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Cullman woman 2nd person charged with manslaughter in Good Hope case

Lauren Estes
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GOOD HOPE, Ala. — A Cullman County woman is now facing a manslaughter charge in connection with the death of a man in Good Hope last month.

Kinsey Nikole Burns, 21, of Cullman, was arrested March 20, on charges of manslaughter - fentanyl and corpse abuse. She is the second person to be charged in connection with the death of Anthony Mark Sturgeon, 29, of Cullman.

Court documents allege:

MANSLAUGHTER - FENTANYL: KINSEY NIKOLE BURNS did, on or about February 7, 2025, knowingly sell, furnish, give away, deliver or distribute a controlled substance in violation of 13A-12-211, which contained fentanyl, any mixture containing fentanyl, or any » PAGE 2



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kinsey Nikole Burns

CHS Theatre shines in multiple festivals



CHS THEATRE

Cullman High School Theatre was recently invited to the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Maryland, and the International Thespians Festival in Indiana.

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman High School Theatre was recently invited to the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Maryland, and the International Thespians Festival in Indiana. Invitations to both were earned with Best in Show performances state festivals over the past several months.

The department competed in the Walter Trumbauer State Festival in December and the 2025 Alabama Thespian Festival in February, winning Best in Show at each under the direction of Wayne Cook and Sarah Jane Skinner.

The Walter Trumbauer Festival, named after a theater professor at Montevallo University, is one of the most important weekends for CHS Theatre. Twelve schools across the state are selected to perform in the One Act Festival, and Cullman High School has had the privilege of participating for nine out of the last 10 years. The department has won Best in Show three times at the state level. Its performance of "The Old Man and the Moon" won the award, earning the group a special invitation to represent Alabama at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

The department's performance of "Charlotte's Web" won Best in Show at this year's Alabama Thespian Festival in February. Along with the award came an invitation to represent the state of Alabama and perform at the International Thespians Festival in Bloomington, Indiana, June 22-27.

"The Old Man and the Moon," a play based on a fable about the moon's waxing and waning, was brought to life in a unique way by the department. The show included shadow puppetry, live music, unique lighting and unconventional sets, adding a creative flair. The tale of "Charlotte's Web," selected to be performed as an Alabama Thespian Chapter Select Show, was also chosen to share with the community's children. Life-size puppets were used to bring the story to life, and the show was performed for the students of East and West Elementary Schools, Cullman Primary School and Head Start.

During the competitions, the department received several other recognitions, such as Best Lighting and Sound Design at Trumbauer. Many students were also recognized individually » PAGE 6

Good Hope Council approves resolution to revise procurement procedures
» PAGE 5

Lions open NJCAA Women's Tournament with win over Murray State



WSCC ATHLETICS

The Wallace State Women's Basketball Team defeated Murray State 62-46 Tuesday night to advance to the second round of the NJCAA Tournament.
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Sportsman Lake Park hosting annual free Easter Egg Hunt April 19
» PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Notable Ned



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Notable Ned
» PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 26

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 26, 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 24

- theft of property-4th degree; person; chair; $100; 5th St. SW
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of lost property-4th degree; person; cash; 2nd Ave. SW

March 25

- theft by deception; Whataburger; cash

ARRESTS

March 24-25

Champion, Jennifer L.; 41

- unlawful possession/receiving of a controlled substance

Grove, Andrew J.; 28

- unlawful possession/receiving of a controlled substance
- public intoxication

Rittenhouse, Kelly G.; 58

- DUI (other substance)

Taylor, Scotty J.; 49

- public intoxication

Capps, Emory O.; 56

- 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.

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Fairview High School 100 Year Celebration 5K/Fun Run coming April 12

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — As part of the Fairview High School 100 Year Celebration, a 5K race and Mile Fun Run will take place Saturday, April 12.

Event Coordinator and Fairview teacher Leslie Arnold said proceeds will benefit the school through the work of the Alumni Association.

"Each 5K finisher will receive a FHS 100 Year Celebration medal," Arnold said. "Chipped race timing will be provided by Running Lane. The race registration is open through race day."

Early registration costs are $25 per 5K runner and $20 per Fun Run participant. If you would like to participate in both, there is an additional $5 fee.

There will be a $5 price increase after March 28. All participants registered by March 28 will be guaranteed a 100 Year Celebration 5K T-shirt.

Race day check-in begins at 7 a.m. at Fairview High School's Joe Shults Gymnasium. The 5K will begin at 8, and the Fun Run at 9:15. Awards will follow at 10.

Awards will be given as follows: Overall Male And Female, Masters Male and Female and first, second and third place in all ages groups: 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+.

"Stick around after the race for more fun and food at the 100 Year Celebration," Arnold said. "This event is filled to the brim with activities for the entire family, including a car, truck, motorcycle and tractor show. There will also be food and craft vendors."

For more information on the 5K and Mile Fun Run, visit www.runsignup.com/Race/AL/Cullman/FairviewAlumni5k.

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Huge Estate Sale, March 28, March 29, 7:00 am, 1606 Woodland Street NW—Like new lift chairs, bedroom suites, dining room suites, antiques, collections-carnival, milk glass, Art of Chokin, Blenko, kitchen ware, clothes and a whole lot more check out here and on PKEstate Sale FB & Blenko, Carnival, Fire King, Cape Cod, lots... starts on 3/28/2025

Case (from Front)

synthetic controlled substance fentanyl, or any synthetic controlled substance fentanyl analogue described in Sections 20-2-23 and 20-2-25, and the person to whom the controlled substance was sold, furnished, given, delivered or distributed died as a proximate result of the use of the controlled substance, to-wit: PROVIDED FENTANYL TO ANTHONY MARK STURGEON WHICH CAUSED HIS DEATH, in violation of 13A-6-3(3) of the Code of Alabama (1975).

CORPSE ABUSE: KINSEY NIKOLE BURNS did, on or about February 7, 2025, knowingly treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage ordinary family sensibilities, to-wit: BY DUMPING THE BODY OF ANTHONY MARK STURGEON AT GOOD HOPE CITY PARK, in violation of 13A-11-13 of the Code of Alabama (1975).

Sturgeon's body was found at a Good Hope park on Saturday, Feb. 8.

On March 19, Gregory Wayne Aycock, 55, of Cullman, was arrested. He is charged with manslaughter - fentanyl, first-degree hindering prosecution and corpse abuse.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry told The Tribune in February, "Preliminary indications are believed to be a drug overdose. It is believed that Aycock moved the body in question."

Burns is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center without bond, as is Aycock.

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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 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! Dinner at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
- Sunday, March 30 - 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.

Swamp John's Fundraiser
Friday, March 28, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church, 615 Main Ave. SW, Cullman. $15 a plate (eat in or take out). Proceeds to benefit CREEA.

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.

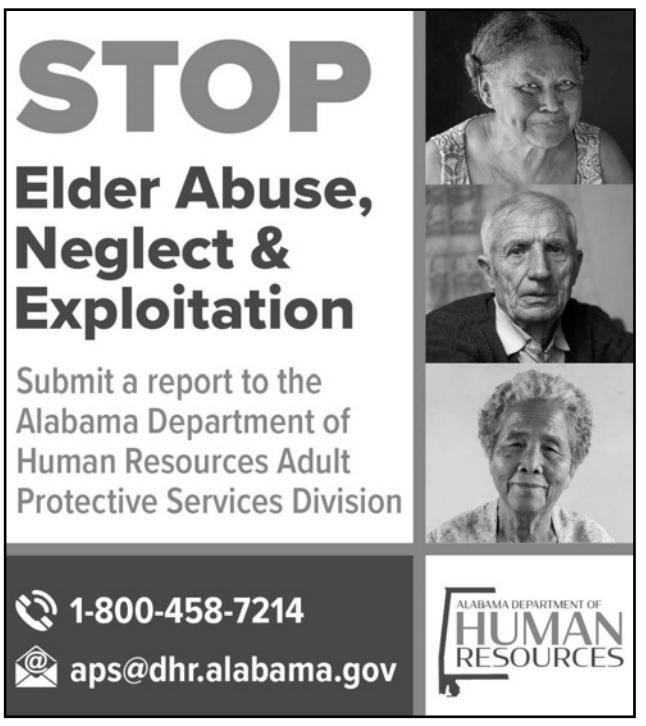
Ladies' Conference
Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with lunch at noon. At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435 in Vinemont. Guest speaker Kristy Garrison Harris: Trusting God through every season. There will be games and door prizes. Please join us.

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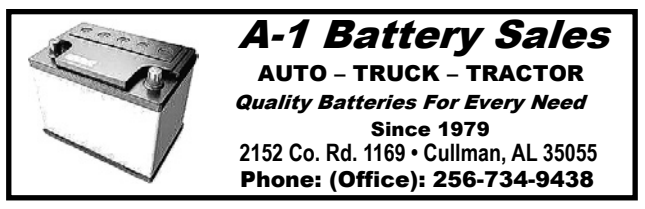
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PREP BASEBALL

West Point falls to Decatur on the road, Tuesday scoring recap

Nick Griffin, Sammy Confer
The Cullman Tribune

DECATUR, Ala. — It's spring break across the state this week but that hasn't stopped several of our local teams from getting back on the field and playing against some strong competition as the final stretch of the regular season approaches. One of those teams, West Point, hit the road on Tuesday for a matchup against Decatur. After falling behind early, the Warriors made a push in the fifth inning to cut into the lead but it wasn't enough to overcome the Red Raiders and West Point returned home with a 12-7 loss.

Decatur jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning and the Red Raiders tacked on three more runs in the second to make it a 7-0 game. Decatur continued to dominate the early innings, plating five more runs in the third inning to take a commanding, 12-0 lead.

The Warriors began to battle back in the top of the fourth. Back to back doubles from Charlie Ashley and Cade Welborn cut the lead to 12-1 and later in the inning, another double off the bat of Cooper Howard drove in another run to make it 12-2. West Point continued to chip away in the fifth.

Welborn drove in Boston Freeman with a sacrifice fly to trim the lead to 12-3 and just three pitches later, an RBI double from Jay Lamar brought the lead down to 12-4.

Ashley scored on an error a few pitches later to make it a 12-5 game and Lamar scored on a passed ball later in the inning to make it 12-6.

After a scoreless sixth inning, An RBI single from Hunter Graves cut the lead to 5 but the Warriors were unable to chip away any more than that and Decatur held on to win it 12-7.

Howard posted a pair of hits and RBIs in the loss. Welborn (one hit) drove in a pair of runs as well.

West Point will be back home on Thursday for a doubleheader with McAdory and Douglas.

Cleveland 5 – Cold Springs 4 (Baseball) (Monday)

The Panthers plated four runs in the top of the first to take an early lead and put the Eagles in a hole early on. An RBI single from Boston Archer cut the lead to 4-1 in the bottom of the first and just a few pitches later, Mason Gable shot a 2-run single back up the middle to make it a 4-3 game going into the second.

Both defenses and starting pitchers settled in once the second inning began but after five scoreless innings, Cleveland got one more run on the board in the top of the seventh to stretch its lead to 5-3 going into the final frame. Bennett Phillips led off the bottom of the seventh with a solo home run to make it a 1-run game, but the Eagles were unable to get any closer than that and Cleveland held on to secure a 5-4 win.

Gable finished the game with three hits and a pair of RBIs and Phillips added two hits and an RBI.

Vincent 11 – Holly Pond 1 (Baseball)

Sawyer Olinger led off the top of the first with a single into center field and after Boston Gibbs was hit by a pitch, Brody Howard laid down a sacrifice bunt to move them both into scoring position. Olinger came home to score on a wild pitch later in the inning, putting Holly Pond in front 1-0 going into the bottom half of the first.

Unfortunately for the Broncos, that was the only run they were able to score in the contest.

Vincent pulled ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the first and after a scoreless second inning, the Yellow Jackets put eight runs on the board in the third to stretch their lead to 10-1. Vincent scored one more run in the fifth to cap an 11-1 win over Holly Pond.

Olinger finished with two hits in the loss and Carson Ryan added a hit as well.

Guntersville 16 – West Point 1 (Baseball) (Monday)

The Wildcats took control of this one right out of the gate, stringing together eight hits and putting 13 runs on the board in the bottom of the first to build a huge, early lead. An RBI single from Jay Lamar made it a 13-1 game in the top of the second but the was the only run the Warriors were able to score, allowing Guntersville to pull away with a 16-1 win.

Charlie Ashley led West Point with a pair of hits in the loss and Lamar and Cade Welborn each added hits as well.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Warriors fell at Decatur 12-7 on Tuesday night.

Good Hope 6 - Elmore County 4 (Softball)

A fielder's choice and a two-run triple helped Elmore County get out to a quick 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. After getting shut out in the first two games, Good Hope's offense got something going in the top of the fourth inning. Haley Lay led off the fourth with a double, and Benefield followed that up with a single to put runners on the corners with nobody out. Miller got hit by the pitch to load the bases, and Lay scored on an infield single by Addyson Burgess to cut it to 3-1.

Maggie O'Neil got hit by the pitch to make it a one-run game, and Gracie Garmon scored on a passed ball to tie things up at three. Steed hit a two-run double to center field to give the Lady Raiders a 5-3 lead. An RBI single by Smith made it 6-3, but the Lady Panthers scored on an error in their half to cut it to 6-4. Good Hope didn't let them get any closer after that the rest of the game, as they would go on to defeat Elmore County 6-4.

Steed led the way for the Lady Raiders with a hit and two RBIs, while Smith, Burgess, and O'Neil all posted a hit and an RBI in the win.

Oswego East 13 - Good Hope 0 (Softball)

Good Hope's first game of the day came against Oswego, and the Lady Wolves put up seven runs in the opening inning. The Lady Raiders were unable to counter and ended up getting shut out by Oswego 13-0.

Lizzy Steed and Kylee Smith each finished with a hit in the game for Good Hope.

Chelsea 14 - Good Hope 0 (Softball)

Good Hope took on Chelsea in their second game of the day, and it was all Lady Hornets from start to finish and went on to defeat the Lady Raiders 14-0.

Molly Benefield finished with a pair of hits for Good Hope, while Steed and Natalie Miller each added a hit as well.

Vestavia Hills 7 - West Point 0 (Softball)

West Point faced off against Vestavia Hills on Tuesday morning. The Lady Warriors couldn't get anything going offensively and ended up getting shut out by the Lady Rebels 7-0.

Katie Beth Yovino collected the only hit of the game for West Point.

Houston Academy 10 - West Point 0 (Softball)

West Point took on Houston Academy in their second game of the day, and the Lady Raiders ended up shutting out the Lady Warriors 10-0.

Kylie Burks finished with the only hit of the game for West Point.

Lebron's walk-off single secures No. 12 Alabama's 4-3 win over North Alabama

Nick Cicere
UA Athletics

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — With two outs and the winning run at second, Justin Lebron lined a walk-off single down the left field line to push No. 12 Alabama baseball to a 4-3 win over North Alabama at Toyota Field in Huntsville, Ala. on Tuesday. The Crimson Tide snapped a brief two-game losing streak with the win while improving to 23-3 with the victory.

Lebron's game-ending single stood as his only hit on the night, as the Tide shortstop closed 1-for-4 with one RBI and a hit-by-pitch. Kade Snell was the lone Alabama player with multiple hits, managing a 2-for-4 line with a double and a run scored. Garrett Staton returned to the lineup after missing 21 games due to injury, going 1-for-3 with a double, two RBI and a walk. Coleman Mizell recorded a base-hit in his first appearance atop the Tide order as well, finishing 1-for-5.

Aeden Finateri made his second start of the spring on Tuesday and opened the game in dominant fashion, tossing 2.0 scoreless frames to go with one hit and three strikeouts. Coulson Buchanan struck out five of the seven batters he faced, also contributing 2.0 shutout innings. Jack Ketchum tallied one out in a pivotal eighth, while Carson Ozmer (2-0) pitched the final 1.2 innings for the Tide, working around two walks in addition to one strikeout.

From Head Coach Rob Vaughn

"What a great atmosphere in Madison tonight. A very well-pitched game by both teams came down to your best player needing to be your best player, and he got it done. College baseball is such a roller coaster and on a night that we were not elite at the plate and couldn't really string anything together, we pitched well enough to give (Justin) Lebron a chance in the ninth and he didn't miss. Proud of the toughness and fight, and now we turn our attention to a great Oklahoma team coming to town this weekend."

How It Happened

- B4 I Kade Snell led off the inning with a double before Will Hodo worked a one-out walk. A productive out moved both men into scoring position, leading to Garrett Staton's two-run double to right-center. (2-0, Alabama)
- T6 I The Lions earned a leadoff walk before a two-out, two-run home run leveled the score. (2-2)
- B7 I Richie Bonomolo Jr. drew a one-out walk, eventually stealing second. Coleman Mizell grounded a single at the Lions first baseman, though an errant throw from the UNA second baseman towards first allowed Bonomolo Jr. to score. (3-2, Alabama)
- T8 I UNA opened the frame with a double, while a productive out moved the runner to third. A sacrifice fly to center would later bring in the tying run. (3-3)
- B9 I Will Plattner, who entered as a defensive replacement in the seventh, worked a walk to begin the frame and moved to second following a sacrifice bunt. With two outs, Justin Lebron lined a single down the left field line to plate the winning run. (4-3, Alabama)

Postgame Notes

- The walkoff win stands as Alabama's third such victory this season, and the first since Jason Torres' walkoff single against Presbyterian on March 7
- The Alabama pitching staff produced 14 strikeouts in the win, matching its season-high
- Kade Snell improved his hitting streak to six games on Tuesday, batting 13-for-24 (.541) with three doubles, two home runs, five RBI and three runs scored in that span
- With two more hits on Tuesday, Snell now has 15 multi-hit efforts in 26 starts this season
- Snell also lengthened his on-base streak to 23 consecutive games
- Will Hodo extended his on-base streak to 26 consecutive games
- Coleman Mizell stretched his on-base streak to 25 consecutive games
- Will Plattner improved his on-base streak to 10 straight games
- Coulson Buchanan recorded five strikeouts in 2.0 innings of work on Tuesday, surpassing his previous career-high of four strikeouts set on March 3 of last season against Dallas Baptist
- ATTENDANCE: 5,931

Up Next

- Alabama returns to Sewell-Thomas Stadium on Friday, March 28, to open a three-game weekend set against No. 9 Oklahoma
- The contest between the Crimson Tide and the Sooners will start at 6:00 p.m. CT, airing on SEC Network+





‘Paradise Lost’ trials ramping up at CHS

DA Champ Crocker helps with CHS English project ‘trial’

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A long-running project to use literature as a gateway to teaching students more about the legal system received a bit of help from Cullman County’s own district attorney recently at Cullman High School.

For the past several years, CHS English Department Chair Denise Burroughs has held a “trial” as part of her class based on “Paradise Lost,” the 1667 epic poem by John Milton. Students are assigned to read and study the poem and prepare to argue different points and sides about morality in the historical text. Local judges including Rusty Turner, Greg Nicholas and Chad Floyd have donated their time in past years to assist with the trials.

For this year’s trial, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker volunteered to come and provide trial preparation tips for students ahead of the event.

“He walked the students through courtroom etiquette and tips about how to construct an argument, how to question a witness and how to best be an advocate,” Burroughs explained. ″Since the district attorney’s visit, I have noticed the students’ conversations and preparation have taken on new life; they are more focused on separating what is most important in the text to prove their own client less guilty.”

The project is a clever way to introduce students to concepts and procedures within the justice system, while also pushing them to think critically as they craft their arguments and strategies. One newer aspect even has students using social media to promote their case, which helps get the entire student body invested in the trials. This year’s trials are set for Friday, April 4.

“It is quite the production utilizing elaborate sets, costuming, sound and lighting — all representative of symbolic elements within the text of the poem,” Burroughs said. “The students are working together and interacting with people they may not normally have much in common with. Among other things, this project gets students out of their comfort zones and forces them to think deeply, critically and creatively.”

Cullman City Schools is appreciative of Crocker and all those who take the time out to help support the project, which has become a centerpiece event for English students over the past several years.

“I often have students who tell me the only reason they took AP Literature was because of the ‘Paradise Lost’ trials,” Burroughs said. “The fact that these kids can still get so excited about a 17th century poem is both rare and encouraging.”



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker works with Cullman High School students as they prepare for an English project based around the epic poem “Paradise Lost.”

Good Hope (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting at Good Hope City Hall Monday night and approved a new resolution as part of a recent Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) audit. ADECA performs its own audit whenever it provides funds for a project and upon its completion, the council approved Resolution No: 007-2025 to revise its procurement procedures and officially adopt a written code of ethics and standards.

Resolution No: 007-2025
1. That the Mayor and City Council does hereby revise the policies to govern purchasing and to establish efficient and economical procurement and selection procedures for obtaining labor, materials and services.

2. That the City of Good Hope does hereby adopt a Code of Ethics and the City will maintain a written code of standards to conduct the governing of their employees engaging in the awarding and administration of contracts. No employee, officer or agent of the City shall participate in selection or in the awarding or administration of contract supported by federal funds if a conflict of interest is real or apparent would be involved.

3. The policy attached becomes a part of this resolution

Sec. 4 Methods of Procurement
The City will follow the procurement methods described below and will ensure that all contracts will be in writing, include the appropriate state, federal, and local clauses, and that all contracts will be authorized by the Commission. Further, the City will ensure that the procurement of labor, services, or materials will be conducted in accordance with these local written procedures that conform to 24 CFR 85.36 (Common Rule), Title 41, Code of Alabama (Bid Law) and Title 39 Code of Alabama (Public Works Law). All procurement follows one of the following methods:

(1) Small Purchase
a. See State Bid Law (Title 41, Code of Alabama) Common Rule (24CFR85.36)

(1) Price or rate quotations for purchases or contracts with an aggregate cost of $30,000 or less must be obtained from at least three (3) qualified sources. (No purchase or contract involving an amount in excess of $30,000 shall be divided into parts involving amounts of $30,000 or less for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of the Bib Law.) File documentation is required

(2)
b. See Public Works Law (Title 39, Code of Alabama) and Common Rule (24CFR85.36)

1. Price or rate quotations for professional services with an aggregate cost of $100,000 or less must be obtained from at least three (3) qualified sources.

File documentation and contract for professional services are required.

2. Contracts for public works involving $100,000 or less may be let without advertising or sealed bids. Price or rate quotations must be obtained from at lease three (3) sources. (No public work involving a sum in excess of $100,000 shall be split into parts involving sums of $100,000 or less for the purposes of evading the Public Works Law.) File documentation is required.

Sealed Bids.
a. See State Bid Law (Title 41, Code of Alabama)

(1) All purchases in excess of $30,000 shall be advertised by posting notice thereof on a bulletin board maintained outside the purchasing office and in any other manner and for any length of time as may be determined. Sealed bids shall also be solicited by sending notice by mail or other electronic means to all persons, firms, or corporations who have filed a request in writing that they be listed for solicitation on bids for the particular items that are set forth in the request. All bids shall be sealed when received and shall be opened in public at the hour stated in the notice.

(2) All original bids together with all documents pertaining to the award of the contract shall be retained in accordance with a retention period of at least seven years established by the Local Government Records Commission and shall be open to public inspection.

b. See Public Works Law (Title 39, Code of Alabama)

1. Definition of Public Works: The construction, repair, renovation, or maintenance of public buildings, structures, sewers, waterworks, roads, bridges, docks, underpasses, and viaducts as well as any other improvement to be constructed, repaired, renovated, or maintained on public property and to be paid, in whole or in part, with public funds or with financing to be retired with public funds in the form of lease payments or otherwise.

2. Before entering into any contract for a public works involving an amount in excess of $100,000, the awarding authority shall advertise for sealed bids. If the awarding authority is the state or a county, or an instrumentality thereof, it shall advertise for sealed bids at least once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the improvement or some part thereof, is to be made. If the awarding authority is a municipality, or an instrumentality thereof, it shall advertise for sealed bids at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the municipality where the awarding authority is located. If no newspaper is published in the municipality, the awarding authority shall advertise by posting notice thereof on a bulletin board maintained outside the purchasing office and in any other manner and for the length of time as may be determined. In addition to bulletin board notice, sealed bids shall also be solicited by sending notice by mail to all persons who have filed a request in writing with the official designated by the awarding authority that they be listed for solicitation on bids for the public works contracts indicated in the request. For all public works contracts involving an estimated amount in excess of $500,000, awarding authorities shall also advertise for sealed bids at least once in three newspapers of general circulation throughout the state.

3. The advertisements shall briefly describe the improvement, state that plans and specifications for the improvement are on file for examination in a designated office of the awarding authority, state the procedure for obtaining plans and specifications, state the time and place in which bids shall be received and opened, and identify whether prequalification is required and where all written prequalification information is available for review. All bids shall be opened publicly at the advertised time and place

Competitive Negotiations
The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed-price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids.

If this method is used, the following requirements apply:
• See Common Rule (24CFR85.36)
• Requests for proposals will be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance.
• Proposals will be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources.
• Grantees will have a method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting awardees.
• Awards will be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.
• Grantees may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/ engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors’ qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

Noncompetitive Negotiations
Procurement by noncompetitive proposals or ″sole source″ is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source, or after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals may be used only when the award of a contract is infeasible under small purchase procedures, sealed bids or competitive proposals and one of the following circumstances applies: the item is available only from a single source; the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation; the awarding agency authorizes noncompetitive proposals; and after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

• Proper documentation that one or more of the above circumstances existed.
• There is no conflict of interest by the parties involved.
• Cost analysis, i.e., verifying the proposed cost data, the projections of the data, and the evaluation of the specific elements of costs and profits, is required. Grantees must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, grantees must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals.

1. A cost analysis must be performed when the offeror is required to submit the elements of his estimated cost, e.g., under professional, consulting, and architectural engineering services contracts.

2. A cost analysis will be necessary when adequate price competition is lacking, and for sole source procurements, including contract modifications or change orders, unless price reasonableness can be established on the basis of a catalog or market price of a commercial product sold in substantial quantities to the general public or based on prices set by law or regulation.

3. A price analysis will be used in all other instances to determine the reasonableness of the proposed contract price.

4. Grantees will negotiate profit as a separate element of the price for each contract in which there is no price competition and in all cases where cost analysis is performed

5. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration will be given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor’s investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

6. Costs or prices based on estimated costs for contracts under grants will be allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices are consistent with Federal cost principles (see Sec. 85.22).

Grantees may reference their own cost principles that comply with the applicable Federal cost principles.

7. The cost plus a percentage of cost and percentage of construction cost methods of contracting shall not be used.

Sec. 5 Contracts
All professional services shall be subject to the requirements of an approved professional services contract and shall be authorized by the Commission. All construction services shall be procured in accordance with the Competitive Bid Law and the use of a Standard Bid Package setting forth applicable State and Federal Rules and Regulations. All construction activities must be contractual and approved by the Commission.

Sec. 6 Responsible Personnel.
The Mayor shall appoint a purchasing coordinator to implement the procurement and selection procedures. The Purchasing Coordinator’s duties and responsibilities will consist of:

1. The overall coordination of the procurement of labor, materials and services to ensure legal and programmatic compliance.

2. Sufficient and clear documentation of all purchase transactions.

3. Review of all purchase requests to avoid duplicative and ineligible purchases.

4. Review of all purchase requests to avoid division of partial purchases and promote minority enterprise development.

5. Determine the most economical approach to the procurement of labor, materials, or services and classify each purchase accordingly.

6. As appropriate, the Purchasing Coordinator will assist the Community Development Coordinator in the financial and contractual administration of the program to ensure that payments for goods and/or services are issued only when:

• The expense is an eligible item and is appropriately budgeted in the approved CDBG budget.
• Sufficient and detailed source documentation is available.
• The invoice has been approved for payment as required.
• Contractors, subcontractors, and vendors have performed according to the terms and conditions of the approved agreement.

For purposes of the procedures set forth above, the Purchasing Coordinator will be the City Clerk. The Mayor may enter into contracts with the City Council’s approval.

Marshall warns Alabamians of increasing phone scams

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall is warning residents to stay vigilant against increasingly sophisticated phone scams targeting consumers across the state. Scammers are using deceptive tactics to trick victims into sending money, purchasing gift cards or making cryptocurrency transactions under false pretenses.

"If you receive a call that sounds strange, makes an offer that seems too good to be true, or pressures you into sending money — hang up immediately," said Marshall.

"Do not provide personal or financial information over the phone, and never agree to send money via Bitcoin machines, gift cards or wire transfers.

"Scammers prey on fear and urgency. If you ever feel unsure about a call, take a step back, hang up and contact our office.

"Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself from becoming a victim."

Alabama consumers have reported various scam calls, including:

• Computer and tech support scams – Fraudsters pose as tech support from well-known companies, falsely claiming your computer has a virus and requesting remote access or payment

• Sweepstakes and lottery scams – Victims are told they have won a prize but must pay fees or taxes upfront to claim their winnings

• Cryptocurrency and gift card scams – Fraudsters instruct victims to deposit money into Bitcoin kiosks or purchase gift cards as payment – common red flags for scams

• Toll scams – Scammers send fraudulent text messages claiming the recipient owes unpaid toll fees, attempting to trick them into making immediate payments. Most cities mail official toll notices to the registered vehicle owner after capturing a photo of the car and license plate.

• Jury duty scams – Fraudsters call victims, falsely claiming they missed jury duty and must pay a fine immediately over the phone to avoid an arrest warrant. Legitimate jury duty notifications and fines are never handled this way.

Marshall advises Alabamians to follow these safety tips:

• Hang up if a caller pressures you to act immediately or requests unusual payment methods

• Never give personal information (Social Security number, banking details or passwords) over the phone

• Verify the caller by contacting the company or agency directly using an official phone number

• Do not allow remote access to your computer unless you initiated contact with a trusted company

For more information on avoiding scams, visit www.alabamaag.gov or call the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-392-5658.

Notable Ned (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet 2.5-3-year-old Notable Ned, a hound mix who is The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

The lovable chap has low to medium energy.

While unassuming and pensive, this fellow is ever so quiet in his kennel.

Notable Ned also understands leash etiquette and is quickly picked up jumping over the hurdles at the shelter.

When he journeys out into the yard, he likes it best sitting or lying down close to you, just watching the world go by.

He is another precious soul who politely took a piece of his caregivers' hearts.

Notable Ned would be the perfect therapy/reading/companion buddy!

His adoption fee is $130, which includes neuter, 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 show up to visit Notable Ned and he's been adopted, don't fret, as many of his friends are also waiting for their forever homes!

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

Theatre (from Front)

for their skills and performances. Slade Turbyfield won Best Actor, and Bailee Henderson, Cadan Fales and Jameson Inscho all won All-Star Cast at Trumbauer. Henderson won Best Performer at the Alabama Thespian Festival, Lily Abbott and Isaac Heinze won Best Supporting Performers, Inscho was named All-Star Cast and the entire department won Best Ensemble.

Lions (from Front)

WSCC Sports
Contributor

CASPER, Wyo. — The Wallace State women's basketball team opened the 2025 NJCAA Women's National Tournament with a 62-46 win over Murray State College (OK).

"I was so proud of our team for the toughness and grit they played with throughout the game. I think once our nerves calmed down, we were able to settle in on offense and our defense was able to control the game," coach Joseph Simmons said. "To hold Murray State to 46 points, when they average 80 per game, shows how focused our team was on their assignments and making it difficult on them to score. We are excited to move on to the Sweet 16, and to continue our season."

It took almost two minutes for someone to score as defenses dominated the early going. Murray State got on the board first to take a 2-0 lead with 8:04 remaining in the quarter. Wallace State tied the game with 6:39 remaining when Kameron Sanders hit two free throws.

The Lions first lead came with 6:02 left in the first when Kallie Tinker hit a 3-pointer off an assist from Idaysia Mercer. After a Murray State 3-pointer to take a 7-5 lead, Sinaya Gibson hit a layup off a feed from Mercer to tie the game at 7-7. After a Murray State layup, giving them a 9-7 lead, Mercer hit a 3-pointer off an assist from Sanders to give the Lions a 10-9 lead with 3:39 remaining.

After another Murray State 3-pointer, giving them a 12-10 lead, Gibson hit a layup to tie the game at 12-12 with 1:48 left in the first. Sanders hit a free throw with 1:04 left to give Wallace a 13-12 lead. Murray State closed the quarter with a layup to take a 14-13 lead into the second quarter.

The teams continued to battle back-and-forth over the first five minutes of the second quarter with the score deadlocked at 18-18.

The Lions broke open the tight game with an 11-2 run over the final 4:22 of the first half. 3-pointers from Mercer and Sanders helped to fuel the run. Wallace outscored Murray State 16-6 in the second quarter to take a 29-20 lead into halftime.

The teams traded baskets for the first five minutes of the third quarter with the Lions holding a 38-26 advantage follings a Sanders layup with 5:01 remaining in the third quarter. After Murray State cut the Wallace State lead to 38-30, the Lions closed the quarter with a 10-3 run to take a 48-33 lead into the final quarter.

Wallace State took their largest lead of the game with 4:51 remaining when Mercer hit a layup to give the Lions a 56-35 lead. The closest that Murray State would get the rest of the game was 13 points at 59-46 with 1:23 remaining. Gibson closed out the scoring with a layup with 13 seconds remaining to give Wallace the 62-46 win.

Wallace State shot 44% for the game, including 36.8% from three, while holding Murray State to 34.8% from the field and 31.6% from 3. The Lions outrebounded Murray State 32-22, while forcing 13 Murray State turnovers. Wallace outscored Murray State 28-16 in the paint. Sanders led Wallace State (29-4) with 20 points, eight rebounds, two assists and a steal. Mercer added 17 points, five assists, two rebounds and a steal, while Gibson had 13 points and four rebounds. Tinker finished with nine points, two rebounds and a steal, while Nylaa Fuller had three points, a game-high 12 rebounds, two assists, two steals and a block.

Up Next

The Lions will meet the Northwest Florida State College Raiders in the second round on Thursday at 5:45 pm. The Raiders are the #3 seed with a record of 28-3.

LEGALS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Cullman is in the process of closing their FY23 Community Development Block Grant Project (CDBG Project #: LR-ED-PF-22-015 and ARC Project #: AL-21352). Funds from this grant were utilized by the City of Cullman to rehabilitate, reconstruct, and resurface County Road 222 from the intersection of the I-65 Exit 205 Interchange extending west to the Topre America metal stamping facility. As part of the close-out procedures the city will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Cullman City Hall in the Auditorium to discuss the close-out of this project and accept citizen input. Any citizen who would like to attend the public hearing, but has a disability which might require special materials, services, or assistance, should notify Wesley Moore at (256) 775-7109 at least three days in advance of the public hearing.

Woody Jacobs
Mayor

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

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

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

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

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
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

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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Jacobs proclaims April 'Child Abuse Prevention Month' in Cullman

Leanne H. West
City of Cullman

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs on Wednesday, March 26, proclaimed the month of April 2025 "National Child Abuse Prevention Month" (NCAPM) in the city of Cullman. The proclamation was presented to Javon Daniel and Candace Lingo of Cullman Caring for Kids (CCK), a local organization with a mission to see that "no child will ever be abused, no child will go to bed hungry, no infants will ever be shaken in anger and the cycle of abuse will be stopped."

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance aimed at educating others about the prevalence and signs of child abuse and neglect and raising awareness about the importance of preventing child maltreatment.

This initiative is rooted in communities working together to serve children and their families in meaningful, impactful ways that provide families with the support they need, especially during challenging times.

"Each year that I've been mayor I've proclaimed the month of April 'Child Abuse Prevention Month," said Jacobs. "Child abuse and neglect are serious issues that affect many communities, including Cullman, and educating the public on how to recognize and report abuse and neglect is important to help break the cycle."

In Alabama, the Department of Public Health lists child abuse and neglect as the No. 9 health concern. Rates have been increasing in recent years. In 2021, there were 26,116 reported cases of child abuse or neglect investigated in Alabama, and many cases that are never reported. Each year, Cullman Caring for Kids, Brooks' Place, Cullman County CASA, DHR and other local agencies work to educate others about child maltreatment and raise awareness about the impact child abuse has on children and society.

Providing information about best practices that are known to build parental capacity through protective factors is key to helping families become more resilient. Protective factors are conditions or attributes that mitigate or eliminate maltreatment risk factors and can increase the health and well-being of children and families. They give parents the tools they need to parent effectively, even under stress. Protective factors include nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and child youth development, parental resilience, social connections and concrete supports for parents.

"I hope that by promoting awareness and educating the public, everyone can become involved in preventing child abuse and neglect," said Jacobs.

If you suspect a child is being harmed, reporting your suspicions may protect the child and get help for the family. If you suspect a child is being maltreated, contact your local DHR or law enforcement agency.

In Cullman County those numbers include:

- Cullman County DHR (256-737-5300)
- Cullman Police Department (256-734-1434)
- Cullman County Sheriff's Office (256-775-4700)

"As I say each year, Cullman is fortunate to have so many people and organizations who seek to help children and families dealing with abuse and neglect," said Jacobs. "We appreciate them all!"

For more information on these agencies, visit them online at:

- Cullman Caring for Kids: www.cullmancaringforkids.com
- Child Advocacy Center (Brooks' Place): www.cullmancac.com
- Cullman County CASA: www.cullmancaringforkids.com/casa.html
- Cullman County DHR: www.dhr.alabama.gov/county-office-contact

For more information about National Child Abuse Awareness Month visit www.childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth.



MARY BETH SELLERS

Pictured left to right are Cullman Caring for Kids Senior Director Javon Daniel, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs and Cullman County CASA Coordinator Candace Lingo

Obituary Announcements: March 25-26

Jeffery Dale Kilgore, 60

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Jeffery Dale Kilgore, 60, of Cullman will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Mr. Kilgore passed away March 24, 2025, at UAB Hospital. He was born Nov. 12, 1964, to Billy Wayne Kilgore, Sr. and Linda Gay Kilgore. He loved motorcycles and racing. He loved to fish and just loved working. He wanted to just enjoy life to the fullest. He loved his family. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife of almost 19 years; sons, Brent (Hannah) Bynum, Justin (Brittney) Tate, Steven (Jessica) Tate, Shawn Tate; daughters, Tina Harding, Tonya Tolbert (Eric), Tasha Kilgore, Heather Tate; brothers, Pete (Missy) Kilgore, Wayne Kilgore; stepmother, Faye Kilgore; mother-in-law, Vivian Morgan; sister-in-law, Diana (Phillip) Higgins; 13 grandchildren and one on the way; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Franklin Jerome Self, 89

Funeral Service for Franklin Jerome Self, age 89 of Vinemont, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Hopewell Cemetery, burial at Hopewell Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Self passed away on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born Saturday, Sept. 21, 1935, to Finus Self and Maude Finley Self.

Moss Service Funeral Home
1901 Second Avenue Northwest
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Registration open for 3rd annual Ballin' Like a Bulldog Youth Skills Camp

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The third annual Ballin' Like a Bulldog Youth Skills Camp, presented by B&D Construction, is set to take place July 21-22, from 7:30 a.m.-noon at the Hanceville High School gym. Registration is currently open to boys and girls entering first through seventh grades in August 2025. The camp welcomes participants from across the county, regardless of school affiliation. The cost is $50 per camper, with discounts available for multiple siblings.

Camp Organizer Brittani Coker, a lifelong basketball enthusiast, shared her passion for the camp.

"My goal for hosting this camp has always been to pour into the kids of our community — to show them that our beautiful small town is behind them and to give them a positive environment to hone their skills in the craft I fell in love with as a little girl," she said.

"My Daddy put a basketball in my hand before I could even walk and my love for the game has never wavered. It is because of him that I know it is my responsibility to pay that love forward every chance I get."

She added, "Last year, we were fortunate enough to host 95 campers from all over the county and had over 60 local businesses and community members contribute to camp in one way or another. Every single penny of the registration fee for this camp is 100% put back into these children in some way."

All participants fully registered by July 12 will receive a brand-new basketball to take home at the end of the camp.

In addition, tax-deductible donations are being accepted to provide water and snacks for campers.

Those interested in registering can email ballinbballcamp@gmail.com for more information. Payment is due at the time of registration to secure a spot.

For updates, follow the 3rd Annual Ballin' Like A Bulldog Youth Skills Camp 2025 Facebook event page.

Hunt (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Sportsman Lake Park will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, beginning at 9 a.m. The event is free to attend and open to children of all ages. The hunt will be divided into age groups, with designated sections of the park set up for each group to allow for a fair chance at the egg hunt.

Participants are asked to bring their own Easter baskets to collect eggs.

"The Egg Hunt will start at 9 a.m. and we will not have another one, so be sure to get here early so you don't miss out on the fun!" said Sara Morgan, Cullman County Parks and Recreation marketing & event coordinator.

For more information, contact Sportsman Lake Part at 256-734-3052 or sportsman@co.cullman.al.us. Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, in Cullman.



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