Evolve Fitness
SWEAT | CYCLE | STRENGTH | TONE
207 2nd Ave SE
Cullman, Al 35055
evolvefitnessal
256-677-3474

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 39

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY
Your agents. Your neighbors. Your friends. For three generations.
80 YEARS
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Johnny Owen Godsey, Trey Daniel Kilpatrick, Candace Nicole Jacobs, Peggy Jane Williams, Thomas Anthony White
» PAGE 7

WEATHER
73 59
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Vinemont pulls away from West Morgan 7-3; Friday scoring recap
» PAGE 4

Get to know House District 11 candidate Heath Allbright

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heath Allbright, president of Brighton Forestry Services LLC, officially announced his candidacy for Alabama House of Representatives District 11 Representative in February. Allbright, who founded his forestry company 14 years ago, has been an active member of the community and previously served on the Cullman County Board of Education.

Allbright said his motivation to run for the House seat - vacated when former Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, moved to a position in the office of Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman - stems from a long-standing desire to serve the community and make a meaningful » PAGE 7



CONTRIBUTED

Heath Allbright

Remembering Vietnam veterans



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Local veterans organizations held a picnic in recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Cullman Veterans Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake. Members of VVA Chapter 416, VVA Chapter 1155 and VFW Post 2214 were present. Organizers would like to thank Coca Cola and Pepsi for providing drinks and The Butcher Meat Co. for helping provide the food. They would also like to thank the south Warehouse Discount Grocery for providing water.



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

2 Sacred Heart students named winners in Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest

» PAGE 6

PREP SOFTBALL

Cullman hangs on to top West Morgan 5-3



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Bearcats celebrate at the plate following Reese Hopper's 3-run home run in the first inning of Cullman's 5-3 win over West Morgan Monday night. » PAGE 7

Alabama Wildlife Federation hosting inaugural Wild Game Cook-Off April 3

» PAGE 5

Cullman Electric Cooperative to host annual Touch A Truck event April 26

» PAGE 2

Harmful if swallowed: Protecting kids from adult products

» PAGE 6

SPRING FORWARD WITH BILL'S DEALS!
Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE
ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP
*Notates all rebates applied, must have 2005 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.
GMC DEALER OF THE YEAR
6 TIMES IN A ROW!
WAS $65,735
NOW
$52,795*
NEW 2025 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLT
ECOTEC3 5.3L V8 | LEATHER | 20" POLISHED ALUMINUM WHEELS | X31 OFF ROAD SUSPENSION | CHROME ASSIST STEPS
$13,000 OFF!
STK#58112
BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

© 2025 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 31

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 31, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 27

- domestic violence; CR 458
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 426
- domestic violence; CR 38
- harassment; CR 223
- criminal trespassing; CR 397
- theft of property; Hwy. 278E
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; illegal possession of prescription drugs; CR 1141
- harassment; CR 1141
- public intoxication; CR 1043

March 28

- domestic violence; CR 1570
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 626
- burglary; CR 7001
- theft of property; Finley Cir.
- harassment; burglary; CR 38
- domestic violence; CR 615
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 490

March 29

- criminal trespassing; CR 385
- domestic violence; CR 1330
- discharging a firearm into unoccupied dwelling; Hwy. 69N
- domestic violence; CR 626
- domestic violence; CR 25
- harassment; CR 25
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1685
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession of dangerous drugs; CR 649

March 30

- public intoxication; CR 1359
- domestic violence; Tillery Rd.
- domestic violence; CR 1038
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 1059
- criminal trespassing; CR 520
- harassment; CR 64
- burglary; Blountsville St. NE
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 1251
- criminal trespassing; criminal mischief; CR 616
- tampering with physical evidence; possession of burglars tools; CR 616

ARRESTS

March 27-30

Bates, Perry R.; 68
- possession of methamphetamine

Bennefield, Kyle T.; 33
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

Cammon, Michael E.; 60
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Cofield, Felisha N.; 38
- possession of burglary tools

Doyle, Kenneth W.; 39
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of drug paraphernalia
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of dangerous drugs
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – forgery-checks
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – resisting arrest

Edmondson, James C.; 33
- public intoxication

Gatlin, Joshua A.; 28
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Jones, Christopher B.; 29
- FTA – assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-3rd degree

Kanaday, Veronica N.; 37
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lott, Dakota L.; 28
- public intoxication

Marcum, Alyssa L.; 20
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

McKinnon, Alan D.; 68
- assault-domestic-menacing-intimidation only

Peterson, Timothy S.; 39
- FTA – operating vehicle with expired tag

Thomas, Bobby W.; 42
- FTA – burglary-residence-no force
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Thompson, Douglas E.; 40
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Westbrook, Leah D.; 33
- burglary-residence-force

Wright, Christina A.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 28

- identity theft; theft of property-2nd degree; forgery-3rd degree; fraudulent use of debit/credit card; person/Merchants Bank
- theft of property-4th degree; person; iPad/miscellaneous; $400
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $40; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

March 28-30

McDonald, Steven S.; 40
- violation of domestic violence protection order

Dibartolo, Joseph A.; 25
- FTA – driving while suspended
- FTA – speeding
- FTA – insurance violation

Bennett, Anna; 50
- forgery-3rd degree
- possession forged instrument
- identity theft
- theft of property-2nd degree
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Gilley, Samantha B.; 26
- GJ – chemical endangerment of child (3 counts)

Barrett, Carson D.; 31
- DUI
- obstructing governmental operations

Paulson, Michelle A.; 50
- DUI

Marcum, Alyssa L.; 19
- FTA – insurance violation

Raymond, Robert S.; 42
- theft of property-4th degree

Cornelius, Melanie D.; 51
- theft of property-4th degree

Rector, David A.; 42
- DUI

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

Horn, Tamara J.; 56
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Cullman Electric Cooperative to host annual Touch A Truck event April 26

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Electric Cooperative will host its annual Touch A Truck event on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. The free, family-friendly event offers children and adults a hands-on opportunity to explore emergency vehicles, utility trucks, farm machinery and more. A sensory-friendly hour will be held from 9-10 a.m. for those needing a quieter experience.

Since its start in 2019, Touch A Truck has become one of the area's most anticipated spring events. Designed to give attendees an up-close look at the big trucks and equipment often seen around town, the event highlights a wide range of local services and industries. Visitors will have the opportunity to climb into the cabs, sound the sirens and interact with the professionals who operate these machines every day.

"We all see big trucks and farm tractors and emergency vehicles on the road every day, but we don't often have a chance to see them up close," said Brian Lacy, vice president of member engagement & communications for Cullman Electric Cooperative. "It's fun for children and adults to climb inside the cab and see what's going on, push some buttons, blast the sirens and honk the horn."

He continued, "The event is also a great way for our fire, police and EMS agencies as well as the local businesses that participate to connect and interact with the public. They do a great job talking with people about how these complex vehicles work, explaining how the vehicles help them do their job and helping people gain an appreciation for the different ways each business or agency serves our community."

Participating organizations will include the Cullman Fire Rescue, Cullman EMS, Hanceville Fire Department, Alabama State Troopers, Cullman Electric Cooperative, Sprout Fiber Internet, Cullman Power Board, James R. Smith, R.E. Garrison, Wallace State, Kaplan Trucking, Perfect Choice Towing, Dixie Towing, Brothers Concrete Supply, Dickerson Services (featuring a Tesla Cybertruck), Wiregrass Construction and the Cullman County Library's Bookmobile.

Local food trucks and other food vendors will be available during the event. Additional vendors not listed above may be added as the event date approaches.

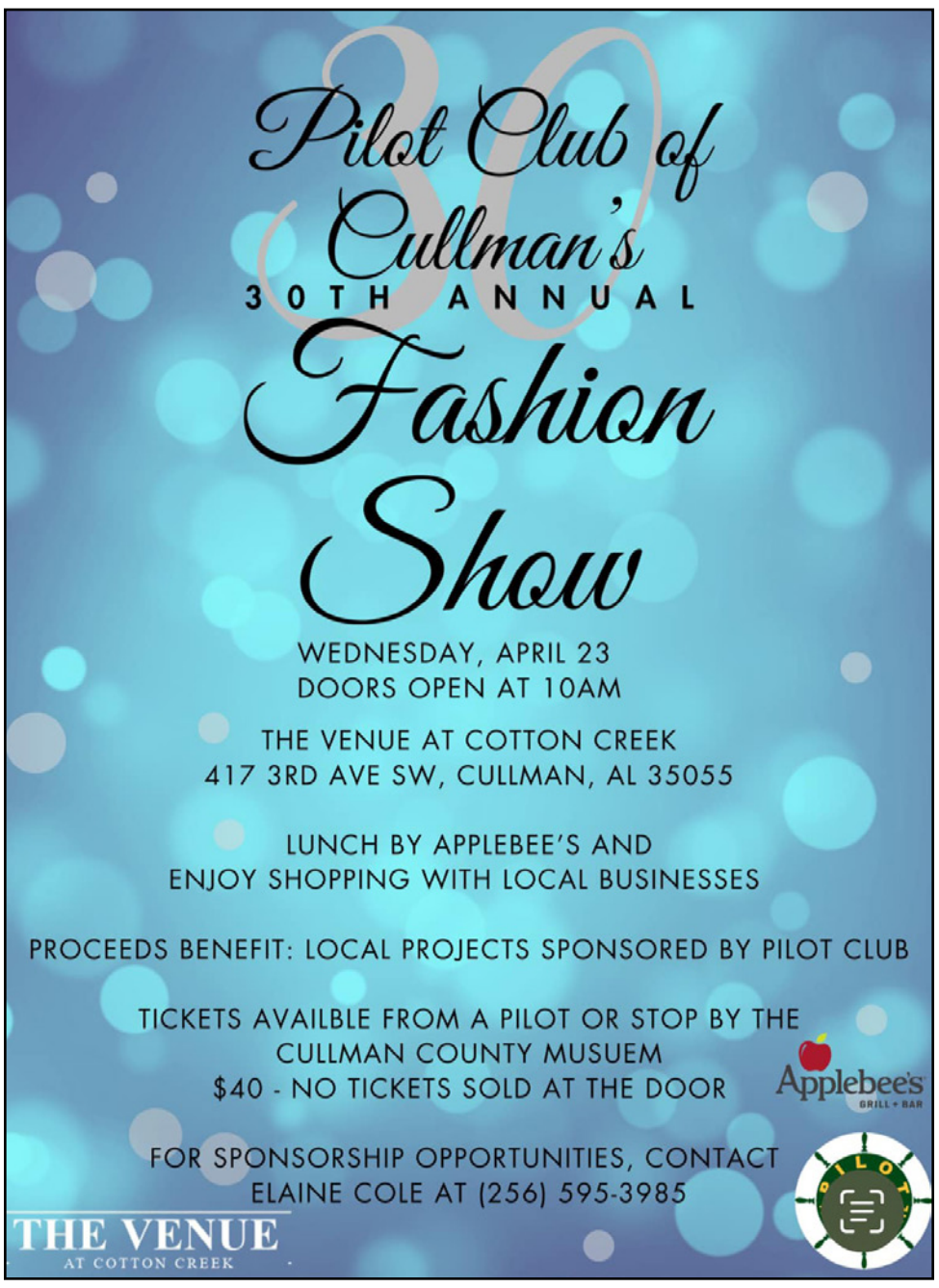
Touch A Truck will also coincide with the Brooks' Place Safe Kids Expo at Sportsman Lake Park, another free event happening the same day. A gate at the back of the fairgrounds will be open to allow easy access between the two events.

For more information, contact Cullman Electric Cooperative at 256-737-3200 or info@cullmanec.com or visit its official Facebook page.

The Cullman County Fairgrounds are located at 1501 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman.

VIRGIL B. FOWLER
Real Estate and Insurance
AGENCY
Quality Since 1935
734-3821
vbfowlerinsurance.com
Successors to
WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler







NOW HIRING
TIRE TECHS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW
+
COMPETITIVE PAY
COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit your calendar items or public notices to wendy@cullmantribune.com

Music Every Thursday Night in February at the Bethel Community Center
4-8 p.m. at the center, just off U.S. Highway 278, west of Cullman on County Road 1117. Bluegrass, gospel and country music. Musicians are welcome with acoustic instruments only. Covered dish supper and everyone is invited. Please join us! No entry fee, but donations are appreciated for building upkeep.

Grief Support Group
Every Sunday at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 615 Third Ave. SE. Contact Reverend Warren Ruland at 256-962 2521.

Cullman County Republican Women Monthly Meetings
Second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman VFW. President Cathi Bradford: "We are going to begin training to track legislation in Montgomery. If you need information, you can directly message me on Facebook." Full meals at 5:30. Meetings start at 6.

The Crossing Food Bank
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman (in the Housing Authority).

Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

Baileyton Bargain Days
• First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items.
• A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation.
• There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Al-Anon Meetings
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

The Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Wednesday, April 2 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, April 4 - 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, April 6 - 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.
• Sunday, April 6 - 2 p.m. Prayer service
• Tuesday, April 8 - 6 p.m. Adult dinner and game night. Join us for food, fun and fellowship.
• Sunday, April 13 - 5 p.m. Healing service

Fairview Lions Club Spring Fling and Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show
Saturday, April 5, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Randall Shedd Community Park on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. We will have a car show, vendors, games, music, bouncy houses. Car show registration is $20 and will begin at 8, with awards to be given out at 1 p.m. For more info, please contact Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, April 10, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. in Cullman.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 14, at The Golden Corral Buffet, with a Dutch lunch beginning after 11 a.m., followed by meeting at noon. Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Prosser, implementation manager, UnitedHealthcare Retiree Solutions. For more info, call 256-708-5326.

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.



Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden FAMILY PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

PREP BASEBALL

Vinemont pulls away from West Morgan 7-3; Friday scoring recap

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

TRINITY, Ala. — After splitting a pair of games at Toyota Field in Huntsville Thursday night, the Vinemont Eagles were back on the road Friday for a varsity matchup at West Morgan. Vinemont took an early lead and after the Rebels battled back to make it a 1-run game, the Eagles plated three runs in the sixth to pull away with a 7-3 win.

West Morgan scored in the bottom of the first to take an early, 1-0 lead but after a scoreless second inning, the Eagles responded in the third. Nicolas Jankowksi, Jake Hale and Josh Rhodes strung together three straight singles to load the bases and two pitches later, Owen McKinney drove a 2-run double into center field to give Vinemont a 2-1 lead. Kayden Henderson followed with an RBI single of his own to make it a 3-1 game and McKinney came home to score on a fielder's choice to put the Eagles ahead 4-1.

The Rebels were able to trim the lead to 4-2 in the bottom of the third and they tacked on another run in the fourth to make it a 4-3 game. After a scoreless fifth inning, RBI singles from McKinney and Henderson stretched Vinemont's lead to 7-3 and put the game out of reach for West Morgan. The Rebels were able to get a pair of runners on base in the final frame, but the Eagles kept them off the scoreboard, securing a 7-3 road win.

Rhodes went 6.2 innings on the mound, allowing two earned runs on nine hits and striking out seven. McKinney (two hits) and Henderson (two hits) each posted three RBIs in the win. Hale added a pair of hits and Jankowski, Rhodes, Hayden Robinson and Rylan McRae each recorded a hit as well.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Vinemont Eagles defeated West Morgan on the road 7-3 Friday.

Rossview 7 – Cullman 3 (Baseball)

After a scoreless first inning, Rossview scored three runs in the second to take an early lead over the Bearcats. The Hawks extended their lead to 6-0 in the third and 7-0 in the fourth but after a scoreless fifth inning, Cullman got some runs on the board in the sixth. Tyler Brock lined an RBI single into left field to plate Bennett Johnson to Brock cut the lead to 7-3 but the 'Cats couldn't get any closer than that and Rossview held on to claim the win.

Brock finished with a pair of hits and RBIs in the win and Johnson added a pair of hits as well.

Clarksville 10 – Fairview 0 (Baseball)

Clarksville scored a pair of runs in the top of the first to take an early lead over the Aggies and after a couple of scoreless innings, the Wildcats added another run in the fourth to make it a 3-0 game. Clarksville extended its lead to 6-0 with three more runs in the top of the fifth and they plated four more in the sixth to wrap up a 10-0 win over Fairview.

WSCC SOFTBALL

Lions sweep doubleheader with Northwest-Shoals

Russell Frye
WSCC Athletics

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Lions' softball team bounced back from their doubleheader loss on the road at Northwest-Shoals with a sweep of their own on Friday. They defeated the Patriots 7-4 in game one and held on for a 4-3 win in the second game.

Wallace State is now 27-8 overall and 9-3 in conference play. Northwest-Shoals falls to 14-20 and 8-8 in conference.

Wallace State 7 - Northwest-Shoals 4 (Game One)

After the Patriots scored two in the top of the first, the Lions responded with five runs to take the lead in the bottom of the inning. Wallace got on the board when Charli Kyser's sac fly brought home Tenayja Thomas.

After Brooklyn Sertell was hit by a pitch, Blakelyn Austin singled and drove in Brandy Phillips and Ashlyn Burns for a 3-2 lead.

After a walk and a pitching change, Lexie Kelly singled to bring home Sertell. Reese Decker then grounded out to bring home Austin for Wallace's fifth run.

Northwest-Shoals added a run in the fourth and fifth innings to cut the Lions' lead to 5-4.

Wallace scored two more runs in the bottom of the fifth to push the lead to 7-4.

Sertell got the scoring started when her sac fly drove home Phillips. Austin then doubled to left, driving home Kyser for the final run.

Madeline Howard entered the circle in the sixth in relief of starter Phillips.

Howard earned the save with two scoreless innings. Phillips pitched five innings to get the win, allowing four runs on 10 hits.

Austin finished 2-for-3 with three RBIs and a run scored, while Phillips was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Kelly and Kyser each had a hit and an RBI, while Decker and Sertell each had an RBI.

Wallace State 4 - Northwest-Shoals 3 (Game Two)

The Patriots struck first with three runs in the top of the third inning. They chased starting pitcher Howard from the game after their scoring outburst. Ava Smith entered in relief to end the third inning.

Northwest-Shoals' pitching held the Lions scoreless until the bottom of the sixth when they scored three runs to tie the game.

Wallace got solo home runs from Kyser and Sertell to cut the lead to 3-2.

They tied the game on back-to-back doubles from Austin and Leah Graves, the second driving home Austin.

Graves then ended the game in the bottom of the eighth with a walk-off homer, the third of the game for the Lions.

Graves and Austin finished 2-for-4 with a run scored, while Graves added two RBIs.

Kyser and Sertell each finished with a hit, an RBI and a run scored.

Smith pitched 5.1 scoreless innings of relief to earn the win. She allowed only two hits.



WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State swept its doubleheader against Northwest-Shoals on Friday.

Up Next

The Lions will open a four-game conference series with Shelton State (16-12, 8-4). Wallace will travel to Shelton for two games on Thursday before hosting the Bucs for two on Saturday.

Shelton has eight wins in their last 10 games. They are led by pitchers Victoria Hagemann and MacKenzie Harper. Hagemann is fifth in the conference with a 2.13 ERA and eight wins. Harper is third with 76 strikeouts.

WSCC BASEBALL

Lions split doubleheader with Northwest-Shoals

Russell Frye
WSCC Athletics

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After winning six out of their last seven games, the Wallace State Lions hosted the Northwest-Shoals Patriots from Muscle Shoals on Thursday. Wallace State fell in the first matchup 0-1, then won the second game 6-1.

The Lions are now 21-11 overall, with a conference record of 9-5. The Patriots left with a 19-13 record.

Northwest-Shoals 1 - Wallace State 0 (Game One)

Luke Fernandez pitched the whole game for the Lions. He threw K's left and right, totaling ten strikeouts on the day.

The only run scored in this pitcher's duel occurred in the top of the first inning when Ryan Strachan grounded out to second base as Sam Robertson scampered home for the Patriots.

Jamie Howze finished 2-for-3 from the plate, leading Wallace State in hits. Cooper Sanford, Andrew Lawrence, and Austin Nix got a hit each in the matchup for the Lions.

Wallace State 6 - Northwest-Shoals 1 (Game Two)

Northwest-Shoals would strike first in game two in the third inning, similar to their lone run in game one. Robinson scored from third base off of a groundout to second.

Runs would remain hard to come by for both teams until the bottom of the eighth inning, when the Lions would bust the game wide open, exploding for six runs.

Sanford was the first to reach home for Wallace State, scoring on an error. Howze ran to home plate as Colten Payton singled on a hard grounder that got through the infield.

Carson Heaps would fly out to center field, but Payton would tag up from third to get home.

Lawrence sprinted to the plate on a wild pitch to extend the lead to 4-1. Connor Hensley would hit a two-run bomb to right field to add the cherry on top of the inning.

Cole Molina started on the mound for the Lions, pitching six innings and throwing seven strikeouts. Druw Smith would take over next, throwing 21 pitches over the next inning and third. Cody Lee would close out the game, earning the save.

Up Next

The Wallace State Lions will travel to Muscle Shoals on Saturday to face off against the Northwest-Shoals Patriots again.



WSCC ATHLETICS

The Wallace State Lions split their matchups with Northwest-Shoals on Thursday.

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

Warehouse Discount Groceries
5754 AL- Hwy 157 North
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4310

Warehouse Discount Groceries
1615 Town Square S W
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4380

Warehouse Discount Groceries
780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL 35077
256•352•6245

We Welcome Food Stamp Shoppers & W.I.C. Vouchers Accepted

Prices Effective - Wednesday, April 2 through Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Spring SUPER SALE

NEW YORK STRIP STEAK
Beef Boneless
Family Pack
$10.99 LB.
PREFERRED ANGUS
HOT price

ASSORTED PORK CHOPS
Fresh Bone-In Family Pk.
(Fam Pk. Center Cut Bone-In Pork Chops $2.89 Lb.)
$1.89 LB.
PRAIRIE FRESH
HOT price

SEEDLESS GRAPES
Red, White or Black
Imported
$1.99 LB.
HOT price

HONEYCRISP APPLES
Washington State
2 Lb. Bag
$2.99 EA.
WASHINGTON
HOT price

DEER PARK SPRING WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
3 for $10
HOT price

BETTY CROCKER CAKE MIX OR FROSTING
12-16.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3
HOT price

FOOD CLUB COOKING OIL
40 Oz.
Canola or Vegetable
2 for $5
HOT price

SHAWNEE BEST FLOUR OR CORN MEAL
5 Lb.
Self-Rising
2 for $5
HOT price

5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL

Join our V.I.P. Text List!

Receive In-Store Specials, Announcements & View Our Weekly Ad!

Product Availability May Vary • Good Only While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Not Responsible For Typographical Errors • No Sales To Dealers At These Prices



SIRLOIN TIP ROAST
Beef
(Fam. Pk. Sirloin Tip Steaks $6.49 Lb.)
$5.99 LB.



WHOLE FRYERS
Fresh
$1.99 LB.



TOP SIRLOIN STEAK
Beef
Family Pack
$6.99 LB.



PORK SPARE RIBS
2 Piece
Previously Frozen
$1.99 LB.



SMITHFIELD PORK TENDERS OR FILETS
19.2-23 Oz. Marinated
Selected Varieties
$6.49 EA.



KENTUCKY LEGEND QUARTER SLICED HAM
Boneless
Selected Varieties
$5.69 LB.



WILLIAMS SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
$3.29 EA.



OSCAR MAYER BACON
16 Oz.
Original or Thick
$4.99 EA.



ECKRICH BOLOGNA
14 Oz. Red Rind
Regular or Thick
$2.29 EA.



HORMEL SLICED PEPPERONI
5-6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.59 EA.



GOLD POTATOES
U.S. #1 Idaho
5 Lb. Bag
$3.49 EA.



SWEET ONIONS
3 Lb. Bag
$3.19 EA.



SLICING TOMATOES
Large
$1.49 LB.



DOLE SALADS
5-11 Oz. Bag Spring Mix,
Baby Spinach or 50/50 Mix
$2.99 EA.



BORDEN CHEESE
10.67-12 Oz. Singles or
5-8 Oz. Selected Varieties
4 for $10



SUNNY D CITRUS PUNCH
64 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



IMPERIAL SPREAD
45 Oz.
Bowl
$2.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB JUMBO BISCUITS
8 Ct., 16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



DIGIORNO PIZZA
16-29 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



TOTINO'S PIZZA ROLLS
100 Ct.
Selected Varieties
$9.99 EA.



CRAV'N FLAVOR LASAGNA
5 Lb.
Meat or Five-Cheese
$12.99 EA.



BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon Gold or Brown
Rim Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB SOFT DRINKS
2 Liter Bottles
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



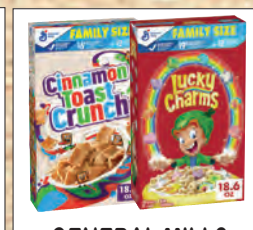
SPLASH BLAST
6 Pk., .5 Liter
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



HUNT'S SNACK PACK
4 Pk.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



CHEX MIX OR BUGLES
6-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



GENERAL MILLS FAMILY SIZE CEREAL
18.6 Oz. Lucky Charms, 19.7 Oz. Reese's Puffs, 18 Oz. Cheerios, 18.8 Oz. Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Honey Nut Cheerios
$3.99 EA.



VELVEETA SKILLETS
11.5-12.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



HEINZ KETCHUP
20 Oz.
Squeeze
2 for $5



FOOD CLUB MACARONI & CHEESE DINNER
5-7.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
69¢ EA.



SIMPLY DONE PARTY CUPS
30 Ct., 18 Oz.
Red or Blue Plastic
2 for $5



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
$6.99 EA.



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
3 for $12



POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
$3.99 EA.



POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



BODY ARMOR SUPER DRINKS
8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
$6.99 EA.



RUFFLES POTATO CHIPS
7-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



FRITOS OR CHEETOS
7.5-9.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $8



GOLDEN FLAKE, UTZ OR ZAPP'S CHIPS
7-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



LEWIS BAKE SHOP BREAD
20 Oz. Loaf Sandwich
White or Honey Wheat
2 for $5

LITTLE DEBBIE MINI DONUTS OR DONUT STICKS
7.75-10.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

MILLER HIGH LIFE
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$11.79 EA.

MICHELOB ULTRA
24 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$26.79 EA.

BAREFOOT WINE
1.5 Liter Bottles
$11.99 EA.

BOTA BOX WINE
3 Liter
$19.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE DELI SLICED HAM
Virginia, Black Forest,
Ham Off the Bone or Honey Ham
$6.99 LB.

KENTUCKIAN GOLD CAJUN TURKEY
Deli Sliced
$8.99 LB.

CHICAGO STYLE ITALIAN BEEF KIT
2.5 Lb. Box
$12.59 EA.

JALAPENO CHEESE BREAD
Fresh Made
Loaf
$3.99 EA.

april showers of savings

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

3 DAY SALE
Thursday - Saturday
April 3 - 5, 2025



CRACKER JACK
3 Oz.
Triple Pack
4 for $5



KING'S BACON
40 Oz.
Hickory Smoked
$9.99 Ea.



LAY'S STAX
5.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



KELLOGG'S CORN FLAKES
18 Oz.
Family Size
$3.99 Ea.



ZESTA SALTINES
16 Oz.
Original
2 for $4



YELLOW OR BI-COLOR CORN
Great on the Grill
2 ears $1



CAMPBELL'S TOMATO SOUP
or Chicken Noodle
10.75 Oz.
5 for $5



JIF PEANUT BUTTER
28 Oz. Creamy
or Extra Crunchy
$3.99 Ea.



ARMOUR VIENNA SAUSAGE
6 Pk. Original or Barbecue
Flavored or Potted Meat
$3.99 Ea.



CALIFORNIA NAVELS
4 Lb. Bag Seedless
Delicious Source of Vitamin C
$2.99 Ea.



HUMPTY DUMPTY CHUM SALMON
14.75 Oz.
2 for $5



T.G.I. FRIDAY'S APPETIZERS
8-11 Oz. Small Size
Selected Varieties
$3.99 Ea.



IRRESISTIBLE TOWELS OR TISSUE
6 Mega Rolls Paper Towels
or 12 Mega Rolls Bath Tissue
$3.99 Ea.



HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH DRESSING
24 Oz.
Original
$3.99 Ea.



MAYFIELD ICE CREAM
Gallon Pail
Assorted Varieties
$5.99 Ea.



YOO-HOO CHOCOLATE DRINK
12 Pk.
11 Oz. Cans
$5.99 Ea.

Quantity Rights Reserved. Not Responsible For Typographical or Pictoral Errors. No Sales To Dealers.

Quantity Rights Reserved. Not Responsible For Typographical or Pictoral Errors. No Sales To Dealers.

The role of women in agriculture

Karnita Garner, William Acuff

Women in agriculture have fulfilled the duties of farm work, from processing agricultural goods to tending fields, since humanity began to settle and cultivate crops. Early societies, especially in the West, adhered to gender roles that left the duty of tending the home to women, as men embarked on hunting and war parties.

World War II efforts

During World War II, however, food scarcity, driven by labor shortages, meant that new avenues needed to be explored by governments to feed their populations and troops. During a 1942 tour of Britain, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt observed the Women's Land Army providing vital work on British farms and proposed a similar approach in America. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), however, rejected her calls.

The following year, Congress passed a law creating the Emergency Farm Labor Program, allowing women, students, people of Caribbean descent, and prisoners of war from Italy and Germany to work on farms. This initiative, along with the Bracero Program, brought Mexican workers to America to tend fields and allowed America to address its farm labor shortages.

Out of the Emergency Farm Labor Program, the Women's Land Army of America (WLA) was born. The WLA operated from 1943 to 1945, with an estimated 2.5 million women offering labor to keep America's farms producing

Women farmers today

Cooperative Extension Systems and local and state authorities recruited and trained many women to work farms. Many more simply learned on the job. Today, women are poised to grow their influence in the farming sector, and resources are available to promote this growth. According to USDA's 2022 Census of Agriculture, women accounted for 1.2 million (36%) of the 3.4 million producers in the nation. At least 58% of these farms had a female producer. Unfortunately, this indicates a slight decrease of 0.2% compared to the 2017 census.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

The following are some other key facts about women farmers:

- Women comprise 35% of Alabama's total farming population.
- Female producers were slightly younger than male producers (57.8 vs. 58.3 years).
- An estimated 31% of women raise poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) or other livestock.
- Women make up 26% of farm laborers, graders, and sorters and account for 17% of farm managers, inspectors or supervisors.
- Black and Hispanic women make up 1-3% of female farmers in the United States.

Year of the female farmer

The United Nations has claimed 2026 to be the International Year of the Woman Farmer. Women produce more than half of the world's food, and in some countries that number is between 60-80%. With a spotlight on women farmers, the goal is to raise awareness of issues that women face in agriculture, such as property rights and access to credits and farming markets, as well as educational support.

More information

Alabama Extension offers numerous resources to help female and other farmers across Alabama. Visit www.aces.edu for more information.

Call 811 before you dig!

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — As the spring season arrives, Alabamians are reminded to contact 811 at least two days before beginning outdoor digging projects.

The Alabama Public Service Commission (APSC) recognizes April as "811 Safe Digging Month" and recommends using the free service to avoid damaging important underground utility lines, which could cause injury and service disruptions.

"To prevent unnecessary damage to utilities around your home, call 811 before you dig," President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh said.

"Calling 811 first protects you, your family, your home and your community."

Other around-the-house projects to utilize the service, which is required by law before any excavation can begin, include landscaping, installing a fence or adding a deck onto the home.

Once a utility company is notified, the company will send a representative to the homeowner's property to mark underground lines with paint and flags.

"Contacting 811 before digging provides protection for folks as they begin their spring projects around their homes," Commissioner Chris V. Beeker III said.

"The dedicated utility workers in our state go above the call of duty to ensure homes, businesses and citizens are kept safe.

"I appreciate and commend the hard work they do for all of Alabama."

"National Safe Digging Month serves as an important safety reminder we want everyone to take note of before starting their spring and summer outdoor projects," Commissioner Jeremy H. Oden said.

"The simple yet crucial step of contacting 811 not only ensures the safety of the homeowner before they dig, but also helps prevent damage and service interruptions for underground utilities like natural gas, electricity and water."

Alabama Wildlife Federation hosting inaugural Wild Game Cook-Off April 3

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama Wildlife Federation will host its inaugural Wild Game Cook-Off on Thursday, April 3, starting at 6 p.m. at the Festhalle Farmers Market. The event will feature local cook teams preparing dishes using wild game, with attendees invited to sample the entries, enjoy live music and participate in a silent auction.

Admission is $50 and covers entry for up to two adults, while youth under 15 and all registered cook team participants attend for free. The ticket includes samples of all dishes, live music, access to the silent auction, a one-year membership to the Alabama Wildlife Federation and a subscription to Alabama Wildlife magazine. Cullman local Will Dowdy will provide live entertainment for the evening.

Cook teams will be able to compete in any or all three categories — fish, fowl or game — with awards given for Best Overall, Best Presentation and first through third place in each division. Additionally, individuals who prefer to contribute "filler food" dishes like venison chili, but do not wish to compete, are welcome to sign up and bring food to share.

"The hope for this event is to bring light to the good works of what the Alabama Wildlife Federation does in conservation as well as wildlife," shared Sarah Brown Kent, board member of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Cook team registration is free, but all teams must pre-register before the event date. Cook teams can register at www.alabamawildlife.org/apps/wildgame-cookoff-teams.

For more information on the Cook-Off or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.alabamawildlife.org and click on "Attend a Cook-Off," or call the Alabama Wildlife Federation at 334-285-4550. Tickets are available for purchase at www.alabamawildlife.org/shop/tickets. For additional questions, email heather@alabamawildlife.org.

The Festhalle Farmers Market is located at 209 First Ave. NE in Cullman.

Harmful if swallowed: Protecting kids from adult products

Staff Reports
Contributor

Parents go to great lengths to protect their children. They block off staircases with gates and put covers on electrical outlets. They check safety ratings on car seats and strollers. They check the age limits and warning labels on toys. They make sure cribs are clear of pillows, loose blankets, and other unsafe items to protect babies from suffocation.

But sometimes, no matter how diligent they are, parents can forget about the toxic substances that are hiding in plain sight, in things like vitamins and sodas. Things that are so much a part of their everyday lives, parents can't imagine them causing harm.

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Alabama Poison Information Center (APIC) would like to share some information about common items that could potentially be harmful to children. These items are designed to add some pep to your step or to improve your health; however, if taken in the wrong amounts by the wrong person, they can lead to serious health complications.

Essential oils

Essential oils are organic chemical compounds extracted from flowers, leaves, or bark. These substances are the chemical, physical and aromatic embodiment of the plant from which they are taken. Essential oils, when used properly, are said to reduce stress, improve your mood and help you relax. Unfortunately, if ingested, these oils can cause a variety of health issues, especially in infants and young children who may be drawn to them because of their pleasing odor. Depending on the amount ingested, and the age of the person ingesting them, the effects can range from nausea and vomiting to drowsiness, seizures and coma.

In its February 2025 Tox Update newsletter, APIC listed some common essential oils that can be particularly dangerous, including:

• Camphor: Often used in products like Vicks Vapo Rub to reduce inflammation and pain. Ingestion or inhalation of camphor can lead to nausea, vomiting, confusion, agitation, hallucinations and seizures.

• Tea Tree Oil: Often used as a topical antiseptic. Contact with tea tree oil can cause skin irritation. If ingested, it can cause drowsiness, slurred speech and acute respiratory distress syndrome.

• Oil of Wintergreen: Often used as a fragrance, a flavoring agent and a topical preparation for inflammation (think Ben-Gay). This oil is especially tempting for children because of its minty smell and taste. Children are at a high risk of toxicity even if they ingest a small amount. Ingestion can cause nausea, vomiting, tinnitus and severe toxicity can result in seizures, coma and death.

To date in 2025, APIC reports 52 exposures to essential oils. They recorded a total of 273 exposures to essential oils in 2024.

If you have essential oils, or products such as those listed above, in your home, keep them in locked cabinets and out of reach. If your child ingests any of these products, do not induce vomiting, as this could increase their risk of aspiration (drawing the substance into their lungs) and other complications. Instead, you should immediately call the Alabama Poison Information Center at Children's of Alabama at 1-800-222-1222 for guidance and assistance.

Caffeine

Caffeine is a common stimulant taken from plants, usually found in coffee, sodas and energy drinks. While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says adults can safely consume up to 400mg of caffeine per day, there are no specific guidelines for how much caffeine is safe for children. In January 2025, the Healthy Eating Research organization (a panel of experts from Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Heart Association) recommended that there is no safe amount of caffeine for children 18 and younger.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, the impacts of caffeine on children can vary based on the child's size and the amount of caffeine ingested. Too much caffeine can cause anxiety, increased heart rate and blood pressure and acid reflux. In extremely high doses, caffeine can be toxic. Caffeine can also interact with medications or exacerbate existing medical conditions. In 2024, APIC received 70 calls reporting exposures to energy drinks alone. Because the amount of caffeine contained in coffee, sodas and energy drinks varies based on the brand, it is important for parents and caregivers to check the nutrition labels of the drinks their children consume. Special attention should be paid to the amount of servings contained in cans and bottles.

Vitamins

According to APIC, vitamins rank in the top 10 substance categories for pediatric exposures in Alabama. To date in 2025, APIC reports 203 exposures related to vitamins. APIC reported a total of 938 exposures in 2024.

Most exposures to vitamins are mild, even if taken in large amounts. An exception is vitamins containing iron, which can be dangerous. According to a report in the National Library of Medicine, children exposed to excess iron (commonly through vitamins and supplements) can experience complications ranging from diarrhea to decreased growth and impaired cognitive and motor development.

Parents and caregivers are advised to store vitamins in secure locations out of the reach of children. They are also advised to never refer to vitamins as "candy" in front of children, even when referencing vitamins in gummy form. Parents and caregivers should also be mindful of vitamin packaging that makes the product look like a sweet treat that appeals to children.

If an exposure to any of these products occurs, you should immediately call the Alabama Poison Information Center at Children's of Alabama at 1-800-222-1222 for help.

Contest (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

COLOMBUS, Ohio — After receiving thousands of submissions from across the United States, Zaner-Bloser has named winners of the 34th annual Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. The winners include seven Grand National Champions selected from 28 Regional Winners representing each grade K–6, and two Nicholas Maxim Award winners for students with cognitive, intellectual, physical and/or developmental disabilities.

Sacred Heart kindergartener Noah Hampton and first grader Oliver Graveman were named Southeast Regional Winners.

As the most recognized handwriting contest in the U.S., the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest has been celebrating the best in manuscript and cursive penmanship for more than three decades. Since 1991, more than 2.75 million students have participated in the contest. This year, contest entries came from 48 states as well as Washington, D.C.

"Research continues to tell us that writing by hand is imperative to learning, and we believe every child should have the opportunity to learn the art of penmanship," said Lisa Carmona, Zaner-Bloser president. "It is such a delight to see so many students' dedication to manuscript and cursive, and we are honored to present them with this recognition."

Students who participate in the competition also benefit from the numerous cognitive advantages linked to writing by hand. Strong handwriting skills are associated with ongoing reading and math achievement as late as fifth grade. In 2024, Zaner-Bloser earned third-party certifications for the research and efficacy behind their handwriting program, Zaner-Bloser Handwriting.

All contestants wrote the sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" because it includes the entire alphabet. Judges selected winners for each level based on Zaner-Bloser's Four Keys to Legibility: the shape, size, spacing and slant of the letters.

As participants in the contest, students had to first compete among their classmates. Participating private and public schools selected their own winners, who then advanced to regional judging. Grand National Champions are chosen from regional finalists in grades K–6. Nicholas Maxim winners are selected from a national pool of submissions, and only two winners, one for manuscript and one for cursive, are recognized each year.

2025 GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

• Kindergarten – Pierce White – St. Paul's Lutheran School – Norfolk, NE

• Grade 1 – Lakeisha Yara Killapanage – Linda Rankin Givens Elementary School – Las Vegas, NV

• Grade 2 – Vansh Sarda – DAV Montessori and Elementary School – Houston, TX

• Grade 3 – Zia Mercado – 1st Lutheran School – Fort Smith, AR

• Grade 4 – Aiden Soe – Valley Catholic Elementary School – Beaverton, OR

• Grade 5 – Kendall Grabinski – Lehman-Jackson Elementary School – Lehman, PA

• Grade 6 – Scarlet Lin – Saint Theresa Catholic School – Sugar Land, TX

2025 NICHOLAS MAXIM WINNERS

• Nicholas Maxim Award for Manuscript – Zoey Lanier – St. Mark Lutheran School – Green Bay, WI

• Nicholas Maxim Award for Cursive – Ezra Rupple – Celeryville Christian School – Willard, OH

2025 REGIONAL WINNERS

NOTE: Grand National Champions are chosen from the Regional Winners. *indicates a Grand National Champion who is also listed above.

Northeast

• Kindergarten – Eleanor Covucci – Soaring Heights Charter School – Jersey City, NJ

• Grade 1 – Carson Che – Notre Dame Elementary School – East Stroudsburg, PA

• Grade 2 – April Lin – Birchwood School of Hawken – Cleveland, OH

• Grade 3 – Rhea Bhagat – Saint James School – Manchester, CT

• Grade 4 – Alice Yang – Roose Elementary – Warren, MI

• Grade 5* – Kendall Grabinski – Lehman-Jackson Elementary School – Lehman, PA

• Grade 6 – Raymond Zhang – St. Peter Catholic School – Somerset, PA

Southeast

• Kindergarten – Noah Hampton – Sacred Heart School – Cullman, AL

• Grade 1 – Oliver Graveman – Sacred Heart School – Cullman, AL

• Grade 2 – Gus Armstrong – Providence Christian School – Dothan, AL

• Grade 3 – Alyssa Kim – Mary of Nazareth Catholic School – Darnestown, MD

• Grade 4 – Carla Oakes – Saint Patrick Catholic School – Fayetteville, NC

• Grade 5 – Luisa Licudine – Saint Veronica School – Chantilly, VA

• Grade 6 – Ares Michael Nguyen – St. Edward the Confessor School – Metairie, LA

Central

• Kindergarten* – Pierce White – St. Paul's Lutheran School – Norfolk, NE

• Grade 1 – Wesley Xu – The Banff School – Houston, TX

• Grade 2* – Vansh Sarda – DAV Montessori and Elementary School – Houston, TX

• Grade 3* – Zia Mercado – 1st Lutheran School – Fort Smith, AR

• Grade 4 – Emmie Wolfgramm – Living Hope Lutheran – West Allis, WI

• Grade 5 – Martina Magrum – St. Anne's Academy – White Bear Lake, MN

• Grade 6* – Scarlet Lin – Saint Theresa Catholic School – Sugar Land, TX

West

• Kindergarten – Kelhen Lopez – Coral Academy of Science – Reno, NV

• Grade 1* – Lakeisha Yara Killapanage – Linda Rankin Givens Elementary School – Las Vegas, NV

• Grade 2 – Braxton Duvall – Summit Christian Academy – North Pole, AK

• Grade 3 – Vivienne Johnson – Coastal Christian School – Pismo Beach, CA

• Grade 4* – Aiden Soe – Valley Catholic Elementary School – Beaverton, OR

• Grade 5 – Alana Crotty – Sequoya Elementary School – Scottsdale, AZ

• Grade 6 – Alexa Fox – Victory Christian School – Carmichael, CA

Each Grand National Champion and Nicholas Maxim Award winner receives an engraved Zaner- Bloser trophy and a $500 check. Regional Winners receive an engraved medallion in recognition of their achievement. Grand National Champion and Nicholas Maxim winning schools receive a $1,000 Zaner-Bloser product voucher, and both the schools and teachers receive certificates of achievement personalized by master penman Michael Sull.

LEGALS

VALUATION NOTICE

The appraised valuations of all property listed for taxation in Cullman County have been fixed as provided by law and filed in my office according to Sec. 40-30-20, 1975 Code of Alabama. The Board of Equalization and Adjustment will hear protest on any of these valuations provided these protests are filed in writing by May 2, 2025.

Barry Willingham, ACTA

Revenue Commissioner

Board Secretary

Cullman County

Pursuant to Alabama Code 32-13-1 Earl's Body Shop, Inc, will offer for sale at Public Auction the following vehicles on

June 10, 2025 at 7:00 am at 2251 Decatur Ave. NW, Cullman

2013	Ford Escape	1FMCU0F70DUB29856
2006	Ford Explorer	1FMEU72E26ZA20200
2018	Ford F150	1FTEW1EG4JFC51537
2003	Buick Lesabre	1G4HP52K9341921618
2018	Chev Camaro	1G1FB1RS2J0188061
2012	Cadi CTS	1G6DE5E55C0134482
2006	Ford 500	1FAFP23176G108501
2007	Chrysler Sebring	1C3LC56K27N532569

Case# PC2025-111
PB MIN Book 231 Page 988
Recorded in Above Book and P
03/28/2025 1:59PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARY SPROTT PAULFUS, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-111

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 28th 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 required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

George L. Morris, IV
Personal Representative

Hannah M. Cassady
Phelps Dunbar LLP
2025 3rd Avenue North
Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 716-5283

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

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, Specifications, and Contract Documents are on file and open to public inspection at the office of Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Dr., Cullman, AL. Bid Documents will contain instructions for bidding by sealed envelope. Bidders are cautioned to read all instructions carefully.

Bid documents are being made available via paper copy or digital copy through www.waggonerengplans.com. Plans can be viewed for no charge or physically purchased at this website location. All plan holders are required to have a valid e-mail address to register for an account and log in at www.waggonerengplans.com. Purchased bid documents are non-refundable and must be purchased through the website.

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.

Allbright (from Front)

impact.

"I have always wanted to serve my community and make a positive impact on people," he said.

He noted that while he had been urged to run multiple times, he chose not to while holding his elected position on the CCBOE. However, following Shedd's resignation, he felt the timing was right.

"Forty-three days after my last day on the board of education, Mr. Shedd resigned, and it became apparent this is the time I am supposed to seek election for District 11 representative," he said.

A lifelong resident of the district, Allbright believes his deep ties to the community set him apart from career politicians.

"I've lived in this district my entire life. I went to school here, met my wife here, started a business here and I'm raising my family here. I'm not interested in a title; I'm interested in doing the work," he said.

Allbright emphasized his results-driven approach, stating that during his time on the school board, he self-imposed a two-term limit to ensure fresh leadership.

If elected, Allbright said he hopes to prioritize policies that reduce regulations on small businesses, allowing them to invest more in employees and the community. Additionally, he said he aims to cut taxes for hard-working families.

"We already pay too much in taxes, and I believe the more money we can keep in the pockets of families, the better off our economy will be," he said.

Education remains a key focus for Allbright, who seeks to improve students' comprehension in reading, math and critical life skills.

"I've always been passionate about education, and I'll continue to use that passion to improve our state's education system just as I did on the local level," he said.

On a personal level, Allbright shared details about his family life. He has been married to his wife, Bre, for 18 years, and they have two children, Cade (16) and Lily Mae (14), who both attend Holly Pond, the same school from which he and his wife graduated. Bre Allbright, a teacher at Holly Pond, is currently in her 20th year of teaching. The Allbrights live on a farm in Holly Pond that he assembled over the past 15 years.

"My biggest enjoyment in life is my kids; my greatest title, second to Christian, is Dad," he said.

His hobbies include working out, playing sports, farming, hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes and four-wheelers and flying, as he is a licensed pilot and owns an airplane.

Reflecting on his candidacy, Allbright emphasized his commitment to transparency and accountability.

"I view this as a job interview, and the voters of District 11 are the people who make the decision to hire or fire," he said. "I pledge to be a transparent, honest and responsive leader for our district who will deliver results. I hope to earn each vote I receive and will work hard for the people of our district."

Other candidates for House District 11 include Republican Don Fallin and Democrat Alex Braswell. Gov. Kay Ivey set the special primary election for Tuesday, May 13, 2025; the special primary runoff, if necessary, for Tuesday, June 10, 2025; and the special general election for Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Cullman (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With rain pouring across the state late Sunday night into early Monday morning, the Bearcats' road matchup with West Morgan was moved onto the turf at Cullman High School Monday afternoon. Cullman jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the opening frame and held West Morgan at bay the rest of the way to secure a 5-3 win.

The 'Cats got off to a fast start in this one. Abby Maples led off the bottom of the first with a double and came around to score on an error a few pitches later, giving Cullman a 1-0 lead.

Another error put runners on the corners and Reese Hopper launched a 3-run home run to right field to score them all and put the Bearcats in front 4-0 going into the second inning.

After a scoreless second inning, Hattie Graham drew a walk to lead off the bottom of the third and Samantha Johnson lined a double into left field to give Cullman a pair of runners.

However, they were left stranded, and the score remained 4-0 headed into the fourth inning.

Maples drew a walk to lead off the bottom of the fifth and after stealing second base, an error allowed her to advance to third.

Graham put one in play a few pitches later and Maples scored on a fielder's choice to make it a 5-0 game going into the sixth.

The Rebels scored on a passed ball in the top of the sixth to cut the lead to 5-1.

West Morgan led off the top of the seventh with a single and attempted to steal another base, but Maples gunned her down at second for the first out.

The 'Cats collected the next out to put two on the board, but a pair of errors and a single allowed the Rebels to trim the lead to 5-3 later in the inning.

However, Cullman picked up the final out on a fly ball to Hopper in right field to secure a 5-3 win.

Kynlei Storey got the start and went 4.1 innings to earn the win, allowing just two hits and striking out six. Summer Storey pitched the final 2.2 innings, allowing two hits and striking out two batters. Hopper (HR) led the way at the plate with three RBIs.

Maples and Johnson each posted a hit in the win and Graham recorded an RBI.

The Bearcats will be back home to host Arab Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Obituary Announcements: March 29-31

Johnny Owen Godsey, 74
Johnny Owen Godsey, age 74, of Houston, Alabama, passed away on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at Cullman Regional Hospital in Cullman, Alabama. Johnny was born on Feb. 15, 1951, to Lanier and Betty Godsey in Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Houston Memorial United Methodist Church Sanctuary in Houston, Alabama from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. where the service will begin at 11 a.m. Burial will be in the adjoining cemetery. Reverend Becky Scott and Brother Johnny Frazier will officiate. Johnny is survived by his wife, Joanne Godsey; son, Bryan Godsey; daughters, Kristina Darby, and Missy (Ernie) Stephens; loving stepchildren, Cindy Sturgill, Suzanne Setliff, Dora Nelson, and Art Smith; mother, Betty Godsey; grandchildren; Baylee Darby, Bella Darby, Ellie Stephens, and Cooper Stephens; 13 step-grandchildren; brothers, Lanier Godsey, Jr., Clint Godsey, and Rex Godsey; and sister, Debbie Lester. He was preceded in death by his father, Lanier Godsey; and stepdaughter, Lisa Smith. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Trey Daniel Kilpatrick, 25
Trey Kilpatrick, 24, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on March 28, 2025, in his hometown. Born on June 2, 2000, in Cullman, Trey lived a life defined by dedication to his work, devotion to his family, and steadfast faith. Trey pursued a career as a Journeyman lineman, bravely working through multiple storms to help restore power and safety to affected communities. His commitment and resilience were evident in every challenge he faced on the job. He found peace and fulfillment in the outdoors. Whether hunting, working outside, or spending time on the farm, Trey embraced the values of hard work and a deep appreciation for nature. Trey's faith was a guiding force throughout his life. He held close the words of Matthew 6:25-27, living with trust in God's provision and care. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Victoria, and their son, Jack Everett. He also leaves behind his Grandparents, Douglas & Cecilia Trammell, Danny & Jackie Kilpatrick; great-grandmother, Ruth Blevins; mother, Tonya Ellis; father, Anthony Kilpatrick; Linda Kilpatrick; and siblings Kayla, Kyla, Abby (Bailey) Blankenship and Alek Mccay. Trey's memory will also be cherished by many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved Paw Paw Jack Blevins; great-grandparents, Cecil and Dorothy Kilpatrick, Herman and Dorothy Trammell, Shields and Virginia Finney. Trey's legacy endures in the lives he touched—through his strength of character, the love he shared generously, and the faith that anchored him each day. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Temple Baptist Church. The body will lie in state from 12-2 p.m. prior to the service. Bro. Malcolm Carter, II will officiate the service. Visitation will be Monday evening at Temple Church from 6-8 p.m. Pallbearers will be Austin Shedd, Zach Daniel, Andrew Quisenberry, Jake Bagwell, Deakon Hembree, Will Peek and honorary pallbearers will be his lineman brothers and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Candace Nicole Jacobs, 55
Funeral services for Candace Nicole Jacobs will be 2 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. The family will welcome friends for visitation on Saturday at Hanceville Funeral Home from noon to 2 p.m. Bro. Paul Campbell will be officiating the services. Candy, a beacon of love and strength, passed away at the age of 55, on March 29t, at Cullman Regional Medical Center surrounded by her family. She was a remarkable woman whose life was a true testament to living fully, loving deeply, and caring selflessly for others. Born on April 19, 1969, Candy's greatest joy was her family. She was a nurturing and devoted mother, always providing her children with love, guidance, and support. Her heart was even fuller when it came to her beloved grandchildren, who brought her endless happiness. She cherished every moment spent with them, creating memories that will be treasured forever. Her kindness knew no bounds. Candy was always willing to help others, offering her time, her heart, and her wisdom to anyone in need. Her warmth and generosity left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. Even in the face of illness, Candy's strength and resilience shined through. She fought her battle with grace and courage, never giving up and inspiring those around her. Candy's legacy of love, kindness, and devotion will live on in the hearts of her family and friends. Though she is no longer physically with us, her spirit will continue to guide and inspire those who were blessed to know her. Survivors include her children, Haley (Chris) Horn, Alex (Lynnsie) Jacobs and Katie (Hunter Nelson) Jacobs; grandchildren, Ella Horn, Lenly Nelson, Jaxson Jacobs, Karrigan Jacobs, Olivia Horn, Beckett Jacobs and Lainey Nelson; niece, Madison Norman; nephew, Sam Norman; sister-in-law, Karen Norman; and a host of cousins, aunts and uncles. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold Eugene and Mary Ella Jones-Norman; and brother, Gene Norman. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Jacobs Family.

Peggy Jane Williams, 91
Graveside Service for Peggy Jane Williams, age 91 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at Mount Zion Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Williams passed away on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at Falkville Health Care Center. She was born, Nov. 26, 1933, to Charles Gold Evans and Eddie Aline Haynes Evans. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Brenda Joyce Williams Waldrop and brother, Kerry Wayne Evans. Survivors include her daughter, Sharon (Lendell) Graves; son, Raymond (Gloria) Williams; grandchildren, Kris (Shawn) Todd, Chad (Barbie) Nichols, Wendy (Chad) Thompson and Craig Fuller; seven great grandchildren; 12 great-great grand children; One on the way; sister, Betty Evans Thomason and a host of nieces and nephews.

Thomas Anthony White, 74
Thomas Anthony White, age 74 of Cullman, died Friday, March 28, 2025. Thomas was a graduate of Wallace State and a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. He retired from Southern Research Institute in Birmingham. Thomas was an avid hunter and spent many many hours in Bankhead Forest. He was preceded in death by his parents Elvin and Mary Kathleen Baty White, and a daughter, Christy Margaret White. Thomas is survived by his wife, Maureen Anne White; son, George Thomas White; sisters: Shirley (David) Day and Cindy (Scott) Joseph; brothers: James (Joyce) White and Gregory (Cindy) White and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, friends and hunting buddies. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The military graveside celebration of Thomas' life will be Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Valley Springs Cemetery. The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff of ACG Hospice for the comfort and wonderful care they provided to Thomas. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

AU: Developing high-performing genetic lines and hybrids for the catfish industry

Auburn University
Contributor

AUBURN, Ala. — The $437 million U.S. catfish industry is in need of better genetic and breeding technologies to be competitive with foreign imports. Recently, Auburn scientists have made advances in identifying markers of catfish sperm that can better survive cryopreservation and aid in the selective breeding of high-performing blue catfish.

A team of hatchery scientists from the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station's E.W. Shell Fisheries Center was awarded $430,000 by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study hybrid catfish breeding practices to help improve reproductive efficiency and reduce production costs for catfish farmers.

"One of my long-term career goals is to have a catalogue of frozen catfish sperm so that the farmer can flip through a catalogue 10 years or 20 years from now and be able to pick what male he wants to use based on criteria that is good for fertility," said Ian Butts, associate professor and the grant project's director.

Like most fish, catfish are external fertilizers. During spawning, males release sperm into the water. When farmers breed hybrid catfish, they mimic this environment by mixing sperm from many males.

Some males' sperm will be more successful at fertilization than others. The individual farmer may see this method as a form of hedging to ensure as many eggs as possible are fertilized during the narrow window of spawning season.

However, the method of mixing of sperm means it is nearly impossible to determine which males had the highest performing sperm, making it difficult to selectively breed catfish. The study offers a major step toward developing better breeding practices for catfish, which will greatly speed genetic gains in catfish.

Cryopreservation of catfish sperm has for decades held the promise of helping catfish farmers and scientists develop better genetics, as it has in the beef industry. Yet, it has not been widely adopted among farmers, due in large part to the erratic quality of cryopreserved sperm. Frozen-thawed sperm might perform as well as fresh in terms of fertilization rate, but it also might not perform at all. This has led many farmers to stick to more predictable fresh sperm.

This issue, which scientists are only beginning to understand, is that the qualities that make fresh sperm likely to have a high fertilization rate are not necessarily the same qualities that help it survive cryopreservation. Fresh sperm with a high fertilization rate may see that rate drop dramatically after being frozen and thawed, while other sperm with a similarly high rate of fertilization might survive cryopreservation with no adverse effects.

"Not that many people [in the U.S.] are working in the space of cryopreservation of aquatic organisms—maybe two or three of us at most," Butts said.

An additional problem is that sperm quality and quantity are likely to change during the lifespan of a catfish, but neither scientists nor farmers know how.

Butts and other scientists at Auburn have begun to investigate this issue thanks to local catfish farmers who donated adult male catfish of varying ages. During the past four years, the team has used commercial aquaculture techniques to collect sperm from catfish and measured how it changed over time.

"This is a massive study... it's really going to show us how sperm quality is changing as the fish are aging and going through maturity," Butts said. "The farmer doesn't really want that variability. They want to be able to take a male of known size and a known age and know it's going to be a good male. That's what we need to decipher."

Taking the guesswork out of selectively breeding catfish will not only help individual producers; it would also be a boon to the U.S. catfish industry, which has struggled in recent years.

"We have to make tremendous gains in order to overcome foreign competition," said Rex Dunham, the Butler-Cunningham Eminent Scholar in Agriculture & Environmental Science at Auburn and member of the grant team.

In 2007, catfish production in the U.S. suffered what Dunham describes as a "perfect storm" of fuel, feed, disease and recession. The pre-Great Recession economic surge led to fuel prices cresting $4 per gallon in many places, driving up the price of catfish feed and making transport costs untenable for farmers. Ongoing issues with disease plagued the catfish industry during this time. Soon after came the Great Recession, and many catfish producers went out of business. The U.S. catfish production dropped by nearly half, according to Dunham. Cheaper imported Vietnamese catfish rushed to meet the demand and captured a substantial portion of the U.S. market.

Vietnamese catfish farmers have several advantages that allow them to export fillets at half the price of U.S. producers. Both feed and labor are cheap, and the catfish industry is subsidized by the Vietnamese government, according to Dunham. The tropical environment also allows for two crops per year, and the native catfish is a facultative air-breathing species, making them hardier in low-oxygen waters. Vietnamese farmers also face fewer environmental regulations. They divert huge quantities of water from the Mekong River to flush catfish waste, allowing them to grow fish at a greater density than in the U.S., according to Dunham.

Dunham, who has served 44 years at Auburn's School of Fisheries, was among the group who first cryopreserved catfish sperm. He believes that advances in genetics through cryopreservation and other methods help Alabama catfish farmers better compete against foreign imports.

"Auburn is responsible for a lot of the tremendous increases in efficiency," Dunham said. "Every little thing we can do to make catfish production more efficient and productive helps ensure the survival of catfish producers' livelihoods."

Butts and the team are wrapping up the four-year study by analyzing the copious data collected. Their initial analyses have found two biomarkers in the structure of sperm that predict the sperm's ability to move, and how quickly—both important to fertilization success. This is a key first step to deciphering what makes a high-quality sperm donor.

"It was a beautiful finding," Butts said.

In addition to Butts and Dunham, the grant team also included Luke Roy of Alabama Extension and Michael Kjelland of Mayville State University.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Rainer: Alabama's WFF expanding Motus Wildlife Tracking Network

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

Modern technology is aiding wildlife biologists and researchers in numerous ways, including a tool that is in its infancy in Alabama. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System program erects tracking stations throughout the Americas, Canada, Europe and Australia to detect wildlife (mainly bird) movements, according to Mercedes Maddox, Nongame Wildlife Biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division.

Motus is a global network of telemetry with antennas that detect unique radio tags, which have been miniaturized to the point where some can even be attached to insects.

"These radio tags can be put on very small birds, like songbirds," Maddox said. "They even have some for hummingbirds, all the way down to even dragonflies and Monarch butterflies. They allow us to track the migration and stopovers of these migratory animals at a much, much smaller scale than we used to be able to. Typically, the tracking devices were put on the bigger birds like eagles and other raptors, for instance. It was very difficult to track the smaller animals."

Maddox said attaching tags to these animals is great, but the effort is wasted if they aren't detected by one of the tracking stations.

"Alabama just started getting involved in the network, and we now have seven tracking stations," she said. "Two years ago, we had zero, so there has been a large jump in getting the stations up in Alabama."

The stations in Alabama are located in the northeast region of the state and the Gulf Coast. Those locations on the coast are at Weeks Bay and Dauphin Island. Locations in northeast Alabama include Cheaha State Park, Cherokee Rock Village, Lake Guntersville State Park, Monte Sano State Park and Paint Rock Forest Research Station. Four of those were installed just four months ago, so it will take some time before enough data accumulates to detect any trends, according to Maddox.

She said more than 2,000 stations are in the network around the world.

"Collaboration is a huge part of the program," she said. "Someone can put a tag on a bird in Maine, and if it passes within10 to 15 kilometers (6-9 miles) of one of our stations, we'll get that data, and the person who attached that tag will get that data. It's a huge collaborative effort, which is one of the really cool things about it.

From one of the Motus stations, a white pelican tagged in Bear River, Utah, was detected in Baldwin County five months later. A wood thrush tagged just south of Toronto, Canada, was detected on the Alabama Gulf Coast five months later.

Maddox said the Paint Rock station picked up signals from a wood thrush tagged in Illinois, a wood thrush tagged in Kentucky and an Eastern whippoorwill that migrated from Maine.

"Maine is the really cool one to me, to think that bird flew all the way from Maine and flew within detection distance of our Motus station," she said. "That's just one of the things we're learning is how far they migrate and how important habitat is for the birds migrating these really long distances."

Maddox said previously tags were attached during the breeding season and wintering season, but the work is now focusing on migration.

A program under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will take place this summer with the goal of tagging wood thrush in each state in its breeding range from Alabama through Illinois and east through Virginia. Each state will get 15 to 25 wood thrush tags.

"We are participating this year, and we will be putting out 16 wood thrush tags to look at migration routes," Maddox said. "This overall project has partnered with Latin America to get a really big picture of wood thrush."

To catch wood thrush for tagging, the team will utilize the bird's innate tendency to protect their territory. A mesh net is erected and a recording of calls made by wood thrush during the early breeding season is played.

"They're so territorial that they'll get interested and swoop down to where the noise is coming from, and we will catch them in the net," Maddox said.

A long-term banding program on Fort Morgan at the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge has the potential to be a partner in attaching Motus tags. Maddox is working with Lianne Koczur of the Alabama Audubon Society to potentially attach Motus tags during the spring 2026 migration.

"We don't really have enough data because we're very, very early in this program," Maddox said. "In five to 10 years, I think we will have a wealth of information. I know there are more than 900 projects going on that utilize either Motus tags or Motus stations, so there are a lot of people and organizations using Motus for their research."



IOWA DNR

This wood thrush was outfitted with a Motus tag to study migration patterns and habitat preferences.

According to the Motus website (www.motus.org), collaborators have contributed to hundreds of academic publications that cover a wide range of data, including breeding, post-breeding dispersal, stopover and migration behavior, habitat use and overwintering ecology. Data collected by Motus is revolutionizing the understanding of migratory animals. The data gathered can be used in conservation efforts, status assessments and recovery plans for at-risk species.

Those interested in the data that is being collected can go to the website and click on the Explore Data link and then the Motus Data Dashboard link to find a map with all the Motus stations around the world.