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Vote
JULY 15

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Virginia Katherine Buchanan, Larry Douglas Oden, Mary Frances Tanner, Wilene Yeager McGukin, Martha Nell-Scott Wildman, Henry James Twitty, Sr., Janera Carter Sayle
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WEATHER
80 57
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

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Community Calendar
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WSCC

– SPORTS –

Lions split first 2 matchups at NJCAA World Series

» PAGE 4

Local law enforcement: Tips for a safe Memorial Day Weekend

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Memorial Day Weekend is just days away, and local law enforcement provided tips for summer safety.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said his department wants everyone to practice safety at all times – from family and friend gatherings to holiday events and activities around water to traveling, he said, please keep these safety tips in mind:

• Travel safely: Expect heavy traffic and plan ahead. Buckle up, obey speed limits and never drive under the influence. If you're drinking, arrange for a designated driver or use rideshare services.

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CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS
Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry and Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan

– PREP SOFTBALL –

'This is where I feel like God led me'

Drew Bryson returning to Cullman to lead Bearcats softball team


NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Samantha Bryson and Drew Bryson with their daughters Hadley and Bryleigh at the Wednesday, May 21, 2025, Cullman City School Board meeting

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After serving seven seasons as the head baseball coach at West Point High School, Drew Bryson is returning home to his alma mater to take the reins of the Cullman High School softball program. Bryson collected six county championships and led the Warriors to a pair of playoff berths in his tenure and leaving a place where he has made a lot of memories and relationships wasn't an easy choice.

"It was an extremely tough decision. But at the end of the day this is where I feel like God led me and we're excited about that journey," Bryson said. "At the same time, it's sad because we spent eight years as a family in West Point and made a lot of friendships as part of that community and that school. I also got to coach a lot of great baseball players so for me the wins and the

» PAGE 5

David Moss Jr. announces Cullman City Council re-election bid


CONTRIBUTED
David Moss Jr.

» PAGE 6

Commission approves airport bids, voting precinct change

» PAGE 6

Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Festival and Car Show this Saturday

» PAGE 7

Berlin Town Council discusses farmers' market developments


KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
The Berlin Town Council is seen on Monday, May 19, 2025.

» PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK

Sweet Snoopy


CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
Snoopy

» PAGE 2

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 21

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 21, 2025. All persons are inno-cent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 16

• domestic violence-3rd degree; person

May 19

• theft of property-1st degree; person; '06 Nissan Frontier, '78 Ford F100; Logan St. SW
• burglary-3rd degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; person; mis-cellaneous, damaged property; McNabb Rd. NW
• theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; phone; 3rd St. SE
• burglary-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; 1st St. NW
• domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Miller St. SW
• retail theft of property-2nd degree; Fantasy CBD & Vape; general merchan-dise; $500; Hwy. 157
• theft by deception-2nd degree; First National Bank; cash
• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $27; Hwy. 157
• harassment; person

ARRESTS

May 19-20

Price, Solomon K.; 33
• domestic violence-3rd degree

Robinson, Justin P.; 28
• FTA – insurance violation
• FTA – expired tag

McKenzie, Cameron B.; 30
• theft of property-4th degree

Hines, Timmy L.; 62
• FTA – theft of proper-ty-4th degree
• FTA – criminal tres-pass-3rd degree

Uselton, Dana M.; 36
• theft of property-4th degree

Barnett III, Chesley A.; 84
• DUI

Moss, Jeremey H.; 35
• FTA – insurance violation
• FTA – speeding
• FTA – expired tag

Holcomb, Anita L.; 43
• FTA – theft of proper-ty-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrest or incidents report-ed.

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

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Snoopy (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet Snoopy, a 1-year-old Bassett Hound/Terrier mix, who is The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

This loving pup has low/medium energy and is truly a combination of all that is perfectly good in these two breeds! Photos do not do justice to his precious, short, stubby legs and his sweet dis-position.

Snoopy is a happy and humble fellow who thrives on all the attention you give him. He truly is what chil-dren's books are written about! Snoopy the lap dog is the quintessential therapy/companion dog.

Said his caretaker, "I just love this guy more than I can say!"

We believe you will too! Come by to meet Snoopy and all his friends who are just waiting for someone like you!

Snoopy's adoption fee is $130 and covers neutering, vaccines, wormer, general exam at the vet and micro-chip.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Attention Senior Citi-zens

• If you are 60 or over, please come to the Cull-man Senior Center at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW and have some fun with us and eat lunch. Good fun, good friends and good food. Different things going on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon.
• Volunteers needed to de-liver meals to homebound. Call Commission on Aging for info. 256-734-1241.

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 Gris-som (256-347-5993 or options5993@gmail.com) or www.CullmanBosom-Buddies.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 Repair

New session begins June 1, at 3 p.m. at First Presbyte-rian Church located at 615 Third Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For more infor-mation contact Reverend Warren Ruland at 256-962-2521.

Cullman County Repub-lican 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 Mont-gomery. If you need infor-mation, you can directly message me on Facebook." Full meals at 5:30. Meet-ings 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 locat-ed 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 restric-tions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improve-ments and capital im-provements 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, locat-ed 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 Cull-man First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED lit-erature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleve-land 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, accountabili-ty, support and encourage-ment 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 some-one else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the mes-sage of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own at-titudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meet-ings 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 Meet-ings

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 Episco-pal 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, Cull-man, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD

• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Friday, May 23 - 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, May 25 - 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. Healing service at 5 p.m.

Guy Hunt Library Summer Reading Pro-gram

• Make plans to join us at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for the Summer Read-ing Program. Children from ages 2 to 12 are wel-come.
• June 3: McWane Science Center
• June 10: Cullman County Soil and Water Conserva-tion District
• June17: Cullman County Extension Office (ACES)
• June 24: North Alabama Agriplex
• Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more infor-mation contact Guy Hunt Library at 256-796-5226. Leave a message if needed. We look forward to having you join us for a morning of fun.

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 Gar-rison Harris: Trusting God through every season. There will be games and door prizes. Please join us.

Bates Family Reunion

Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at the Trimble Community Center, 7744 County Road 813. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy the fellow-ship.

Fairview High School Class of 1975 Reunion

Saturday, June 21, at 6 p.m. at The Venue, 8575 Alabama Highway 69 N, Cullman, AL 35058. Cost is $45 per person. Contact Sheila Woods to RSVP at 256-347-6738. Looking forward to seeing everyone and having a great time.

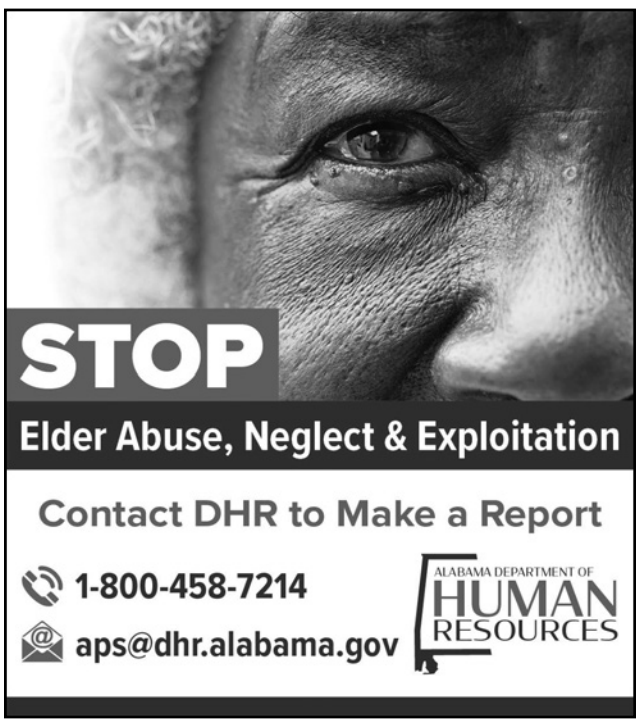
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WSCC SOFTBALL

Lions split first 2 matchups at NJCAA World Series

Wallace State Athletics
WSCC

YUMA, AZ. – The Wallace State Lions are in Arizona this week competing in this year's NJCAA Division I Softball World Series and they split their opening matchups on Monday and Wednesday. The Lions fell to Odessa 6-2 in the first game on Monday, but they bounced back with a 6-2 win over Southern Union in an elimination game on Wednesday. Wallace State (48-14) will play later Wednesday night against the loser of 12th-seeded Chipola and 20th-seeded Navarro.

Odessa 4 – Wallace State 1 (Game One)
Wallace State fell behind 1-0 in the bottom of the first on a single.

The Lions took the lead in the top of the fourth after plating two runs. Blakelyn Austin's single plated Brandy Phillips and Brooklyn Sertell, who had both singled earlier in the inning.

Odessa scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth and another in the sixth to make the score 6-2.

Austin finished with a hit and two RBIS to lead Wallace State. Phillips and Sertell each had a hit and a run scored.

Tenayja Thomas and Charli Kyser also had a hit.

Phillips took the loss after pitching 4.1 innings and allowing five runs on seven hits. Madeline Howard pitched 1.2 innings of relief, allowing one run on one hit.

Wallace State 6 – Southern Union 2 (Game Two)
The Lions jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second when Brooklyn Sertell led off the inning with a home run to center field.

With two outs in the third, Wallace State rallied for four runs to take a 5-0 lead. Brandy Phillips singled to give the Lions their first baserunner of the inning.

She advanced to second, following a walk by Charli Kyser. Sertell then singled to drive home Phillips and move Kyser to second.

On the next pitch, Blakelyn Austin homered to bring home Kyser and Sertell for the 5-0 lead.

Southern Union cut into the lead with a run in the top of the fifth to make the score 5-1.

The Lions responded with a run in the bottom of the fifth when Austin's single to left drove home Phillips, who had singled earlier in the inning.

The Lady Bison put another run on the board in the sixth but would get no closer in the 6-2 loss.

Austin led Wallace State at the plate with two hits, including a home run, two RBIs, and a run scored.

Sertell added two hits, two RBIs, and two runs scored, while Phillips had two hits and two runs scored. Kyser added a hit and a run scored.

Madeline Howard picked up the win after pitching 5.1 innings, allowing two runs on four hits.

Phillips pitched 1.2 innings of hitless and scoreless relief while striking out four.



WSCC

Wallace State's Charli Kyser.

PREP SOFTBALL

'Be true to yourself and others': Good Hope's Addyson Burgess reflects on Raider years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope senior Addyson Burgess played multiple sports during her career, and she shared a few of her favorite memories. Being around so many great people who supported her meant the world to her, and she soaked up as much as she could from them.

"I loved being able to do the long jump for the first time, going on our spring break softball trip, and winning area for my first time ever," Burgess said. "It was truly a surreal experience. I loved being able to be around people who always wanted me at my best. I admire their continuous support and the accountability they held themselves to. I learned a lot from all of them, but I learned the most from my fellow seniors. They taught me to always hold my head high, be a true friend, forgive, and trust your teammates to always have your back."

Addyson played under her several coaches at Good Hope and she says they helped push her to be the athlete that she is today. She played in many memorable softball games and performed in some great track-and-field events during her career as well.

"They truly know how to get the best athlete you can be out of you. The long days will forever be worth it, because they taught me discipline. They always pushed me, because they knew what my full potential was, even on days I didn't. Being around them and on that field could erase any problems," Burgess said. "My favorite games were when we were looked at as the underdogs and came back and had great wins. Another favorite was when we would play in tournaments all day. It was amazing, because it felt like we had so many games, when in reality, it was nearing the end of the season. My favorite track events were most definitely the 200-meter, the 4x100, and the long jump. I loved being able to give it my all every chance I could."

Burgess played alongside some great seniors and shared her favorite memories from being around them. She also talked about something special that she did with her friends outside of sports.

"I will always remember never being alone and having someone by my side whenever I was having the best day of my life or the worst. I loved having people around me that can push me in my faith and lead me to a stronger, more faith-based experience," she said. "I loved being able to reminisce through all the memories we have had and learn from their example on how to lead a team. My favorite memory would have to be us going on ice cream dates or just everyone hanging out and having a debrief after practice," Addyson said. "If we had a long day at practice, we would go and get snow cones or just talk on the phone for hours and have good debriefs. We also did team dinners, which helped us bond a lot."

Addyson will miss her teachers and classmates when school starts back in August. It was important to her to be a role model and she shared some advice with the students starting high school this fall.

"I love consistency, so I think my favorite part was being able to see my favorite people every day and having a set schedule," she said. "What made Good Hope a special place to go to were the teachers. They poured into you, and they showed how much they care about you. I will remember growing up there and walking in my dad's shoes through his alma mater," Burgess said. "I have always admired my role models, and I knew that I wanted to be a better person to help try and lead them. You never truly realize how many of those younger girls look up to you," she said. "Enjoy it, because it really does fly by. Be true to yourself and others, and a smile can change someone's day."

God has played a big role in Addyson's life, and she shared her favorite Bible verse. She also participated in several clubs at school in addition to sports.

"God has played a big role in my life, especially in times when I truly needed Him the most. I have had so many fantastic teammates who have grounded me in my faith, and it is eye-opening to see how much one person can lead you in the right direction. My absolute favorite Bible verse is John 1:9. It just always reminds me that I am capable of way more than what I think, and it reminds me that whatever path I'm on during life, God will be with me." she said. "I was a part of FCCLA, the Leo Club, the National Honor Society, and the FFA. It taught me how to balance a busy schedule and to stay on top of things. It also allowed me to meet new people with similar hobbies."

Addyson earned a scholarship from Wallace State and receiving it meant the world to her. She wants people to remember her as a kind person, no matter what she was doing or where she was.

"I received the Allied Health Scholarship from Wallace State Community College. It is a scholarship based on an essay I submitted about my career and my family. It's a great privilege to receive that scholarship, because it helps me and my parents out greatly with my college expenses.

"It will help them in the future when it comes to paying for my little sibling's college," she said. I want them to remember how down-to-earth I was, that I would stay true to any of my friends/peers and myself. I also strived to be the person that made someone laugh on a bad day."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Addyson Burgess



Christ Covenant rummage sale raises over $22K for missions

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cullman held its annual rummage sale May 16-17, raising an impressive $22,533. All proceeds will support mission teams traveling to Belize later this summer and possibly Greece sometime in the future.

Ten years ago, CCPC's Short Term Missions Committee held a meeting to discuss the idea of a rummage sale fundraiser, and now it's one of the church's biggest events of the year.

"We take great pride in our rummage sale. It is not just a thrown-together process; it is a reflection of God's house, and we want all who come into our home to feel welcome," said organizer Judie Hubbard.

The sale takes place the weekend after Mother's Day each year and has become a beloved tradition in the church and community. The sale began a decade ago with just a handful of volunteers and has grown into a large-scale event involving the entire congregation. Over the years, the event has grown both in size and purpose. Volunteers work nearly six months in advance to receive, clean, sort and price thousands of donated items using a color-coded pricing system. All items come from church members, their families and neighbors. Unsold goods are donated to local ministries like The Foundry Thrift Store and The Corinthian Co-op.

The church has also incorporated a prayer tent, added in 2024, which offers visitors a chance to receive prayer and enjoy refreshments like cookies and lemonade. Organizers said it's all about creating a warm, welcoming space.

"We want people to feel like they've just reunited with an old friend over a cup of coffee," said Hubbard. "We want them to know they're important to us; they are our neighbor, and the Bible says love your neighbor as yourself."

The church said funds raised will support the Belize team's mission efforts and supplies, including VBS, construction projects and teaching life skills to women and girls, such as sewing, building churches and giving hope to future leaders.

With each passing year, the rummage sale continues to grow in the number of dollars raised and its impact locally and globally.

"It's amazing to see how God's plan unfolds each year. We're honored to play a part in it," said Hubbard.

She added, "We are taught that we each have a calling. When my husband, Don, gave me the nudge to attend the first meeting about starting a rummage sale all those years ago, I realized my call. I am not a Bible scholar, but I know that each year, God smiles when he hears our prayers to help us finish. The prayer is that God will send the people He has chosen to help reach His goal for the next team going into the mission field. Each year, the prayers are answered. God's plan is perfect; all we do is follow His instructions. Organizing what God has already set in motion is amazing, fulfilling, humbling, rewarding and a pleasure and an honor.

Scan to watch



LISA JONES

Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Cullman held its annual rummage sale May 16-17, raising an impressive $22,533.

Extension experts share best practices for washing produce as farmers' markets open across the state

Mike Clardy
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — With farmers' markets opening across the South, consumers are eager to enjoy fresh, locally grown produce. To ensure food safety from farm to table, Alabama Cooperative Extension System experts are sharing best practices for washing and sanitizing produce, helping farmers and shoppers reduce contamination risks while maintaining high-quality fruits and vegetables.

Why washing produce matters

Farmers' markets provide access to fresh, seasonal produce, but proper handling is essential to prevent cross-contamination.

Washing produce removes dirt and debris, but if done incorrectly, it can spread bacteria through shared wash water.

To mitigate risks, experts with Alabama Extension at Auburn University recommend using EPA-approved sanitizers, which effectively kill pathogens while keeping food safe.

"It's important for both growers and consumers to follow proper food safety practices," said Camila Rodrigues, assistant professor and Extension specialist in horticulture.

"By implementing effective washing techniques, we can ensure that fresh produce remains safe and high-quality for everyone."

How to wash produce safely

Alabama Extension advises farmers, packing house workers and consumers to follow these key washing guidelines:

- Use potable water. Ensure tap or well water meets safety standards before using it for washing produce.

- Clean and sanitize wash stations. Thoroughly disinfect sinks, bins and containers before washing. A diluted bleach solution (1 tablespoon per gallon of water) is commonly used, but always follow product instructions for proper dilution and contact time.

- Submerge produce in water with sanitizer. Use cool water with an EPA-approved food-safe sanitizer, allowing the produce to soak for a few minutes.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

- Agitate gently. Lightly stir the produce to remove debris without damaging the product.

- Dry thoroughly. After washing, remove excess water using a clean salad spinner or paper towels to prevent bacterial growth during storage.

"Foodborne illnesses can originate long before produce reaches consumers," said Bridgette Brannon, an Extension agent in food safety and quality.

"That's why Alabama Extension emphasizes proper sanitation at every stage — from the farm to the market to your home kitchen. A few simple steps can make a big difference in ensuring fresh, safe food."

Building a strong sanitation program

For farms and packing houses, maintaining a robust sanitation program is crucial. Alabama Extension recommends the following:

- Routine cleaning. Regularly clean all tools, equipment and facilities.

- Proper disinfection. Use EPA-approved sanitizers to eliminate harmful bacteria.

- Monitoring and documentation. Track sanitizer concentrations and exposure times to ensure compliance with food safety regulations.

As Alabama's farmers' markets welcome shoppers for the season, Alabama Extension encourages both growers and consumers to prioritize food safety. For more information on best practices, visit www.aces.edu.

Bryson (from Front)

county titles are something we're proud of but it's the relationships with those guys. Seeing them come into the program as middle schoolers and seeing them graduate and go on to college and get careers is what I'll value the most. I still stay in touch with a lot of those guys so just because I'm somewhere different, it's not going to change my relationships with those guys."

Bryson knows that shifting from baseball to softball will bring some new challenges, but he's spent a lot of time watching his daughters play and he's excited to begin a new journey with a new sport.

"It's definitely going to be a learning curve for me. I've been involved in softball for the last few years because of my daughters playing so I've gotten to where I love the game. I watch a lot of college softball on TV and it's just so much faster than baseball. It's fun to watch and fun to be a part of," Bryson said. "Coming back home to Cullman to start from scratch and building a program and getting to know the girls and developing those relationships is something that won't happen overnight. It's going to take time just like when I first got to West Point. You have to build the trust and build those relationships with the kids. They have to know you're there for them and that you care about them and at the end of the day we want to compete. We want to compete at a high level and play for championships, but I think it's also critical that we make sure the focus is on building great student athletes. Young ladies that are great on the field but great off the field too."

As a player, Bryson helped lead the Bearcats baseball program to back-to-back state championships in 2007 and 2008 and his coaches at Cullman had a big impact on his career as a player and later on as a coach. Another big factor in his decision to return to Cullman was the opportunity to coach his daughters on the diamond a few years from now.

"Cullman means a lot to me. I will forever be grateful to Bryan Bowen and Brent Patterson for the impact they had on my life. I'm doing what I'm doing now because of them. That's why I chose to go into coaching so as mentors, the role they played in my life was huge," Bryson said. "I'm also making the switch for my daughters. I've spent pretty much my whole adult life coaching baseball and I knew as my girls got older that at some point, I was going to have to step away from coaching to go be dad and watch them or shift over to softball. This allows me to coach and keep doing what I love and at the same time I get to be dad and get to see them play as they come up."

CHS Athletics Director Mike Dean saw Bryson's coaching acumen up close when he coached his own kids and believes he'll be a great new leader for the Bearcats softball program.

"He has a strong background in coaching and he began his career here at Cullman High School where he spent three years under head baseball coach Brent Patterson. He then served as an assistant at Curry High School for one year before moving to West Point High School where he has been for eight years. Drew has coached at various levels in athletics from youth sports to travel teams to high school programs. He emphasizes discipline, sportsmanship and teamwork and believes that sports provide valuable lessons," Dean said. "Through athletics, Drew instills leadership, perseverance and collaboration, qualities that we all strive to develop in our student athletes. The biggest endorsement for Drew is that he coached my youngest son in baseball for three or four years and I don't know if remembers the conversation but after he coached my kid I went to him and said 'Drew, you're going to be a really good head coach one day'. I think it's kind of a full circle moment to have him come back home and we'd like to welcome him to Cullman High School."



Commission (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission at its May 20 meeting addressed infrastructure improvements, voting precinct change and a retirement recognition.

Commissioners approved a resolution honoring Alvie Plunkett for 26 years of service with the Cullman County Road Department. Several officials praised Plunkett for his dedication, integrity and commitment to public service.

The commission also awarded multiple construction contracts to Wiregrass Construction for work at Cullman Regional Airport, including apron reconstruction. Commissioners also approved a new airport hangar bid from Newell, Park & Eleazer Construction for over $2.7 million.

The Cullman City Council approved its portion of the project on May 12. The commission approved the temporary relocation of the Hanceville City Hall voting precinct for the House District 11 general election on Aug. 26, moving polling to the Hanceville Senior Center at 209 Michelle Street.

The commission also approved several subdivision-related requests, including a variance and plat for the 17-lot Bales Cove Subdivision and a permit extension for Crossroads Estates.

Use of the courthouse parking lot was granted for upcoming events hosted by David Chavez and the Cullman Civitan Club.

The commission also approved a $24,000 cleaning contract, a $12,328 network switch purchase and finalized FY2024 tax settlements. Additional actions included approving road access plans for Rock the South, moving the Commission on Aging's account to Premier Bank and reappointing Mitch Duke to the Walter Authority Board.

The next work session will be held on Tuesday, June 17, at 4 p.m., with a meeting to follow at 6. Both will be in the commission meeting room at the Cullman County Courthouse.

Tips (from Front)

• Be aware of water safety: If you're heading to the lake or pools, always wear a life jacket when boating, watch children closely and avoid swimming alone. Alcohol and water-related activities don't mix — stay alert and responsible!

• Take precautions outdoors: Whether hiking, camping or enjoying the outdoors, stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and be mindful of heat-related illnesses. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and act quickly if needed.

• Maintain situational awareness: Large gatherings can be fun but require vigilance. Stay aware of your surroundings, keep valuables secure and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

"Our deputies will be out ensuring the safety of the community, but we need your help," Gentry said. "If you witness anything concerning or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out. Let's honor this holiday by keeping ourselves and those around us safe. Have a wonderful and responsible Memorial Day Weekend."

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said as we head into Memorial Day Weekend, safety remains his department's top priority.

"This holiday is no exception," Duncan said. "In the days leading up to Memorial Day, we want to emphasize the importance of staying safe — especially on the road. Reducing crashes helps save lives and prevents serious injuries. Memorial Day, observed on Monday, is a solemn day of remembrance for those who lost their lives in service to the United States, both in times of war and peace. It is not a celebration, but a time to honor the sacrifice of our fallen heroes."

While Duncan shared that you should enjoy time with your friends and family, he also cautioned it's important to remember that alcohol and safety don't mix.

"Many backyard incidents such as falls, cuts and grill burns happen after someone has had a few too many drinks," Duncan said. "Please drink responsibly, stay hydrated and know your limits. If you're going out after drinking, do not drive. Make a plan: call a ride, designate a sober driver or hand over your keys. What starts as a fun day can quickly turn into a tragedy. The Cullman Police Department will have additional officers on patrol throughout the city on Memorial Day. We're here to help keep everyone safe. Stay smart, stay safe and remember the meaning of the day."

Moss (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Councilman David Moss Jr. has announced his re-election bid. Moss was appointed to the city council on Nov. 5, 2018, to fill the unexpired term of Garlan Gudger Jr. He was elected in August 2020 and began serving his first full term on Nov. 2, 2020. Moss serves in Place 2 and chairs the council's Utilities Committee.

Below is Moss' re-election bid announcement:

David Moss Jr., current member of the Cullman City Council, officially announced his campaign for re-election today, citing a strong record of service, community growth, and a deep commitment to continuing progress for the City of Cullman.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Cullman," said Moss. "Over the past term, we've made great strides in improving infrastructure, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents. I'm running for re-election to keep that momentum going."

In recent years, David has played a major role in Cullman's success with projects such as the new civic center/OmniPlex, the landfill partnership with Cullman County, improvements at the local schools, expansion of the Cullman Regional Airport, revitalization of downtown, the purchase and renovation of the new community arts facility, and much more.

Moss, a lifelong Cullman resident and longtime community advocate, has focused his efforts on responsible growth, transparency in government, and listening to the needs of citizens. During his time on the council, he has been instrumental in supporting economic development initiatives, improving public services, and maintaining the city's small-town values while preparing for future challenges.

As he looks toward a new term, Moss emphasizes his priorities will continue to include infrastructure improvements, public safety, fiscal responsibility, and strengthening community engagement. There are key projects he will continue to work on, and is excited to see come to fruition, such as the widening and relocation of the St. Bernard Bridge on US Hwy 278 and the 10-year financial commitment to the city schools.

"I take the future of Cullman very seriously because it is my home and home to my children and grandchildren. Together, we can continue to build a city we're all proud of," Moss added.

David is married to Mary Leah (Ballew) who is also a lifelong resident of Cullman. They have three children: Thomas (Nina), Mary Beth (Lance Cleveland), and Katie (Jansen Acton). David and Mary Leah have been blessed with three grandchildren: Ada, Grady, and Caleb.

The election for Cullman City Council will take place on August 26, 2025.

Cullman's Municipal Election will take place Aug. 26, 2025.

Berlin (from Front)

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

BERLIN, Ala. — Mayor Patrick Bates commenced the monthly session of the Berlin Town Council on Monday, May 19, 2025. The meeting opened with an invocation and pledge of allegiance led by Councilman Donald Gunter.

The Town of Berlin was awarded a $295,627.25 Rebuild Alabama grant, which the council discussed.

Said Bates, "We have applied for this grant for the past four years and finally got it. I'm told the site development for the new farmers' market is what finally got it done."

The grant will be used to assist in developing the roadway and intersection at Mt. Carmel Drive, creating an entrance to the new farmers' market.

The Rebuild Alabama Act Annual Grant Program is administered by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). "The Alabama Legislature passed the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019, raising the gas tax for the first time since 1992. The 6-cent increase was gradually implemented over three years, bringing the gas tax total to 10 cents."

The next order of business was establishing a timeline on the farmer's market project. Bates proposed accepting bids throughout the summer of 2025 and having a start date of Nov. 1, 2025, with completion set for May 1, 2026. The council expressed concerns about the majority of the project occurring during winter months and the possibility of weather delays to construction. The council came to a final decision of extending the timeline an additional month setting completion for June 2026.

Regarding the progress of the farmers' market, Bates disclosed that the general contractor had made an error regarding the block used for the bathroom building. He explained to the council that the original block chosen was an architectural-grade, colored block that required little to no maintenance. When ordering the block, the contractor learned that there would be a 10-week delay. Therefore, the council had to decide whether to postpone the building of the bathrooms in order to receive the originally agreed-upon materials or to change the material to construction-grade cement block. A motion was made unanimously to delay the building and obtain the original block in order to save on future maintenance costs.

In other business:

• Bates is working on getting a construction and drainage easement for County Road 1614 to make necessary repairs to the roadway

• Quotes are being accepted for roadwork on County Road 1611

• Upcoming historical dedication scheduled for June 21

The next meeting of the Berlin Town Council is scheduled for June 16, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Berlin Town Hall is located at 461 County Road 1615, Cullman, AL 35058.



LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-122

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK DANIEL BAILEY, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF FRANK DANIEL BAILEY

TO: THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF FRANK DANIEL BAILEY AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Petition of Lawrence Edwin Gorff to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Frank Daniel Bailey, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 17th day of July, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Inez Chambers and Leonard Ray Chambers A/K/A Ray Chambers, wife and husband Kim Brown FKA Kim Chambers, a married woman and Gene Brown, her husband to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated April 8, 2016; said mortgage being recorded on April 22, 2016 in Deed Book 1785, Page 938, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 392, Page 559, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on June 26, 2025 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

BEGINNING AT THE CENTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 33 MINUTES EAST 408.12 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 20 DEGREES 27 MINUTES EAST 377.82 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A PUBLIC ROAD AND THE WEST MARGIN OF U.S. HIGHWAY 231 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING FOR THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE SOUTH 9 DEGREES 55 MINUTES EAST 420 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 28 MINUTES WEST 155 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE JOSEPH MASON LOT; THENCE NORTH 9 DEGREES 55 MINUTES WEST 420 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A PUBLIC ROAD; THENCE NORTH 83 DEGREES 28 MINUTES EAST 155 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said property is commonly known as **800 County Road 1838, Arab, AL 35016**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 24-06044AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Hanceville library hosting poetry night May 30

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville will host a live poetry night on Friday, May 30, from 6-7 p.m.

vLibrary Manager Teresa Rivera said anyone can attend.

"We will have the ambience, a microphone and a sign-up sheet," Rivera said.

"There will be chairs for the viewing audience, and everyone can listen peacefully as each poet reads.

"We will serve coffee and tea and snacks afterwards. If the interest is as good as it seems to be, we will continue to do this on a monthly basis."

Rivera said a Hanceville resident approached her and asked if she could host and assist with the program.

"She had attended other poetry readings in other parts of Alabama and wanted to bring this new concept to Hanceville," she said.

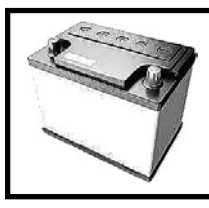
"We also encourage readers to dress up in costume. We have had other local patrons that had mentioned they would like a bit more culture presented in our programs.

"Since we aim to please the Hanceville community, we welcome new ideas as we move forward."

Rivera encouraged residents to follow the library on Facebook to keep up with upcoming events.

The library's big book sale is May 24 during the Grilled Cheese Festival in downtown Hanceville.

The Shirley Burden Public Library is located in the heart of downtown Hanceville at 201 Commercial St. It is open 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays.


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Festival (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The 2025 Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Festival will take place this Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Kenneth Cornelius said the department loves giving back to the community with events like this.

"With this festival being a free event, it gives families something fun to do to kick off their summer without breaking the bank," he said.

"At Cullman County Parks, we do all we can to provide safe, clean parks for everyone to come and enjoy the beautiful areas that God has blessed us with here in Cullman County."

The festival will have food trucks, arts and crafts vendors and a DJ who will play music and interact with the crowd.

"We will also have our first annual Freedom & Octane Memorial Day Car Show starting at 11 a.m.," Cornelius said.

"There will be prizes given out at 1:30 p.m."

The car show will run from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information about this event, check out www.facebook.com/SmithLakePark or call 256-739-2916.

Smith Lake Park is located at 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL, 35057.

Obituary Announcements: May 20-21

Virginia Katherine Buchanan (Kathy), 74
Funeral Service for Virginia Katherine Buchanan, age 74 of Vinemont, will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Jim Abbott officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Buchanan passed away on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at residence. She was born, July 21, 1950, to Oxford O'Neil Ray and Stella Marie Ray. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jimmy Buchanan; sister, Nancy Harden and brother, Randy Ray. Survivors include her daughter, Cindy (Mike) Butler; sons, Alan (Jill) Pair and Jason Pair; grandchildren, Jessica Humphries (Tyler), Jodie Kanaday (Chris), Olan Lamar, Kaylee Pair, Cadence Pair, Ian Pair; great grandchildren, Kora Humphries, Mason Kanaday, Kenleigh Kanaday, John Hagan Humphries, Beckett Kanaday; sisters, Diana Monk, Betty Hall, Annette Waldrep, Teresa Hughes, Pam Bentley, Sandra Douglas (Calvin); brother, Rodney Ray and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Larry Douglas Oden, 79
Larry Douglas Oden, age 79 of Cullman, passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025. A memorial visitation will be held from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. He will have a private burial at Center Point Cemetery in Holly Pond. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Oden was born Aug. 15, 1945, to Ollis Arthur Oden and Venora Lillian Oden. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Doug Oden; brother, Vernon Arthur Oden and sister, Mary Carolyn Oden. Survivors include his wife of nine years, Donna Oden; son, Stephen Oden; daughter, Kelly Marshall (Keith); stepdaughter, Sarah Reese (Chris); grandchildren, Emory Marshall, Caleb Oden, Kinslee Oden, Conner Oden, Isabella Reese, Elliott Lane Oden and sister, Martha Jane Oden.

Mary Frances Tanner, 90
Funeral Service for Mary Frances Tanner, age 90 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Rev. John Bussman officiating; burial at Bethel United Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. on Friday, May 23, 2025, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Tanner passed away on Monday, May 19, 2025, at her residence. She was born Nov. 4, 1934, to William Edward Zinsmeister and Mary Elizabeth Hudgens Zinsmeister. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ernest Ray Tanner and her brother, Fredrick Zinsmeister. Survivors include her son, Buddy Tanner (Amanda), Billy Tanner (Charlene), Roger Tanner; grandchildren, Christin Tanner, Dustin Tanner, Steven Tanner, Brandon Tanner, Alex Tanner (Kristen), Ty Tanner; great grandchildren, Riley, Sadie, Trey, Lansen, Trayla, Jesse, Kayleigh. Ava Cait and Michael; brother, Donnie Ray Zinsmeister (Ellen) and a Host of nieces, nephews, family and Friends.

Wilene Yeager McGukin, 95
Funeral services for Wilene Yeager McGukin, 95, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Concord Cemetery, Rev. Truman Davis officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12-2 p.m. before the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Wilene was born on Jan. 18, 1930, to parents, Preston and Linda Smith Yeager. She was a member of Temple Baptist Church. She was a wonderful organ player, loved her flowers and had a long list of friends that she considered her family. She loved to cook and bake, especially banana nut bread, which she would happily give to anyone who asked. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Rickey McGukin; brothers, Curtis and Harold Yeager; sisters, Dera Abbott, Carnis Abbott and Ozell Dewberry. Survivors include her daughter-in-law, Glenda Cloer McGukin; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Pallbearers will be her nephews.

Martha Nell-Scott Wildman, 94
Martha Nell Wildman, age 94 of Decatur, passed away on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at River City Center. She was born, July 24, 1930, to Calvin Thomas Scott and Elizabeth Scott. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Lorenzi Wildman; children, Donald Judkins, Judy Hendrix and Kalvin David Judkins. Surviving Family Members include her children, Thomas Judkins, Lorie Beth Wildman; grandchildren, Jason (Julie) Judkins, Michelle (Lee) Peters, Jameson Jordan, Piper Jordan, Jami Judkins, Leslie (Dee) Murphy, Jacob Hendrix and a host of nieces, nephew and friends.

Henry James Twitty, Sr., 84
Henry James Twitty Sr, age 84, of Colony, Alabama, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Monday, May 19, 2025. He was born on Sept. 21, 1940, to Midas Henry Twitty and Essie Lou Wilson Twitty in Colony, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Henry James Twitty Jr, infant daughter Janet Twitty, great grandson Elijah Harris, sisters Henrietta Munford, Sally Washington, Louise Parker, Laura Colvin, and Vila Twitty. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Myra Carol New Twitty, sons Michael Twitty Sr. (Deborah), Kenneth Twitty (Pam), Leland Twitty (Gina), daughters Joyce Fields, Rosanna Twitty, stepdaughters Dixie Richter (Jerry) and Myra Waddell (Jessica), sisters Margaret Dimbo and Jeanetta Leeth, 17 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and a host of Nieces, Nephews & friends. He worked at Lanson, Americold and Larkwood. He was a man of many skills. He loved his family, community and friends. He was a dedicated member of Logan Baptist Church. A visitation for Henry will be held Friday, May 23, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, 1901 Second Ave., NW, Cullman, AL 35055. The funeral service will occur on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 1 p.m. Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, with Bro. Jimmy McClendon, Rev. Anthony Clark and Rev. Willie James Twitty officiating. The interment will follow at Bethsadia Baptist Cemetery, 1365 County Road 421, Cullman, AL 35057. Pallbearers: Skyler Twitty, Lance Twitty, Michael Twitty Jr., Brian Twitty, Lawrence Twitty, and Joe Colvin. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Janera Carter Sayle, 86
Janera Carter Sayle, aged 86, passed away on May 15, 2025, in Hanceville, Alabama. Born on Oct. 5, 1938, Janera was a lifelong resident of Alabama and an esteemed figure in her community through her dedication to music education and her church. Janera graduated from Cullman High School in 1956 and furthered her education at the University of Montevallo, where she completed her undergraduate studies. She went on to receive a Master's degree in Music from Peabody College at Vanderbilt. Her career was marked by her significant contributions as a Choral Music Director at both Cullman Middle and High School, and as a Choir Director at the First Presbyterian Church in Cullman, Alabama. Known for her determined spirit, Janera was also a talented musician and possessed a spunky personality that endeared her to many. She was deeply committed to her church, serving and leading choir at the First Presbyterian Church of Cullman, where she was a beloved member. Janera's hobbies included traveling and spending cherished moments with her family. She was grateful for the excellent care provided by Hanceville Nursing Home and Southern Care Hospice in her later years. She is survived by her sister, Dora Carter Tekulve (John); daughter, Shanda Lonkhurst (David); son, Carter Sayle (Soothawee); and grandchildren, Emily Lehew (David), Zachary Sayle (Carly), Daniel Lonkhurst, Logan Sayle, and Reid Sayle. Janera was preceded in death by her parents, Watson and Era Jane Carter; brother, Neal Watson Carter; spouse, Ervin E. Sayle; and partner, Wilson Henderson. A memorial service will be held later this summer to honor Janera's life and legacy. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Janera Sayle. Her life's work and passion for music will be remembered by all who knew her.

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BOOK REVIEW

‘Overkill’ by J A Jance

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

“Overkill” is the 18th novel in J A Jance’s Ali Reynold’s series. Ali Reynolds has certainly undergone a transition from the first novel, “Edge of Evil,” published in 2005. At that time Ali is a television news anchor in California who has been fired from her job. Struggling with the loss of her job, her pending divorce and death of her childhood friend, she returns to her hometown of Sedona, Arizona, to grieve. While in Arizona she was able to solve her friend’s murder and move permanently to Arizona.

Over the 18 novels, I have seen Ali become a police officer, philanthropist and now she has remarried to B. Simpson and they own High Noon enterprises, a cybersecurity company. Ali is surrounded by technology wizards that systematically solve one crime after another.

“Overkill” has a dual story line. The first case involves the murder of B.’s former business partner, Charles Brewster.

After celebrating Charles’ 60th birthday, his wife, Clarice (B.’s ex-wife) wakes up to find her husband dead and she is covered with blood. While she has no memory of the murder, she and the police believe she is guilty.

The police waste no time arresting her. Clarice tries to call B. but Ali is the one who takes the call. Ali has a sense that Clarice is innocent and decides to help her.

The second case involves the stalking of Ali and B’s salesperson, Camille Lee.

While in D.C. for work, Camille notices a man watching her in the hotel restaurant. Then she realizes he is carrying a concealed weapon. She shrugs it off until he follows her into the hotel’s gym.

While the possible stalker is distracted by another gym patron, Camille hurries out of the gym, pretending to go on the elevator.

But she quickly exits the elevator and hides in the kitchen. She calls a security firm and arranges a pickup at the loading dock and is whisked away to a safe house. Camille is cautioned not to travel for work. But she insists on going to London to meet with potential clients. Now, Camille must travel with a bodyguard and remain in the hotel for her meetings to stay safe.

Ali has to act quickly to find Charles’ real killer and keep Camille safe. She is aided by the help of High Noon’s AI named Frig.

The AI is able to put together dossiers on all of the possible suspects. Ali uses her technology expertise to solve the crimes and uncover the financial conspiracies.

“Overkill” is a fast-paced thriller that kept me excited to read the next chapter. J A Jance continues to create fabulous novels that never disappoint. I highly recommend “Overkill” and all the novels in this series.

Find out more about JA Jance at www.jajanceauthor.com.

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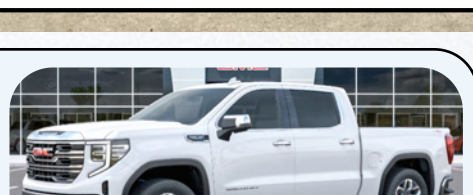
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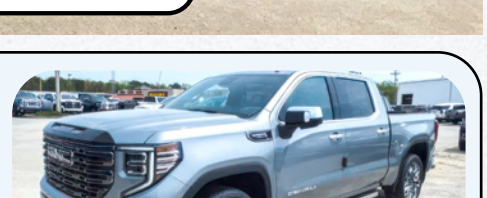
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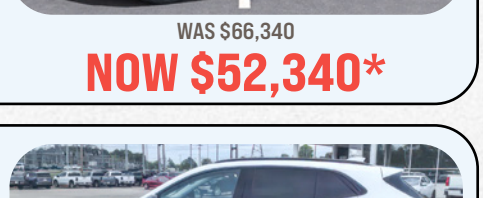
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