

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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WEATHER

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

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Wallace State names Duarte, Sutherland Student and Teacher of the Year

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College recognized its Student of the Year and Teacher of the Year at the recent State of Education event held by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. Emily Delgado Duarte was named the Student of the Year and Dr. April Sutherland was named the Teacher of the Year.

Duarte Wallace State Student of the Year

A Remlap resident, Duarte, will graduate next month with an associate degree in Computer Science Programming and has maintained a 3.89 GPA.

"Emily is among the first in her family to attend and graduate from college," said Suzanne Harbin, vice president for advancement representing Dr. » PAGE 3



WALLACE STATE

Dr. April Sutherland, left, was named Wallace State's Teacher of the Year, and Emily Delgado Duarte, was named the Student of the Year at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Education event. »

– LOCAL SPOTLIGHT –

The Forty Acre Wood



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Forty Acre Wood is located at 195 Seven Bark Dr. NW, Cullman, AL 35057.

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Nestled in the Terri Pines neighborhood, The Forty Acre Wood is a destination for families seeking outdoor adventure in the spring and summer. Purchased in 2015, the land was converted into a family residence in 2016. From there, the owners began clearing trails and naming them, shaping the natural space with the idea of one day sharing it with others. After years of enjoying the beauty, they opened the property to the public, inviting others to explore the creeks, walk the trails and enjoy nature. The project aimed to create a safe, welcoming, kid-friendly space that connects people with nature.

Said Owner Wendy Smithson, "My favorite thing is when kids leave here, and they say this was the best day they ever had."

The Forty Acre Wood is a child-friendly environment with no steep inclines or drops. But it's not just for children; it's an outdoor experience for people of all ages. Whether walking dogs, hiking, horseback riding or just enjoying a picnic, it offers something for everyone.

During the warmer season, the swimming hole is a popular feature. The shallow swimming spot is approximately 4 feet deep, making it ideal for children to splash around and for adults to cool off. Fishing is also welcome in designated areas, and salamander spotting has become a favorite pastime among younger crowds.

Many features make the property unique. In addition to the swimming hole, a rustic playground for children is available, featuring recently added swings and a "walk the plank" play area. For those interested in hiking, safe and scenic trails are suitable for people of all ages. If you're looking for a more challenging hike, the "I Dare Ya" hiking trail offers a beautiful and more difficult route for adults. Picnic tables are scattered throughout, allowing visitors to enjoy a picnic or take a moment to relax. Dogs are welcome as long as they remain on leashes, and even horseback riders can come and enjoy the trails.

The Forty Acre Wood also offers seasonal experiences, such as a fall scavenger hunt and annual fundraisers that support families battling cancer. A family from the Smithsons' home church inspired the tradition of the annual fundraiser, with the event becoming more personal when the Smithsons faced cancer diagnoses themselves. All proceeds raised from the events go directly to families in need.

The Forty Acre Wood is a personal ministry for Smithson. "The Forty Acre Wood is a huge blessing in my life. For me, it's a ministry... My prayer is that every single individual that comes to The Forty Acre Wood — even you here today — is that God has them exactly where they are supposed to be," she shared. "Especially for kids — if they leave saying it was the best day ever, then we've done what we set out to do."

The Forty Acre Wood is open to hikers from March 1 to Oct. 31, seven days a week, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Horseback riders are welcome year-round. While » PAGE 2

3 Birmingham residents charged with organized retail theft in Cullman



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Left to right are Rashad Deron Thirkield, Andrew Denero Holloway and Shekinah Faith Laster » PAGE 3

City school board honors Faulk, Kennedy



ANABELLE HOWZE / THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



ANABELLE HOWZE / THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left: Hayden Faulk with Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff, Right: Chris Kennedy with Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff » PAGE 8

Flourish's Kentucky Derby Bingo event raises $34K » PAGE 5

25th annual Safe Kids Expo coming April 26 » PAGE 5

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Truth matters - Alabama's voter rolls » PAGE 6



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 21

Staff Reports
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 17
- dog bite; CR 1352
- dog bite; CR 1192
- domestic violence; CR 460
- permitting dogs to run at large; Hwy. 91
- assault; CR 1558
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 365
- harassment; CR 1141
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747

April 18
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- violation of protection order; CR 1330
- dog bite; CR 218
- harassment; CR 848

April 19
- permitting dogs to run at large; Apple Grove Rd.
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1805
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1330
- theft of property; CR 1742
- burglary; Ryan Rd.
- theft of property; CR 1118
- violation of protection order; receiving stolen property; certain person forbidden to possess firearm; CR 1330
- unlawful possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E
- unlawful possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1625
- violation of protection order; CR 590
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; tampering with physical evidence; certain person forbidden to possess firearm; CR 1670

April 20
- burglary; CR 1046

ARRESTS

April 17-20

Abbott, Justin B.; 48
- assault-harassment

Blue, Linda K.; 64
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Boone Jr., Bobby W.; 42
- FTA – family offense-NS non-support-child
- FTA – no plainly visible tag

Bowers, John C.; 42
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possessing stolen property, $1500 or more
- violation of a domestic violence protection order
- possession of methamphetamine
- certain person forbidden possession of a pistol

Burton, Sabastian L.; 22
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Carbajal, Bonifacio T.; 54
- public intoxication

Chambers, Tiffany C.; 34
- burglary-residence-force

Cox, Shandale R.; 31
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Doss, Bethany N.; 38
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Engel, Roger D.; 49
- theft of article from auto
- theft from yards, less than $500
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Freeman, Garic D.; 51
- GJ – sex offense – sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old

Gaddis, Jennifer A.; 40
- exposure of lewd act in public
- resisting arrest
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)
- public intoxication
- disorderly conduct/disturbing peace/affray

Grant, Tressie A.; 58
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs

Grove, Andrew J.; 28
- public intoxication

Hodge, Michael K.; 35
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- GJ – fraudulent use credit/debit card
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass

Husted, Lacy H.; 40
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Johnsey. John C.; 52
- harassing communications

Klumpe, Taren M.; 25
- FTA – sale of stolen property, less than $500

Lee, Christina M.; 43
- violation of a domestic violence protection order
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Lowery, Martin A.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Marcum-Cornelious, Becky S.; 38
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Mendoza, Crystal F.; 43
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

Miller, Brasha N.; 33
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Miller, David J.; 42
- attempting to elude a police officer

Phillips, Patrick E.; 27
- DIVERSION VIOLATION – certain person forbidden possession of a pistol

Phillips, Rodney J.; 45
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Rutherford Jr., Johnny E.; 34
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Thrasher, Benjamin J.; 28
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wilhelm, David M.; 31
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 18
- harassment; person; CR 1301
- organized retail theft; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $1,564; Olive St. SW
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged property; $55; 9th St. SW
- identity theft; person
- robbery-3rd degree; person; wallet & contents; Mitchell Rd. NE
- menacing; person; 1st St. SW

April 19
- criminal mischief-1st degree; Cullman Park & Rec; damaged property; $3,500; Lee Ave. SW
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '06 Ford Taurus; $500; 1st St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $43; Olive St. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Hickory Ave. SW

April 20
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '11 Chev. Malibu; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $356; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

April 18 – April 20

Jones, Hagen E.; 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Laster, Shekinah F.; 31
- organized retail theft (2 counts)

Thirkield, Rashad D.; 26
- organized retail theft (2 counts)

Holloway, Andrew D.; 32
- organized retail theft (2 counts)

Sanders, Acie Z.; 24
- FTA – speeding

Young, Cassondra M.; 42
- DUI

Baker, Frank R.; 50
- public intoxication

Loggins, Ashley N.; 39
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Mylykqua V.; 27
- unlawful possession/receiving of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lopez, Stella L.; 34
- public intoxication

Little, James E.; 41
- FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree

Self, Amber L.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree

Rouss, Jack P. III; 48
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Hodge, Michael K.; 35
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (7 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree (8 counts)
- FTA - insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA - driving while suspended (2 counts)

Chitwood, Joshua A.; 43
- DUI

Beasley, Dalton W.; 29
- theft of property-4th degree

Harris, Michele L.; 40
- 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.

'Schoolhouse Rock' camp set for June 9-14

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Schools Foundation is hosting a "Schoolhouse Rock" music camp this summer, offering students a fun and energetic introduction to foundational music concepts through the songs of "Schoolhouse Rock." Facilitated by the McCluskey School of Music and Heirlooms Fine and Performing Arts, the camp is open to students aged 7-17 and will include group singing, movement and performance activities – and an opportunity to learn about music, stage presence and teamwork. At the end of the camp, participants will perform all the songs and skills they have learned for the community.

The camp was inspired by the desire to share musical education while combining it with a sense of nostalgia and fun.

"Schoolhouse Rock" has been a beloved tool for teaching subjects through fun songs and colorful pictures.

The Foundation saw this as the perfect opportunity to encourage creativity and build confidence.

Participation is open to all students in the Cullman community, whether they're in the city school system, county school system, in private school or homeschooled.

The camp aims to build a love for music, build confidence and help build friendships in a supportive environment.

No musical experience is required, making it perfect for beginners and experienced performers alike.

All proceeds from the camp go to the Foundation, supporting local education initiatives.

Foundation Specialist and Owner And Director of Heirlooms Fine and Performing Arts, Paige Clabo, said she hopes to encourage students of all ages and skills to join in the fun.

"This camp is designed to be supportive, welcoming and fun for everyone.

"Whether you've never sung in front of others or already love the stage, this is your moment to grow, explore and surprise yourself.

"Everyone starts somewhere, and this is the perfect place to begin your performance journey," Clabo said.

The camp will take place June 9-14, from 8 a.m.-noon each day, at East Elementary.

The cost is $120 per child, and the performance dates will be Thursday, June 12, at 6 p.m. and Friday, June 13, at 6 p.m.

Payments can be made by cash or check (made out to the Cullman City Schools Foundation) or at www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2XVTJWM6TXQMQ.

Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/csfshr25. For more information, email cullmancityschoolsfoundation@gmail.com or call 256-339-8876.

Spotlight (from Front)

there is no entry fee, a donation of $5 per person is encouraged to help cover maintenance costs. Donations can be made on-site via a donation box in the parking area or digitally through Venmo or PayPal.

If families can afford it, we do want them to come on out and enjoy The Forty Acre Wood regardless, but if they can leave a donation, we appreciate every donation that comes in," Smithson said.

The Forty Acre Wood is open to school and homeschool groups. There are no public restrooms, which may limit the time available for some group visits. Church groups and life groups are also welcome. Ongoing plans to expand picnic areas and facilities are underway.

For information, rules and regulations, visit www.facebook.com/TheFortyAcreWood or www.thefortyacrewood.com. The Forty Acre Wood is located at 195 Seven Bark Dr. NW, Cullman, AL 35057.

LEGALS

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

201 2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

256.775.7203
www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday May 5, 2025, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short form subdivision – 4th Street SW (Highway 278 W) & Denson Avenue SW – combine two lots into one lot
2. Short form subdivision – 815 Briarcliff Road NE – move lot line
3. Amendments to Subdivision Regulations
4. Short form subdivision – 1432 Dripping Springs Road NW – divide one lot into two lots

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM · ACCS

FACILITIES DIVISION

ACCS FORM 6-M

SAMPLE FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that:

Comfort Systems USA Mid South, Inc.
(Contractor Company Name)

Contractor, has completed the Contract for:
○ CONSTRUCTION ◉ RENOVATION ○ ALTERATION ○ EQUIPMENT ○ IMPROVEMENT

of: ACCS Project #2023 017 Bevill Health Lady Lions HVAC Replacement

at: Wallace-Hanceville Community College

for the State of Alabama and the (County) (City) of: the Alabama Community College System, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify:

Williams Blackstock Architects, PC 2204 1st Ave. South, Ste 200, Birmingham, AL 35233
(Architect/Engineer)

Comfort Systems USA Mid South, Inc.
(Contractor)

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
3100 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N
Birmingham, AL 35203

NOTE: This notice must be run once a week for three successive weeks for projects exceeding $100,000. For projects of $100,000 or less, there is no requirement for Advertisement for Completion. A copy of the publisher's affidavit of publication (including a copy of the advertisement) shall be submitted by the Contractor to the Design Professional.

VER: 08132024

Theft (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Three Birmingham residents were arrested and charged in Cullman on Friday, April 18, with organized retail theft.

According to the City of Cullman, at approximately 3:05 p.m., Cullman Police Department patrol officers were dispatched to Walmart on Olive Street Southwest in reference to a felony theft in progress.

Upon arrival, officers allegedly located the suspect vehicle, a silver Dodge Charger, in the Walmart parking lot and attempted to make contact with the individuals involved.

The driver of the vehicle allegedly continued through the parking lot and before coming to a stop in the parking lot of AMC Theatre.

Once stopped, the occupants of the vehicle allegedly failed to follow commands to exit the vehicle, and a short stand-off ensued.

The City said two occupants were eventually taken into custody, and a third suspect was apprehended by Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies nearby.

It said one of the occupants of the vehicle was transported to a local hospital for evaluation as a precautionary measure.

"It was determined that the three individuals were part of an organized theft group out of Birmingham and had committed several felonious thefts of major retail stores in the city of Cullman over the last few weeks, as well as in several other jurisdictions in the Birmingham Metro Area," said a statement from the City.

Shekinah Faith Laster, 31; Rashad Deron Thirkield, 26; and Andrew Denero Holloway, 32, were each charged with organized retail theft.

The City said more charges are expected to follow.

"(Cullman Police) Chief Joey Duncan would like to commend the Cullman Police officers involved in the apprehension of these individuals and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies for their assistance," said the statement.

Estate Sale 1: 1412 Harbison Street Cullman, Friday April 25, Saturday April 26, 7:00 a.m. Nice furniture, antiques, collectibles, Alabama memorabilia, check out pictures on PK Estate Sales Facebook.

Estate Sale 2: 1817 Childhaven Road, Cullman, Friday April 25, Saturday April 26, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 Lift Chair, nice sofa, reclining love seat, Victorian furniture, old toys, collectibles, and more. Check out pictures on PK Estate Facebook Page.

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Year (from Front)

Vicki Karolewics, president, in introducing Duarte. "Despite being valedictorian at Southeastern High School, she doubted a higher education was possible. Scholarships from the Wallace State Future Foundation eased her financial burden allowing her to focus on her studies. She earned a place on the president's list every semester and joined four honor societies, including serving as president for Mu Alpha Theta and Sigma Kappa Delta."

Duarte was also active in several student clubs and organizations, including the VALOR Club, International Club, Rotaract Club, SGA and Campus Ministries. She was part of the inaugural group for the award-winning student-led podcast, "The Mane Topic," where she served as an editor. She is active in the TRIO programs, a student support service for first-generation students, and she's a work study student who was recognized twice with a work study student award.

"Emily credits every resource, mentor and friend at Wallace State for shaping her into who she is today. She remains grateful for her parents' support and believes her accomplishments were guided by grace," Harbin said.

"Emily, we are extremely proud you, and we look forward to your future achievements and thank you being a shining example of what the Lion Life is."

Sutherland Wallace State Teacher of the Year

Sutherland is the director of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program at Wallace State. She has been with the college for 11 years, leading the program through three accreditation processes and expanding pathway options to include Abdomen/Vascular, Cardiovascular Sonography and Obstetrics & Gynecology Sonography.

"Each year at the pinning ceremony for her graduating students, Dr. Sutherland chooses a single word to describe the group. So, to turn the tables on her, we've used the nominations sent in for her to choose a word that describes her – and the word is 'deserving,'" Harbin said during the presentation.

"This word encompasses so many things about Dr. Sutherland and why she is receiving this award. Common words students used to describe her include caring, selfless, encouraging, helpful, understanding and fun," she continued.

"Dr. April Sutherland, we couldn't agree more and are pleased to present you with the 2025 Teacher of the Year award for Wallace State Community College."



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Good Hope Public Cemetery Decoration Weekend clean-up announcement

Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend on Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4. Please have all old worn flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery by Sunday, April 27. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 27, will be subject to removal by cemetery maintenance with respect to condition. We ask that all new flowers and decorations be kept as close to the monuments as possible to aid in mowing. Solar lights are not allowed unless they are directly in a flower arrangement. Donations to the cemetery can be sent to Good Hope Public Cemetery, P.O. Box 355 Cullman, AL 35056 or placed in the donation box on site. Donations are tax deductible and are essential to pay for cemetery upkeep.

SAVE THE DATE! Little Pink Dress Benefit

Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Stone Bridge Farms. Table for eight for $450. Tickets available from Jennifer Limerick (256-201-2521 or jenniferalrealtor@gmail.com) or Judy Grissom (256-347-5993 or options5993@gmail.com) or www.CullmanBosomBuddies.com. Benefits the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation.

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: Broken Heart for Repair

For more information, 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 23 - 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 25 - 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 27 - 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.

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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 22, 2025

PREP BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Bearcats sweep Hazel Green to advance; round 1 scoring recap

Nick Griffin, Sammy Confer
Contributors

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bearcats secured the Area 13 championship during the regular season, so they were back home at Bill Shelton Field Friday night to host Hazel Green for the opening round of the 6A state playoffs. The Bearcats dominated game one 10-0 to take a 1-0 lead in the series and kept the momentum going in game two, handling the Trojans 12-0 and securing a spot in round two. Cullman will face Pell City in round two on Friday.

Cullman 10 – Hazel Green 0 (Game One)

The 'Cats got off to a fast start in this one. Brooks Heatherly was hit by a pitch and Colter Bowen drew a walk to give Cullman a pair of runners in the bottom of the first. Two pitches later, Bennett Johnson ripped an RBI single to left field to plate Heatherly and make it a 1-0 game. Later in the inning, Tyler Brock singled to load the bases and Knox Mauldin drew a walk to bring in another run and make it 2-0.

Cooper Loftin kept the inning going with an RBI single to right field, putting Cullman ahead 3-0. Cale Graves then drew another walk with the bases loaded to push another run across the plate and Case Edwards lifted a sacrifice fly into center field to bring in another run and stretching the lead to 5-0.

A few pitches later, Bowen lined a 2-run single back up the middle to give the Bearcats a commanding, 7-0 lead going into the second inning.

Cullman's defense left seven Hazel Green runners stranded over the next four innings to preserve the lead and their bats put things away in the bottom of the fifth. Edwards laid down a sacrifice bunt to score Andew Au and make it an 8-0 game and just a few pitches later, Heatherly wrapped things up with a 2-run bomb over the right field wall to give the 'Cats a 10-0 win in game one.

Loftin tossed five shutout innings to earn the win, allowing just two hits and striking out two batters. At the plate, Bowen (two hits), Heatherly (HR) and Edwards each recorded two RBIs.

Cullman 12 – Hazel Green 0 (Game Two)

After a scoreless first inning, Cullman took the lead in the top of the second. Carson Stancil singled to lead things off and Tyler Brock drew a walk to give the Bearcats a pair of runners. Cooper Loftin knocked an RBI double into right field to give Cullman a 1-0 lead and a sacrifice fly from Case Edwards scored Brock later in the inning to make it 2-0. Heatherly's big night at the plate got even bigger a few pitches later when he drove a 3-run homer over the right field wall and put the 'Cats on top 5-0 going into the third inning.

Bennett Johnson led off the top of the third with a double, Stancil was hit by a pitch and Tyler Brock singled to load the bases. Knox Mauldin took advantage of the scoring opportunity with a 2-run single, stretching the lead to 7-0. With the bases loaded later in the inning, Edwards was hit by a pitch to bring in Andrew Au and make it an 8-0 game. One pitch later, Heatherly ripped a 2-run single down the first base line to put Cullman in front 10-0. The big inning continued when Colter Bowen lined another 2-run single into right field and made it 12-0 going into the fourth.

After a scoreless fourth inning, the 'Cats collected the final three outs in the bottom of the fifth to wrap up a 12-0 win and advance to round two.

Fysher Dahlke pitched five scoreless innings on the mound to earn the win, allowing just three hits and striking out five batters. At the plate, Heatherly finished with a pair of hits and led the way with five RBIs. Mauldin (one hit) and Bowen (one hit) each posted a pair of RBIs as well.

Vinemont 19 – Randolph County 2 (Game Three)

After splitting their first two games with Randolph County on Thursday, the Eagles dominated the rubber match on Friday. A 2-run single from Jake Hale, an error, a bunt single from Rylan McRae and a sacrifice bunt by Tucker Mauter allowed Vinemont to take a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

The Eagles wasted no time adding to their lead, putting the game out of reach in the bottom of the second. An RBI single from Josh Rhodes made it a 6-1 game and Rhodes came around to score on a wild pitch later in the inning to make it 7-1. That's when McRae blasted a grand slam over the fence in left field, putting Vinemont on top 11-1. An error allowed two more runs to score later in the inning and an RBI double off the bat of Rhodes drove in another run to make it 14-1. Hayden Robinson was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to make it a 15-1 game and just a few pitches later, McRae lined a 2-run single into center field to give the Eagles a 17-1 advantage. Vinemont tacked on two more runs with back to back singles from Rush Sandlin and Mauter, stretching the lead to 19-1 going into the third inning.

After a scoreless third inning, the Tigers pushed one run across in the top of the fourth to trim the lead to 19-2 but that was the final run of the game and the Eagles punched their ticket to round two with a dominant, 19-2 performance in game three.

McRae finished 4-for-4 at the plate and racked up a game-high seven RBIs. Rhodes (two hits), Mauter (one hit) and Kayden Henderson (one hit) each added a pair of RBIs as well.

Vinemont will travel to Phil Campbell for round two Friday.

Lawrence County 6 – Fairview 3 (Game One)

After a scoreless first inning, Fairview took the lead in the top of the second when Jaxson Robertson knocked an RBI double into left field, plating Colton Jennings and putting the Aggies ahead 1-0. Fairview added to its lead in the third. Connor Scott lined an RBI double to left field to drive in Lincoln Wright and make it a 2-0 game. Just a few pitches later, Camden Cullen lifted a sacrifice fly to center field to score Scott and make it 3-0.

However, Lawrence County was able to put one run on the board in the bottom of the third to trim the lead to 3-1 and after a scoreless fourth inning, the Red Devils strung together four hits and plated four runs in the bottom of the fifth to move in front 5-3. Lawrence County was able to add one more run in the sixth inning and Fairview was unable to answer the late push from the Red Devils, falling in game one 6-3.

Jennings led the Aggies with two hits in the loss and Robertson (one RBI), Wright and Scott each added a hit as well.

Lawrence County 12 – Fairview 3 (Game Two)

The Red Devils got off to a fast start in game two, plating five runs in the top of the first. The Aggies answered with a pair of runs in the bottom half of the inning. Lincoln Wright and Connor Scott walked and Camden Cullen singled up the middle to load the bases. A balk allowed Wright to score and Scott scored on a fielder's choice a few pitches later to make it a 5-2 game going into the second inning.

Runs were hard to come by after that, as both teams combined for just three hits over the next four innings to leave the score where it was. Neither team was able to get on the board in the sixth inning either but in the top of the seventh, a solo home run from the Red Devils stretched the lead to 6-2 and Lawrence County was able to extend its lead to 12-2 by the end of the inning. Wright scored on a wild pitch to trim the lead to 12-3 in the bottom of the seventh, but the Aggies were unable to chip away any more than that and their season came to an end with a 12-3 loss to the Red Devils.

Cullen and Scott each recorded a hit in the loss and Jackson Earnest added an RBI.

Madison County 5 - Good Hope 2 (Game One)

Good Hope struck first to lead off the game. Carter Rutherford hit a leadoff single and later that inning, a fielder's choice moved him over to third. Carter Naramore hit a sacrifice fly to give the Raiders a 1-0 lead. Madison County got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second, as an error and a two-run home run with two outs gave them a 3-1 lead. The Tigers made it 5-1 in the fourth on an RBI single and a stolen base.

Myles Johnson led off the Raider seventh with a single, then a sacrifice bunt and an error moved him over to third. Three pitches later, Johnson scored on a passed ball to cut it to 5-2. They wouldn't get any closer after and they ended up falling to Madison County in game one, 5-2.

Carter Naramore drove in a run for Good Hope. Myles Johnson added a pair of hits, while Rutherford, Nash Landon, Parker Johnson, Caden Drake, and Case Naramore all collected a hit of their own in the loss.

Madison County 16 - Good Hope 3 (Game Two)

Both teams started out Game Two strong offensively. A three-run home run by Madison County gave them an early 3-0 lead to start out the game, but Good Hope responded in their half. Carter Rutherford drew a leadoff walk, and Nash Landon lined a double to center field to put runners on second and third with nobody out. Parker Johnson hit the first pitch he saw into center field for a two-run single to cut it to 3-2.

The Tigers hit a two-run double and a two-run single in the top of the second to put them ahead 7-2. They added two more runs in the top of the third to make it 9-2. A passed ball in the fourth gave Madison County a 10-2 lead, but Myles Johnson scored on an error in the Raider half of the fourth to cut it to 10-3.

The Tigers, though, countered with six runs in the top of the fifth to make it 16-3, and Good Hope couldn't answer in their half. The Raiders' season came to an with a 16-3 loss to Madison County.

Johnson finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for Good Hope. Mason Drake added a pair of hits, while Nash Landon and Blake Cordes each ended up with a hit of their own in the loss.

Red Bay 16 - Cold Springs 2 (Game One)

Red Bay hit an RBI double in the bottom of the first inning to give them the early lead. Cold Springs got on the scoreboard in the top of the second. Lindan Hill hit a one-out double and later scored on an error to tie the game up at one. The Tigers, though, hit an RBI single in their half to break the tie and take a 2-1 lead.

Their lead continued to grow after that, as a two-run home run in the third made it 4-1. Red Bay broke the game wide open in the fourth, as they put up 12 runs in the inning to stretch their lead to 16-1. Elijah Cole scored on an error in the top of the seventh to make it 16-2, but the Eagles couldn't cut into the deficit any more after that, and they ended up dropping game one to the Tigers 16-2.

Mason Gable collected a pair of hits for Cold Springs while Hill and Cole each added a hit of their own in the loss.

Red Bay 10 - Cold Springs 0 (Game Two)

Game Two started out as a pitcher's duel through the first two innings, but Red Bay's offense exploded in the top of the third. They batted around and scored seven runs to take a 7-0 lead. The Tigers added a run in the fourth and the fifth to make it 9-0. A wild pitch in the sixth made it 10-0, and Cold Springs went down in order in their half. The Eagles' season came to an end at the hands of Red Bay, 10-0.

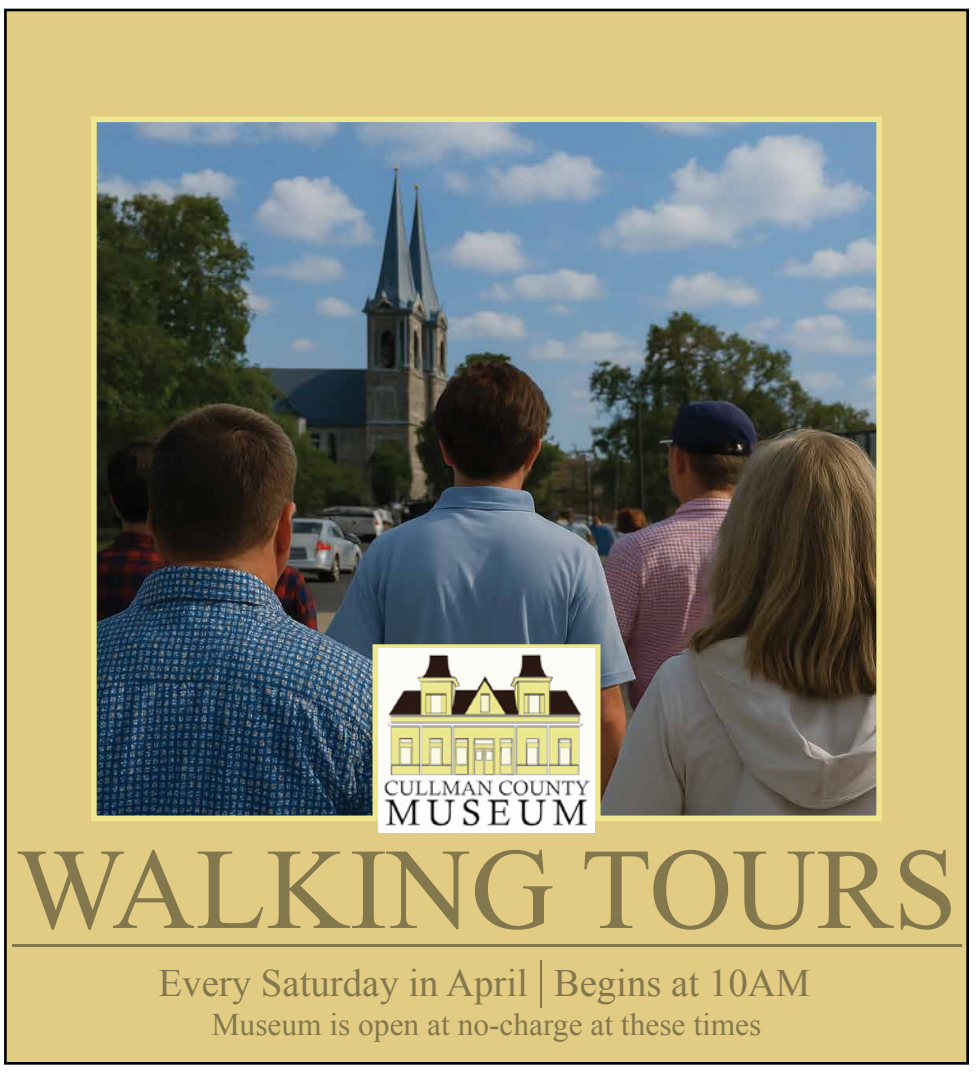
Elijah Cole recorded the only hit of the game for Cold Springs.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Cooper Loftin (30) tossed five shutout innings to earn the win in game one, allowing just two hits and striking out two batters.





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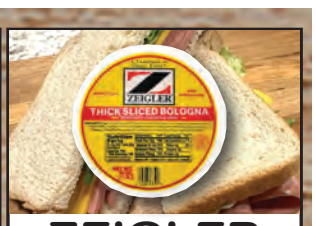
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FAITH

‘Finding God for yourself is one of the most important things you can do in your life’

Fairview’s Emily Benson discusses her faith

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview senior Emily Benson is so happy to have God in her life and in this interview, she talked about different times He’s been there for her and shared some of her favorite Bible verses.

”God has always been a big part of my life ever since I was young. He has brought me through many things in my life and has been something I can rely on, even in the hardest times. God is extremely important to me and has helped me through so much,” Benson said. ”My favorite set of verses is Philippians 4:6-8. They talk about how we can rely on God through prayer and gives us the guidelines on the things we should focus on in this life. It also tells us that God’s peace passes all understanding and keeps our hearts and minds pure. These verses give us comfort knowing that God will bring us peace of mind.”

Emily wants to help people of all ages find God and wants to be a Godly role model for kids as well.

”It is incredibly important. I know how much God has done in my life and finding God for yourself is one of the most important things you can do in your life. It will bring your life so much more peace if you have that faith and trust in God to deliver you from hardships. When you are baptized into Christ and you start to live that Christian life, you will find true happiness and comfort,” Benson said.

”I hope that I am a good role model to the people that are around me and who are younger than me, because we are called to be a Christian example. Modeling ourselves after Christ is so important, because it is one of the ways that other people find God.”

Emily loves helping out with different events, whether it’s at her church or at school, and she talked about a couple of Godly role models in her life.

”Our church supports missions and people spreading the Gospel abroad, but I have been a part of some local efforts, like when we went to school and handed out tracks and Bibles to young people for a back-to-school event,” she said.

”A couple of my Godly role models are my grandma and grandpa. They always try to do what’s right and what is according to the Bible.”

She talked about a life-changing experience that has helped her get even closer to God. She also gave advice to those people who might be struggling to have a relationship with God.

”I have dealt with a lot of anxiety throughout my high school years, and I think that is something that has brought me closer to God, because there was nowhere else I could turn to besides Him. He helped me to work through all of my struggles with anxiety and was somewhere I could turn to calm myself down,” she said.

”I would tell them to research and find things out for themselves. Don’t believe all the things that people say. There are all kinds of informational places that helps break things down if you don’t understand them. There is nothing to be discouraged about if you don’t understand something, because almost every Christian has been that way at one point or another. I would also say that in the end, it is worth all the struggles and sacrifices that it takes.”

Emily has learned so many important things during her journey so far.

”I have learned that God will always be there for you, no matter what. You may lose people in your life, but God will always be there for you in any struggle. He will help you with anything and will always be a listening ear.”



EMILY BENSON

Fairview’s Emily Benson

Expo (from Front)

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The 25th annual Safe Kids Expo will take place on Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-1p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park.

The event is organized by Brooks’ Place – The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman.

Brooks’ Place Executive Director Gail Swafford said the idea for the Safe Kids Expo came from retired Cullman County District Judge Kim Chaney, who always looked for opportunities to provide information and resources promoting child safety and strengthening families.

“Judge Chaney was committed to encouraging families to spend time together in a safe, fun environment,” Swafford said. “Thus the idea of Safe Kids was born. Judge Chaney, alongside his Juvenile Probation staff and Brooks’ Place staff, held the first Safe Kids Expo 25 years ago at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.”

Swafford said at that time families received ID packets for their children that contained a polaroid picture of the child, the child’s fingerprints and other valuable information needed should a child be abducted or lost.

“Safe Kids Expo has grown each year, adding more fun, games and participating agencies focused on child safety,” she said. “Currently Safe Kids is held at Sportsman Lake Park.

”Since April is Child Abuse Awareness Prevention month, it was only fitting to host the event in April of each year.”

Swafford said the event would not be possible without sponsors, including Sportsman Lake Park, Cullman County Commission, Desperation Church, Pepsi, Cullman Lions Club, District Attorney Champ Crocker, Wal-Mart Distribution, Cullman County Partnership for Children and Cullman County Home Builders Association.

What is the Brooks’ Place Child Advocacy Center? It was formed in 1997 after a grassroots effort headed by then Cullman County District Attorney Len Brooks to provide services to child abuse victims. The center was named in his honor. Services include trauma-focused counseling, forensic medical exams and advocacy for child abuse victims.

All services are provided at no cost to families. Brooks’ Place partners with law enforcement, DHR, juvenile probation, medical professionals specializing in child abuse and the DA’s office to seek justice and healing for children and families dealing with the impact of child abuse. It is the only agency in Cullman providing all the services under one roof needed for children to heal from abuse.

For more information, visit www.cullmancac.com or www.facebook.com/brooksplacecac or call 256-739-2243.

The Safe Kids Expo is a free event and will include face painting, music, train rides, putt-putt golf, popcorn, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, in Cullman.

Bingo (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit Flourish of Cullman hosted a fun-filled night recently at its Kentucky Derby Bingo fundraiser. Held at Cotton Creek Venue, the event saw guests participating in five rounds of bingo, a game of heads or tails and enjoying door prizes and a silent auction.

All the festivities had one goal: raising funds for Flourish’s Robert Squires Independent Living Skills Apartment. Flourish is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals with differing abilities live and work within the Cullman community. The event raised a total of $34,000.

“Everybody wants to be able to win prizes, and bingo has always been a fun way for us to bring people together and introduce them to what we do,” said Founder and Executive Director Melissa Dew.

This year’s fundraiser marks the final push to complete the Robert Squires Independent Living Skills Apartment.

It is an ADA-compliant two-bedroom, one-bathroom unit where individuals will be assessed and supported in developing life skills to help them live independently.

“We want individuals to come in, be assessed on their strengths and weaknesses, and then receive the tools they need to succeed in their own households,” Dew explained.

During the Kentucky Derby Bingo event, Flourish also honored several local businesses and individuals with Game Changer Awards, recognizing their long-term support and commitment to employing people served by the organization. Those recognized included Newk’s Eatery, Ross Dress for Less, Brickyard Meats, Lindsay Robinson and Brooke Rodriguez.

“It’s not just letting someone sit at your table. It’s believing they belong at your table,” Dew said.

Dew also announced the Kentucky Derby Bingo event will return on April 11, 2026. Flourish continues its outreach through social media, volunteer opportunities and its Job Exploration Training Services (JETS) program, in partnership with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services. This partnership provides work experience for individuals involved with Flourish.

If you are interested in learning more or assisting with Flourish’s mission, visit www.flourishofcullman.com or www.facebook.com/flourishofcullmaninc or call 256-735-4186.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Local nonprofit Flourish of Cullman hosted its Kentucky Derby Bingo fundraiser on April 12, 2025.



OP-ED

Truth matters - Alabama's voter rolls

John Merrill
Contributor

President Abraham Lincoln said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

Until now, I have refrained from commenting or opening the door to counter-criticisms in response to the derogatory comments made about me and my administration by Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen. Since taking office in 2023, Secretary Allen has repeatedly mischaracterized both my tenure and the work of the professionals in the Secretary of State's Office.

He has overstated his efforts in "clearing up" the voter rolls, inflating numbers, and presenting a misleading picture of the state's voter rolls.

I've stayed silent, not because I lacked a response, but because I believe facts speak louder than rhetoric.

But recent statements in his Congressional testimony compel me to set the record straight.

In his testimony before the Committee on House Administration's Subcommittee on Elections, Secretary Allen alleged, "Our voter file, which was a bloated mess on the day I took office, is now the most accurate record of eligible voters our state has ever had." This same language appeared in a February 2025 press release from his office.

Let me be clear: this statement doesn't just disparage my administration—it disrespects the dedicated registrars and elections professionals who worked tirelessly to ensure our elections were secure.

Many of those individuals worked in that capacity before me, and many continue to serve today.

Their work helped Alabama achieve the distinction of being ranked number one in the nation in election security by the University of Southern California, the Concerned Women for Good Government, and The Heritage Foundation in 2021 for the first time in the history of the State of Alabama.

This designation also led to my selection as chair of the National Commission on Election Integrity following the 2020 election.

Regarding his new system, Alabama Voter Integrity Database (AVID)—the state's replacement for the multi-state Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)—Secretary Allen claims it enabled the removal of over half a million ineligible voters.

He further asserts that since taking office, his administration has identified more than a million names for removal or updates to their information.

Here's what that narrative leaves out.

AVID, as described, is a "four-pronged system" that includes a cooperative agreement with the (1) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the use of the (2) USPS National Change of Address File, the use of (3) Social Security death data, and (4) agreements with other states to identify individuals registered in multiple jurisdictions.

All four components were already in place and being used alongside ERIC under my administration, as a matter of fact, number 1 and number 4 were introduced to the state by my administration and under the purview of the registrars.. What's been presented as a new innovation is, in large part, a repackaging of longstanding procedures.

One of the things that membership in ERIC provided was the identification and potential investigation of dual voting participation by registered voters in member states in the same election cycle.

This is not a feature that is included in AVID. This information has been verified by the Secretaries of State who have signed MOUs with Alabama.

Let's now examine the numbers.

On my first day in office—January 19, 2015—Alabama had 2,992,062 registered voters. On my last day in office—January 15, 2023—Alabama had 3,702,689 registered voters. During my eight years as Secretary of State, we registered 2,215,229 new voters, and 1,504,602 names were removed from the voter list.

Those names were removed because the registered voter had moved out of state, passed away, or been convicted of a disqualifying felony.

As of this writing, according to the Secretary of State's website, Alabama has 3,769,586 registered voters—an increase of 66,897 in just over two years.

If Secretary Allen truly removed 500,000 ineligible voters, the total number of registered voters would have dropped to approximately 3,269,586. And yet, the voter rolls show an increase, not a decrease.

To reach the current number, the current administration would have needed to register at least 566,897 new voters since January 2023.

That claim defies logic, so show the people the names.

Furthermore, under Alabama law, only the state's 201 county registrars are authorized to add or remove individuals from the voter rolls, not the Secretary of State.

So when Allen claims he added or removed voters, whether one or one million, to or from the voter rolls, this is being disingenuous or intentionally misleading.

According to the Code and Constitution of Alabama, the Secretary of State does not have that ability or authorization to add or remove voters from the Alabama voter rolls.

Between January 2015 and January 2023, Alabama averaged approximately 276,000 new voter registrations per year.

And that was during a time of active outreach by the Secretary of State's Office—when we traveled to all 67 counties every year, set up registration drives at schools, parks, fairs, community events, and ran public service campaigns featuring prominent Alabamians such as Coach Nick Saban, Coach Gus Malzahn, Charles Barkley, Dr. Mae Jemison, the Women of the Alabama Legislature, Jimmy Buffett, Lionel Richie, President Donald Trump and many others across television, radio, and digital media.

It strains credibility to suggest that this administration more than doubled that average, without launching any similar, large-scale voter registration initiatives.

Quite simply, the math does not add up. The truth matters—not only to preserve the integrity of the record but to honor the public servants who worked faithfully to keep our elections accurate, secure, and fair. Misrepresenting their efforts and distorting the facts for political narrative serves no one—not the state, not the voters, and certainly not the truth.

John H. Merrill served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 2010-2014 and as Alabama's 53rd Secretary of State from 2015-2023.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

SPECIAL NOTICE BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOOD HOPE

This notice is to inform the public of 2 petitions to vacate right of way and 1 petition to vacate street.

In accordance with Section 23-4-2 Code of Alabama, 1975, and will be advertised for 4 weeks prior to the public hearing.

2941 Co Rd 437 Cullman, AL 35057 vacate right-of-way .14 acres

2865 Co Rd 437 Cullman, AL 35057 vacate right-of-way .04 acres

Vacate Williams Drive - full legal description posted at city hall

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 , 6:30 PM

Located at Good Hope City Hall 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman, AL 35057

Anyone that would like to attend the public hearing but has a disability which might require special materials, services, or assistance should notify the city clerk at 256-739-3757 at least 3 days in advance of the public hearing.

By: Christie Chamblee, City Clerk

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO.: AD2025-009

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STAN DAVID JENNINGS and TARA LYNN JENNINGS.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Daiquiri Tashell Powell
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of L.J.E., a minor child born November 15, 2018, was filed on the 4th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stan David Jennings and Tara Lynn Jennings. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 14th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO.: AD2025-008

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STAN DAVID JENNINGS and TARA LYNN JENNINGS.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Daiquiri Tashell Powell
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of L.J.E., a minor child born September 5, 2017, was filed on the 4th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stan David Jennings and Tara Lynn Jennings. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 14th day of April, 2025.

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Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **Jeff Henrickson** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said mortgage dated Novemer 19, 2009, and recorded on November 20, 2009, in Mortgage Book 1613 Page 597 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the **29th day of April, 2025**, between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Tract I of that certain survey prepared by Kelly L Whitfield described as follows:

A Tract of land being in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter Section 18, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama, described as Commencing at the Northeast corner of the West Half of the East half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence along the North section line S89-28'27" W 185.00 feet to a railroad spike being the point of beginning; thence continue along said section line S89-28'27" W 109.97 feet to a railroad spike; thence S6-25'18" W 172.79 feet to a ½" rebar; thence S64-55'28" E 146.90 feet to a 1/2" rebar; thence N00-55'02'W 235.00 feet to the point of beginning. Being 0.573 acres, more or less. Less and Except all powerline rights of way and all other rights of ways and/or easements of record. Also Less and Except all that part of the above described property that lies within the right of way line of County Road 616.

Property address: 829 County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077

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

PUBLICATION DATES: April 8, April 15 and April 22, 2025
NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

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

Legal Notice
Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:
2003 Honda Odyssey (White) vin: 5FNRL18033B031628
2004 Mercury Mountaineer (Gray) VIN: 4M2ZU66W-44ZJ32331
2013 Kia Forte VIN: KNAFU4A26D5647255
2003 Honda Odyssey (Gray) VIN: 5FNRL180X3B020447
2013 Chevrolet Equinox (Black) VIN: 2GNALDEK1D6370942
2012 Ford Fusion (White) VIN: 3FAHP0HA7CR325430
2005 Ford Escape VIN: 1FMYU92Z05KB86346
2012 Chevrolet Equinox VIN: 2GNALPEK5C6231297
2008 Toyota Corolla (Silver) VIN: 1NXBR32E38Z017982
2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 (Black) VIN: 2GCEK133081182780
These vehicles will be sold on May 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

STATE OF ALABAMA)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants terms and conditions of that mortgage from Jeronimo Silva and Maple Grove Estates, LLC, to BankFirst Financial Services, dated December 15, 2022 and recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama on December 15, 2022, in Mortgage Volume 2036 at Page 711; and
BankFirst Financial Services, as mortgagee, having declared all of the indebtedness secured by said mortgage due and payable and such default continuing, notice is hereby given under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, that BankFirst Financial Services, as mortgagee, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.) on the 21st day of May, 2025, the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama together with hereditaments and appurtenances there unto belonging and all buildings, structures, fixtures and other improvements now or hereafter existing, erected or installed thereon to-wit:
PARCEL 2:
A part of the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 3 West, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a set 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the point of intersection of the accepted West line of said forty with the North right of way of County Road 616, said point being in a curve to the right centerline data of Radius, 942.78 feet, Tangent 167.37 feet, Delta angle 200 degrees 08'01"; thence from said true point of beginning run southeasterly along said right of way and the arc of said curve a distance of 84.94 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the point of said curve; thence south 60 degrees 48'51" east along said right of way a distance of 251.06 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence leaving said right of way, run north 0 degrees 22'43" wEST A DISTANCE OF 314.00 FEE TO A SET 5/8 INCH REBAR IRON; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREES 53'54" WEST A DISTANCE OF 291.00 FEET TO A FOUND ½" PIPE MARKING THE ACCEPTED NW CORNER OF SAID FORTY; THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE 00'00" ALONG THE ACCEPTED WEST LINE OF SAID FORTY A DISTANCE OF 179.34 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. DESCRIPTION ACCORDING TO SURVEY OF H.D. HARRIS, AL REG. NO. 5742, DATED DECEMBER 31, 2011.

PARCEL 3:
BEGINNING AT THE SE CORNER OF NE ¼ OF THE NW ¼ OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST 15.00 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED IRON; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 199.51 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED IRON; THENCE SOUTH 86 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST 14.99 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED IRON; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 15 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST 201.90 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ON SOUTH R.O.W. OF ALABAMA HIGHWAY 278; THENCE SOUTH 76 DEGREES 33 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST 625.44 FEET ALONG SAID R.O.W. TO A POINT IN the CENTER OF INDIAN CREEK; THENCE SOUTH 4 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 24 SECONDS EAST 269.66 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTER OF INDIAN CREEK; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST 639.26 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED IRON, BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LAND LYING IN THE NE ¼ OF THE NW ¼ AND IN THE NW ¼ OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA. LEGAL DESCRIPTION PER SURVEY DATED MARCH 13, 2009, BY JAMES W. BALDY, AL. REG. NO. 11845.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as:

Parcel 2: 5540, 5542, 5544, 5546 and 5548 County Road 616, Hanceville, Alabama 35077; Parcel ID: 25-22-02-09-0-000-017.001

Parcel 3: 6144 US HWY 278, Cullman, Alabama 35055; Parcel ID 25-16-06-13-0-001-002.003

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, and any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record, including, but not limited to, those superior to said mortgage first set out above.
Said property will be sold on an "AS-IS" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.
ALABAMA LAW GIVES SOME PERSONS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN PROPERTY THE RIGHT TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. PROGRAMS MAY ALSO EXIST THAT HELP PERSONS AVOID OR DELAY THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. AN ATTORNEY SHOULD BE CONSULTED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THESE RIGHTS AND PROGRAMS AS A PART OF THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

BankFirst Financial Services,
as Mortgagee
Lowe, Mobley Lowe & LeDuke
Attorneys for Mortgagee
c/o Jonathan B. Lowe
1210 21st Street
P.O. Box 576
Haleyville, Alabama 35565
Tel: (205)486-5296

At its regular meeting held April 15, 2025, the Board of Directors of Cullman Jefferson Counties Gas District adopted new rate schedules for Residential, Commercial, Agriculture, and Large Commercial categories of service, effective May 1, 2025. A summary of the rates is below. For a complete copy of the rate sheet, contact Cullman Jefferson Gas at (256)734-1911 or custserv@cjgas.com .

CULLMAN-JEFFERSON COUNTIES GAS DISTRICT
DISCOUNTED RATE SCHEDULES*
Adopted by the Board of Directors on April 15, 2025
For Gas Billed May 1, 2025 and Thereafter
FOR BILLING MONTH MAY 2025

RESIDENTIAL GAS RATE

Customer Charge .....$12.00 (Min. Bill)**..... + 4% State Utility Tax
First 40 CCF ..... @ $1.182 per CCF*** per mo..... + 4% State Utility Tax
Over 40 CCF ..... @ $1.005 per CCF*** per mo..... + 4% State Utility Tax

COMMERCIAL RATE

Customer Charge .....$15.50 (Min. Bill)**..... + 4% State Utility Tax
First 150 CCF ..... @ $1.147 per CCF*** per mo..... + 4% State Utility Tax
Next 350 CCF..... @ $1.092 per CCF*** per mo..... + 4% State Utility Tax
Over 500 CCF ..... @ $1.032 per CCF*** per mo..... + 4% State Utility Tax

AGRICULTURE

Customer Charge** ....$15.50 (Min. Bill)** ..... + 4% State Utility Tax
First 50 CCF ..... @ $1.147 per CCF*** per mo.
Over 50 CCF ..... @ $1.055 per CCF*** per mo.

LARGE COMMERCIAL**

First 3,000 CCF.....@ Index Cost + $.005 + $.305 + SNG Fuel Retention Cost per MMBtu + Demand Charge
Over 3,000 CCF.....@ Index Cost + $.005 + $.195 + SNG Fuel Retention Cost per MMBtu + Demand Charge

*Rates are applicable to on time payments. All rates are based on gas with heating value of 1,000 MMBtu per cubic foot.

**The minimum monthly bill is to be paid every month, regardless of any usage amount or not.

***CCF = 100 Cubic Feet. The volumetric charge for Residential, Commercial and Agricultural customers ("Tarriff Customers") is based on an expected cost of gas of $4.23 per MCF ("Budgeted Pricing"), which includes both fixed price positions (hedged volumes) along with variable price volumes which are based upon index-bases pricing (unhedged volume). The volumetric charge for Tariff customers shall be adjusted each month by a Purchased Gas Adjustment or PGA, which shall reflect the positive or negative difference between actual gas costs and budgeted Pricing as applied to actual volumes of gas purchased by CJG for delivery to Tariff Customers. Contact CJG for updated rates.

****Eligibility based upon usage over 80,000 CCF in annually. Demand charge based upon volume used on annual peak usage day.

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

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315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

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" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

Obituary Announcements: April 18-20

Felton Curtis Easterwood, 94
Funeral Services for Felton Easterwood, will be Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Scott Adams and Colby Adams officiating. Visitation will be 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home prior to the service. Internment will be in Holly Pond Holly Pond Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Easterwood, of Holly Pond, passed away at his home on Saturday, April 19, 2025. He was born Sept. 7, 1930, to E.L. and Arvie Wren Easterwood. He graduated from West Point High School and Jacksonville State College, and attended Peabody College and the University of Alabama. He was a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent in the Cullman County School System for over 40 years. He was a member of the Cullman County Hospice Board, the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame, the Alabama High School Athletics Association and Holly Pond First Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Tam Easterwood; brothers and sisters-in-law, Felix and Evelyn Easterwood, and Clomer, "Shorty", and Ruth Easterwood; brother-in-law, J.C. Hendrix; and daughter-in-law, Janet Easterwood. Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Polly; sons, Tim Easterwood and Tom (Lynette) Easterwood; grandchildren, Bailey (Sharla) Easterwood, Hannah (Scott) Bennett, Lanna (Jared) Hogeland and Anna (Joey Pace); and great grandchildren, Della, Andie, Avett and Peter Easterwood; Elizabeth Stuckey and Avery Bennett; Cora and Shepherd Hogeland; and Stella and Lyla Pace; sister Clovis Hendrix. Pallbearers will include grandson, Bailey Easterwood; grandsons-in-law, Scott Bennett, Jared Hogeland and Joey Pace; nephews, Ronnie Easterwood and John Easterwood.

Bobby Wayne Knight, 67
Funeral Service for Bobby Wayne Knight, age 67 of Eva, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, burial at Valley Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Knight passed away on Sunday, April 20, 2025, at his residence. He was born on September 24, 1957 to Rex and Iona Rebecca Knight. Mr. Knight enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandchildren who he loved dearly. He was a very kind and giving man to everyone. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Benji Bailey; seven siblings and multiple nieces and nephews. He is survived by his children, Josh Knight, Nina (Michael) McLeskey, Summer Knight, Ashley (Kevin) McClendon and Chase Spicer; and a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Martha Joan Ellinger, 79
Martha Joan Ellinger, age 79, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Martha was born in Cullman County on Jan. 22, 1946, to Sylvester and Ottillia Ellinger. She attended Sacred Heart School and was a lifelong member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. She was a beloved daughter, aunt, sister, sister-in-law and friend. She loved to travel, especially to Major League Baseball games and casinos. She enjoyed bingo, watching her favorite teams the New York Yankees and the Auburn Tigers play ball on TV, spending time with her family, animals, and going to church. She is survived by her sisters Ann Ellinger and Therese Ellinger, her brothers; Michael Ellinger, William (Carolyn) Ellinger, Frank Ellinger, and Joseph (Rebecca) Ellinger, Nieces and Nephews; Stephen Ellinger, Susan Ellinger, Ann Ellinger, Patrick Ellinger, Daniel (Vandy) Ellinger, and Ronald (Juliet) Ellinger, and Great Nieces and Nephews; Jake Ellinger, Brooke Griffin, Tristan Ellinger, and Makenna Ellinger, who will all miss her deeply. A visitation for Martha will be held Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. A rosary will occur Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. A mass of Christian burial will occur Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with Burial to follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Sacred Heart School. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

William Michael Hughes
William Michael "Mike" Hughes, from Fort Deposit, Alabama, and a resident of Montgomery, Alabama, departed for his Heavenly Home on April 16, 2025. He left peacefully with his children at his side. Mike was born and raised in Fort Deposit and attended Lowndes County High School, Young Harris College and The University of Alabama, where he collectively earned a degree in history. He later served his country and fellow citizens in The Alabama Army National Guard. He was a Christian above all else and loved to talk about Jesus Christ, his salvation and the promise of eternal life. Mike enjoyed several regular activities with his children, including feeding and watching birds, trips to dog parks, family game nights, Alabama Crimson Tide football games - especially the many, many Alabama national championship games he witnessed - and a weekly family Bible study. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, William L and Isabel Coleman Hughes, paternal grandparents William L Hughes, Sr, and maternal grandparents Dr. and Mrs. Henry Neal Coleman, Sr. He is survived by his son, Michael Hughes, of Lapine, Alabama, his daughter, Catherine Hughes, of Montgomery, Alabama, a sister, Margaret Hughes (Mark) Hamm, of Cullman, Alabama, niece, Sarah Hamm (John) Higginbotham, of Cullman, Alabama, niece, Ellen Hamm (Chris) Hamby, of Helena, Alabama, many great nieces and his children's mother and his friend, Becki Williams Tindal of Highland Home, Alabama. A memorial celebration of life will be held at Myrtlewood Cemetery in Fort Deposit, Alabama, on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Jeremy Coleman will preside with services provided by Dunklin Funeral Home. Pallbearers will include Mark Hamm, William Davis, Alex Tindal, Max Conway, Robert King, Michael Hora and David Evjen. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Fort Deposit Methodist Church or Baptist Hospice.

Melvin Eugene 'Gene' Clayton, 87
Funeral service for Melvin Eugene "Gene" Clayton, 87, of Hanceville will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Bro. Phillip Wigley officiating. The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Clayton passed away Monday, April 21, 2025. He was born June 5, 1937, to Walter Columbus and Manilla Victoria Campbell Clayton. Gene loved fishing and hunting, but especially enjoyed flea markets and thrift stores. He loved tinkering with bicycles and was an all-around collector. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Pam Thompson; brothers, Russell, Hulett, O.D., Leslie, Aaron Clayton; sister, Sue Clayton Staggs. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Elaine Clayton; sons, Mike Clayton, Perry (Sharon) Clayton; grandchildren, Matthew (Indura) Clayton, Joshua (Brandy) Clayton, David (Charlie) Borella, Lindsey Guy (Michael Roberts), Sarah Hinkle, Jonathan (Amanda) Gilliland, Jake (Emily) Gilliland; 18 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Jerry Allen McSwain, 61
Jerry Allen McSwain, age 61, of Bremen, Alabama passed away on Friday, April 18, 2025. Jerry is survived by his wife, Norma McSwain; his father Allen Theron McSwain; his sister Judy Baker; his daughters Keisha Hurt and Brooke Ray and his grandchildren Lexi Hurt, Braxton Hurt, and Carson Hurt. Jerry was preceded in death by his stepson Adam Haynes; his mother Lexie McSwain; his sister Donna Pitts; and his nephew Randy Allred. Jerry will be laid to rest in Johnson's Grove Cemetery. 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.

Board (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City School Board at its April meeting named Employees of the Month. Support Services Coordinator Hayden Faulk and Technology Technician Chris Kennedy.

Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff honored Faulk's work ethic, acknowledging his role in maintaining current facilities and guiding ongoing construction projects. Kennedy was honored for his outstanding work and dedication to the district's digital security, including the maintenance of over $700,000 in video surveillance and door access systems.

"Both employees play important roles in keeping school system facilities and technology up to date, safe and functional for the 3,000 plus students and 400 plus employees.

"Thank you guys for making student success a priority," said a post to the district's Facebook page.

The board approved the February 2025 financials and a variety of action items, including the adoption of new AP Science textbooks, the creation of a job description for a gifted teacher and the approval of multiple Head Start items, such as a contract with Stephanie Palisay for early childhood education consultation services and partnerships with Wallace State Community College Adult Education Services through July 31, 2025 and Dr. Emily Che Wilson for vision screenings for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Cullman High School Marching Band will travel to Washington, D.C., Nov. 8-12, to participate in the National Veterans Parade. Meanwhile, the archery teams from Cullman Middle, East and West Elementary Schools will travel to Louisville, Kentucky, May 7-10, for a tournament.

Kallhoff provided an extensive update on district construction and program progress.

Cullman Middle School is progressing through phase two, with the third-level course lab recently poured, and trusses are expected to be installed in mid-May.

The high school STEM/CTE wing is under foundational development. Part of the new facility will include a storm shelter built to withstand winds up to 250 mph.

Renovations continue at the West Elementary campus, which will soon become the Intermediate School.

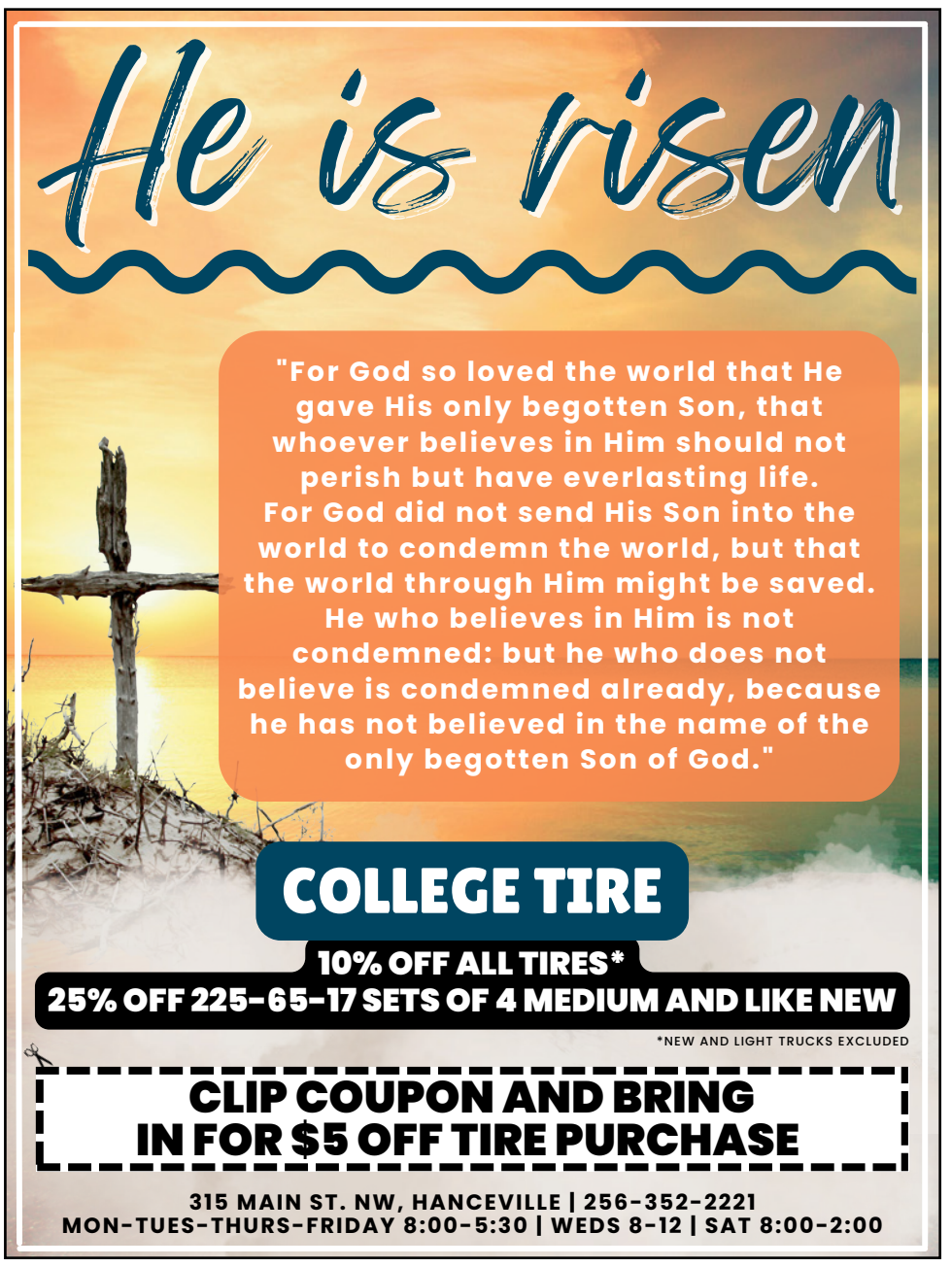
The project includes the Smith Center, which will be transformed into a facility for students with disabilities, featuring sensory and calming rooms, accessible restrooms and functional classrooms.

Work is also planned for the agriculture building, including HVAC, electrical and technology improvements.

The district will begin track resurfacing at the high school on May 5, closing the field and track for approximately six weeks.

Finally, three new school buses were delivered, including one specifically equipped for students with special needs.

The next Cullman City School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, at 5 p.m. at the central office.





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