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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –


**Maples' walk-off lifts Cullman over Mortimer Jordan in extra innings, 7-6**
» PAGE 4


7 93888 98541 4

# Harbison resigning from Alabama House

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope, who represents District 12, said he will be resigning his seat by April 15.

Harbison said he has a few grants he's promised to assist with before he leaves.

"I want to make sure that I get these groups the money I promised to get them," Harbison said. "I will get a date soon, but for sure no later than April 15. A law was passed several years ago that did away with special elections after a certain point in the term. That is coming up on us this summer, so I wanted to make sure to leave plenty of time. If I passed the date, we would not have a representative for over a year." » PAGE 4

*Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope »*



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

# Happy 100th Birthday, Marjorie Kreps!




PHOTOS: REBECCA KREPS

***Main:** Marjorie Kreps celebrated her 100th birthday on March 17, 2025. She is pictured here at her birthday party on Sunday, March 16, 2025. **Bottom right:** A younger Marjorie Kreps*

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Cullman's Marjorie Kreps celebrated her 100th birthday on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2025.

Majorie is a devoted Christian who always encourages her children and loved ones to attend church. "I am very, very blessed. It's amazing, and just to think of the things that she has seen in her lifetime," said her daughter, Rebecca Kreps.

Even for her 100th birthday, Marjorie's only request was to attend her church, St. Paul's Lutheran, on Sunday, showing her love for Christ and her church family. During the church service, the congregation celebrated her 100 years of life by having the children's choir sing "Happy Birthday," followed by the entire congregation joining in the singing. Her daughter described it as a deeply emotional and beautiful moment as her mother is both the oldest in the church and her nursing home.

Although the family usually hosts a small gathering for Marjorie's birthday, this year was a much larger turnout. On Sunday, March 16, her family held a birthday celebration at her residence, Woodland Village. They invited extended family from Mississippi and ended up with 40 to 50 people coming to celebrate Majorie's life. Marjorie sat under a "100" balloon arrangement, wore a crown, greeted her guests personally and blew out her candles. All her guests signed a memory book to commemorate the occasion.

Marjorie's life has been a beautiful century filled with wonderful memo- » PAGE 5

# Legacy Credit Union to acquire First Community Bank of Cullman

» PAGE 2

# Cullman City Council receives education report, moves on airport improvements



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***The Cullman City Council and Cullman City Schools recognized the achievements of two students in computer programming and app development on Monday, March 17, 2025. Left to right are Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff, Technology Integration Specialist Misty Waldrop, Lauren Hughes, Kinslee Barnett and Councilman Clint Hollingsworth.*** » PAGE 5

# Small Business Easter Market this Saturday in Cullman

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**PET OF THE WEEK**

## Let Vicki-Jo dazzle you with a show



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

*Vicki-Jo*

» PAGE 4

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CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported March 19

**Cullman Tribune staff**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 19, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

No arrests or incidents reported.

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**March 13**

- theft of property-2nd degree; person; medication
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $27; Olive St. SW

**March 17**

- theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; general merchandise; $41; 3rd St. SE
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $21; Hwy. 157
- attempted unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle; person; Hwy. 157

**ARRESTS**

**March 17-March 18**

**Laney, Dalene M.; 56**

- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Hook, Kodi J.; 30**

- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Harris, Karlissa M.; 31**

- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

**Reneau, Daryl W.; 53**

- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

**Peeples Jr., Christopher D.; 33**

- FTA – public intoxication

**Chambers, Melissa A.; 46**

- theft of property-4th degree

**Brant, Jared L.; 46**

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – insurance violation

**Pickel, Jason S.; 42**

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- false information to law enforcement officer

**Hook, Kodi J.; 30**

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – DUI

**Tucker Jr., Timothy W.; 46**

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

**Massey, Eric D.; 46**

- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Uselton, Adam L.; 35**

- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while suspended

**Hoskyns, Wesley S.; 37**

- criminal surveillance

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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# Bank (from Front)

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** — Legacy Community Federal Credit Union and First Community Bank of Cullman on Tuesday, March 18, announced they have executed a definitive agreement for the purchase and assumption of the assets and liabilities of First Community by Legacy. The transaction has already received unanimous approval from the Board of Directors of each institution. The two organizations both have a long history of community-focused service, so the opportunity to combine resources made this transaction a natural progression.

"Legacy has been committed to crafting financial solutions for the communities we serve for over seventy years," said Glenn Bryan, Legacy's president and CEO. "Our culture emphasizes excellence, education, energy and empowerment, and we look forward to bringing our approach to financial service to the people of Cullman County. We know that First Community has built a very similar tradition over the last century, so we are excited to work with them as we expand into this new market."

Billy Faulk, president and CEO of First Community Bank, agreed adding, "After decades of service to the Cullman area, the decision was made by our Board of Directors to seek a partner that could take our service to the next level. We were determined to find a group that held the same philosophy of business that we do, and after an extensive search, we found that in Legacy. We are confident that this decision will benefit our customers and our community for years into the future."

Both institutions are exceptionally strong, so the combined organization will create the ability to expand on the strengths of each institution, bringing together a full range of consumer and business products, including state of the art digital banking, quality checking options and high-yield savings accounts.

The acquisition will be an all-cash transaction, the amount of which has not been disclosed. The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed later this year.

Legacy is represented by Michael Bell of Honigman, LLP, as legal counsel. First Community Bank is represented by Jones Walker, LLP, and St. John & St. John, LLP, as legal counsel and Hovde Group, LLC, as financial advisor.

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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
- Friday, March 21 - 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.
- Sunday, March 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.

**Puzzle Tournament**
Saturday, March 22, beginning at 10 a.m. at the downtown branch of the Cullman County Public Library System. Groups will put together 500-piece puzzles in two hours or less. The first three groups to complete the puzzle will win gift baskets. Interested participants should email cullmanpubliclibarary@gmail.com so there are enough puzzles for contestants. Groups will need to arrive early to get started. The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman.

**Feed the Five, Food Drive and Singing**
Saturday, April 5, at 5 p.m. At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435, Vinemont. One Voice, Loretta Jett and The Glory Echoes will be guest singers. Admission is five cans or boxes of nonperishable food per person.

**41st Annual Bloomin' Festival**
April 5-6, held adjacent to the beautiful Ave Maria Grotto. Over 150 arts and crafts vendors, delicious specialty foods and a welcoming community atmosphere. Gate donation: $10 per person (Children 12 and younger – FREE!) Grand Prize Giveaway: 2025 Buick Encore GX – Sunday, April 6, at 4 p.m. (You do not have to be present to win!) NO PETS ALLOWED. All proceeds benefit St. Bernard Prep School. For more information, visit www.bloominfestival.com.

**Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Spring Revival**
Sunday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday, April 7-9, at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Bro. Jared Dixon. The Dixons" will be singing Sunday. Everyone is invited. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-1501.

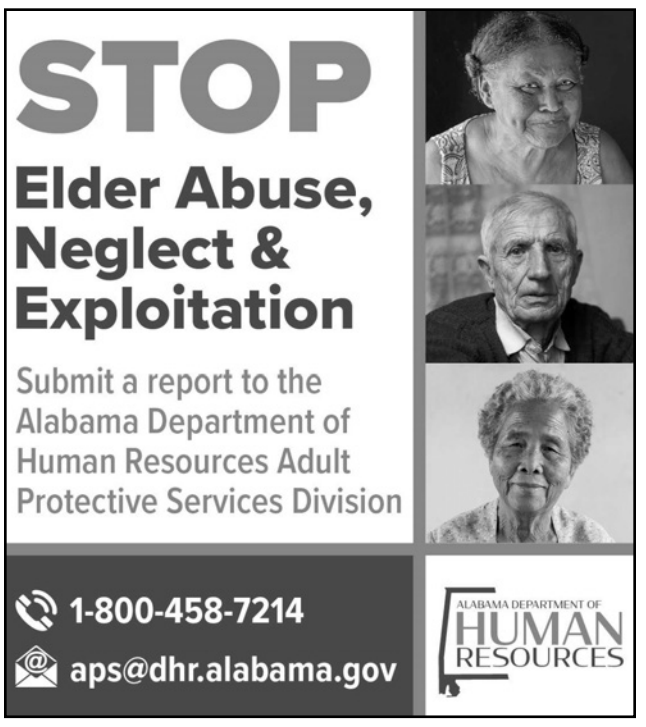
**Ladies' Conference**
Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with lunch at noon. At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435 in Vinemont. Guest speaker Kristy Garrison Harris: Trusting God through every season. There will be games and door prizes. Please join us.

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## FUNDRAISER

**SWAMP JOHN'S FUNDRAISER** Friday, March 28, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church 615 Main Avenue, SW, Cullman $15 plate (eat in or take out) Proceeds to benefit CREEA

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PREP SOFTBALL

# Cold Springs collects 10-7 win at Vinemont

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**VINEMONT, Ala.** — Cold Springs traveled to Vinemont for a battle of the Eagles Monday night, and it was a shootout between the two county squads. After falling behind 3-1 in the fourth, Cold Springs plated six runs in the fifth to move in front and held off a late push from Vinemont to earn a 10-7 win on the road.

Back to back singles from Kaydance Williams and Brooklyn Ingram gave Cold Springs a pair of runners in the top of the first. Both runners advanced with steals and Williams scored in a run down later in the inning to give Cold Springs a 1-0 lead. Vinemont was unable to get on the board in the bottom of the first but starting pitcher Tori Vines struck out the side in the top of the second to hold lead at 1-0.

Vines drew a walk to lead off the bottom of the second. Aleeyah Holmes entered as a courtesy runner and after advancing to second on a wild pitch, Alaina Sandlin lined a double into center field to score Holmes and tie the game at 1 going into the third. After a scoreless third inning, Vinemont pulled ahead in the bottom of the fourth. Bryleigh Basinger knocked a leadoff double into center field and advanced to third on a passed ball.

Vines drew a walk to put runners on the corners and Kylie Metxger laid down a bunt to score Basinger and give Vinemont a 2-1 lead. Holmes scored on a fielder's choice later in the inning to make it a 3-1 game going into the fifth.

Cold Springs responded in the top half of the fifth. Sadie Smith led things off with a single and just a few pitches later, Aleah Addison tied the game at 3 with an inside the park homerun into deep right field. Williams, Ingram and Adriana Young strung together three straight singles to put Cold Springs in front 4-3 and Ingram scored on a fielder's choice a few pitches later to make it 5-3.

Joci Williams ripped a 2-run single into right field to cap a 6-run inning for Cold Springs and stretch the lead to 7-3 going into the bottom half of the inning.

Singles from Abby Kuykendall, Arleigh Thomason and Vines loaded the bases for Vinemont in the bottom of the fifth and Haley Millwood punched a 2-run single into right field to cut the lead to 7-5 heading into the sixth inning. Brooke Rowan led off the top of the sixth with a double and scored on an error just one pitch later to give Cold Springs an 8-5 lead. Addison scored on a fielder's choice later in the inning to make it a 9-5 game going into the bottom half of the inning.

Jadyn Knott and Darcy Carmack each drew walks to lead off the bottom of the sixth and later in the inning, a fielder's choice allowed Carmack to score and trim the lead to 9-6. Basinger shot a double into right field to plate Kuykendall and make it a 2-run game with just one inning to play.

Cloe Shelton scored on a fielder's choice to put Cold Springs ahead by 3 in the top of the seventh and Vinemont was unable to rally in the final frame, sealing a 10-7 road win for Cold Springs.

Joci Williams (2 RBIs), Ingram (1 RBI), Young (1 RBI) and Kaydance Williams each posted a pair of hits in the win. Addison (HR) finished with a pair of RBIs. Millwood (2 RBIs) and Basinger (1 RBI) each recorded three hits for Vinemont and Sandlin added a pair of hits and RBIs.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*The Cold Springs Lady Eagles defeated Vinemont on the road 10-7 Monday night.*

PREP SOFTBALL

# Maples' walk-off lifts Cullman over Mortimer Jordan in extra innings, 7-6

**Nick Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Cullman Bearcats were back home to open area play against Mortimer Jordan Tuesday night and seven innings weren't enough to decide things in this one. Trailing 6-4 with two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Samantha Johnson's 2-run home run tied things up at 6 and sent the game into extra innings. With a pair of runners on base and two outs on the board in the bottom of the eighth, Abby Maples punched a walk-off single into right field to seal a 7-6, come from behind area win for Cullman.

A 2-run home run put Mortimer Jordan in front 2-0 in the top of the first, but the Bearcats responded in the bottom half of the inning. Abby Maples and Samantha Johnson drew walks to put a pair of runners on base and Summer Storey lined a single into left field to plate Maples and cut the lead to 2-1. A few pitches later, Dracen Bates knocked a double into left field to bring Johnson home to score and tie the game at 2 going into the second inning.

After a scoreless second, the Blue Devils took advantage of an error in third to move back in front 3-2. Mortimer Jordan led off the top of the fourth with back to back doubles to extend the lead to 4-2 and tacked on another run in the fifth to make it a 5-2 game.

The 'Cats were held hitless for three straight innings but were able to cut into the lead in the bottom of the fifth. Presley Burden and Maples led off the inning with back to back singles and Hattie Graham lifted a sacrifice fly into deep center field to bring Burden home on a sacrifice fly and trim the lead to 5-3 headed to the sixth.

Mortimer Jordan got the run back in the top of the sixth, scoring on a pair of singles to pull ahead 6-3 but Cullman wasn't done chipping away.

In the bottom of the sixth, Bates blasted a solo home run over the left field fence to make it a 6-4 game going into the final frame.

The Bearcats kept the Blue Devils off the board in the top of the seventh and down to their final out in the bottom half of the inning, Graham reached first on an error to keep Cullman's chances alive. Three pitches later, Johnson drove a 2-run bomb over the left field fence to tie things up at 6 and send the game to extra innings.

Mortimer Jordan was held scoreless once again in the top of the eighth and the Bearcats were finally able to pull ahead for good in the home half of the inning.

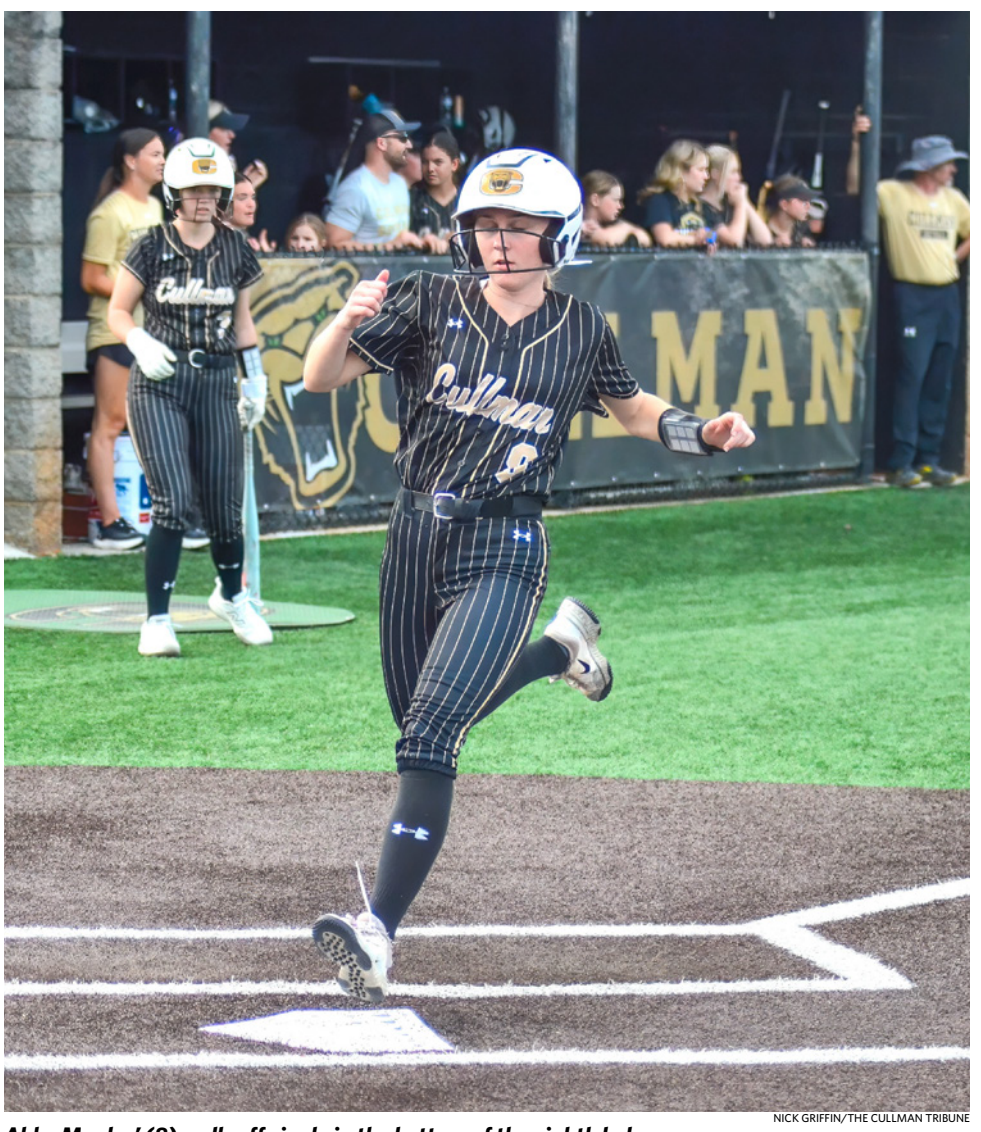
With two outs on the board once again, Haylee Little drew a walk and Burden reached base on an error to put the winning run in scoring position.

That's when Maples shot a walk-off line drive into right field to plate Little and complete the comeback for the 'Cats.

Bates and Johnson each finished with two hits and two RBIs in the win. Maples added a pair of hits and an RBI and Burden and Storey (one RBI) each posted hits as well.

Storey went six innings in the circle, allowing three earned runs on six hits and striking out one batter. Sydney Hill tossed the final two innings in relief, allowing a pair of earned runs on four hits and collecting a strikeout of her own.

Cullman will continue area play on Thursday with a road game against Jasper.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Abby Maples' (8) walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth led Cullman to a 7-6 win over Mortimer Jordan Tuesday night.*

# Vicki-Jo (from Front)

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Meet Vicki-Jo, a 3-year-old terrier mix who is The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

She's a small bundle of low to medium energy who will make someone a very happy caretaker.

Vicki-Jo is a renaissance girl who is humble and unassuming. She is a true lover of life which makes her the quintessential therapy/companion/reading/hiking gal.

Her adoption fee is $135, which includes spay, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you come by to visit with Vicki-Jo but she's already gone, meet with her friends, as they are all looking for their perfect partners! Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

# Harbison (from Front)

Harbison said he plans to stay around Cullman County to be close to family and continue to work for the City of Good Hope.

"I know there are whispers that I may run for sheriff," Harbison said.

"The office accounts for over half of the County's budgeted expenditures. There are a lot of employees who work there, too. I think that someone could have 25 years' experience working as a deputy, but be clueless about being sheriff and actually running something of that magnitude. This definitely isn't a campaign pitch because I really have no clue if I am going to run. I've just had a lot of people asking about it so I wanted to address it. I do appreciate all of the support and encouragement from everyone. It's a year away so I have plenty of time to think about it."

Harbison said he is not committed to running for any office at this time.

"I was elected mayor (of Good Hope) at 22 and served there for six years," he said.

"I was elected to the House and resigned the mayor's seat to serve in the House, and I've been there for 11 years.

"I didn't have any children when I was first elected, which allowed me to have unlimited time to work whatever hours.

"When we had our first child, Hance, I had just started my second term.

"He and my wife would come stay in Montgomery with me during the sessions so I got to be with them every night."

Harbison shared he and his wife did in vitro again as he was starting this current term.

"Hance started school the next year so that was the end of them being able to stay with me," he said.

"My wife gave birth to our third child, Corley, which was an unexpected pregnancy, just as Hance was starting school.

"So that put her at home with three children with two of them being babies. Both of the babies were born five weeks premature."

Harbison's second child, Rowan, spent the first two weeks of his life in St Vincent's NICU.

"He was born with a small hole in his heart and it gave complications," Harbison said. "He's good and healthy now, but will probably have an operation this fall to close the hole.

We had two stays in Children's NICU with Corley. She had RSV and she was deathly sick. While dealing with that, they found that her diaphragm is unlevel so it's pressed up against her lung and that is what made her case of RSV so severe.

"The lung that the diaphragm is pressed against didn't have the space to grow like it should have.

"So, we had those complications and they are more than likely going to have to have an operation to try to correct that. Both experiences changed my perspective on a lot of things."

Harbison's oldest child plays some type of ball year-round and he shared that he wants to remain heavily involved.

"I don't think that a father should be away from their children," Harbison said.

"I've always said I want to be called Corey. I don't like titles. I don't like to be called representative and didn't like to be called mayor.

"When I'm dead and gone, the only title that I care about being remembered as is daddy and I plan to be the best one I can be.

"I can't say what future office I may run for because I really don't know, but if I do ever run for anything, it will be something here at home in Cullman County, Alabama."

FAITH

# Preiss family to offer handcrafted veils, mantillas, rosaries at 41st annual Bloomin' Festival

**Joyce Nix**
St. Bernard Prep

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Preiss family, known for beautifully handcrafted Catholic chapel veils, mantillas and rosaries, will be showcasing their unique collection at the 41st annual Bloomin' Festival April 5-6, 2025, at St. Bernard Prep School.

John, Teresa and Lauren Preiss have been dedicated to preserving the sacred tradition of veiling in church, handcrafting elegant and high-quality veils since 2000. Their veils and mantillas, cherished by Catholic women across the globe, are sold both individually and through gift shops throughout the United States. Their mission is to encourage women to embrace the timeless beauty and reverence of veiling during Mass by offering veils that are both comfortable and affordable.

"Our goal is to help women deepen their faith through this beautiful tradition," said Teresa Preiss, a devoted wife, mother of 10 and homeschool educator. "Wearing a veil at Mass is a powerful sign of reverence, humility and devotion. We are honored to provide veils that allow women to express their faith in a meaningful and dignified way."

The practice of veiling has deep roots in Catholic tradition, dating back to St. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:5-6, where he speaks of women covering their heads in prayer. It serves as a reminder of the sacredness of the liturgy and the mystery of faith, much like the way sacred objects such as the tabernacle and the altar are veiled in church. The Preiss family offers veils in a variety of styles, with black, white and ivory available at Bloomin' Festival. Custom orders will also be accepted during the event.

Lauren Preiss, who has been making mantillas since she was 8 years old, shares a passion for this tradition, along with her four sisters, who all wear veils to Mass. "We even like to wear different colors for the liturgical seasons, like red for Christmas and Valentine's Day," she said.

In addition to veils, the Preiss family will also be offering handmade rosaries, most of which are crafted from olive wood, with some featuring glass beads. Each rosary is prayerfully made with the traditional 53 Hail Marys and six Our Fathers, serving as a powerful tool for devotion. Rosary bracelets will also be available, and custom rosaries can be made on-site.

The family's deep connection to their faith is further reflected in their work with Fr. Fox's Fatima Family Apostolate, an organization founded by the late Fr. Robert J. Fox in devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. John Preiss currently serves as its president, while Lauren Preiss works on weekends at the Fatima Family Museum, where she welcomes visitors and shares Fr. Fox's story and his love for Our Lady's message.



ST. BERNARD PREP

*The Preiss family*

With First Communions and Confirmations approaching in May, the Preiss family looks forward to helping families find the perfect veils and rosaries for these special sacraments.

"We invite everyone to stop by our booth at Bloomin' Festival," said John Preiss. "Whether you are looking for a veil, a rosary or simply want to learn more about the tradition of veiling, we are excited to meet you and share this beautiful part of our faith."

For more information about the Preiss family's veils and rosaries, visit their booth at Bloomin' Festival or their website at www.veilsandmantillas.com.

# Hannah Shankle bringing unique pet-inspired art to 41st annual Bloomin' Festival

**Joyce Nix**
St. Bernard Prep

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The 41st annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair is set to welcome a wide array of talented artisans, including Hannah Shankle of Madison, Alabama. With a lifelong passion for art and animals, Shankle has turned her love for drawing dogs and cats into a thriving creative business, offering an extensive selection of handcrafted, pet-themed products.

Shankle's specialty lies in her beautifully illustrated handmade greeting cards, each adorned with her original dog and cat artwork. Her collection includes designs for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, thank-you notes and more, all reflecting the deep emotional bond between pets and their owners. Many of her cards are enhanced with handcrafted embellishments, adding a unique, personal touch to every piece.

Beyond greeting cards, Shankle's shop features an array of pet-themed items, including notepads, notebooks, stickers, keychains and earrings, all showcasing her signature pet illustrations and paw print logo. She has also expanded her collection to include lifestyle products such as cups and ornaments, each adorned with her hand-drawn designs.

For those looking to celebrate their beloved pets in a more personalized way, Shankle offers custom pet portraits on ornaments, canvases, T-shirts and coffee cups. Her detailed artistic process ensures each piece captures the personality and charm of every pet.

In addition to her pet-focused creations, Shankle brings an innovative twist to her artistry by upcycling VHS tape boxes into purses. Each purse is hand-sewn with a lining and features a strap for easy carrying, all while showcasing the original movie cover of beloved family friendly films.

Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to explore Shankle's unique collection and take home one-of-a-kind, handcrafted pet-inspired treasures.

Don't miss the chance to meet her and discover her heartfelt creations at the Bloomin' Festival, taking place April 5-6, 2025, at St. Bernard Prep School in Cullman.

For more information about the Bloomin' Festival, visit www.bloominfestival.com.



ST. BERNARD PREP

*Hannah Shankle*

# Kreps (from Front)

ries and experiences.

Despite being a private individual, she has an outgoing personality and a love for dance that she shared with the community.

Marjorie and her late husband taught traditional German dance and participated in the German Club, spreading their love of culture at schools and events.

Majorie's late husband was in the Army, which caused them to travel frequently, but eventually, it led them to Cullman, where they finally found a place to plant roots.

If Marjorie could pass along one piece of advice to younger generations, it would be a simple but powerful statement, "Go to church for sure. Manage your money. Spend it wisely and always save for an emergency," she said.

# Council (from Front)

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Cullman City Council on Monday welcomed faculty and students from Cullman City Schools to celebrate achievements and get an update on happenings in the system.

Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff and Technology Integration Specialist Misty Waldrop introduced two students who recently won district competitions in the Governor's App Challenge, a statewide computer programming competition. According to Kallhoff, "The goal of the challenge is to allow more students to gain recognition for their mastery and application of computer programming and design."

**The council presented certificates to:**

- Elementary division winner Lauren Hughes, fourth grader from West Elementary, for her app "Presidential Brain Busters"
- Middle School division winner Kinslee Barnett, sixth grader from West Elementary, for her app "Daily Devotions"

Both won at the District 6 competition, and will represent Cullman on April 15, 2025, at the Alabama Computer Science Summit in Montgomery.

**Kallhoff also gave an update on construction work in the system:**

- High School STEM Wing: "You can now see the footprint of our new wing at CHS and its indention into the bank just south of the agriculture building and math building."
- Cullman Intermediate School: "The unsuitable soil has been removed and good soil returned in its place. Now the contractors will begin the foundation for the gym/storm shelter for the campus."
- Cullman Middle School: "Earlier this month we made the announcement that we will not transition our sixth grade to CMS in August. Although the contractors on that project are projecting to be completed in late July, it is not worth running a risk of them missing their deadline and us having to reverse six months of planning in two weeks. Once school begins in August, we will monitor their progress and adjust as needed."
- Accreditation: Kallhoff announced that the system will complete the accreditation process it does every five years with Cognia. The superintendent added, "We have been working on this for a few months now, and it all concludes with a presentation to the team leaders from Cognia this week. I want to recognize Sharron Windham who has led us through the accreditation process since last summer. The accreditation process through Cognia requires systems to show evidence of six standards via surveys, assessment data, observation data and self-assessments."
- Job fair: "This week, we host our second annual job fair. Administrators from all schools and the central office will be at Cullman City Primary on Thursday (March 20, 2025) from 3:30-5:30 to meet and greet people who may be interested in joining our winning team."

Kallhoff also noted that spring break is next week, March 24-28, 2025, followed by state testing in grades 2-8. Schools will be out on Good Friday, April 18.

That day was designated as a weather make-up day, but missed days this school year were either declared a state of emergency by Governor Kay Ivey or forgiven by the Alabama State Department of Education. Friday, May 2, 2025, is also a day off due to Cullman hosting the state track meet.

**Airport improvements approved**

The council turned its attention to the Cullman Regional Airport, hearing from Airport Director Ben Harrison and approving three resolutions concerning upcoming improvements.

Harrison told the council that years of reconstruction projects are drawing to a close with one last item placed on the evening's agenda, and that new construction is set to start soon after that.

The council approved resolutions for engineering contracts with Goodwyn Mills Cawood for apron reconstruction and the development of a new taxiway into a new multiacre parcel that will open up possible new development and expansion in the future.

The council also authorized the mayor to negotiate with property owners around the airport to purchase air easements, removal of trees or lowering of tree tops along approaches to the runway.

The council also set a public hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7 p.m. for an ordinance to rezone the Coots property located on Marie Street Northwest from R-3 to R-4 Residential District, and approved resolutions to:

- Assess the cost of demolishing and removing a dangerous structure at 1509 Bower Dr. SE
- Award the bid for a pickup truck to the lowest responsible bidder, Bill Smith GMC, in the amount of $50,457.50

The council also approved special event requests:

- From City Clerk Wes Moore to hold the State Track Meet at Cullman High School beginning on May 1, 2025, and ending on May 3, 2025
- From Joyce Nix of St. Bernard Prep School for the annual Bloomin' Festival April 5-6, 2025

The Cullman City Council meets next at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, in the city hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.






# Market (from Front)

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Small Business Easter Market will take place this Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center.

Founder Shayla Waldner said the first 60 shoppers in line at 10 a.m. will receive free gifts.

"There will be 80 vendors on-site to shop, food trucks, kids' face painting and more," she said.

An Easter egg hunt will take place at 9 a.m.

Train rides will be available for $3.

There will also be a petting zoo — it's free, but feeding requires a donation.

"We will have pictures with the Easter Bunny, and the photographer is optional but highly recommended," Waldner said.

Food trucks and a shaved ice truck will be on-site, as well as an ATM. Admission is $3.

For more information, visit https://tinyurl.com/SBEM2025.

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center is located at 17645 U.S. Highway 31.

# LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM ALEXANDER SUTTON, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2024-457

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Letters Of Administration, having been granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of March, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of 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.

Matthew Rutherford
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

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**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: The estate of Kimberley Michele Johnson, Deceased ) Case No.: PC-2025- 097

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Brian Joseph Johnson, as the Administrator of the Estate of Kimberley Michele Johnson, deceased, on the 18th day of March, 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.

Brian Joseph Johnson
Administrator of the Estate of
Kimberley Michele Johnson, deceased

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

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Kimberley Michele Johnson, deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256)739-3970

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-083

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICKIE ALLEN SCHMALE, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Leslie Michelle Schmale on the 11th day of March, 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.

Leslie Michelle Schmale
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

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**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JEFFERY BOYD, Deceased. * CASE NO PC 2019-034

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO SEAL REAL PROPERTY and 2nd MOTION FOR AUTHORITY TO SELL REAL PROPERTY**

TO: **LUCAS BOYD AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS OF JEFFERY BOYD, DECEASED**

*Motion for Authority to Sell Real Property and 2nd Motion for Authority to Sell Real Property* filed by Andy M. Sieja, Attorney for Personal Representative Randy Nix, has been filed with the Court. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the 22nd day of May, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 11th day of March, 2025

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Andy M. Sieja
Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne, P.C.
PO Box 2087 (35804)
2101 Clinton Avenue West, Suite 102
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

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**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: The Estate of DAVID G. ASKINS, SR., Deceased.** * **CASE NO.: PC2025-075**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to David G. Askins, Jr. on the 17th day of March, 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 herby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

DAVID G. ASKINS, JR.
Administrator

/s/ Lynn Campisi
Lynn Campisi
Attorney for Administrator of the
ESTATE OF DAVID G. ASKINS, SR.
3016 Pump House Road
Birmingham, AL 35243
Phone: (205)967-1010

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 17th day of March, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CLETUS SIMS, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-022

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Janet Turner as Personal Representative of the Estate of Cletus Sims, deceased, on the 4th day of March, 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.

Janet Turner
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

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**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN THE MATTER OF M.K.W., a minor, DOB: 02-11-2022.** * **CASE NO.: JU 22-558.02**

**NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING**

ANGEL KAY LAMEY, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above referenced child born on February 11, 2022, by the 17th day of April, 2025, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 6 day of March, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

FILED IN OFFICE
MAR 06 2025
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

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**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: The Estate of DAVID TIMOTHY SMITH, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2024-405

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to CECELIA ELOUISE SMITH, as Administrator, of the ESTATE OF DAVID TIMOTHY SMITH, deceased, on the 4th day of March, 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.

Cecelia Elouise Smith
Administrator of the Estate of
David Timothy Smith, deceased

**Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)**
Attorney for the Estate of
David Timothy Smith, deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com

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 4th day of March, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

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**CITY OF GOOD HOPE**
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**Project Name: Community Center / Storm Shelter Project**
**File Number:** 101.2400242

Sealed Bid Proposals will be received by the City of Good Hope, at the Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Dr., no later than April 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM local time for this project, at which time bids will be opened and read.

Pre-Bid Conference: Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference is not mandatory for a General Contractor to submit a bid on this Project. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Dr., on April 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time.

Project Scope: Construction of a multi-use Community Center. The building will be designed and constructed to proper International Building Codes for storm shelters. The new facility should have a capacity of approximately 350 people and be equipped with spaces for special events and meetings.

Award of the contract will be made within fifty (50) calendar days from the date of the bid opening.

Plans and Specifications: Plans and specifications and all related Contract Documents are open for public inspection at the office of Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Dr. and plans, specifications, and other elements of the contract documents may be obtained from the office of Waggoner Engineering, designated as the office of the awarding authority for this purpose, located at 1 Perimeter Park South, Suite 450N, Birmingham, Alabama. The contact person for the project is Scott Promer. He can be reached at scott.promer@waggonereng.com or by phone at 205-370-9169.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GARRELL RAYBURN WHITE Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-001

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY of said estate having been granted to JOY CARTRON by the HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate of CULLMAN County, Alabama on the 4th day of March, 2025. Notice is hereby given that all parties having any claims against the estate must present the same within the time required by law or they will be barred. This notice in no way acknowledges the validity of any claim filed, and the Estate reserves the right to contest any claim filed.

JOY CARTRON
Personal Representative

A copy of said claim shall also be served upon Petitioner's counsel of record.

CLEMENT J. CARTRON
*Attorney for The Estate of Garrell Rayburn White*
Cartron & Jacobs LLC
2310 Market Place, Suite B
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 533-0900
(256) 533-0937 - fax

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

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NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by David Bryan Morrow An Unmarried Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Royal Pacific Funding Corp., its successors and assigns dated October 20, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on October 24, 2023, in Book 2066, Page 394 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Royal Pacific Funding Corporation by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2112, Page 727 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.
The undersigned, Royal Pacific Funding Corporation, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 1st day of May, 2025 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Commencing at a 5/8 inch rebar at the Southeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 31, T10S, R1W of the Huntsville Meridian; thence North a distance of 315.91 feet; thence West a distance of 188.18 feet to a 1/2 inch rebar, Cap #CA-0078 in Community Center Road at the point of beginning; thence North 88 degrees 44' 57" West a distance of 118.14 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar; thence North 01 degrees 13' 07" East a distance of 210.00 feet to a 5/8 inch rebar capped #5742; thence South 88 degrees 46' 52" East a distance of 253.06 feet to a 1/2 inch rebar Cap #CA-0078 in Community Center Road; thence South 33 degrees 55' 55" West a distance of 249.67 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to right of way for Community Center Road and all existing rights of ways and or easements of record.

Said property is commonly known as 173 County Road 663, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned.
The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

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as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street North, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-06623AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

OP-ED

# The first half of the 2025 regular session has been impressive, but the best is yet to come

**Garlan Gudger**
Alabama Senate President Pro Tem

Today (March 19, 2025) is the 15th legislative day of the 2025 regular session, which marks the halfway point allowed by the Alabama Constitution, and while much work still awaits us, the Senate has already approved several significant measures designed to make an already great state even better.

It is my first session as Senate president pro tem, a post that became vacant when my predecessor, Sen. Greg Reed, R-Jasper, resigned his seat in order to join Gov. Kay Ivey's cabinet, and I am grateful that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle unanimously elected me to lead the chamber.

On my first day as pro tem, I noted that someone once referred to politics as "a circus hitched to a tornado," and now, almost two months into the job, I can assure you that the tornado is spinning even faster, and the circus has added a third ring.

A quirk in our body's rules prohibits bills from being pre-filed in the Senate if the pro tem's office is vacant, so my election immediately opened a floodgate of legislation.

For that reason, it would have been understandable if we had slow rolled the start of the session, but we went in the opposite direction and came out of the gate hot.

The Senate leadership made a conscious decision to focus our early efforts on supplementing and paralleling the policies being enacted by President Trump in the White House and the Republicans in the U.S. Congress, and the reasoning behind that choice is simple.

When conservative policies are enacted on the federal level, great things can happen, and when conservative policies are enacted on the state level, great things can also happen, but when conservative policies are enacted on both the federal and state levels simultaneously, great things can happen twice as fast.

It is the reason why the very first bill passed by the State Senate this session was the "What is a Woman Act," a measure that injects a strong dose of clarity into a silly debate that has dominated the national conversation for far too long.

Sponsored by Sen. April Weaver, R-Brierfield, it enacts easy-to-understand, biology-based definitions for terms like man and woman, male and female, boy and girl, and mother and father into state law.

While some woke extremists claim that there are as many as 74 different genders, most Alabamians understand an eternal truth that has remained in place since Adam first laid eyes on Eve — men are born men and women are born women.

Priority passage of the legislation, which Gov. Kay Ivey has already signed into law, demonstrates that the Alabama Senate is guided by common sense and traditional values, not by trendy social fads and woke nonsense.

We have also worked through a package of bills addressing illegal immigration,



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

***Alabama Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman***

which resulted after several state senators toured Joe Biden's open Mexican border in Texas last year.

Illegal immigrants thumb their noses at our laws the moment they arrive, and they use our services and drain our resources without contributing a dime in state income tax in return, so one bill by Sen. Chris Elliott, R-Josephine, invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses issued to those who did not first prove their legal status, another by Sen. Wes Kitchens, R-Arab, establishes the crime of human smuggling for knowingly transporting an illegal immigrant and a third by Sen. Lance Bell, R-Pell City, allows state and local law enforcement to collect fingerprints and DNA from illegal immigrants who are in custody.

All three measures have passed the Senate with additional bills related to illegal immigration expected to join them soon.

Too many Alabamians today feel unsafe in the communities that they call home, too many criminals feel empowered to ignore the laws that keep us safe and too many law enforcement officers feel that they lack support from elected officials who are supposed to have their backs.

In response, the Senate has already passed several pieces of a public safety package designed to reverse these trends and combat the lack of respect for law and order that took firm root in some areas of Alabama in recent years.

Another interesting and much-needed bill sponsored by Sen. Merika Coleman, D-Pleasant Grove, seeks to require men to accept their responsibilities by allowing judges to order child support beginning at conception if paternity is legally established within one year of a child's birth.

In presenting her bill, Sen. Coleman noted that the costs of having a child begin well before birth as nurseries are prepared and clothes, diapers and other supplies are purchased. She argued that all of those costs, too, should be shared.

The legislation received unanimous approval with members from both sides of the aisle speaking in its support because we all understand that men who father children should not be allowed to financially shirk the result of their actions.

Other important bills too numerous to mention here have also secured approval since the session's start, but the Senate must keep its eyes firmly focused on the work that awaits us in the second half.

Passage of the Education Trust Fund and General Fund budgets — the Legislature's predominant constitutional duty — remains before us along with consideration of several tax cut proposals, education reforms and additional measures designed to make Alabama an even better place to live, work, worship and raise families.

So as impressive as the accomplishments detailed above may appear, sit back and wait because you ain't seen nothin' yet...

Garlan Gudger, a small business owner, serves as president pro tem of the Alabama Senate and represents District 4, which includes portions of Cullman, Marion and Winston counties.

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# Obituary Announcements: March 18-19

**Gregory Paul Mize, 56**
Memorial Service for Gregory Paul Mize, 56 of Holly Pond, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Jason Whitehead officiating. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Mize passed away on Friday, March 14, 2025. He was born, July 13, 1968, to Butch Mize and Mary Mize. Survivors include his wife, Melissa Mize; sons, Jordan (Harley) Mize, Devin (Gabby) Mize, Will Barnett and Kile Weaver; grandson, Clayton Mize; parents, Butch and Mary Mize; brother; Jeff (Kayla) Mize, his dog, Lucy Mize and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

**Kenneth 'Red' Harrington, 79**
Kenneth "Red" Harrington, age 79, of Cullman, Alabama, passed Monday, March 17, 2025, at Folsom Center in Cullman, Alabama, he was born on Aug. 10, 1945. Arrangements are being handled by Cullman Heritage Funeral Home-Crematory-Cemetery, 255 County Road 1435, Cullman, AL; a Memorial service will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2025, Rev. Samuel Tucker officiating.

**Rev. John Wesley Purifoy, Jr., 78**
Funeral services for Rev. John Wesley Purifoy Jr., 78, of Colony will be 2 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Burial will follow the service at Colony Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, March 21, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Reverend John Wesley Purifoy, Jr was born June 6, 1946, to the late John, Sr., and Hattie Sanders Purifoy, in Warrior, Alabama. He was the eldest of six children. He is preceded in death, by his parents, his grandparents Edward and Annie Lee Purifoy, his sister Norma Jean Gates, his brother Claudis L. Purifoy and his in-laws Paul T. and Margaret Williams. John accepted Christ at an early age and joined St. James United Methodist Church in Warrior, Alabama, under the leadership of Rev. O.V. Porter. He later moved his membership to Pleasant Grove United Methodist, Colony, Alabama. John departed this life on March 14, 2025. John graduated from Hooper City High School in 1964. He later began working in his chosen profession as an optician for over 60 years. On Jan. 5,1969, he married the love of his life Gwendolyn Johnson. He moved to Colony, Alabama where he began his new life. Three children were born into this union: John, III, Kimberly, and Jason. The joys of John's life were putting God first then family and friends. He loved fishing, sports and children. Then had a deep concern for the young generation in church and community. He was very supportive of everyone always encouraging. When the Town of Colony became incorporated in 1981, John was elected as its first Mayor, of the Town of Colony, serving one term. He opened Fashion Optical, as a part-time business in the 1980's, but decided to become fully self-employed in 1996 and did so until his passing. While making eyeglasses, John was given plenty time to study God's word and discuss it with his customers. When he felt the calling of the Lord, John became a Lay Speaker first and progressed into the ministry of the Methodist Church. He completed the United Methodist Licensing School, to become a local pastor. His first appointment was Holston Chapel United Methodist Church, located in Trafford, Alabama, where he served as pastor for two years. After which he was appointed to Lakeview United Methodist Church located in Tanner, Alabama. John joyfully served as pastor for six years. His health began to fail and he returned to his home church, Pleasant Grove United Methodist, where he served as an Associate until his passing. He leaves to cherish his loving wife of 56 years, Gwendolyn. His children John, III, Kimberly, and Jason (Gia). His grandchildren Justin Brown, Brandon Purifoy, Keith Twitty, II, Peyton Purifoy-Cain (Austin), Jason, and one great-grandchild Jada Brown. His siblings Jeanette Hanna, Larry Purifoy (Melva Jean), and Shirley Jackson of Warrior, Alabama. Three brothers-in-law, Erskine Williams and Theophilus Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, and Paul Williams (Veronica) of Jackson, Tennessee, and Annette (Melvin) Caudle of Gurley, Alabama. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

**Wanda Sue Dillard Craig, 81**
Wanda Sue Dillard Craig, born Feb. 10, 1944, entered her heavenly home on March 15, 2025. Sue as she was known was born in San Diego, California, during the height of World War II. Her parents, Lloyd George Dillard and Doris Nell Compton were living there working in the military supply companies. She grew up on the farm in southern Cullman County learning the meaning of hard work. She attended Hanceville High School and graduated on June 4, 1962. Her class was known as the "Class of 62". She attended Florence State College, now UNA, for one year, came home, got a job, and married. Soon she became a stay-at-home mother to her two beautiful daughters, Kristi Suzanne Wren Creel and Kara Shae Wren Myers. She later returned to college attending Wallace State and Athens State obtaining a BS in Elementary Education, Alabama A&M obtaining a master's degree in Elementary Education, UAB obtaining Administrative Leadership Certification and finally National Board Certification. She worked with Cullman County Schools for 35 years as an educator. Her love was to see children learn to read. She attended Damascus Missionary Baptist Church for many years until her health prevented her from attending. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior in 1957, at the age of 13. She served in many capacities in the church. Preceded in death by her parents Lloyd George Dillard and Doris Nell Compton Dillard. She is survived by her daughters, Kristi Wren Creel (Clint) and Kara Wren Myers (Delane); the grandchildren that named her Neena, Warren Cole Creel, Lane Brooks Myers, Katherine Olivia (Katie) Creel, and Lillian Grace (Lilli) Myers; her precious great grandchild, Finn Wesley Creel; her brother, Allan Dillard (Linda) and sister, Linda Allen (Don); nephews, Brandon Dillard (Kimberly) and Adam Dillard; nieces, Cindy Pearson (Shan), Jennifer Smith (Darrin) and Tara Kelly; great nephews and nieces, Austin, Ava and Aiden Smith, Anna (Costa) and Charlie Marinakis, Katie Smith, Leah Bailey, Truett Williams, Connor Dillard, Reed Dillard and Carson Kelly. Her Home going service is at Hanceville Funeral Home on Saturday, March 22, at 1 p.m., with visitation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Burial is at Cullman City Cemetery following the service. Reverend Dale Moore and Christopher Dotson will do her service. Valerie Mays Dotson and Marlene Edwards will do the music. Pallbearers are Warren Creel, Lane Myers, Brandon Dillard, Adam Dillard, Austin Smith, Connor Dillard, Reed Dillard and Carson Kelly, honorary. Don't be sad she is gone, but happy she was a part of your life for a while.

**Donna Jo (Rivers) Cottingham, 67**
Donna Jo Rivers Cottingham, age 67, of McCalla, Alabama passed away on Monday, March 17, 2025. Donna was born in Cullman, Alabama on April 28, 1957, to Edwin and Beatrice Stricklin Rivers. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother -in-law: Gary Shores. She worked and retired as a Medical Records Coder. Her greatest love was her family and music. Graveside services will be on Thursday March 20, 2025, at Ryans Creek Baptist Church Cemetery at 2 p.m. with Brother David Cottingham officiating. She is survived by her husband: Jack Cottingham of McCalla, Alabama, sons: Eric (Helen) Cottingham of Trussville, Alabama, Elliott Cottingham of McCalla, Alabama, sisters: Judy (Ralph Bradford of Cullman, Alabama, Sherry (William) Calvert of Cullman, Alabama, Mary Shores of Cullman, Alabama, brother-in-law: David (Karen) Cottingham of Northport, Alabama, grandchild: Wren Cottingham and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and friends. Visitation will be on Thursday, March 20, 2025, from12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Leon Zachary Waters, 37**
Leon Zachary Waters, age 37, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Leon is survived by his parents Ronald and Margaret Waters; his brother John Waters; his sisters Crystal and Mary Waters. Leon was preceded in death by his sister Kimberly Waters. A celebration of life graveside service for Leon will be held Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Good Hope Cemetery, 90 Good Hope School Road, Good Hope, AL 35057. In Lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made in Leon's honor to the charity of your choice. To leave condolences for the Waters family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Jerry 'Frog' Miller, 76**
Jerry "Frog" Miller, 76 of Cullman, Alabama passed away in the early hours of Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Born on May 18, 1948, in Cullman, Frog was a beloved figure whose vibrant personality and unforgettable presence left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him. Affectionately known as 'Frog', he was a larger-than-life character who could turn an ordinary day into an extraordinary memory. With his boundless energy, humor, and a loud voice that always loved to sing, Frog brought joy and laughter to countless lives. A graduate of Cullman High School and a proud Veteran of the United States Navy, he was admired as a legend, an icon, and even a hero by many in his community. To his friends, he was fiercely loyal- a friend for life. Frog is survived by his loving daughter, Jamie (Michael) Smith; his brother, Bryce (Nancy) Miller; and two cherished grandsons, Garrett Smith and Nolan Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman Jackson and Flora M. Persall Miller; two brothers, Larry Emmett Miller and Arvi Lee 'Al' Miller; three sisters, Iva Lee Horibe, Joyce Anne Brindley and Linda Faye Jones; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and dear friends. Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at 1:30 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Berlin, Alabama. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com. Frog's memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy of laughter and love will never be forgotten.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 20, 2025

# Spring bulbs not blooming? Plan for next season

**Lexie Hare**
Alabama Cooperative Extension System


ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala.** — Spring is just around the corner. As the sun shines brighter and the weather becomes warmer, people start to see the bulbs they planted in the dormant season grow and blossom. Or do they? What if the bulbs aren't blooming?

According to Lilly Oaks, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System home horticulture agent, people can try applying a bulb fertilizer to boost flower production. However, a lack of blooms may be a result of planting the bulbs are the wrong time.

"Spring-blooming bulbs need to be planted in late fall to early winter, from November to January," Oaks said. "If the bulbs are planted after that time frame, their foliage may still emerge, but the bulb may not have had time to store enough energy to produce a bloom."

While gardeners cannot do much now if this is case, they can always plan to ensure they have blooming bulbs next year. Spring bulbs are an excellent way to begin gardening or landscaping, allowing people to grow and enjoy beautiful flowers with minimal effort.

"Growing spring-blooming bulbs are exciting because you plant them a few months before you want to enjoy them," Oaks said.

"Then, when most plants are lying dormant, you can start to see those bulbs sprouting from the ground. It feels like you are getting a glimpse of the spring season to come,"

When purchasing spring bulbs for planting, make sure to check them carefully for signs of mold or softness. Bulbs that are decaying will rot when planted and cease to grow. When planting your bulbs, location is key. Spring bulbs flourish in sunlight, though they can still bloom in partial shade. However, they may have trouble blooming in areas with heavy shade.

For gardeners seeking a bulb that can tolerate some shade, daffodils are a great choice. Alternatively, tulips are a spectacular choice for bulbs that bloom in the sun. After selecting the right location, use a hand shovel to dig a hole roughly 6 inches deep. Place the bulb in the ground with the pointed end facing up. Then, cover it with soil and give it a light watering.

**More information**

By following these planting tips, gardeners increase the chances of seeing blooms next spring. For more tips on growing spring bulbs, check out the Extension Brief, "Fall into Spring by Planting Bulbs." For more gardening information, visit the Lawn and Garden section of the Alabama Extension website, www.aces.edu.

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