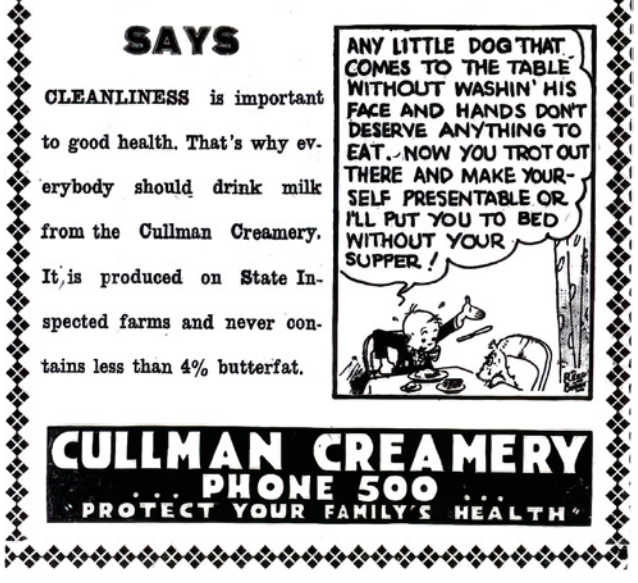
The games will start at 4 p.m. Friday, March 2nd and will be finished Saturday night, March 3.

KUDZU SPLENDID LAND RECLAIMER

Auburn, Feb. 21.—Leaving land out of cotton production emphasizes the importance of kudzu in the Alabama cropping system. It is one of the most promising crops grown in Alabama for forage and soil improvement, according to J. C. Lowery, extension agronomist of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Lowery said that kudzu furnishes excellent temporary grazing and is especially good as a soil builder, being useful in stopping landslides and washes and in utilizing waste lands. He said that it is also a splendid hay crop.

On the fields of the Experiment Station at Auburn kudzu produced annually more than two tons of hay per acre over a period of six years. Analyses show that it has a slightly higher feeding value than alfalfa. All kinds of livestock find it palatable.



POET'S CORNER

A Prodigal Son | By: Christina Rossetti - 1830-1894

Does that lamp still burn in my Father's house,
Which he kindled the night I went away?
I turned once beneath the cedar boughs,
And marked it gleam with a golden ray;
Did he think to light me home some day?

Hungry here with the
crunching swine,
Hungry harvest have I to reap;
In a dream I count my Father's kine,
I hear the tinkling bells of his sheep,
I watch his lambs that
browse and leap.

There is plenty of bread at home,
His servants have bread
enough and to spare;
The purple wine-fat froths with foam,
Oil and spices make sweet the air,
While I perish hungry and bare.

Rich and blessed those servants, rather
Than I who see not my Father's face!
I will arise and go to my Father:--
"Fallen from sonship, beggared of grace,
Grant me. Father, a servant's place."

Based on Luke 15:11-32

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 22

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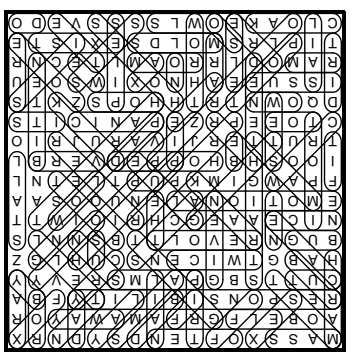
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 22

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Cullman Eagle Forum hosting human trafficking discussion Feb. 24

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Cullman Eagle Forum is hosting an event with the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Monday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Hanceville Housing Authority.

The event, titled, " Protecting Our Children: The Dangers of Pornography & Its Connection to Sex Trafficking," will feature speakers Sher Harbin, chairperson of the task force; and Licensed Professional Counselor Melea Stephens.

"This is a first for us," Harbin said. "We were invited by Eagle Forum. However, we have an annual informational booth at the Safe Kids Expo at Sportsman Lake, an annual informational booth at the fair, and each December we meet with the mayors and commissioners where they sign proclamations declaring their commitment to fighting human trafficking."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs signed a proclamation for the city on Jan.11, which is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, at Karma's Coffee House.

"That day is both an informational day and a fundraiser, and Karma's graciously does a roundup for the entire month for us," Harbin said. "In May 2024 we held a networking meeting at the sheriff's department with agencies from across the state with guest speakers from Homeland Security and the Alabama AG's office."

Harbin said the task force also has quarterly meetings in District Judge Chad Floyd's courtroom.

"Our next meeting is April 9, and we encourage the public to join us and get involved," she said. "Myself and other members have sent out hundreds of emails/texts to 'interested' persons who have signed up at our events, but unfortunately very few actually show up." That meeting will take place at noon.

Harbin said the task force absolutely welcomes donations because they have no funding to purchase supplies.

"The county commission has been a wonderful resource, but they can only do so much," she said. "We are currently working on a flyer project to teach the public and victims the sign language for 'human trafficking.' This enables a victim to make a silent cry for help and spur a bystander to make a phone call/ take action to get them help! The flyers need to be heavily laminated because they will be going in public restrooms, and that is expensive. Myself and another member made the rounds to town councils late this summer and only got support from two. So any financial support is welcome and very much appreciated."

Harbin said public discussions like the one coming up in Hanceville are vital for prevention.

"The more parents know about the way these predators get to their children the better they can protect them," she said. "We want the public to learn the red flags and to trust their gut instinct when they feel something isn't right. Also, what to do about it. Never take things into your own hands; that is what law enforcement is for. But try to gather as much information as possible: description of the people involved, of a vehicle and a tag number if possible and pictures, but never approach a suspect. Call the police and provide as much information as possible and let them handle it."

The Hanceville Housing Authority is located at 819 Kiki Drive in Hanceville. For more information, contact Kim Dimmock at 205-568-9665.



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