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Ivey calls special election for Alabama House District 11

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Monday, Feb. 24, signed a proclamation to set special election dates for Alabama House District 11. This seat was previously held by Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, who resigned Feb. 17, 2025, to join the office of Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman.

Ivey set the special primary election for Tuesday, May 13, 2025; the special primary runoff, if necessary, for Tuesday, June 10, 2025; and the special general election for Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.

"Rep. Randall Shedd has been an effective leader for the people of District 11, putting his constituents first and working tirelessly to improve their communities. I was proud to work alongside him, especially to expand broadband access across Alabama, ensuring more families, students and businesses have connectivity," said Ivey. "As we move forward in filling this seat, I encourage everyone in District 11 to make their voice heard by getting out and voting in this special election."

The deadline for qualifying with major political parties will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 5 p.m. The deadline for all independent candidates and/or minor parties is Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5 p.m. House District 11 includes portions of Cullman and Blount counties.

Volunteers welcome at Shirley Burden Public Library



SHIRLEY BURDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volunteer Karys Henderson

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville Public Library, recently renamed the Shirley Burden Public Library, offers a volunteer program and recently shared one of its volunteer success stories.

Branch Manager Teresa Rivera said the volunteer program is much needed, as they work with a very limited staff, all part time.

"Karys Hendersen reached out to us in the last quarter of last year," Rivera said.

"She is a high school honor society student and wanted to increase her volunteer exposure in the local community.

"It was perfect timing as we had lost an employee due to retirement, and we had not hired someone for a few months to replace. She helped me tremendously in reorganizing the entire library with the recoding of the Young Adult section transitioned to the Adult Fiction. The entire library had to be reorganized. She continues to assist a few hours weekly with other aspects of the library."

Rivera said now they are revamping their children's area which holds thousands of children's books.

"As the new manager, I could not have completed these tasks without her kind assistance," Rivera said. "She is gaining experience as well as learning how the library is run. ... The guidance counselor has also provided us with names of other high school students willing to assist as needed. I interview and then decide where the best strengths can be utilized. This is a win-win for us and students who would like to gain experience for their resume."

Next up for the library is the summer program which has six weeks of fun and exciting events planned for the children with the theme being "Color Your World." This program starts May 28 with Larry the Magician.

"We are proud and honored to serve the community of Hanceville, and look forward to having fun in the library," Rivera said. "On March 5, we have the Soil and Water Conservation District volunteering to read to the children aged 3-plus, the theme being 'Reading across America Week.' Please join us on Facebook for weekly detailed happenings."

The Shirley Burden Public Library is located at 201 Commercial St. in Hanceville. Hours are Tuesday- Friday from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, or to get involved, call 256-352-0685.

Bessemer man gets life in prison for Cullman County robbery



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mark Ples Jones
» PAGE 2

Hanceville man sentenced to 7-plus years in prison for meth crime



2023 MUGSHOT FROM THE CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jason Earl Shirley
» PAGE 2

Rooks named Wallace State Homecoming Queen



WSCC

Nyjaa Rooks of Collinsville was crowned the 2025 Homecoming Queen at Wallace State Community College. Members of the 2025 Homecoming Court include, from left, Nylaa Fuller of Harvest, Homecoming Queen Nyjaa Rooks, Takiyah Love of Decatur, Michelle Hernandez of Holly Pond and Kayle Moore of Wetumpka.

Heath Allbright announces candidacy for House District 11
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Smith Lake Zip Line Adventures kicks off season with free, family-friendly celebration May 3
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 24

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 24, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 20

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Fairview Rd.
- trespassing; theft of property; CR 1490
- domestic violence; Pancreek Rd.
- assault; CR 1071
- domestic violence; CR 1252
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 384

Feb. 21

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 216
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 616
- harassing communications; CR 1058
- harassment; CR 715
- theft of property; CR 216
- burglary; Hopewell Rd. NE
- theft of property; CR 1818
- burglary; criminal mischief; CR 549

Feb. 22

- harassing communications; CR 1229
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E
- domestic violence; CR 702
- giving false name to avoid arrest; forgery; possession of forged instrument; Hwy. 278E
- menacing; CR 791
- domestic violence; CR 420
- theft of property; High School Rd.
- obstructing governmental operations; resisting arrest; CR 1490
- possession of dangerous drugs; Moehring Rd.

Feb. 23

- theft of property; Whaley Ave. NE
- domestic violence; CR 1839
- theft of property; CR 1533
- theft of property; CR 1609
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S

ARRESTS

Feb. 20-23

Calvert, Shona N.; 37
- possession of methamphetamine

Carroll, Savannah M.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Curvin, Joshua A.; 28
- FTA – violation of a domestic violence protection order

Doyle, Kenneth W.; 39
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- resisting arrest

Garner, Buddy J.; 36
- FTA – failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Jones Jr., Jimmie D.; 60
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled (2 counts)

Laney, Cresley L.; 50
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)
- criminal trespass

Marshall, Shea M.; 45
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Massey, Corina L.; 24
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Parker, Bryan A.; 35
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Roach, William L.; 48
- forgery-checks
- possession forged instrument
- using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Sanders, Laura E.; 41
- obstruction-governmental operations

Sansing, Ashley D.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Speer, Marshall S.; 57
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Strong, James E.; 61
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Taylor, Eric D.; 25
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Whitehead, John R.; 25
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 17

- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '23 Honda Odyssey; $1,000; Marktplatz Ctr. SW
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; cash; $1,800

Feb. 18

- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; 12th St. SE

Feb. 20

- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $12,000

Feb. 21

- forgery-3rd degree; theft of services-1st degree; theft of property-1st degree; person; forged document, cash
- assault; person; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise, damaged property; $60; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $179; Olive St. SW
- counterfeit $100; State of Alabama; Marktplatz Ctr. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Yogurt Street; food; $18; Marktplatz Ctr. SW

Feb. 22

- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '00 GMC K1500; $500; Commerce Ave. NW

Feb. 23

- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged door; $300; Clover Rd. SE
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged door; $300; Campbell LN SE
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Feb. 21-23

Yoder, Joseph E.; 21
- public intoxication
- indecent exposure

Daugherty, Katelyn B.; 27
- assault-3rd degree

Hutson, David G.; 51
- DUI

Campbell, Reece A.; 18
- theft of property-4th degree

Doyle, Kenneth W.; 39
- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Cox, Westly D.; 35
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (3 counts)
- FTA - expired tag
- FTA - driving while license revoked
- FTA - driving without license (2 counts)

Camacho, Raven E.; 31
- FTA - insurance violation

Lawrence, Raymond D.; 36
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Bozeman, Brooklyn K.; 21
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Cullman City Schools, CPRST join forces for Summer STEM Camp

Staff Reports
Contributor

Notice from Cullman City Schools and Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism:

We are excited to invite K-8 students to our Summer STEM Camp, where learning meets fun! This hands-on camp will engage students in science, technology, engineering and math through exciting projects, experiments and interactive activities.

Camp details:

- Dates: July 7-10 and 14-17
- Location: East Elementary School
- Time: 8 a.m.-noon
- Who can join: Students who have completed grades k-8 in Cullman City Schools

This is a great opportunity for students to dive into STEM concepts, spark creativity and build problem-solving skills in a fun and engaging environment. Spots are limited, so be sure to apply soon! Please ensure your child can attend for the full duration of the camp, as only a limited number of students will be selected. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis, with the following spots available:

- 40 spots for grades K-2
- 40 spots for grades 3-5
- 20 spots for grades 6-8

You will receive an email confirmation in late May regarding acceptance.

For more details or to register, go to https://tinyurl.com/SummerSTEMCam.

We look forward to an exciting summer of STEM exploration!

Hanceville (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A Hanceville man has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison for a methamphetamine crime, according to U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and New Orleans Division Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Steven L. Hofer.

U.S. District Court Judge Liles C. Burke sentenced Jason Earl Shirley, 41, to 87 months in prison. In November 2024, Shirley pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 5, 2023, a Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputy initiated a traffic stop on Shirley. Shirley was allegedly driving on the center line, had an expired tag and did not have a valid driver's license.

According to a media release from the USDOJ, "Shirley appeared nervous and would not make eye contact with the deputy, so the deputy asked Shirley to step out of the car. When Shirley got out, a black zippered bag fell out of the vehicle. Shirley admitted to the deputy that drugs were in the bag. The deputy searched the vehicle and recovered a camouflage bag under the driver's seat that contained methamphetamine, scales, and a smoking device with methamphetamine residue."

The DEA investigated the case along with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kristy M. Peoples and Sara M. Judah prosecuted the case.

Bessemer (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — According to Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, Mark Ples Jones of Bessemer pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery and was sentenced to life in prison on Monday, Feb. 24, in Cullman County Circuit Court.

On Sept. 9, 2023, The Cullman Tribune reported:

Early Friday morning, Cullman Police Officers Roy Bates and Daniel Palisay were patrolling in the area of Warnke Road Southwest when they witnessed a silver Chevrolet Impala speeding through a parking lot.

As it entered the roadway, the Impala narrowly avoided a collision with the patrol vehicle.

After stopping the Impala, Bates and Palisay quickly determined that the two occupants had just committed a robbery at a nearby residence.

Terrelle Williams, 26, of Cullman, was following the Impala after allegedly being robbed by the two individuals inside the vehicle.

Williams informed the officers of the situation.

The CPD said Bates and Palisay recovered the victim's stolen wallet, money, a cell phone and the weapon used in the robbery, which linked the suspects to the crime.

Stanley Ray Menefee, 69, of Ensley, and Mark Ples Jones, 49, of Bessemer, were arrested and charged with first-degree robbery and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta said, "They (the officers) were where they were supposed to be and recognized the situation for what it was. It was the right place and the right time."

In announcing Jones' plea and sentencing, Crocker said Feb. 24, 2025, "I would like to commend the Cullman Police Department for their swift response to this crime. Their hard work and professionalism helped bring about an appropriate sentence for this career criminal."

Recently sworn-in Cullman County Circuit Judge Emily Niezer Johnston handed down the life sentence.

Allbright (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heath Allbright has announced his candidacy for Alabama House District 11.

"With a deep commitment to community values, economic growth and improving the quality of life for all residents, Allbright aims to bring fresh leadership and a strong voice to Montgomery," said the media release announcing his candidacy.

"I am running for Alabama House District 11 because I believe in the strength and potential of our community," Allbright said. "As a lifelong resident of Cullman County, I have seen firsthand the challenges we face and the opportunities we can seize. I am ready to work with the people to ensure our district thrives – supporting families, schools and businesses while preserving the values that make District 11 home."

"Allbright brings a wealth of local knowledge and a passion for public service to his campaign. A dedicated advocate for rural Alabama, he has outlined key priorities including bolstering education funding, protecting our constitutional rights and promoting job creation through support for small businesses and infrastructure development.

"As state representative, Allbright promises to listen to the concerns of District 11 residents and to represent their interests with integrity and determination," continued the release.

"I want to be a representative who is approachable and accountable," Allbright added.

"Whether it's fighting for our fair share of state resources or cutting through red tape to get things done, I will always put the people of District 11 first."

"Heath Allbright's campaign launch marks the beginning of an effort to connect with voters across Alabama House District 11, which includes portions of Cullman and Blount County. He invites everyone to join him in this journey, share their ideas and work together to build a stronger future for the district.

"Heath Allbright is a lifelong resident of Holly Pond, Alabama in Cullman County. Heath has proudly served two terms on the Cullman County Board of Education where he has worked diligently to bring quality education to every student in Cullman County Schools.

"Heath and his wife, BreAnn, have been married for 18 years and are the proud parents of Cade and Lily. Heath is the owner of Brighton Forestry Services, a timber harvesting and reforestation company based in Holly Pond, AL, servicing North Alabama and Eastern Mississippi," ended the release.



CONTRIBUTED

Heath Allbright

Celebration (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Smith Lake Zip Line Adventures is gearing up for an exciting new season and inviting the community to join in the fun at its Season Opening Celebration on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This free, family-friendly event will feature a variety of activities, including bounce houses, free hot dogs, merchandise giveaways, raffles, craft vendors, snow cones and much more. Discounted zip line tours will also be available all day using promo code OPENWKND2025.

"Smith Lake Zip Line has been hard at work this off-season to be able to revamp our customer experience from start to finish," said Brittani Coker, chief operations officer. "We have increased our social media presence and reworked our website. We have added so many great features this season like a brand-new snow cone machine and new and improved merch designs."

In addition to the upgrades and new features, the facility has expanded its offerings for the community, including a new event venue space available for rent, with seating for up to 60 people. They have also partnered with local camping facilities to offer special discounts for visitors.

The Season Opening Celebration aims to bring the community together while also highlighting the many small businesses in the area. Local vendors will be set up throughout the event, offering handmade crafts, unique gifts and more. "We truly feel there is room for all of us to be successful while supporting one another," Coker said. "We are so excited about this season and anxious to share it with our community, so we hope to see you all there."

For those interested in participating as vendors, the registration fee is $50, which includes a 10x10 setup space and access to electricity. Vendors can set up their area on Friday, May 2, and the deadline to register is April 20. To sign up, contact Brittani Coker at smithlakezips@gmail.com or call 256-841-7627.

Smith Lake Zip Line Adventures is located at 1177 County Road 385, Cullman, AL 35057.



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
• Wednesday, Feb. 26 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, Feb. 28 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, March 1 - 8 a.m. Men's breakfast; 10 Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, March 2 - 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.

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

West Point downs Cold Springs 11-1; Saturday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point jumped out to an early lead in its opening at-bats. They had runners on second and third with one out, then Titan Thornton put the Warriors on the scoreboard on a ground ball. Charlie Ashley and Jay Lamar followed that up with an RBI double and an RBI single, respectively, to give them a 3-0 lead. Boston Freeman and Hunter Graves both scored on an error in the bottom of the second to make it 5-0. Ashley's RBI double made it 6-0.

Cooper Johnson's RBI double in the top of the fourth put Cold Springs on the scoreboard, but another ground ball by Thornton brought home two more runs to give West Point an 8-1 lead. Cade Welborn scored on an Eagle error in the fifth to extend their lead to 9-1.

The Warriors ended the game in their final at-bats, as Skylar Echols drew a bases-loaded walk, then a ground ball by Graves gave West Point the 11-1 win over Cold Springs.

Thornton finished with three RBIs for the Warriors. Ashley added three hits and two RBIs, while Graves (one hit) and Echols each drove in a run of their own in the win.

The pitching duo of Cooper Howard and Thornton combined to give up just three hits and one earned run, walked one and struck out nine. For Cold Springs, Johnson finished with a hit and an RBI, while Ayden Black and Boston Archer each added a hit in the loss.

Hanceville 8 - Cold Springs 3 (Baseball)
It was a close game between Hanceville and Cold Springs for most of the contest, but a big seventh inning by the Bulldogs was key in their win over the Eagles.

Hunter Weeks led the way for Hanceville with a hit and three RBIs. Luke Brown added a hit and two RBIs, while Eder Herrera and Dalton Pirkle each collected a hit and an RBI in the win. Hunter Black and Gabriel Ognilla combined to give up just three hits and two earned runs, walked five, and struck out 13. Boston Archer led the way for Cold Springs with a hit and two RBIs. Mason Gable added an RBI, while Lindan Hill and Brandon Chasteen each ended up with a hit in the loss.

Cullman 5 - Florence 0 (Baseball)
Cullman gave starter Bennett Johnson plenty of run support early on as the Bearcats ended up shutting out Florence on the road.

Brooks Heatherly and Jonah Inman each finished with a hit and an RBI for Cullman, and all but two players collected at least one hit in the win. Johnson's performance on the mound was nothing short of dominant, as he gave up just a single hit through six innings, walked three, and struck out 13. Cross Bowen pitched a scoreless seventh inning to help seal the win for the Bearcats.

Good Hope 2 - New Hope 2 (Softball)
Good Hope's game against New Hope ended in a tie after five innings.

Molly Benefield finished with a hit and an RBI for the Lady Raiders, while Lizzy Steed, Campbell Koch, Gracie Garmon, and Brooklyn Lambert each added a hit in the game. Benefield went the distance for Good Hope, as she gave up six hits, two earned runs, walked three, and struck out one.

Moody 8 - Good Hope 0 (Softball)
Good Hope took on Moody in their second game of the day, and it was all Lady Blue Devils in this one, as they ended up shutting out the Lady Raiders 8-0.

Steed and Benefield each finished with two hits for Good Hope, and Kylee Smith added a hit in the loss.

Oxford 4 - Good Hope 3 (Softball)
Good Hope faced off against Oxford in their final game of the day. They held a slim lead late, but a late rally by Oxford helped them get past the Lady Raiders 4-3.

Haley Lay finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for Good Hope. Natalie Miller posted a hit and an RBI. Steed added a pair of hits, while Koch and Smith each ended up with a hit in the loss.

Holly Pond 14 - Asbury 4 (Baseball)
Holly Pond's offense exploded in the first two innings, as they jumped out to a 10-1 lead. The Broncos ended up rolling past Asbury 14-4.

Jackson Miller led the way for Holly Pond with a hit and three RBIs. Boston Gibbs and Brody Howard each added a pair of hits and two RBIs. Carson Ryan (one hit), Ross Nelson (one hit), Sawyer Olinger, and Ty Dunn all drove in a run for the Broncos.

Good Hope 19 - Asbury 0 (Baseball)
Good Hope didn't waste any time getting out to a big lead against Asbury, as they put up 13 runs in their opening at-bats. The Raiders would go on to shut out Asbury 19-0.

Colbi Kilpatrick finished with a hit and three RBIs for Good Hope. Carter Naramore (two hits), Brady Stripling (one hit), and Owen Armstrong all drove in a pair of runs, while Kane Anderson and Blake Cordes each collected a hit and an RBI in the win. The duo of Case Naramore and Carter Rutherford pitched five shutout innings, as they gave up just two hits, walked two, and struck out nine.

Good Hope 9 - Holly Pond 2 (Baseball)
Good Hope scored in every inning but one, and they got great pitching performances from Caden Drake and Kilpatrick, as they ended up defeating Holly Pond 9-2.

Anderson led the way for the Raiders with three hits and two RBIs. Drake (three hits), Rutherford (one hit), Carter Naramore (one hit), and Cordes all drove in a run in the game. Drake and Kilpatrick combined to give up just four hits and two earned runs, walked three, and struck out 10. For Holly Pond, Ty Dunn finished with a hit and two RBIs. Tucker Dunn added a pair of hits, and Gibbs collected a hit in the loss.

Pleasant Grove 13 - Vinemont 8 (Baseball)
It was a high-scoring affair between Vinemont and Pleasant Grove early on, and a pair of big innings by the Spartans helped them get past the Eagles 13-8.

Chad Reynolds finished with a hit and two RBIs for Vinemont, while Tucker Mauter and Banks Borwick each drove in a run in the game.

Vinemont 4 - Cordova 3 (Baseball)
Vinemont fell behind early in their game against Cordova, but a late rally by the Eagles helped them get past the Blue Devils 4-3.

Jake Hale (two hits) and Borwick each finished with a pair of RBIs for Vinemont.

West Point 13 - Hanceville 1 (Baseball)
West Point jumped out to an early lead in their opening at-bats, and they went on cruise control from there, as they ended up defeating Hanceville 13-1.

Lamar finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for the Warriors. Ashley (two hits), Thornton (one hit), Logan Campbell (one hit), Echols (one hit), Carter McAfee (one hit), Freeman, and Howard all drove in a run in the game. Josh Cherry struck out seven, walked one, and gave up just two hits in his four innings of work. Graves gave up two hits and one earned run, walked one, and struck out two in his inning of work. For Hanceville, Ognilla finished with a hit and an RBI, and Weeks collected a hit in the loss.

PREP TENNIS

Cullman's JV Girls earn win at Decatur Invitational

Nick Griffin
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Cullman's JV Girls' Tennis team claimed victory at the Decatur High School JV Invitational on Saturday, securing first place with 38 points.

Cullman dominated the doubles events, with the team's no. 1 duo, Lucy Williamson and Kate Preston Bates, triumphing over Muscle Shoals in a decisive 10-5 win in the finals.

Elizabeth Hughes and Lucy Collins also showcased their skills, defeating Deshler 10-4 to take the no. 2 doubles championship.

In singles action, Cullman's Lucy Williamson defeated Pell City 10-2 in the no. 2 finals, while Kate Preston Bates emerged victorious over Deshler with a 10-4 win for the no. 3 spot.



NATHAN BATES

OP-ED

Addison makes football coaching change; Who will be next to take the reins?

Todd Walker
Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — In today's world of instant gratification and what have you done for me lately, it begs the question, what does a high school football coach have to do to keep his job in this new age? Is it just winning? If that's the case what kind of winning? State titles, region titles or county titles. Is six, seven or eight wins enough or just make the first, second or third round of the playoffs? If your players love you, does it matter if you win or lose? Tons of questions, but what is the right answer?

Take Addison's David Smothers for instance. Coach Smothers graduated from Addison and played for the Bulldogs. He has family in the faculty, family who attend the school and deep ties to the community. His father coached at Addison. He has represented the school with class. David coached the 2024 football season suffering from a severe form of kidney disease. He showed up every day for the kids and even when he felt horrible, he was there for the school, the kids and the town. He never missed a game.

He has been the Head Coach of the Bulldogs for the past 13 seasons and has posted a 104-46 record. He has led the Bulldogs to two region titles and the playoffs in 12 of his 13 years. He has a winning record (16-9) against all three county rivals, Lynn, Winston County and Meek. He is also the third winningest head coach in Addison's storied football history.

So why would you say this man lost his job on Feb. 10 by a unanimous vote of the Winston County School Board? No reason given, they just wanted to go in another direction. When I tried to contact Randy Lee, Addison's representative on the board, no answer was given as to why the change was needed. Mr. Lee stated that, "It's a personnel matter and I am not at liberty to speak to you about it. In order to talk about this, we would have to go into an executive session at a school board meeting."

There were no allegations that he was too tough on the kids or coached them too hard. Not even that he was a bad coach and didn't win. He wasn't arrested, caught in any scandal, he was just fired.

Now the only answer to this question is that he is not popular with the players and specifically some parents in the community. I have spoken with numerous players and most of them are not overly fond of Coach Smothers. But when asked to explain why they don't like him, I got a lot of "Just don't like him." No real specifics. Naturally, they love the assistants. News flash kids: you are supposed to. The assistants run interference between you and the head coach. The head coach is the dad, and the assistants are your older brothers or your favorite uncle.

After speaking with several fans in the community who wished to remain anonymous, Addison's lack of physicality and toughness were brought up. Recent failures against county rivals was also brought up as well as soft practices without much hitting. My question is what is Addison football known for? The first thing I think of when I think of Addison is winning and I believe they have been winning pretty consistently lately with the exception of last season.

Yes, David will be the first to tell you that he does not have an outgoing personality. He is a man of few words. He does not "kiss tail" and is not ashamed to say that. He will also tell you that no one hated how the season ended last year more than him. It should also be stated that Addison was without their two-time all-state quarterback for the season as he recovered from an injury.

When I spoke with Coach Smothers, He was perplexed to say the least.

"All this started in early December (2024) when I was approached by my principal, Micah Smothers. He told me that the board was going to vote on my job status and I probably needed to talk with them. This was four business days before the meeting. I was never told that there was a problem with my job status," Smothers said. "I called Coach Lee, (Addison school board representative) and he told me that he had a lot of complaints. When I asked about what type of complaints, I got no answer. I asked him, 'had he investigated these complaints', and he said no. I told him that this is the first time I have heard these complaints and that no one had come to me prior. I spoke with Jeff Scott (incoming school board superintendent) and he told me that he had heard that people were complaining that we had been down for the past couple of years. About a month passed and I finally got on the agenda to speak to them. So, after speaking with the school board and having to explain why I needed to keep my job, I was terminated. They do not have to give you a reason. My plan is to still teach here at Addison, and I wish the program nothing but the best. I know for a fact that they will not find a coach that loves this school and this program as much as I do."

What I would like to know is what do the fans of Addison expect? Do they not realize that if you compare the two legendary hall of fame head coaches ahead of Smothers in wins, Aubrey Hicks' 20-year record of 144-53-8, and Allen Stephenson's 17-year record of 131-62, David compares quite favorably. Coach Hicks won 70% percent of his games, Coach Stepheson won 68% and Smothers clocks in at 69% right in the middle of them. The biggest difference is that both Coach Hicks and Coach Stephenson won state titles. Smothers outperforms both coaches when comparing their first 13-year records. Hicks stands at 81-39-9 with a title in his 16th year. Alabama did not have state playoffs his first 13 years. Stephenson stood at 96-50 with a title in his second year.

Both Coaches Hicks and Stephenson had a huge advantage over David. In the time that they coached Head Coaches were all mighty and powerful, able to do pretty much whatever they wanted and could coach you very hard. Practice was usually much harder than the actual games. What your coach said is what you did. Taking nothing away from either man, I know Coach Stephenson and my father played for Coach Hicks, and as different as those two were, there are no finer two men that ever walked the sidelines at Addison High School. But be honest, it was easier to coach then than it is today.

David has done himself no favor with his scheduling. He consistently plays against classification schools to challenge his teams. Every year the three games that he has control of, you can count on playing a larger class team. He has a 26-23 record against predominately 3A and 4A teams. His record could be much improved if he scheduled the Brilliants and Tharptowns of the world instead of playing bigger, harder and more challenging teams.

The last question I pose to you is WHO worth their salt would want this job if a graduate of the school with all his previously listed accomplishments gets fired with the record he has? I am truly perplexed by this move and I hope you can explain it to me.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Former Addison Head Football Coach seen at practice in August 2024.

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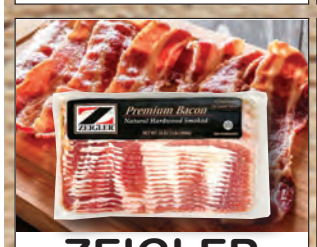
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FAITH

'God is a 24-hour hotline': West Point's Hannah Veres discusses relationship with God

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point senior Hannah Veres feels blessed to have God in her life and in this interview, she talked about some of her favorite bible verses, some of her goals as a role model and how much her faith has changed her life.

"God means the most to me. In everything that I do, I always try to put Him first and try to make sure that He's involved with my decisions. I truly would be a completely different person if God was not a part of my life, and I'm so grateful that I do not ever have to know who that person would be," Veres said. "God's changed my life in so many ways. He has saved me from the trap of bitterness. He taught me that forgiveness is one of the most detrimental things in life to find happiness, because although people might do me or those around me wrong, holding onto that grudge does nothing but turn me bitter and completely alters my relationship with Christ. Everyone has bad days and hard days that you have no idea about, so I've learned that there are going to be days I need that forgiveness from someone and how could I ask someone to forgive me when I can't grant others the same Christ-like grace?"

Hannah shared her favorite Bible verse and her favorite story from the Bible as well.

"Joshua 1:5 is my all-time favorite Bible verse, because in a world full of so many things that bring fear to me, it reminds me that the same way God was with Moses, He will be there with me. The story of Hannah is one of my favorite stories from the Bible, because in a time of defeat and desperation, instead of giving up, Hannah fasted and prayed for a child, and if she could have that child, then she would do whatever the Lord asks of her. I relate so much, because I often feel like giving up or I don't want to do certain things, but I'm reminded that everything is worth it, and prayer is powerful. No matter how big my mountain may be, God is capable of moving them and answering my prayers, as long as I have faith and dedication to Him." Veres said.

One of Hannah's top priorities is to help more people find God and she wants to be a role model for those people as well.

"It is very important. I think often times, it's easy to forget that not everyone was raised aware of God, and that if someone doesn't tell children, then they will never make it to heaven either, because people just assume it's not going to work, or they are probably already saved. I want to go into pediatric oncology in hopes of being able to make an impact on kids, and share that God is good, and He's in control," Veres said. "Not only do I want to help those children that are going through some very hard times in their life, but also, I want to help their families and let them know that God is working behind the scenes, and He's always moving. While I know that you can't lead everyone to the Lord, it's important that I say I tried. Whether that's an invite to church, a small mention of God, or a deep conversation about His love and grace, anything counts and is capable of making an impact, especially with children."

Hannah added, "It's very important to try to be the best version of yourself for those around you, and that's something I try to remind myself every day, that I have an audience. Although I am far from perfect and do fall short, it's important to notice your weaknesses and try your best to be better, because no one can say anything if you try. While I know that it's easy to forget that as a Christian, you are the hands and feet of Christ, your effort and attempt means the most."

Veres hasn't been on a mission yet, but it's been a dream of Her's to go to one or multiple missions and help more people find God.

"It's one of my biggest dreams and goals to be a part of one. I dream of going to Mexico and even certain parts of America, like California, who don't have many religious people to teach or talk to them about God," she said. "My grandparents are my biggest Godly role models, because although they have been dealt some unfair hands in their life, they keep their faith in Christ and continue to praise God and never doubt Him. They also are always bettering their relationships with Christ, and it's inspiring, because often times, it's hard to find that motivation to dig deeper, but they are a constant reminder to me that it will all pay off. My grandpa also always makes it a point that no matter where he's at, who he's with, or what he's doing, he will have a conversation about God. It truly is captivating, because the fact is, you can literally see in front of your eyes the desire he has for people to know God and His grace. My sweet grandma is always smiling and showing the pure joy God can bring a person."



HANNAH VERES

West Point's Hannah Veres

Hannah talked about a life-changing experience that happened she had that helped her get closer to God, and she gave advice to those people that want that relationship with God but might be new to that kind of experience.

"2020 was one of the most life-changing experiences I've ever had that really changed my relationship with God. It was like I didn't have to live a routine of school, homework, and sleep. I finally got to focus on myself and the fact that nothing is permanent, except for God's love and grace. It really made me realize you are the only person who has to go through your life and that pleasing everyone at the expense of your own happiness is not what God intends for us," she said. "I'd definitely tell people to just keep putting in that effort and that God is a 24-hour hotline. He's always awake and listening to whatever you are saying to Him through prayer. It's easy to say a five-second prayer, but it's just about really pouring yourself into it and making time for those moments with just you and God. I've learned that effort is key in a relationship with God. As long as you are trying and you continue to pour yourself into Him, He will guide you and show you amazing things."

Looking for a beach getaway during spring break? Visit Alabama State Parks

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Spring breakers often flock to beaches along the Alabama Gulf Coast in search of sand and sun, landing them on the sugar white beaches at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores.

But did you know other Alabama State Parks, including Oak Mountain State Park near Birmingham, Joe Wheeler State Park in Rogersville, Wind Creek State Park on Lake Martin and Lake Guntersville State Park in Guntersville – offer gorgeous beaches perfect for a spring break getaway?

"It's true, you don't have to go all the way to the Gulf Coast to enjoy a beach at a state park in Alabama," Alabama State Parks Director Matthew Capps said. "We have gorgeous beach options and incredible overnight accommodations available across the state."

Capps continued, "Don't get me wrong – I love the beaches at Gulf State Park as much as anyone, but it's important to realize that you can also get your fill of sand and sun at other places in our State Parks System."

Reservations to all state parks can be made online by clicking on the "Plan Your Alabama State Parks Adventure Online" green bar on the Alapark.com homepage.

Oak Mountain State Park offers two beaches – one at Double Oak Lake, not far from the park office, and another near Flipside Watersports on Beaver Lake. The beach at Lake Guntersville State Park, located near the lakeside campground, is a free amenity for registered guests and costs $4 for day-use visitors.

The sandy beach at Joe Wheeler State Park is also located in the park's day-use area.

At Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City, the beach sits near areas designated for picnicking.

Lake Guntersville State Park and Joe Wheeler State Park offer resort-style lodge accommodations and a full-service restaurant, as well as cabins, chalets and a first-class campground.

The chalets sitting atop Taylor Mountain at Lake Guntersville State Park offer some of the most stunning views available anywhere in America. Oak Mountain State Park visitors can choose from a large campground, as well as cabins nestled around Lake Tranquility.

Gulf State Park offers cabins, cottages and one of the state's largest campgrounds, as well as The Lodge, a gulf-side luxury hotel.

Wind Creek State Park features one of the state's largest campgrounds and activities such as fishing, hiking and relaxing beneath the whispering pines. All of the beaches at Alabama State Parks carry the same rules – swim at your own risk, no alcohol allowed and glass containers prohibited.

"There's so much variety in the beaches and accommodations available at Alabama State Parks," said Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship.

"Whether you're staying for a night or a week, there's something that fits just about every preference and price point. That's what makes visiting our State Parks so much fun for millions of people every year."





COLUMN

Honk if you lost a car

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I own a red Chevrolet pick-up truck. When I bought it a few years ago, I decided that it would be a good idea to buy a bright color. That's because on more than one occasion I couldn't find my old truck, a silver Toyota, at the local Piggly Wiggly. When you lose a vehicle in a small grocery store parking lot, it's time to make some life changes.

Of course, misplacing your car for a few minutes at the Pig is nothing compared to my lost car episode in Minnesota.

During my sales career, I would fly into a city, and upon landing, head to the rental car desk and always request a Ford Taurus. When you're on the road, even a little familiarity is a source of comfort. And since I had rented so many Tauruses for so long, I was familiar with all of the controls in the car. Believe me, nothing was worse than a rental you didn't know how to operate. Once Hertz gave me a free upgrade to a Jaguar. It was cool driving around in a Jag all week, but I was miserable because I could hardly operate the air conditioning or the radio.

I always cringed when Hertz gave me a silver-colored Taurus. That's because back in their heyday, there were more silver Tauruses on the road than there were Dollar Generals in Alabama. A moment's inattention in a parking lot could be a big problem.

And that is exactly what happened to me in, of all places, The Mall of America. For those of you who don't know, this retail monster in Minneapolis is one of the largest shopping malls in the world. It's so big it even has an amusement park in the middle of it. As you might expect, a place like this has a number of large parking decks, giving a person who didn't pay attention a great opportunity to lose their car. And that's what I did.

Keep in mind this was before we had phones that easily made photos or dropped pins on your location. For the most part, I was on my own.

Honestly, I thought that I knew where I parked. Really. I made a mental note of which store was connected to the deck and a couple of hours later went back there and crossed into the parking world. However, since darkness had fallen since my arrival, everything looked different. So, I began walking and looking for a silver Ford Taurus - and I found lot of them. It's amazing how many silver Ford Tauruses there were in this place. Did they make this stupid car in any other color? I went up and down several levels while clicking the remote, hoping to see some friendly flashing tail lights. Nothing.

Soon, I began using the emergency horn button, hoping my wayward rental car would answer. Silence. Soon I was frantically squeezing it, hoping that pushing it harder might make it work better. What an idiot I was.

Just as I was beginning to think I was going to spend the rest of my life eating at the food court, I heard the horn. "At last!" I thought. "Let's head to the hotel."

But it wasn't that easy. Because of the concrete and open spaces, the acoustics made it impossible for me to determine where the sound was coming from. This was becoming a Twilight Zone episode. I frantically kept looking up and down until a security vehicle pulled up beside me.

"Can't find your car?" he asked.

"Well, I... uh, no," I replied sheepishly.

"Happens all the time. Hop in. We'll find it. What kind of car is it?

"A silver Ford Taurus."

He frowned. "Oh, Lord, one of those. Well, roll down the window and keep pressing the key fob."

It was obvious he had done this before. We found my starting point and he cruised slowly, up one level and down another. In a few minutes, I saw the flashing tail lights.

He smiled and said, "There you go. The acoustics of this place makes it hard for the signal from your remote to hit the car unless you're right on it."

"Thanks. That's good to know." Then I had another dilemma. Do I tip him? What do you tip a guy who finds your car? I had just wasted 90 minutes of my life. I pulled out a 10. I was so relieved I would've given him a 50.

He saw it and shook his head. "I don't need that. It's my job. Glad to help."

I smiled and responded, "Thanks."

Smiling back, he replied. "But the next time you rent a Taurus, you might want ask for a red one."

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

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OPINION

Allen presses federal government to 'cut red tape for small business'

Staff Reports
Contributor

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen recently signed a joint letter to President Donald Trump with 19 other conservative secretaries of state urging the repeal of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA).

Below is the content of a media release issued by Allen's office:

This repeal would cut government fees and red tape for small business owners across the United States.

"The CTA is a classic example of the disastrous policies championed by the Biden-Harris administration. It is blatant government overreach, and I will continue to call it out" Allen said. "From advocating to remove costly business filing requirements and fees in Alabama to demanding that the federal government lift unnecessary burdens off all American small business owners, my track record for supporting small business is clear, and it is strong."

The CTA requires small business owners to report extraneous information to federal Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The implementation of this act has been a catastrophe and millions of small business owners have been negatively impacted. Penalties for noncompliance for businesses includes prison time and thousands of dollars in fines.

"The requirements of the CTA punish legitimate small business owners and allow bad actors to slip through loopholes unscathed," Allen explained.

"Hardworking men and women across Alabama and the country have been unnecessarily burdened in their pursuit of the American Dream for too long. This is no way to encourage growth of the business community or the wellbeing of our economy. I, along with 19 other Secretaries of State, am fighting for this to end now."

Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville introduced the "Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act," which would repeal the CTA and protect small business owners from its confusing and burdensome requirements.

"We must cut government red tape where we find it. I refuse to stand idly by and allow liberal policy to plague our small business owners and hurt our economy" Allen said. "The passage of the 'Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act' would be a victory for all who believe that the federal government should be a limited and effective institution for the American People."

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CHARLES LEON MOTTE, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-047

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to Carla Dooley Motte as Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles Leon Motte, deceased, on the 14th 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.

Carla Dooley Motte
Personal Representative

ALEXANDER M. SMITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
POST OFFICE BOX 8
ONEONTA, ALABAMA 35121
(205) 625-5505

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 08
TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Cullman finds that the following property owners, Gregory and Lori Henry, have petitioned the City under the provisions of Section 11-42-21 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, that the following described property, owned by the petitioner, be annexed into the City of Cullman:
PIN: 9329. Parcel Number: 09-05-22-0-001-030.000.
Property Address: 586 County Road 1329, Vinemont, AL 35179.
A parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said forty; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 59 seconds East a distance of 1,358.8 feet, more or less, to an iron pin in place; thence North 01 degree 31 minutes 32 seconds East a distance of 154.27 feet to a point; thence South 88 degrees 28 minutes 08 seconds East a distance of 20 feet to a point and the true point of beginning; thence North 01 degree 31 minutes 32 seconds East a distance of 40 feet to a point; thence North 71 degrees 16 minutes 04 seconds East a distance of 115.9 feet to a point; thence North 54 degrees 09 minutes 19 seconds East a distance of 160 feet, more or less, to the full pool elevation of Lake George; thence meandering Southeasterly, then Southwesterly along said full pool elevation a distance of 370 feet, more or less, to a point; thence North 36 degrees 21 minutes West, a distance of 185 feet, more or less, to a point; thence North 71 degrees 27 minutes 54 seconds West a distance of 74.27 feet, to the point of beginning.
SECTION 2. That the Council has before it a map showing the relationship of the properties proposed to be annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Cullman, and that said map is on file in the office of the City Clerk along with an acknowledgment by the property owner that they want it to be annexed into the City of Cullman.
SECTION 3. That the City of Cullman does hereby annex as a part of its corporate limits the above described tracts or parcels of land as R-1 Residential District.
SECTION 4. That a copy of this ordinance after its adoption, which ordinance includes a description of the property annexed to the City of Cullman, be filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the county in which the municipality is located.
SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 17th day of February, 2025. /s/Jenny Folsom - President of City Council.
ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 17th day of February, 2025. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

The Cullman County Commission has completed the CDBG County Road 1490 Road Improvement Project (CY-CM-PF-23-002) which constructed improvements to a 2.6-mile section of County Road 1490 which connects in two locations with County Road 1545 in the Gold Ridge Community. Wiregrass Construction Company, Incorporated and J.C. Cheek Contractors gives Notice of Completion of the above referenced project. Any person or party having an unpaid claim against the Contractors listed above for supplying labor, materials, supplies or workmanship on this project should notify the Cullman County Engineering Department, 2883 Highway 69 North, Cullman, Alabama 35058 or by phone at 256-796-2266 within the next thirty days.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **Jared Seth Johnson and wife, Heidi Lynee Johnson** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said mortgage dated October 12, 2021, and recorded on October 13, 2021, in Mortgage Book 1985 Page 20 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the **19th day of March, 2025,** between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 2 of the Lake Alaqua Subdivision as shown and known on the plat recorded in Plat B357A in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman Co, Alabama.

Property address: 164 County Road 479, Hanceville, AL 35077

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

PUBLICATION DATES: February 25, March 4 and March 11, 2025
NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

TRADITIONS BANK
Mortgagee
Steven C. Smith
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SUSAN MARIE FOULKS, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-026

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF SUSAN MARIE FOULKS, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Annalee G. Peterson and Lucy Green on the 14th day of February, 2025, by the Honorable 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.

Annalee G. Peterson and Lucy Green
Joint Personal Representatives

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Personal Representatives
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

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 RONALD LAVERNE WHITE, Deceased. **Case Number: PC2025-041**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Ronald Laverne White, Deceased

Letters Testamentary upon last will and testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 14th 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 Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Wanda White
Personal Representative

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

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

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 22-24

Kendyl Danielle Malone, 30
Kendyl Danielle Malone went to sleep on Feb. 20, 2025, and woke up that same instant looking into the face of her savior Jesus Christ. Kendyl, born on Sept. 21, 1994, and faced many struggles in life, the main one being her health. She fought kidney disease, just like her mother and grandmother before her. In the last couple of years this illness also took its toll on her heart and liver, as well as her eyes. Although her health declined her spirit flourished. She was kind, loving, thoughtful and compassionate. She was the least judgmental person that treated everyone the way she wanted to be treated. Kendyl was preceded in death by her mother, Leslie Malone; grandparents Dwight and Beverly Phillips, David Malone and Melissa Smith; her great grandparents, Lavern and Irene Black, Talmadge and Lessie May Phillips, J.L. and Captola Malone, J.V. and Robbie Smith; aunt, Cindy Malone and uncle, Jamie Malone. Left to carry on her memory is her precious little boy, Ryland Spicer; her father, Terry (Wendy) Malone; her sister Raegan Malone; brother, Ethan Malone; aunts, Kim Maddox, Keri Keller and Jamie Phillips; special cousins, Madison (Jordan) McSwain, Grayson (Linzi) Phillips and their children who Kendyl considered nieces and nephews, Isla and Decker McSwain and Colter Phillips. A Memorial Service will be held Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at Stouts Mountain Baptist Church at 3 p.m. with Rev. Randall Waldrep, Rev. Brian Calvert and Rev Ernest McKinnon officiating. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. No graveside services are planned at this time.

Junior "Curley" Pugh, 84
In Loving Memory of J.B. (Curley) Pugh J.B. (Curley) Pugh beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on Feb. 21, 2025, at 84. He was a man of kindness, strength, and unwavering love, always putting his family first. His warm heart, gentle wisdom, and endless generosity touched the lives of all who knew him. He leaves behind his loving wife Juanita, Steven Pugh son (Calisto Harvalias) honorary son, Geraldine Powell sister (Jack) Charles Pugh brother (Ann), Darryl Pugh brother (Darlene), Special daughter in law and loving caregiver Michele Schultz (Pugh). Mr Pugh was preceded to his heavenly home by Ledmon and Audrey Pugh (parents) Anthony Pugh (son), Oscar Flores (special family) brothers Jimmy (Clara), Donald (Debra), Larry "Butch" and Gary Wayne "Scooter"Pugh. His grandchildren Jesica Pugh Henderson (Josh), Whittney Pugh, Samantha Pugh and Blane Taunton, as well as his great grandchildren Bryce, Abigail, Halle, Naomi and Crew Hayden (Samantha) Lexie and Logan Henderson (Jesica).He leaves behind many loving, nephews, nieces, and cousins who will forever cherish his memory. Though he is no longer with us, his love and legacy will live on in our hearts. A celebration of his life will be held on Feb. 23, 2025, at Hanceville, Alabama, funeral home. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with funeral services following directly after in the chapel. Mr. Pugh will be laid to rest at Hopewell Cemetery, Hanceville, Alabama. Rest peacefully, Dad. You will always be loved and never forgotten.

Robin Nixon Pruett, 56
Celebrating the Life of Robin Nixon Pruett June 24, 1968 - February 21, 2025 Robin Nixon Pruett of Holly Pond, Alabama peacefully went to be with her Lord on Friday Feb. 21, 2025, at the age of 56. Born on June 24, 1968, in Mobile, Alabama, Robin quickly became the light of her family's life. As a little girl, she delighted in exploring and playing with her grandparents and family in Florida. In elementary and middle school in Bay Minette, she forged close friendships that brought a lifetime of joy and laughter. Robin graduated from Auburn University where she met the love of her life, David, and their bond grew stronger with each passing year. After a brief time in Arkansas, the couple settled in Holly Pond where Robin formed new friendships and joined the community of a close-knit small town. Her love for children led to a 25-year career as an elementary school teacher, during which she touched the lives of hundreds of second graders. A lifelong learner and creative spirit, Robin enriched her family and community through her passions and hobbies. She developed a deep love for gardening and flowers, eventually turning that passion into a vocation by founding Holly Pond Floral Company. Through her work, she filled dozens of weddings with beauty and heartfelt joy, always honoring her Creator through her own creative endeavors. Robin was a thoughtful daughter to her mother, Paula, a steadfast sister to her sibling, Christy, a devoted wife to her husband, David, and a loving mother to her only son, Jackson. Above all, she cherished the role of "Grammy" to her two young granddaughters, Margot and Frances. Her legacy will live on through them and in every springtime flower that blooms. She is preceded in death by her father Cliff Nixon. Those left to cherish her memory include her loving husband, David Pruett; son Jackson Pruett (Taylor); granddaughters, Margot and Frances; mother, Paula Coffey (George); sister, Christy Nixon (Paul, Caleb, Luke, and Mason); godchildren, Emma Hankins and Maddie Hankins; and a host of loving family and friends. Visitation will be held on Feb. 26, 2025, at 12 p.m. at Holly Pond Funeral Home with a memorial service to follow at 2 p.m. Obituary provided by the Pruett family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pruett family.

Willodean Hines, 93
Funeral Service for Willodean Hines, age 93, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Enon Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Hines passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at her residence. She was born, October 14, 1931 to Walter and Henry Vines. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Junior Hines; daughters, Elizabeth Leighber and Betty Ann Slayton Hines; sons, Charles Junior Hines, Ricky Dale Hines, Gary Lee Hines, Billy Wayne Hines, and Larry Dewight Hines; and grandson, Luke Ricky Leighber. Survivors include her daughters, Peggy (JE) Sue Bailey and Linda Gail Gourley; sons, Randy Eugene Hines, Timmy Lemark Hines, and Keith (Jeana) Jerome Hines; 15 Grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Kristi Shawn McClendon, 54
Kristi Shawn McClendon, age 54 of Logan, passed away on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at her home. Visitation will be Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Shady Grove Cemetery in Logan. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Kristi was born Tuesday, March 31, 1970 to Kerry and Melissa Goggins. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Thomas and Ruby Watson; and grandparents, Isaac and Julia Goggins. Survivors include her parents, Kerry and Melissa Goggins; daughter, Leah McClendon; sister, Tonya Hampton (Kevin Armstrong); brother, Lee Goggins; nephews, Crue Hampton (Jeannie), and Dylan Goggins; niece, Myla Hampton; great-nephews, Kyson Ross, Ryder Hampton, Kaden Hampton; great-nieces, Hadlee Hampton, and Brynlee Thompson; best friends, Paula Corkren, and Maria Faga.

Joyce Ann Beasley, 77
Joyce Ann Beasley, age 77 of Hartselle, passed away on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at Summerford Nursing Home in Falkville. There are no services planned at this time. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Joyce was born on Feb. 4, 1948, to Herman and Lois Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Emmitt Eugene Beasley; husband, Emmitt Earl Beasley; and several brothers and sisters. Survivors include her son, Kevin Beasley (Carolyn); grandson , Austin Beasley (Haley); granddaughters, Elizabeth Williams, Crimson Beasley, and Kierra Beasley; grandchildren, Patrick, Cody, Tyler, and Savannah; brother, Danny Williams (Harriet); sister, Helen McDonald; a host of great-grandchildren and family and friends.

Jimmy Faron Brindley, 58
Jimmy Faron Brindley, 58, passed away on Feb. 21, 2025, at Huntsville Hospital due to a hemorrhagic stroke. Born in Arab, Alabama, in 1966 to George and Helen (Nunnelley) Brindley, Faron was a proud graduate of Fairview High School, where he showcased his musical talent as a tuba player in the Aggie Marching Band. Following graduation, he had the remarkable opportunity to tour Europe with the United States Collegiate Wind Band, an experience that enriched his love for performance, music, and culture. Faron continued his education at The University of Montevallo, where he became an active member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and served as a Purple Leader during College Night, the longest-running homecoming tradition in the United States. During this time, Faron discovered his passion for filmmaking while working as a casting assistant on the motion picture Gangland, which was filmed in Birmingham, Alabama. This pivotal experience led him to pursue his dreams in Los Angeles after graduating from Montevallo. In Los Angeles, Faron spent several years at Costume Rental Corporation (CRC), contributing costume research for numerous motion pictures and television shows, including LA Law. His career in the entertainment industry was diverse, encompassing various production roles and even acting in local theater. Eventually, seeking a more stable career, Faron became the CFO of the Preferred College of Nursing. After many fulfilling years, he returned to Alabama, where he retired to be closer to his family and friends in Huntsville. Faron is survived by his two beautiful sisters, Anne Smith of Decatur and Elizabeth Holmes (Tek) of Huntsville, along with his cherished nieces and nephews: Nancy Brindley Bhagia (Kam), Elliot Brindley (Ashley), Tara Claborn (Shannon), Tod Smith (Paula), Wes Holmes, and Casey Holmes. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Helen Brindley of Baileyton, and his brother, Alton Brindley of Hartselle. Faron leaves a legacy of lifelong friendships from his time at Fairview, Montevallo, and California, which he valued deeply. All who knew him will miss his vibrant spirit and passion for life.

Michael Gene Speegle, 80
Funeral service for Michael Gene Speegle, 80, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with interment in Cullman City Cemetery, Revs. Steve Rodgers and Kerry Cleghorn are officiating. Visitation will be on Tuesday evening from 5:30-8 p.m. at the funeral home and the family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. before the service on Wednesday. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Michael was born on Nov. 26, 1944, to Gaston Mitchell and Velma Louise Hendrix Speegle. Mr. Speegle loved restoring antique cars and was the owner of Speegle's Upholstery Shop, in Cullman, since 1981. He was an avid Alabama football fan, and he coached a successful men's softball team for many years. He was a long-term member of Seventh Street Baptist Church and presently a member of Baldwin Heights Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Elton Speegle, Lee Speegle and Euell Speegle. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Jean Ray Speegle; son, Eric (Susan) Speegle; daughters, Donna (Terry) Smith, Renee (Mike) Woods and Amanda (David) McCravy; grandchildren, Karra Smith, Katie (Clint) Chalkley, Mackenzie (Andrew) McKoy, Madison (Austin) Fullilove, Kyle (Summer) Speegle, Abby (Lawson) Alexander, Lane (McKenna) Denney, Eli Denney, Shayla (Caleb) Waldner; 15 great-grandchildren with one on the way; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, friends. Pallbearers will be Danny Speegle, Josh Morgan, E.J. Carter, Marty Hardman, Caleb Waldner, Eli Denney, Kyle Speegle, Stan Smith, Cason Kretzschmar, Reburn Miller and Lane Denney.

Horace 'Button' Collins Brown, 84
Horace "Button" Collins Brown, retired Army Special Forces, passed away on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at the age of 84. After several months of declining health, he died peacefully with Martha, his beloved wife of 57 years, by his side. He is proceeded in death by his parents William A. Brown III and Lorena Berry Brown, brothers William A. Brown IV, and Elvie A. Brown. He is survived by his wife Martha, children Terri (Jack) Kimbel, Rebecca Davis, and Horace (Lara) Brown II. Horace is also survived by his grandchildren Keirce Kimbel, Peyton Kimbel, Olivia Davis, Payne Brown, Camille Brown, Audrey Davis, Aidan Brown, his nephew Barry (Royann) Brown, and several other cherished nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and nephews, along with children Sherri Chism and Scott Brown. Surviving siblings are Victor (Norma) Brown, James Brown, and Mary (Mike) Thomason-Grell. Horace was born in Cullman County, Alabama in 1940. One of six children, he was raised on a farm in Vinemont where he learned a strong work ethic that was one of the driving forces behind everything he accomplished in his life. He joined the U.S. Army in 1961 and became a member of the 7th Special Forces Group where he went on to serve two tours in Vietnam. After his father passed away in 1966, he separated from the Army to be closer to and help support his mother and two youngest siblings. He re-enlisted in 1972 and spent the remainder of his military career proudly serving as part of the 5th and 7th Special Forces Groups. As a Special Forces soldier, he had many special skills. He was an expert in demolitions, marksmanship, and survival tactics. He also spoke fluent Vietnamese, Spanish, and Arabic. He was a highly decorated war hero, receiving numerous commendations and medals during his career including The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star for heroic acts in combat, and his Master Parachute Badge. After his time in the Army, he utilized his wide array of military skills working as a defense contractor supervising security and protection for oversees government construction projects including U.S. embassies. Throughout his military career, and time working for the government, he lived and worked in more than ten countries and traveled to many, many more. He retired at the age of 70. If you were to ask most people who knew him what his greatest joy in retirement was, they would probably say being on the golf course. However, his family would tell you it was spending time with his grandchildren who he adored. Although he dedicated most of his life to serving and defending his country, he was a humble man who loved sharing stories, writing poetry and perfecting his golf game. His life was extraordinary and filled with adventure and he will be deeply missed. Visitation will be Wednesday, March 5, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. The service will be held at 2 p.m., followed by full military honors at Mt. Zion Cemetery, 17488 U.S. Highway 31, Cullman. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: The local chapter of the Special Forces Association: SFA Chapter 92, C/O Kenneth Garcy, 106 Timbercove Circle SW, Madison, AL 35756. Or Special Forces Charitable Trust www.specialforcescharitabletrust.org

Susan Rae Christensen, 52
Susan Rae Schoppe Christensen, 52, of Bremen, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 21, 2025. Susan was born on Feb. 24, 1972, to George and Barbara Schoppe in Landstuhl, Germany. She grew up in Plainfield, Illinois. After Susan graduated from Plainfield Central High School, she went on to study at Southern Illinois University. After 20 years of working in Administration, she went back to school and received her nursing degree in 2012 from Wallace State Community College, followed by her BSN from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After receiving her nursing degree, she went on to work 13 years as nurse, mostly doing hospice care and correctional nursing. She loved being a nurse and was a dedicated, hard working, and compassionate nurse. Her patients and co-workers all adored her. In 1995, Susan gave birth to her daughter and became a mother for the first time. In 2006, she met and married her husband Tom and gained a son, Sean. Susan was preceded in death by her father, George "Jerry" Schoppe and her mother, Barbara "Barb" Schoppe. She is survived by her husband, Tom Christensen; daughter, Amanda "Mandy" Schoppe; son, Sean Deaton; sister, Michelle (Dwayne) Dupre; in-laws, Jerry (Linda) Rea; and a host of other family and friends. Memorial service will be held at Hanceville Funeral Home, 100 Michelle St NW Hanceville, AL 35077, on March 4, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Carole Jean Ronk, 70
Carole Jean Ronk, of Joppa, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 19, 2025, at the age of 70. Ms. Ronk was born in California, on Sept. 19, 1954. Ms. Ronk is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clifford Ronk, Jr.; son-in-law, Arvel Richard Pruitt, Jr.; and sister, Gail Knox. Those surviving Carole includes her daughters, Bernadette Phatt, Shannon Gasaway (Nick), Christine Wayte, Susan Buckmaster; son, William Campbell (Chandra); sister, Denise Palmer; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ronk family.

Betty June Norris, 91
Betty June Norris, age 91, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 21, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on Jan. 21, 1934, to William Bryan and Hazel Estelle Howard and grew up in Vinemont, Alabama, where she attended Vinemont and Cullman Schools. In 1952, Betty married the love of her life, John Gilbert Norris, Sr., and together they built a life filled with love, faith, and family. They shared 66 wonderful years before his passing, raising their children in Eva, Alabama, across from Eva School. Betty was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose greatest joy was her family. She and John had four children: Theresa June (who passed shortly after birth), Vanessa Dale (who married Raymond Patton), Tammie Diane (who passed in 2023 was married to Ted Beck), and John Gilbert Jr. (who married Candie Fortenberry). Betty cherished her children and took immense pride in their talents—whether in music, crafting, or the simple joys of life. A woman of unwavering faith and endless energy, Betty was always busy. She ran a daycare, taught preschool, and was a dedicated entrepreneur—selling Amway, Home Interiors, and Old Worlde, operating a tanning salon in Eva, and even cleaning houses until she was 84. She was a woman of strength and resilience, always giving of herself to others. To her 8 grandchildren—Nicki, Myles, Dail, Jon, Daniel, Teresa, Bryant, and Quin, 3 grandson-in-laws (Monroe, Ben, and David), 3 granddaughters-in-law (Anicia, Marge, and Alexus), 15 great-grandchildren (Robert, Samuel, Harrison, Cassidy, Jesse, John, Benjamin, Harper, Ilyssa, Derek, Donovan, Aiden, Charlie, Savanna, and Kaylie, plus one on the way), and two great great grandchildren (Audri and Evelyn) —she was lovingly known as Mamaw. Mamaw celebrated every milestone and accomplishment, always offering love, encouragement, and a proud smile. She had a gift for nurturing—whether it was her family, her garden, or the many flowers and trees she tended to with her green thumb. Roses were her favorite. She was also a wonderful cook, known for her tea cake cookies, dandelion jelly, sausage and gravy, and squash dressing. Christmas was her favorite time of year, and her home would come alive with snowmen, Santas, red birds, and her cherished Christmas village. She had a warm and beautiful soul, filling her home with love, laughter, and the sweet smell of home-cooked meals. Betty's legacy is one of faith, love, and kindness. She was a classy, sassy, hardworking, and deeply caring woman who touched the lives of everyone who knew her. Though she will be deeply missed, her spirit will live on in the hearts of her family and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Betty's family will receive friends for visitation on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., and also Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. with a Funeral Service at 2 p.m. She will be laid to rest in Vinemont Baptist Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Mary Emma Hollis Watson
Mary wanted to be cremated and because of a variety of circumstances, the family has chosen not to hold a service for her at this time. Instead, they have created a Facebook page where you are welcome to offer condolences, share comments, and post pictures. www.facebook.com/groups/marywatsonmemorial She is preceded in death by her parents and one sister. She is survived by her husband, Gordon Watson, her children Matthew Watson, Rachel Allred (Eric), Rebekah Powell (Alan), and Micah Watson, ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, six brothers, and one sister. In lieu of flowers, please give to your church's mission projects in her memory.

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WSCC: Medication Assistant Certification courses to be held in Oneonta

Special to The Cullman Tribune

ONEONTA, Ala. — Wallace State Community College will offer Medication Assistant Certification (MAC) courses in Oneonta, with classes beginning March 17.

This short-term program will provide classroom instruction for four weeks, followed by 40 hours of clinical training.

Upon successful completion of instruction, lab and clinical components, participants names will be submitted to the Alabama Board of Nursing for testing for the National Medical Aid Certification Examination (MACE).

The classes are geared to those who have received certification as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), have completed a CNA program, or have completed Nursing 112 in an accredited nursing program.

The total cost of the course ranges from $1,100 to $1,200.

Scholarships are available through the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to reimburse students for the $950 registration fee after they successfully complete the program.

Expenses not covered by the scholarship include the $173.50 MACE exam fee, $52 background check and any required immunizations.

Other potential expanses include scrubs and a computer with a high-speed connection.

An orientation session for registered students will be held on March 17, at 8 a.m., at the Oneonta Academic Center.

Regular classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., starting on March 31, and continuing for four weeks. Clinicals will begin after April 24.

"Medication Assistants. Play a key role in the healthcare setting and assist licensed personnel to deliver a. high level of care," said Rhonda Abbot, coordinator/lead instructor of the MAC program.

"They have the knowledge of proper medication dosages, medication storage, collecting vital signs as ordered prior to medication and dispensing, monitoring patients' reactions to medications, and maintaining accurate medication records."

Medication Assistants are most often employed by long-term facilities, such as nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

They administer medications under the supervision of a licensed nurse.

Registration is currently open for classes at the Oneonta Academic Center.

Students may contact Jessica Pritchett at jessica.pritchett@wallacestate.edu for more information and the link to register for classes and to apply for the ACCS Short-Term Scholarship.

MAC classes have also been held at the Hanceville campus, with the next courses to be held there in June.

The MAC classes are part of a wide range of short-term classes offered by Wallace State's Center for Career and Workforce Development.

For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu/ccwd.



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