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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
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Cullman County Coroner's Office hosts SUIDI training class

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Coroner's Office on May 21-22, hosted a Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI) training class at the Cullman VFW, with many local and neighboring agencies in attendance.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick said SUIDI training is important for coroners. law enforcement and medical examiners to be able to determine cause and manner of death of an infant.

"It's important for families to understand why their infant died," Kilpatrick said. "This class is to familiarize investigators with the best practices for conducting an investigation into » PAGE 6


CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS
The Cullman County Coroner's Officed hosted a Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation training class May 21-22, 2025, for local and area agencies.

– OP-ED –

'Be the difference that the cost of a life paid for you to be'



2020 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
In this 2020 Tribune photo, you can see handmade crosses placed by members of Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 in remembrance of Cullman County residents killed in action since World War I.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

There are countless things in life that I'm grateful for — too many to list without keeping you here for days. But woven into all of them is something deeper, something often overlooked: the reason I even have the freedom to be grateful in the first place.

Growing up in Cullman, we were taught from an early age the importance of Memorial Day — what it means to pause and honor the men and women who gave their lives so we could live freely and fully. It was a day to remember the real heroes, the ones who laced up worn combat boots, wore the cool green camouflage, carried a rifle and went off to war for their country and the families they would leave behind.

As a kid, I honored these heroes in a much different way than I do now. In my backyard, I would take on the missions of the very soldiers I'd learned about — storming the beaches of Normandy or navigating the jungles of Vietnam. A random stick became my M-16 and pinecones served as grenades to be tossed into enemy bunkers. It was my imagination at its best and would serve as one of the foundational ways that I would begin to understand what Memorial Day was all about.

As I grew older, my imagination would take a seat to realism and the visceral nature of what sacrifice meant. Each passing Memorial Day deepened my understanding. My teachers at Vinemont always did a great job of ensuring that the lives of those lost in service to our country lived on through our growing memories. They did this by teaching us about the lives of our American patriots and their heroic deeds. We learned about the realities of each war, the casualty counts, the letters of condolences that many families would receive and the impact that their actions and sacrifices would make for generations to come. All of these things would mold my » PAGE 8

Doyle announces candidacy for Alabama House District 12


CONTRIBUTED
Heather Doyle
» PAGE 8

Hogan back behind bars in Cullman County murder case


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Randall Dewayne Hogan in 2023
» PAGE 2

OP-ED
Duty doesn't end at discharge – supporting our struggling heroes » PAGE 8

Cullman County Memorial Day celebrations


CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
A photo from the 2022 Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Festival
» PAGE 8

2nd annual Bartlett Baseball Camp set for June 18: Early registration open » PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 22

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 22, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 19

- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- menacing; CR 1223
- theft of property; CR 1043
- assault; CR 1663
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; White Oak Circle

May 20

- theft of property; CR 573
- burglary; Boundary Ave.
- theft of property; CR 1082
- theft of property; CR 1482
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69N
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; I65SB MM312

May 21

- domestic violence; Hwy. 278W
- domestic violence; CR 1497
- domestic violence; Hwy. 278W
- theft of property; CR 532
- theft of property; CR 1193
- theft of property; CR 267
- violation of protection order; CR 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S

ARRESTS

May 19-21

Aldridge, Hunter L.; 28
- permitting dogs to run at large

Armstrong, Jason E.; 50
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Beasley, Matthew R.; 42
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Calvert, Shona N.; 38
- possession of dangerous drugs

Dressel, Sarah M.; 39
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Forman, Makayla R.; 28
- FTA – public intoxication

Gillentine, Reginald T.; 56
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Grant, Kathryn L.; 32
- FTA – speed 25mph or more

James, Perry L.; 54
- harassing communications

Kelley, Kevin R.; 48
- FTA – insanitary sewage facilities menacing public health

Key, Christopher M.; 46
- FTA – assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Lay, Rachel L.; 34
- interference with public safety communication
- public intoxication

McBride, Holly M.; 44
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Moreno, Dekota B.; 25
- PROBATION VIOLATION – sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old

Norris, Joseph M.; 23
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Pannell, Sawyer D.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Robinson, Justin P.; 28
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of sawed off rifle/shotgun

Suggs, Mary A.; 38
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Uselton, Dana M.; 36
- FTA – attempt to commit a crime-class B felony

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 18
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

May 21
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $166; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

May 21

Little, James E.; 42
- certain person forbidden to possess firearm

Walker, Amanda H.; 43
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Link, Adam C.; 33
- public intoxication

Fuller, Kagun D.; 29
- 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.

IN LOVING MEMORY

JAMES ALLEN WATTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 1951 — APRIL 18, 2025

James Allen Watts passed away at Cullman Regional Medical Center in Cullman, Alabama on April 18, 2025 at the age of 73. Allen was born September 22, 1951, in Cullman County, Alabama, to James Theodore, Jr. (Junior) and Mary Fulillove Watts. Allen was a graduate of Holly Pond High School (class of 1969) and St. Bernard College.

Allen was preceded in death by his parents Junior and Mary Watts.

Allen's survivors include his wife of 51 years, Delbra (Debbie) Dianne Watts, sons, Zackary Watts and Justin Watts (Hazel), sisters, Judy Grissom (David), Jan Sutton (Carl), grandson, Luka Watts; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, friends and associates.

Allen received his B.S. degree from Saint Bernard in 1975. He worked the majority of his younger career in Alabama with Southern Roof and Deck in Pleasant Grove. He traveled all over the Southeast as a General Contractor. He obtained licenses from the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia. He was also a highly skilled home builder and remodeler.

In the late 80's, he and his family moved to Elberton, Georgia. In Elberton, Allen worked for Martin Fireproofing until his retirement.

Allen was a member of First Baptist Church in Elberton. There he served two terms as a deacon. He was very active at First Baptist Church and loved his church family very much. He was most proud of being a Founding member of Celebrate Recovery for 15 years. This year is the 20th year celebration for the Christian based life changing program focused on Hurts, Habits, and Hang-ups. Allen sponsored many men, young and old and got to experience their changed lives. He loved being a part of the transformation that changes lives for generations.

Allen and his family moved back to Alabama in 2019 to be close to his childhood home in New Hope, to live out his life in a place he called "Beautiful."

Our family would especially like to thank Allen's doctor at CRMC, Dr. Cowser, for his support and compassion during Allen's illness.

A memorial will be held in the Event Building, at the home of Darlene Norris, Saturday June 21st at 5:00pm.

† *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." – Matthew 5:4*

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Dr. Nicole Wadsworth kicks off Alabama lieutenant governor campaign

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Dr. Nicole Wadsworth officially launched her campaign for lieutenant governor of Alabama on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at a packed event at her campaign headquarters in Montgomery, according to a media release from her campaign.

Supporters, community leaders and members of the press gathered to hear Wadsworth, a Republican, share her "bold, Alabama-first vision rooted in economic growth, workforce development, safer communities, rural health care access and conservative values."

"Every Alabamian deserves the opportunity to have a good job without having to leave the place they call home," Wadsworth said. "We must strengthen workforce development so every Alabamian – from the high school student to the veteran – has a clear path to a good paying job."

From the release: "A nationally recognized economic developer and conservative leader, Dr. Wadsworth has visited all 67 counties in Alabama more than 25 times, bringing a hands-on approach to revitalizing local economies and supporting small businesses.

"Her priorities include business recruitment and retention, statewide infrastructure improvements, the expansion of telehealth in rural areas, a quality and skilled workforce, defending the unborn, promoting public safety, and fostering a business climate that cuts red tape for job creators and positions Alabama for growth."



CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Nicole Wadsworth

"We must ensure that every community has a seat of the table.

"That means working together businesses, educators, law enforcement, local leaders and citizens – to build an Alabama that works for us all," she said.

Wadsworth also thanked her husband, Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley, for his support and service, noting their shared commitment to family, faith and public service.

"Together, they are raising their college-aged son and daughter with the values of integrity, discipline, and hard work."

"The campaign invites Alabamians across our state to get involved and help build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Alabama. #Our67"

The Alabama Statewide Primary Election will be May 19, 2026. The Primary Runoff Election will be June 16, 2026, and the General Election will be Nov. 3, 2026.

Hogan (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man who was out on bond on a murder charge saw his bond revoked on Monday, May 19, by Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Emily Johnston for allegedly violated the terms of his pre-trial release.

Randall Dewayne Hogan, 69, of Cullman, was arrested back on Oct. 30, 2023.

The arrest was a significant development in a case that had been under investigation by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office for more than three years – the disappearance of Jeffery Glenn Wilhite, a 59-year-old Vinemont resident who went missing from the West Point community on April 3, 2020.

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker this week shared, "This defendant was granted a bond back in 2023, which we opposed under Aniah's Law.

"Last week we filed to revoke his bond because he was arrested for a new offense. We had a contested revocation hearing on Monday and Judge Johnston revoked his bond and jailed him."

Hogan will be held without bond until his trial.

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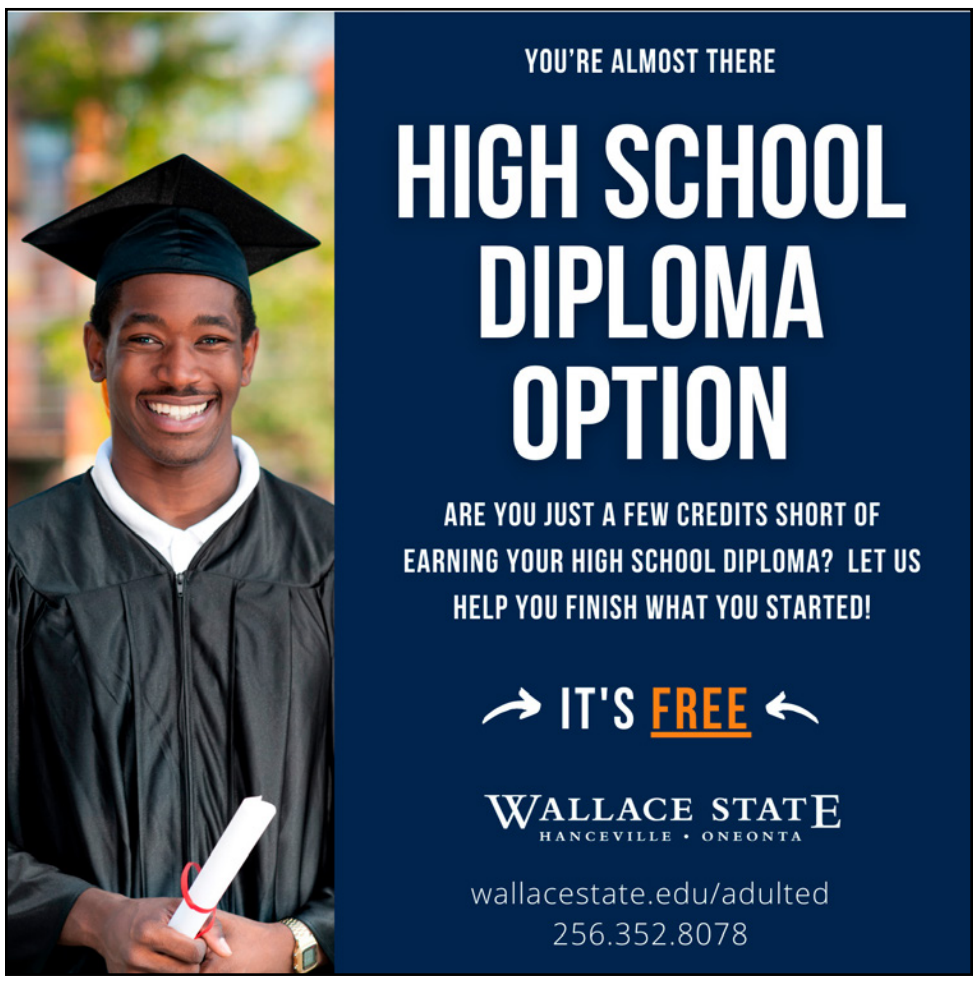
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Cullman County Relay for Life Benefit Car Show

- May 31, 2025
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- proceeds donated to Relay for Life.
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Attention Senior Citizens
• If you are 60 or over, please come to the Cullman 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 deliver 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 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 Repair
New session begins June 1, at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church located at 615 Third Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. 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
• 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 Program
• Make plans to join us at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for the Summer Reading Program. Children from ages 2 to 12 are welcome.
• June 3: McWane Science Center
• June 10: Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District
• June17: Cullman County Extension Office (ACES)
• June 24: North Alabama Agriplex
• Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information 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 Garrison 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 fellowship.

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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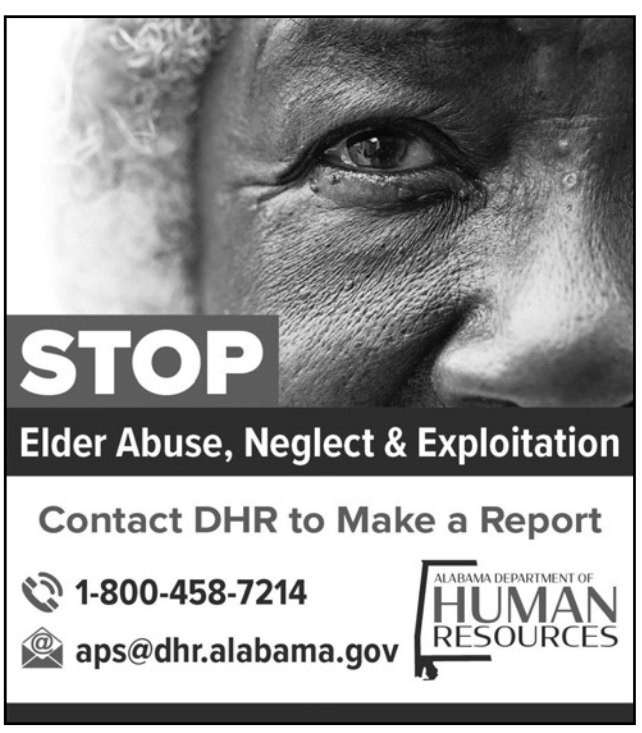
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 24, 2025

'You only get to go to high school once, so make it count'

Holly Pond's Rilee Shareck reflects on Bronco years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond senior Rilee Shareck collected her diploma last Saturday and in this interview, shared some of her favorite memories from her school years and talked about what being at Holly Pond has meant to her.

"My favorite memories would have to be getting accepted into the Fast Track program that they offer. It is a wonderful program that has helped me so much these last two years. It has helped me prepare for college life and how college would work," Shareck said. "It was special, because my mom is an alumni from there. It was cool to see her yearbook photos in the library. I am very close to her, so it was special to get to the school she graduated from."

Rilee will miss the people that she got to know at Holly Pond. She graduated in the top 10 of her class, and she was so proud of all the hard work that she put in to reach that goal. She also got her associates degree from Wallace State a week before her high school graduation.

"I will definitely remember and miss so many people I know. It's such a small community that everyone knows everyone, so it will be a big difference that I will miss in college," Shareck said. "I am very proud to say that I am in the top 10 of my class. I worked very hard throughout my time at Holly Pond. Since I am in the Fast Track program, I took college classes fully instead of high school. I graduated with my associates degree a week before my high school graduation. It is very amazing, and I am very proud that I still made the top 10 when I was taking all college classes instead of high school classes."

Rilee was nervous before taking the program, but she believes completing it changed her life. She was also in a few clubs at Holly Pond and she gained a lot from those experiences.

"I used to be shy before starting the program, and now, I am very outgoing. It has helped me to get involved in my community a lot more. I became the president of the Leo Club during my senior year and the vice president of Rotaract. I have done countless amounts of community service, and I have loved every second of it. The program has also allowed me to get an associates degree from Wallace State. The grants that the program got allowed me to not have to pay nearly as much as it would have costed. I have made many friends there from all of the different schools in the county. The Fast Track teachers and staff are very sweet and have always helped me whenever I had questions."

Rilee added, "I was a part of the Key Club, the Beta Club, and TRIO. TRIO helped me with everything to do with college. They helped me decide what I would want to major in, and which college is best for me. Key Club helped me connect to my classmates through volunteering. Beta Club was such a privilege to be in, and I am very proud to be able to say that I was able to be in the Beta Club."

She soaked up as much as she could during her time as a Bronco, and she shared some advice with any students that are starting high school and are looking to get into the Fast Track program themselves.

"What I learned the most is to never give up and that change is constant. That is perfectly fine. I learned that everything is going to be fine if I make mistakes and to keep trying," she said. "My advice would be to go to as many events as possible. You only get to go to high school once, so make it count by going to everything you can and have fun. My advice to students wanting to get into the Fast Track program would be to know that it's not just a way to not have to go to school as much. They need to take it seriously. It is a hard, but rewarding, program."

Rilee earned scholarships from a couple of colleges but after visiting South Alabama, she knew that was the place for her.

"I received the Lion's Club scholarship, the Freshman Admission Scholarship and the Jaguar Dream Residential Scholarship from the University of South Alabama, and the Freshman Admission Scholarship from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. It feels amazing. I am so blessed to be able to receive them. I will be attending the University of South Alabama in the fall, and I will be majoring in Computer Engineering," she said. "It was amazing. As soon as I stepped foot onto the campus, I knew that would be where I would be attending. I have loved everything about the school so far. What stood out to me the most when I was over there was the community. Everyone was so friendly and inviting. They encouraged questions, and everyone knew so much about the college. It had such a welcoming environment, and I also love the fact that they have resident halls and not dorms. I get to have my own bathroom."

Rilee feels blessed to have God in her life, and she shared one of her favorite Bible verses.

"He has played a big role in my life. He has always been a part of my life. I started going to church when I was little, so I am so thankful to have that opportunity. It is such a blessing, and I am so happy to have Him in my life. My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. It means a lot to me, because it is asking God to come into their life to become a Christian. It sends a good message of faith. It is a reminder of God's sacrifice of letting His son die on the cross for all of our sins."

Rilee's role model in school helped her become the person that she is today. Being a role model and an inspiration for the younger kids in and outside of school is at the top of her list.

"I would say my aunt Beth was my role model in school. She is a middle school teacher at Holly Pond. She is always on top of things and always helps out the students. She is very kind but strict. She has always been someone I have looked up to growing up, so it was amazing to get to see her face after I graduated," she said. "For me, I always wanted to make sure that I was doing something that I would be okay with younger kids seeing. I did not act up or get into trouble. I stayed ahead of my homework and showed a good example of being polite to everyone. It is important to me to show respect. I hope that I was a good inspiration on the younger kids. I have a younger sister, so I hope that I influenced her and her friends to be polite and do good in school."

As she prepares to move on to the next stage of her life, Rilee wants her fellow Broncos to remember her as a kind person.

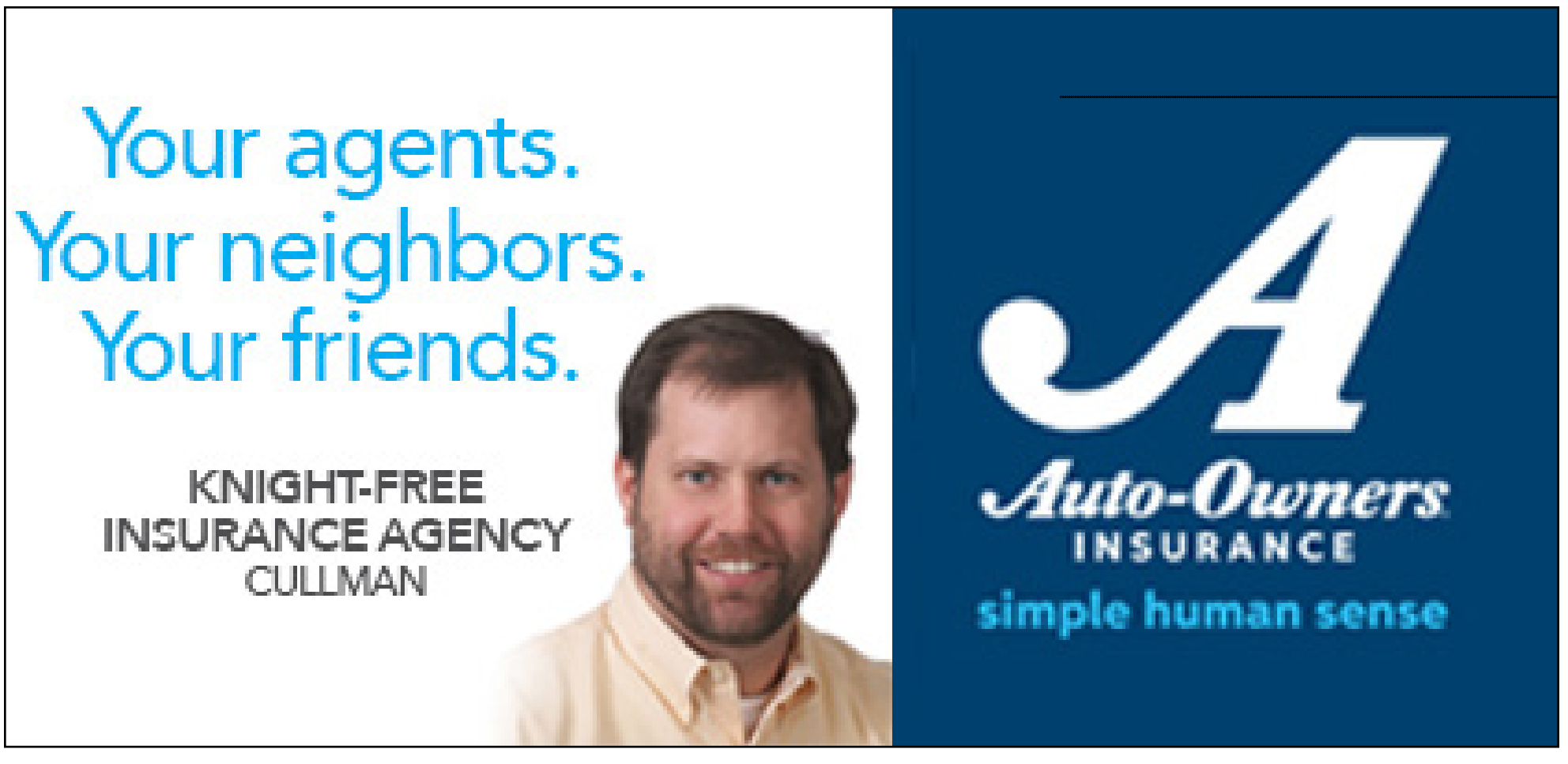
"I want them to remember me as someone who achieved great things and succeeded in life. I want to be known as someone who is kind and always willing to help."



RILEE SHARECK

Holly Pond's Rilee Shareck





Cullman's Cody Goodwin commissioned as 2nd lieutenant in US Army

Dawn Bramblett
Contributor



FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY

Second Lieutenant Cody Goodwin (middle) receives his Certificate of Commission from Sergeant First Class Gomez (left) and Lieutenant Colonel House (right).

HENDERSON, Tenn. — In a historic moment for the school, Freed-Hardeman University's spring 2025 commencement ceremony celebrated the first-ever commissioning of an Army officer, as new graduate Cody Goodwin, from Cullman, officially transitioned from student to second lieutenant in the United States Army. This achievement was made possible through FHU's partnership with the University of Tennessee at Martin's Army ROTC Skyhawk Battalion.

For Goodwin, who also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Politics, the moment marked a significant step in his personal and career goals.

"While the idea of becoming an officer has been something I've thought about since high school, while taking JROTC, I was beyond blessed to have the opportunity to join ROTC at FHU back in August of 2021," he said. "That decision started my initial journey."

A time-honored tradition, the commissioning ceremony included the Bar Pinning, the presentation of the Certificate of Commission, the Silver Dollar Salute and finally the administration of the Oath of Office. Assisting in the solemn occasion were Lieutenant Colonel House, Sergeant First Class Gomez and Sergeant Marcus James.

Goodwin shared his pride in his new responsibility, looking forward to the good he will soon be able to do in the world, saying, "Commissioning is one of the first steps that allows a leader to prioritize the needs of others before themselves," he said. "The core of the oath we take is a selfless commitment to becoming an advocate and bearer of truth while continuing the traditions and values we hold so dear in a country we love.

"The world is always so set on tearing itself apart, but taking a step like this has the ability to put some good back into it."

Following his graduation and commission, Goodwin plans to pursue his Master of Divinity at Freed-Hardeman in the fall and hopes to become an Army chaplain. In his other ambitions, he wants to move to Nashville to either pursue a career working in the music industry or as a lobbyist.

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WSCC SOFTBALL

Lions get past Chipola in NJCAA World Series

Wallace State Athletics
WSCC

YUMA, AZ. — The 11th-seed Wallace State Lions kept their championship dreams alive as they defeated 12th-seeded Chipola 4-3 in the NJCAA World Series in Yuma, AZ. The Lions went on to play the winner of 7th-seeded Gaston and 17th-seeded Crowder in the Final Four at 5:30 p.m.

Wallace State took an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Kaelyn Jones singled to start the inning and then advanced to third on Tanayja Thomas' double. Brandy Phillips' fly out brought Jones home for the first run of the game.

The Lions extended their lead to 4-0 with three runs in the bottom of the third. Jones started the inning with a single and advanced to second on a passed ball and then to third on Thomas' ground out.

Phillips hit into a fielder's choice that allowed Jones to score for a 2-0 lead. Charl Kyser then doubled to plate Phillips for the inning's second run. After Kyser advanced to third on an error, Brooklyn Sertell grounded out but brought home Kyser for a 4-0 lead.

Chipola cut into the lead with a solo home run in the top of the fourth. They put together a rally in the top of the seventhas they scored two runs to cut the lead to 4-3. But, Madeline Howard kethe lead intact by inducing a popup to end the game.

Jones finished 3-for-4 with two runs scored. Phillips had two RBIs and a run scored, while Kyser had a hit, an RBI and a run scored. Sertell added an RBI,while Thomas had two hits.

Ava Smith pitched four innings to earn the win. She allowed one run on four hits while striking out two. Phillips pitched two innings of relief, allowing two runs on three hits. Howard picked up the save after working a scoreless seventh.



WSCC

Wallace State's Brandy Phillips (11)

No. 9 Alabama falls to No. 8 Tennessee in 2nd round of SEC Tournament

Nick Cicere
UA Athletics

HOOVER, Ala. – No. 9 seed Alabama baseball fell 15-10 to No. 8 seed Tennessee on Wednesday at Hoover Metropolitan Stadium, eliminating the Crimson Tide from tournament play. The loss drops Alabama to 41-16 overall in 2025.

Richie Bonomolo Jr. led all Tide hitters with a 3-for-5 effort at the plate, producing two doubles and four RBI, as his go-ahead, two-run double in the fifth gave Alabama its first lead of the afternoon. Justin Lebron tallied two RBI as part of his 1-for-4 day, while Brennen Norton managed multiple hits, including a double and an RBI, closing his 2-for-4 line.

Bryce Fowler and Jason Torres also doubled, as Alabama managed five doubles on Wednesday.

Aeden Finateri was tasked with his fifth start of the spring and his second against an SEC opponent. The senior tossed 1.2 innings, allowing four hits and two earned runs to go with one walk and one strikeout. The Tide utilized eight different relievers against the Volunteers, including Zane Adams (7-4), who suffered the loss after surrendering three runs in the sixth.

From Head Coach Rob Vaughn

"You know, when (Tennessee) came out, they were swinging the bats extremely well early. I thought we minimized and did a good job of minimizing innings early. Were able to tie the game up. They make kind of a costly error there with two outs, and Richie (Bonomolo Jr.) follows that up with a huge double that gave us the lead there, and you're kind of back in it. So, to grab the lead there in the middle is exactly where you want to be. And then we just couldn't stop them. I mean, that offense was firing on all cylinders today. They didn't make mistakes.

"They capitalized on stuff. At the end of the day, just couldn't slow them down. These kids fought and scratched and clawed to the very end, just too big of a hole to get ourselves out of there. Wish we would have played a little bit better there, but we'll turn our attention to this week and get to work and, hopefully, play baseball for a couple more weeks."

How It Happened

• B1 | Tennessee opened the scoring after an RBI double. (1-0, Tennessee)

• B2 | An RBI single plated another run on the board for the Volunteers. (2-0, Tennessee)

• T4 | Bryce Fowler started the inning with a double to right and was followed by Kade Snell, who drew a walk. Richie Bonomolo Jr. then doubled to left-center, bringing home Fowler. (2-1, Tennessee)

• B4 | The Volunteers responded with three runs after a two-run RBI single and a run-scoring wild pitch. (3-1, Tennessee)

• T5 | Jason Torres led off the inning with a double to right-center and advanced to third after a passed ball. Brady Neal eventually walked to place runners at the corners, with Brennen Norton lining a single through the left side to plate Torres. After Justin Lebron drew a two-out walk to load the bases, Snell sent a grounder to second, with the throw to first missing the target, allowing Norton and Neal to score. Bonomolo Jr. capitalized, lining a two-run double to left-center to put the Tide in front. (6-5, Alabama)

• B5 | UT leveled the score after an RBI single. (6-6)

• B6 | Tennessee regained the lead after five hits and two walks led to five runs. (11-6, Tennessee)

• B8 | A two-run home run and a two-run double tacked on to the home team's lead. (15-6, Tennessee)

• T9 I Neal opened the inning with a bunt single before Norton doubled to right, winning a 15-pitch at-bat. Fowler worked a one-out walk to load the bases, leading to Lebron's two-run single. Snell lifted a sacrifice fly to right before Bonomolo Jr. produced an RBI single to center. (15-10, Tennessee)

Postgame Notes

• Alabama recorded five doubles on Wednesday, matching its season-high

• Wednesday marked the 18th game this season the Crimson Tide has scored 10-plus runs

• Richie Bonomolo Jr. has now reached base in 53 of 57 games this season

• Bonomolo Jr. produced two doubles, recording his first two-double game since March 2 against North Dakota State

• Bonomolo Jr. is the first Alabama player to record two doubles in a game since Garrett Staton at Vanderbilt on May 3

• Bonomolo Jr.'s four RBI were his most in a game since he produced five RBI against Samford on April 1

• Kade Snell has now reached base in 51 of his 56 games this season.

• Bryce Fowler extended his on base streak to 10 games

• Brennen Norton collected his 20th RBI, marking his first RBI since April 19 at LSU

• Zane Adams made his first relief appearance of the season in the sixth inning, and his first since April 3, 2024, at Samford

Up Next

• Alabama will await its 2025 NCAA Tournament seeding, as the Tide will prepare for Regional play

• The 2025 NCAA Tournament Selection Show is scheduled for Monday, May 26, with coverage tentatively set to begin at 11 a.m. CT on ESPN2



UA ATHLETICS

The Crimson Tide fell to Tennessee in the second round of this year's SEC Tournament.

Class (from Front)

infant death, what to look for, what needs to be reported to the medical examiner and how to fill out forms required by the CDC."

The class was sponsored by the Cullman County Coroner's Office, Shelby County Coroner's Office and the Alabama Department of Public Health-Bureau of Prevention, Promotion, and Support.

Kilpatrick and Shelby County Coroner Lina Evans are both trainers for the ADPH in SUIDI.

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker spoke to attendees on May 21 on the importance of this type of investigation.

"I spoke to this group of law enforcement officers, coroners and other professionals about the prosecution standpoint on cases of sudden unexplained infant death," Crocker said.

"The tragic fact is most of these cases are preventable, and most of those are because of unsafe sleeping arrangements.

"The Alabama Department of Public Health is promoting the 'Clear The Crib' challenge to remind parents the importance of a clear crib to reduce risks to their babies.

"Hopefully, this will result in safer sleep environments and less of these cases."

Kilpatrick said sudden infant death is broad area and the intent of an investigation is to narrow down the cause and manner of death.

"In 2024, 75% of the SUIDI cases investigated by the Cullman County Coroner's Office were 'undetermined,' however, those 75% were due to unsafe sleeping conditions," Kilpatrick said.

"This could be co-sleeping, overlaying by guardian or due to other reasons of unsafe sleeping conditions. ADPH can provide a pack n' play free of charge for families that are unable to provide a safe sleeping space for their baby."

Lunch was provided on Wednesday by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and on Thursday by Legacy of Hope.

The class included 29 attendees representing 17 different agencies that participated in the two-day training event.

Agencies included the Blount County Coroner's Office, Blount County Sheriff's Office, Bibb County Coroner's Office, Brooks' Place, Chambers County Coroner's Office, Cullman County Coroner's Office, Cullman County EMA, Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Cullman Police Department, Morgan County Coroner's Office, Lauderdale County Coroner's Office, Walker County Coroner's Office, Winston County Coroner's Office, Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office, Shelby County Coroner's Office, Valley Police Department and the Legacy of Hope.

Rainer: Live auction set for State Lands hunting leases May 31

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

Alabama hunters will soon have an opportunity to bid on hunting leases at a live auction being conducted by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) State Lands Division. State Lands has identified 140 potential hunting lease tracts across 32 counties that will be part of the upcoming 5-year lease cycle.

The public auction will be Saturday, May 31, at the Grande Hall at Old Mill Square 105 W College St., Columbiana, Alabama 35051. Doors will open for bidder registration at 8:15, and the auction will begin at 10 a.m. However, before you show up and start bidding, State Lands Director Patti Powell McCurdy said you need to be prepared.

"I encourage everyone to first read the Auction Announcement very carefully," McCurdy said. "It is the official document detailing all requirements related to submitting a bid that must be followed so that a hunter's bid actually can be considered by State Lands."

For details on the procedure for submitting bids, visit www.outdooralabama.com/2025HuntingLeaseAuction and click on the Hunting Lease Auction Announcement link. You can also find a Complete Tract Listing of the 140 tracts (stating the bid deposit and minimum bid amount for each numbered tract), Hunting Tract Maps and a Sample Hunting Lease.

ADCNR Commissioner Chris Blankenship said the hunting lease program expands the many excellent public hunting opportunities currently offered by the ADCNR on the state's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Special Opportunity Areas (SOAs) and various Forever Wild Land Trust tracts. No areas falling within these programs are part of the auction.

"The leasing program gives individuals the opportunity for a totally different hunting experience – a very personal one," Commissioner Blankenship said. "Not everybody has access to family land or a hunting club. This gives the public an opportunity to lease a tract and enjoy it with family and friends. Our bidders range from hunting clubs to grandparents looking for a place to take their grandkids hunting. I suspect we might also have a few bidders who just want a place to get away and enjoy all by themselves. It's just a different experience we are offering the public."

McCurdy explained that her division conducts this auction on behalf of numerous state agencies. McCurdy considers the effort to be just one example of how State Lands fulfills its responsibility to manage a variety of state-owned land for the purpose of generating revenue – with this one having the added benefit of promoting hunting.

"Like any business that manages real estate as an asset, State Lands is charged with trying to find ways to make these tracts a revenue-generating asset for certain state agency beneficiaries such as the Department of Education and the Department of Mental Health," McCurdy said. "To some, this might sound like an unexpected role for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, but really, it's not. Employing proven conservation principles and implementing best management practices has always been directly linked to the resulting productivity of land. While you might see a one-time generation of revenue, you will never achieve the goal of perpetually generating revenue unless you take proper care of the land over the long term."

The acreage of each tract is available at the link above, and the tract sizes range from 34 acres in Walker County to 1,400 acres in Tuscaloosa County. The topography of the properties includes uplands, bottomlands, as well as the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Some of the tracts are bow hunting only. So, out of the 140 tracts, hunters have a variety of options as to location, size and annual rental rate.

Each bidder must come to the auction with a certified or cashier's check (no cash or personal checks) for the bid deposit in the required amount for each numbered tract. McCurdy said the required bid deposit amount can be found on the Complete Tract Listing.

"We can't consider a bid from any individual that does not have the required bid deposit in hand," she said. "Again, it is just so critical to read and follow all the instructions in the Auction Announcement."

"At the time a successful bidder executes the lease, we will apply the bid deposit to the first year's rent.

"If a successful bidder fails to execute the lease within the required 30-day period, the bid deposit will be forfeited and we will continue efforts to lease the tract," McCurdy said. "So, even if you are not the highest bidder initially, you could still have a chance to lease the tract you want."

If you can't attend the public auction, written absentee bids will be received at the State Lands Division, 64 N Union St., Room 464, Folsom Administration Building, Montgomery, Alabama 36130. Written absentee bids must be received by State Lands no later than 4 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, 2025. Bid deposits submitted by unsuccessful bidders will be returned. Requirements for submitting a written absentee bid are detailed in the Auction Announcement at the link noted above.

McCurdy said State Lands will open the written absentee bids the day after the submittal deadline. Bidding at the May 31st auction will then start at either the minimum bid stated in the Complete Tract Listing or the amount of the highest written absentee bid that meets the requirements in the Auction Announcement.

"After the opening of the written absentee bids, we will do our best to post a listing of the highest written absentee bid received - if any - for each tract by close of business on May 29th at the same website link (see above)," McCurdy said.

"That way, hunters will know what to expect the day of the auction as far as a starting point for bidding. We will then keep going to whatever amount people are willing to bid.

"Even if you submit a written absentee bid, you can still come to the auction and continue bidding to be sure you get the tract you want. If you submitted a proper bid deposit as described in the Auction Announcement with your written absentee bid, there is no need to bring an additional bid deposit for that same amount to the auction."

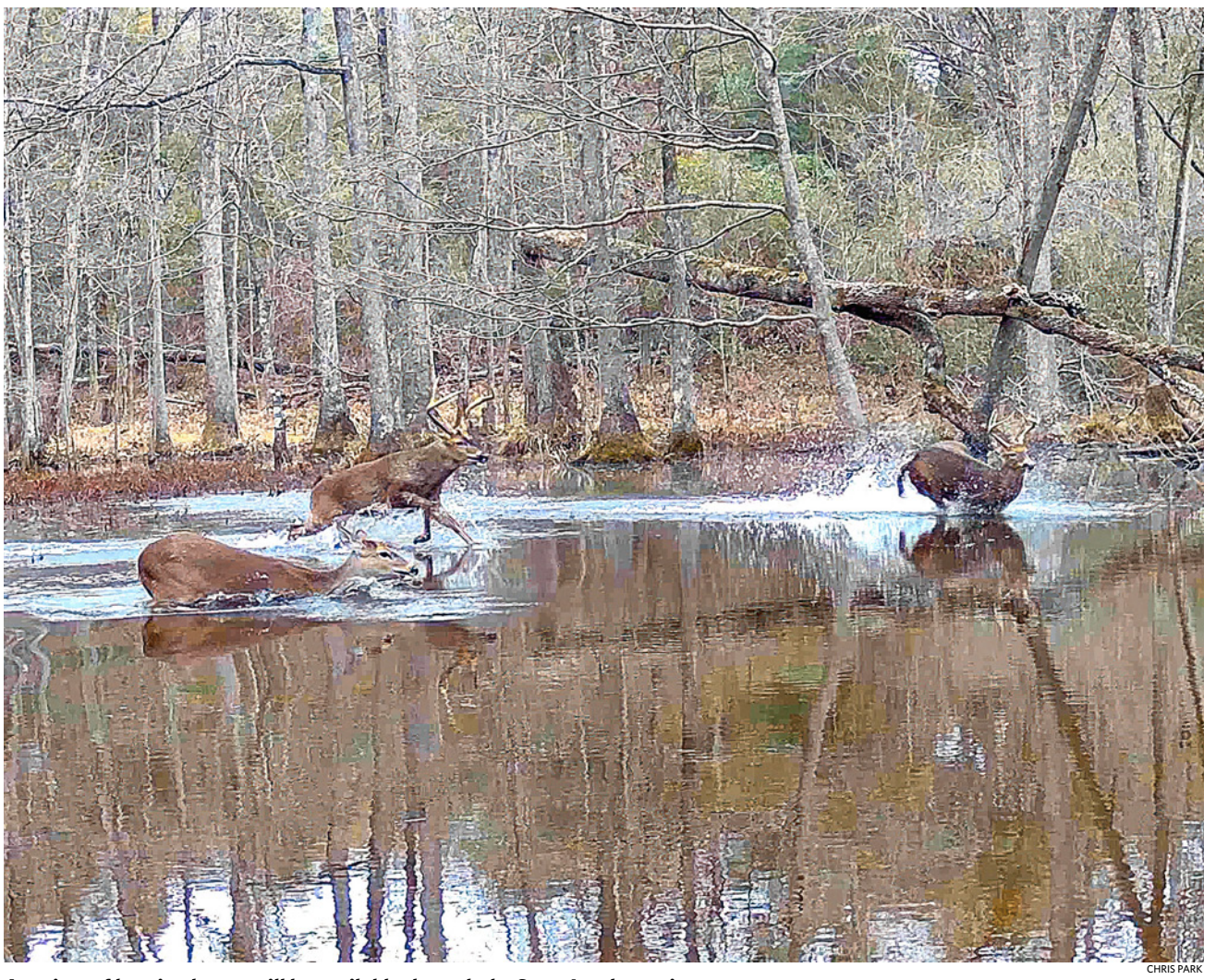
McCurdy said it is also important to review the Sample Lease before bidding to be sure you are willing to comply with the lease provisions throughout the five-year term.

"One requirement is to maintain general liability insurance," she said. "A successful bidder must also submit a list of the proposed hunters who will be on the tract. We do check those hunters for a record of game violations.

"Lessees are also required to provide some landowner assistance and generally return the tract to State Lands in as good or better condition than they found it."

Examples of lease terms include provisions that restrict the use of the properties to the lessee, authorized guests and members of the lessee hunting club. The lease holder must maintain (by minimum of bush hogging) property line fire breaks to State Lands' satisfaction. Lessee must till, fertilize and plant fire lanes, roadsides and/or approved food plots at the lessee's expense. No new food plots or other agricultural practices are allowed without approval of State Lands. No lease can be assigned, and tract access is not guaranteed.

"My staff spends a lot of time looking at available tracts to determine if they are a good fit for this type of a hunting lease opportunity, and we utilize an appraiser to help provide information we need to set minimum bid amounts. "The process involves a lot of work but is certainly worth it as the resulting leases are truly a win-win for the state and hunters. They generate revenue for state agencies and at the same time allow State Lands to offer a unique hunting opportunity to anybody willing to participate in the bid process. So, if you didn't get the tract you wanted during bidding back in 2020, we hope you will try again as part of our 2025 Cycle."



CHRIS PARK

A variety of hunting leases will be available through the State Lands auction.

Red Hill School House to open for free June 5

Rachel Dawsey
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The North Alabama Agriplex and Peinhardt Living History Farm will open the doors of the Red Hill School House to the community on Thursday, June 5, from 6-8 p.m. as part of the monthly Agriplex Heritage Skills Series.

Visitors of all ages are encouraged to visit the property to discover the history of both the Red Hill School House and education in Cullman County. There is no registration required - just stop in and say hello!

The open house is designed for everyone who wants to know more about:

- The history of the Red Hill School House
- The journey of the school house to its current home at Peinhardt Living History Farm
- A typical school day in the early 1900s
- The history of each school in Cullman County

During this time, volunteers will be dressed in old-fashioned clothing letting visitors experience firsthand a typical school day with period classrooms, desks and other educational tools that were used in the school back in the early 1900s.

Admission to this event is free and the event is open to all. The address is 1714 Tally Ho St., Cullman. The North Alabama Agriplex's mission is to "Cultivate a community passionate about preserving our agricultural heritage, educating and feeding our neighbors, and growing a sustainable future." Through our Heritage Skills Series, we ensure that skills and knowledge from past generations will be preserved for future generations.. We invite you to join us to find out more.

For more information, contact Rachel Dawsey at cullmanag@gmail.com or 256-297-1044. Check Facebook for weather cancellations.

New summer EBT benefits coming to families with eligible school children

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) plans to distribute Alabama SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits to eligible children this summer, as part of a new federal program. Alabama SUN Bucks will provide a one-time issuance of $120 per school-aged child for grocery benefits for the summer to low-income families.

Alabama SUN Bucks will be automatically issued to school-aged children who have been approved by application or direct certification and attending a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs. Children that are directly certified through the ALSDE in programs such as SNAP, TANF or Medicaid will be automatically eligible for Alabama SUN Bucks.

If not automatically enrolled, each student may apply for Alabama SUN Bucks.

Students receiving free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision will not automatically qualify; however, students may still be eligible for the benefits based on the household's income. Households should visit Alabama SUN Bucks to apply or receive additional information.

"The summer break can be challenging for families when children are at home and spending increases because children and youth are not in school and receiving benefits," said Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner.

"This additional money will help families across the state make it through summer break while also encouraging healthy and nutritious eating.

An Alabama SUN Bucks card will be issued for students who qualify for the program.

Alabama SUN Bucks customer service representatives are available to answer Summer EBT questions by phone at 1-800-443-3536 or email at support@alabama-sunbucks.com from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Camp (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The second annual Bartlett Baseball Camp will return on Wednesday, June 18, at the Cold Springs High School baseball field. Organized by Brodee Bartlett, a University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) baseball player and Cold Springs High alumni, the camp focuses on refining the fundamentals of fielding, hitting and pitching while being guided by players at the collegiate level.

Attendees will be coached by a lineup of current college players, including Bartlett, Eli Folds (pitcher at LaGrange College), Hugh Windle (infield at UAH), Cole Loftis (pitcher at UAH) and Caleb Mahan (UAH).

Players will be guided through specific drills designed to improve glove work, footwork, hitting mechanics, hand-eye coordination and pitching mechanics.

With a successful inaugural camp under his belt, Bartlett said the decision to host year two was an easy one.

"Last year was amazing. Seeing all these young athletes get better in a short time and learning things that will last a lifetime was the best thing for me and is the reason I wanted to do it again," Bartlett shared.

"I just love sharing the knowledge I have gained over the years so that the next generation of athletes will have more success than us."

He added, "Learning small things at a young age is what changes the game. I can't wait to get this year's camp going."

Sign-ups will begin at the gate at 8:15 a.m. on the day of the camp.

Pre-registration is also available online or by contacting Bartlett directly. Position player registration is $85, while pitchers-only can register for $75.

All campers are asked to bring baseball pants, their equipment and "a great attitude."

The camp will provide lunch — hot dogs, chips and water — along with additional water and Gatorade throughout the day.

Fans will also be on-site to help athletes stay cool during breaks.

"This year's camp I hope to get kids better than when they walked in.

"As long as the kids can learn two or three things that they didn't know about the game before they came, then I've done my job," Bartlett stated.

"I can't wait to see all these younger athletes get after it!"

For more information or to register, visit https://tinyurl.com/bartlettbb or contact Brodee Bartlett at 256-636-6769 or via Facebook Messenger.

Cold Springs High School is located at 9010 County Road 109, Bremen, AL 35033.

Doyle (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heather Doyle has announced her candidacy for Alabama House of Representatives District 12.

Election details

Gov. Kay Ivey set special election dates for Alabama House District 12. This seat was previously held by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope, who resigned April 15, 2025.

The Special Primary Election for this seat will be Tuesday, July 15, 2025; the special primary runoff, if necessary, will be Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025; and the special general election will be Tuesday, Oct.28, 2025.

Below is Doyle's campaign announcement, unedited and in full.

Good morning friends, neighbors, and fellow members of District 12.

I want to start by saying something you don't often hear from someone asking for your vote: I'm not a politician.

I'm a mom of four girls. I'm a wife to a hard-working small business owner. I'm a realtor, and I'm a former teacher who spent 13 years in the classroom pouring into our children and our future. I've lived real life — the kind where you balance bills, kids, and a thousand daily challenges — and I've stood face-to-face with the realities of our judicial system. I've seen it from all sides, and let me tell you, I do not play when it comes to doing what is right.

I'm not here to give you pretty speeches or political spin. I'm not here to tell you what I think you want to hear. I'm here because I believe District 12 deserves someone who will listen — someone who will truly advocate for the people who live and work here.

No matter how I personally feel about the issues that come across my desk, I will listen to you. I will represent you. I will fight for you — because that's what real representation looks like. This seat doesn't belong to a party or a politician — it belongs to the people.

And let me be clear: I cannot be bought. Not by big money, not by special interests, not by backroom deals. My loyalty is to my community — to the moms, dads, teachers, farmers, business owners, and everyday folks who make up the backbone of District 12.

So if you're tired of the same old politics, if you want a voice that reflects your values and your needs — then I ask for your support. Not as a politician, but as your advocate.

Together, let's bring honesty, courage, and common sense back to Montgomery.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless District 12.

Celebrations (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County is ready to celebrate Memorial Day Weekend with various events for all ages. From night trail rides and car shows to community cookouts and festivals, there will be plenty to do and explore this weekend.

Stony Lonesome OHV Park Memorial Day Weekend Night Ride

- Stony Lonesome OHV Park, 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South , Bremen
- Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, 8 a.m.-midnight
- Ages 13+: $20 per person
- Ages 6-12: $10 per person
- Children 5 and younger: free

This is NOT a guided event. You must have fully functioning head lights and tail lights to participate. Lodging is available on-site; call us during office hours (Saturday 8 a.m.-midnight; Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) to reserve cabins, units or RV sites. Dry camping and tent camping do not need a reservation; just let the ladies know when you check in to ride. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited; anyone caught with alcohol will be ejected from the park. Coolers are allowed on the trails but must be checked at the gate.

Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Festival

- Smith Lake Park, 403 County Road 386, Cullman
- Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The festival offers an exciting day filled with live music, arts and crafts, food vendors and a family friendly environment. The Smith Lake Park swimming pool will also be available for people to enjoy as well as kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rentals. Admission to the park is free. Additional fees apply for pool and rentals.

Inaugural Freedom & Octane Memorial Day Car Show

- Smith Lake Park, 403 County Road 386, Cullman
- Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The show will feature live music, local vendors and a celebration honoring military service members.

To enter a car in the show:

- General: $20 per car
- Veterans, active military, law enforcement: $10 per car

Spectators get in free.

Memorial Day Cookout – Standard Furniture

- 906 Perry St. SW, Cullman
- Monday, May 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Standard Furniture is offering a traditional cookout with hot dogs, chips and drinks open to the public. Attendees can also register for a chance to win a recliner. The drawing will be held at 5 p.m. on Memorial Day.

Difference (from Front)

perspective into what it is now; though I understand that I may never understand what it is to truly give the ultimate sacrifice, I know it's something worth honoring — worth remembering.

For years now, I've had the privilege of attending Memorial Day ceremonies, services and gatherings where stories are told by family members and friends of those who never came home.

I don't go out of obligation or to feel some sense of moral virtue — I go because I believe that, at the very least, remembering is something we owe. It's a small act of respect in return for an immeasurable loss.

Maybe it was the stories I've heard year after year at Memorial Day events — the poems read through somber voices, or the conversations with veterans who make sure the names of the fallen are spoken aloud while ensuring even the unknown are remembered — that deepened my conviction to remember.

Though I never felt the personal call to join our military, or at least lacked the courage to do so, I have been fortunate to have known so many incredible military men and women, both past and present.

Growing up, my childhood home sat next to a Vietnam veteran named Louis Price. We'd often cross paths where our yards met, and he would share stories about his time in Vietnam and the harsh realities he and his squad faced. As I've come to learn when speaking with veterans, the story is often written in their eyes, as if they're watching an old reel play those moments all over again.

While Mr. Price shared many of his wartime stories with me, I can't recall us ever talking directly about loss. Maybe that was the line Mr. Price didn't want to cross. Maybe he sensed that the young teenager that I was wasn't ready to hear it yet. Or maybe, the grief was something he carried quietly, in his own way, holding it close as both a burden and tribute to keep the memories alive. Whatever the reason, it was his to keep.

Just like Mr. Price's memories, those shared and those unspoken, Memorial Day is about honoring all of it. Not just the stories told around dinner tables or at community gatherings of those incredible heroes, but the silence that follows, too. It's a day to remember the names we know, the ones we don't and the empty chairs that remind us of those who never came home.

It's that quiet, lasting sacrifice — the one that we remember each Memorial Day — that makes many of the freedoms that I often take for granted even possible. That sacrifice made everything that I wanted to achieve in life possible if I just chose to pursue it. My family, my home, my education, my ability to worship freely and feel safe about it, all stem from those who gave everything on my behalf and yours.

Memorial Day is meant to stir our souls in a deep and respectful way. To first, remember the cost, but through that remembrance to step away from the selfishness that encapsulates so much of our lives.

It's a reminder to latch onto the gratitude we owe for all that we have because it came at a price.

So, this Memorial Day, I challenge you as I challenge myself, to find a moment in your day to pause and give thanks. Cullman and most of the surrounding counties have a plethora of Memorial Day events available to the public and I've seen firsthand the excitement and impact it makes to our local veterans and family members to have the community show up.

Check with your local VFWs, your community centers or Google Memorial Day events near you. Find something to be a part of and take that hour out of your day to give thanks.

Because it matters. To the families who carry that loss forevermore, to our local veterans and to the memory of those we honor.

I challenge you to show up. Have a conversation. Learn some names. Hear their stories.

Be the difference that the cost of a life paid for you to be.

Duty (from Front)

Jody Boulay
Contributor

As Memorial Day approaches, Americans nationwide prepare to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Ceremonies will be held, flags will be flown at half-staff and families will gather to pay tribute. But amid the solemnity and gratitude lies a quieter, often overlooked truth. Many of our heroes return home not to peace but to a new battlefield, one waged within.

It's a battle that doesn't make headlines and is waged silently behind closed doors, far from the front lines. Military service members and veterans face unique and profound challenges that can linger long after their tours of duty end. While we rightfully celebrate their courage and sacrifice, we too often fail to recognize the invisible wounds many carry, particularly those that lead to substance use disorders.

The harsh reality is that exposure to combat, traumatic injuries, and the pressure to reintegrate into civilian life all contribute to an increased risk of developing a substance use disorder, experiencing drug overdose or suicidal ideation.

The connection between military service and addiction is not often discussed, but it should be. According to census data, in 2022, 303,619 veterans lived in Alabama.

While it is challenging to know how many veterans in local communities struggle with addiction and mental health issues, there are some national and state trends among veterans and the general population that offer some insight into the problems.

Veteran suicide data in Alabama, for example, shows nearly 18% of those who died by suicide in Alabama are Veterans, though only 9.1% of Alabamians have served. Male veterans die by suicide at a rate 1.3 times that of civilians, and for women veterans, it is 2.1 times higher.

Nationally, the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports that 6.3% of veterans had a substance use disorder in the past year. Alcohol use, for example, was common among 56% of veterans, while 22% engaged in binge drinking, and 5.2% experienced an alcohol use disorder.

Alcohol abuse, in general, unfortunately, is a common precursor for addiction and suicidal ideation and increases the risk of drug abuse and drug overdose.

According to the Alabama Department of Mental Health, in 2021, 38% of residents ages 12 and older used alcohol in the past month, with those aged 26 and older having the highest rates of alcohol use. Binge drinking was common among all age groups, but more than half of the total binge drinks are consumed by adults aged 35 and older.

We need to normalize conversations around mental health and addiction within military culture. We should also support community-based organizations and nonprofits doing critical work in this space.

Many of these groups offer holistic, veteran-centered services that go beyond what traditional institutions can provide, from non-traditional therapy and outdoor rehabilitation programs to job training and sober housing.

We must also expand access to comprehensive, trauma-informed care, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce. Fortunately, there are some resources to help, such as the Veterans Crisis Line; dial 988, then press 1, or text 838255 anywhere in the state.

A substance use treatment directory is available through the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Provider Directory or Peer Support Resources.

The connection between military service and substance use disorders is not a comfortable topic. But it is a necessary one.

To truly honor the men and women who defend our freedoms, we must be willing to confront the unseen battles they face and commit ourselves to being part of their recovery. This Memorial Day, let's do more than remember the dead. Let's fight for the living.

Jody Boulay is a mother of two with a passion for helping others. She currently works as a community outreach coordinator for DRS to help spread awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Obituary Announcements: May 22-23

Scottie Jason Walker, 56
Memorial service for Scottie Jason Walker, 56, of Vinemont is incomplete at this time and will be announced at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Walker passed away Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at CRMC. He was born Dec. 17, 1968. Scottie loved to hunt, loved woodworking, enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his nieces and nephews. He really enjoyed visiting with people. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Esther and L.D. Jennings. Survivors include his mother, Emma Jennings Walker; sisters, Melinda Wright, Gena Renner, Sherri Crawford; significant other, Teachell Pearson; nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

William 'Ronnie' Taylor, 79
Funeral Service for William Ronald Taylor, age 79 of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Taylor passed away on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at his residence. He was born, March 29, 1946, to William Taylor and Martha Partain Taylor. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandchildren, Clancey & Dewey Taylor and brother, Roy Taylor. Survivors include his wife, Joan Taylor; sons, Wade (Shannon) Taylor, Heath (Danielle) Taylor; daughter, Tonya (Aaron) McIntosh; grandchildren, Ashtin (Shanon) Hipp, Hunter (RJ) Walker, Avory (Iran) Taylor, Mitch (Katie) Taylor, Katie Taylor, Beckett (Crate) Hulsey, Brody Taylor, Austin McIntosh; great grandchildren, Rylan, Taylor, Natalie, Kendall, Brendan and Jayden and a brother, Jerry Taylor.

Nellie Sue Harris Bice, 95
Nellie Sue Harris Bice, age 95, of the Walter community passed away May 20, 2025, at the Hanceville Nursing Home. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m., at Duck River Baptist Church, Saturday, May 24, 2025. Ms. Bice's body will lie in state from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. with pastor Caleb Elrod officiating services. Friends are invited to visit with the Bice family on Friday evening, May 23, 2025, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Nellie Sue is preceded in death by her husband, Henry Layton Bice; her parents, Vesta and Alpha Goodson Harris; two brothers, Raymond (Helen) Harris, Robert (Francis) Harris; four sisters, Eleanor (WT) Bonner, Ruth (Handley) Duke, Mildred (Leonard) Bonner, Earline (Charles) Armstrong. Nellie Sue is survived by a son, Ronald Bice; a daughter, Evelyn White; six grandchildren, Kim (Steve) Parris, Kelly (Michael) Wade, Katie Bice, April (Rebecca) Miller, Kevin White, Brian (Tracie) White; eleven great-grandchildren, Maci (Dylan) Earnest, Ally Parris, Jordan (Joshua) Rhodes, Garrett (McKenzie) Wade, Brody Wade, Seth Wigginton, Jace Wigginton, Ethan Wigginton, Tyler Wigginton, Brie Miller, Lexi (Conner) Gurley; three great-great-grandchildren, Eleanor Earnest, Emelia Earnest, and Easton Earnest. Mamma Sue, as the family called her, was a true farmers wife. She liked to work in her garden growing vegetables and canning as long as she was able. Dementia took its toll in her last years. She will be missed by all. Obituary provided by the Bice Family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Bice family.

Peggie Sue Humphrey, 79
Funeral service for Peggie Humphrey, 79, will be Sunday, May 25, 2025, at 3 p.m. at Peck Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Randy Sellers officiating and Peck Funeral Home directing. Burial will be in Etha Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Peck Funeral Home. Mrs. Humphrey passed on to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at Westhaven located in Summerford Health and Rehab. She was born October 7, 1945, to Jessie Widener and Vivian Fowler Widener of Eva. Mrs. Humphrey was a caring and kind person who loved her family very much, especially her kids and grandkids. Most importantly, she set the example of what a Christian mother should be. She, along with her late husband, raised their kids in church so they too could learn about Jesus. She was a member of Etha Baptist Church where she served in various roles, such as teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir, amongst other things. The last 25 years, she was a member of Rock Creek Baptist Church until her health prevented her from attending. Peggie was the oldest of 8 children born to Jessie and Vivian Widener. She always helped her mama with daily chores and with her brothers and sisters. She attended Eva High School and graduated in the Class of 1964. She was a member of the Beta Club and received the "Good Girl Award" her senior year. Upon graduation, she went into banking and worked at a bank in Falkville, as a teller. In 1965, she married Morris and the resided in Falkville. They welcomed their two children Vickie in 1968 and Randy in 1972, and Amanda followed in 1980 and only lived a few short hours. In the following years, she held several jobs doing secretarial work to help support her family, ultimately retiring from VF Jeanswear after over 20 years of service.Mrs. Humphrey enjoyed taking vacations with her family to the Gulf Coast Beaches and the Great Smokey Mountains as well as taking occasional trips to the Blue Ridge Mountains with her close friends, whom she loved like family. She also enjoyed cooking, family gatherings, and Braves baseball. She always supported her 6 grandchildren, who were her world, by attending school functions, sporting events and church activities. She spoiled each one of them with a favorite food, or a sleepover at her house. Morris passed away in 2021 and shortly after, Peggie was diagnosed with dementia. It robbed her of her communications skills, but through all of her sickness, she always said "I Love You". We will forever remember the loving person she was, and she will live in our hearts forever. Preceding her in death were her husband- Morris Humphrey, her parents, an infant daughter- Amanda Humphrey and her brother- Bill Widener. Survivors include: her son - Randy Humphrey (Melissa), and their children - Lauren, Mason (Brilee) and their daughter- Taytum), and Carson. her daughter - Vickie Murphree (Braxton), and their children - Kelsie, Cade,(Kaylee – and their unborn son, Colter), Kyleigh Puckett (Caleb), her brothers- Jimmie Widener, Frankie Widener and Johnny Widener, her sisters- Bettie Young, Polly Miller, and Sarah Hanvey, Six Grandchildren and Two Great Grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Jason Hanvey, Jessie Hanvey, Michael Moss, Mason Humphrey, Matt Widener, Jeremy Widener, Caleb Puckett, Carson Humphrey.

Duell Waid Rusk, 85
Duell Waid Rusk, age 85 of Cullman, Alabama passed away Wednesday, May 21, 2025. Mr. Rusk was a dedicated and hardworking man who spent 20 years as a mechanic and owner of his own garage, followed by 21 years with the road department. He often joked that he "quit working to do the lazy man's job," reflecting his commitment and strong work ethic. He had a green thumb and found pleasure in gardening. His tractor was his pride and joy—so much so that no one else was allowed to drive it. He was a member of Mt. Hope Church for the past two years and loved time spent outdoors fishing and hunting. Known for his warm personality, he was a stranger to no one—and if he wasn't friends with someone before a conversation, he certainly was by the end of it. He loved his children deeply and was always attentive and present in their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Rusk loved travelling through the United States including Texas, Yellowstone, and Tennessee just to name a few. His legacy is one of love, laughter, and a life lived fully. Mr. Rusk is preceded in death by his parents John Ang and Carra Etta Rusk, sister Doris Harris, and brothers James, L. E., Hubert and Alton Rusk. He is survived by his wife Linda Rusk, daughter Regina (Steve) Branham, son Johnny (Sharon) Rusk, sister Linda Brock, brother J. C. Rusk, grandchildren Charly Osmer, Christina (Beau) Henderson, Rikki Higginbotham, Channing Newberry, Cru Self, Casey (Crystal) Self, Justin (Felicia) Branham, and Auston Rusk, honorary grandsons Chris Martin and Chris Stephenson, 21 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. A celebration of life funeral service will be held Sunday, May 25, at 2 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, 1901 2nd Ave NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Mr. Rusk will lie in state from 1 p.m. until the service time. The family will receive friends for a visitation Saturday May 24, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Mr. Rusk will be laid to rest at Crosses Chapel Cemetery CR-1145 Vinemont, AL. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Florence Yvonne Maddux, 90
Graveside service for Florence Yvonne Maddux, 90, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Cullman City Cemetery, Bro. Stanley Kilgore officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Maddux was born on Feb. 9, 1935, to parents, Lee and Viola Hood Bartlett. She was a good Christian wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved spending time at church and with her family. Florence enjoyed socializing with others and she could make you feel like you were the most important person in the universe. Mrs. Maddux was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 72 years, William Luther Maddux; brothers, Luther Bartlett, O'Dean Bartlett, Enoch Bartlett; sisters, Dean Bartlett Freeman, Jewell Bartlett Wood, Yvon Bartlett Legg. Survivors include her sons, Michael Lee Maddux, Mark Maddux; daughters, Diane (Warren) Corbin, Janet (Wes) Mattox, Kelly (Stephen) Heatherly; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, three great great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Wanda LaTorre Lenz, 77
Funeral service for Wanda LaTorre Lenz, 77, of Crane Hill, will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Flat Rock Cemetery, Bro. Johnny Jones officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. before the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Lenz was born on June 18, 1947, to parents, Thomas Aldin and Violet Jessie O'Neal Jones. She was a loving and caring women, who adored her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great great-grandchildren. Wanda was a member of Harvest Temple and a long-time hairdresser. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandson, Aidan Somerset; sisters; daughter, Lisa Gail Price; nephew, Blake Fuller. Survivors include her sons, Thomas (Beth) Edge, Josh (Serena) LaTorre; sister, Sarah Fuller; grandchildren, Zach Edge, John Cleghorn, Josh LaTorre, Cloie Ray, Gracie(Matthew) Dunn, Jacob LaTorre, Paul (Amanda) Price, Seath Crawford, Jeremy (Emily) Glasscock, Dawson Boyd; great-grandchildren, Mia Price, Lexi Glasscock, Jason Glasscock, Nevaeh Glasscock,, Journey Somerset, Lanie Coon, Oakley Melvin, Jeremy Glasscock, Jr.; great great-grandchildren, Phoebe Rose Ireland, Dawson Boyd; and a host of family and friends.

Glenda June Moss, 74
A memorial service for Glenda June Moss, 74, of Cullman will be 2 p.m. Sunday, May 25, at Hanceville Funeral Home chapel. Mrs. Moss was born Dec. 19, 1950, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She passed away May 22, 2025, at her residence in Cullman, Alabama. Mrs. Moss is survived by her husband, Dwight Moss; son, David C. Moss; brothers, Robert A. Camp, and William J. Camp. Mrs. Camp was preceded in death by her parents, Bobby Jack Camp and Eula James Camp; and her sister, Deborah Camp. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Moss family.

Jerry James Twilley, 48
Jerry James Twilley of Cullman, Alabama passed away on May 21, 2025, at the age of 48. Jerry was born in Cullman, Alabama, on Oct. 11, 1976, to James Edward and Carolyn Elaine Bailey Twilley. Jerry is preceded in death by his Grandparents: Jimmy and Ezell Twilley and Jeff and Shirley Bailey, Father-In-Law: Mark Sandlin, Uncles: Bobby and Mark Bailey, Douglas Twilley, Aunt: Beverly Thomas and Cousin: Tyler Bailey. Jerry is survived by: Wife: Tara Elizabeth Twilley, Mother: Carolyn Elaine Twilley, Father: James Edward Twilley, Sons: Cameron Twilley, Isaac Sandlin, Ashton (Stevie) Twilley, Braxton Sandlin, Zeke Twilley, Nash Twilley, Sister: Tonya (Nick) Hipp, Grandchildren: Cohen and River Twilley, Everette and Dutton Sandlin. A Celebration of Life visitation will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at The Refuge Church of God located at 1115 East U.S. Highway 278, Cullman, Alabama, 35055 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Funeral Service following visitation at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made at Premier Bank to the Twilley Children Fund. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservice fh.com.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: office@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

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

Gudger secures $250K for Good Samaritan Health Clinic

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Senate President Pro Tempore Garlan Gudger this week announced that he secured $250,000 in state funding for Good Samaritan Health Clinic in Cullman.

According to Gudger's office, over the past year, Gudger has brought home a total of $1.25 million in funding from Montgomery for Good Samaritan and the health care services it provides to the community.

"Good Samaritan Health Clinic is a crucial lifeline for lower income working men and women in my Senate district," Gudger said. "The quality care they deliver, the lab testing they conduct and the medicines they provide have improved the health and saved the lives of countless individuals throughout our community, and these funds will help that important mission continue."Gudger's office said he got the $250,000 appropriated in the State's General Fund Budget, which was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey on May 5, 2025. The other $1 million came from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and was announced on May 13, 2024.

Good Samaritan delivers sustainable, long-term health care to the uninsured members of the Cullman community, and among the services it provides are treatment of chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol and COPD; dental extractions; mental health counseling; hearing evaluations; vision care for high-risk individuals; and other social services.

For more information about Good Samaritan Health Clinic visit www.goodsamaritan.com.



IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: HANCEVILLE CITY HALL * RESOLUTION 2025-31
HANCEVILLE CIVIC CENTER * RESOLUTION 2025-32

NOTICE

Designating and equipping voting places; county voting center pursuant to *Ala. Code* §17-6-4 (b) the voting precinct for Precinct 3 Box 1, Hanceville City Hall and Precinct 3 Box 2, Hanceville Civic Center will be relocated to the Hanceville Senior Center. This alternate location is for the **House District (HD) 11 General Election only** and shall revert to the original established voting precinct location after the August 26, 2025, Election.

FORMER NAME AND ADDRESS:
HANCEVILLE CITY HALL
PRECINCT 3 BOX 1
112 MAIN STREET SE
HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

FORMER NAME AND ADDRESS:
HANCEVILLE CIVIC CENTER
PRECINCT 3 BOX 2
902 COMMERCIAL STREET NE
HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

ALTERNATE NAME AND ADDRESS:
HANCEVILLE SENIOR CENTER
209 MICHELLE STREET NW
HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper and thereafter file a copy of the notice so published and an Affidavit of Publication.

DONE this the 22nd day of May, 2025.

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

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT OF COMPLETION
LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that MECO, INC has completed the Contract for CSMS#2 DIESEL FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT, CONTRACT #AC-24-C-0051-S, located at 2340 CHEROKEE AVE SW CULLMAN, AL 35055, for the Armory Commission of Alabama, Owner, 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 the Armory Commission of Alabama, P.O. Box 3711, Montgomery, Alabama 36109-0711.

MECO, INC
2808 DAY ST
MONTGOMERY, AL 36108
334.263.5502

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2024-023

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF DAVID LEVI HAYNES and AMBER ALTMAN HAYNES.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Christy Ella Lee Dixon
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of A.R.M, a minor child born October 19, 2016, was filed on the May 2, 2024, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners David Levi Haynes and Amber Altman Haynes. 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 7th day of May, 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. AD2024-022

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF DAVID LEVI HAYNES and AMBER ALTMAN HAYNES.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Roger J. Powell Jr.
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of D.C.M, a minor child born January 14, 2018, was filed on the May 2, 2024, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners David Levi Haynes and Amber Altman Haynes. 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 7th day of May, 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)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
THELMA M. BUSENLEHNER, * CASE NO. PC 2025 - 154
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Kathryn Lee Busenlehner as Executrix of the Estate of Thelma M. Busenlehner, deceased, on the 20th day of May, 2025, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Kathryn Lee Busenlehner
Executrix

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Executrix

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-125

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF COY TALMADGE JONES, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF COY TALMADGE JONES

TO: THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF COY TALMADGE JONES, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Petition of Anita Marie Jones to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Coy Talmadge Jones, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 17th day of July, 2025, at 10:30 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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2024-022

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF DAVID LEVI HAYNES and AMBER ALTMAN HAYNES.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Roger J. Powell Jr.
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of D.C.M, a minor child born January 14, 2018, was filed on the May 2, 2024, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners David Levi Haynes and Amber Altman Haynes. 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 7th day of May, 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)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
RICKEY CLIFTON LEE, *
Deceased. * **CASE NO.** PC 2025-079

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to SARA DOTY as administrator of the Estate of RICKEY CLIFTON LEE , deceased, on the 2ND day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

SARA DOTY, Administrator

Sara Doty, Attorney and Administrator
SARA DOTY ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLC
4725 Whitesburg Drive
Suite 202
Huntsville, Alabama 35802
(256) 519-9970
(256) 519-9952 – fax

TO: The Publisher of Cullman Tribune :

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
ANGELA MOORE, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON
now deceased. CASE NO. PC2023-197

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ANGELA MOORE, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted toSteven C. Smith on the 8th day of May, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Steven C. Smith, Personal Representative (Administrator),

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Remember the Alamo

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



No, I did not fight at the Alamo, at least not in Texas. I arrived a little too late and missed it by at least a few decades. I did, however, visit the Alamo, and I was quite glad there was no fighting going on there at that time. I was quite surprised at how small it is. I do remember the Alamo because I've read all about it and I've seen the movies. I remember Jim Bowie, William B. Travis, Davy Crockett and John Wayne (oh, that was in a movie). I even remember Santa Anna. As a boy, I played the role of many of those defenders in my own back yard in Alabama. The Texans won in my versions!

In the movies they all looked larger than life. The Alamo Mission looked much larger than it actually is, as I discovered when I toured it in person.

Even though the mission site was not so large, the battle itself was enormous. The battle for Texas to win independence from Mexico in 1836 lasted 13 days. Yes, you are right, the Texans did not win that battle, but that would not be the last one. The Texans and their allies were garrisoned at the Alamo Mission when Mexican forces, which outnumbered the defenders several times over, approached.

The defenders held off the first and second waves of attackers, but the Mexican forces eventually proved to be too strong for them.

They put up a courageous battle but were outnumbered and ultimately overpowered and defeated. Some 10 years later, in the Mexican-American War, a popular battle cry had arisen that encouraged and empowered the American soldiers. That cry was "Remember the Alamo!"

This Memorial Day weekend, may we not only remember the Alamo and those who died for Texas' independence. May we also remember all the battles and wars and all who died to gain and keep our independence as a nation.

We are more than simply one state that is free, or even a number of states that are free, we are the United States of America! May we remember all those who have died, those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

May we remember those brave patriots who died for our initial freedom from England in the Revolutionary War. The courage and bravery to rise up in rebellion against their mother country was seen as an egregious act of treason by England. Their resistance gave rise to a war that many believed couldn't possibly be won by the ill-trained and ill-equipped colonists. According to some records 4,435 colonists died on the battlefields during the Revolution, but we won our independence.

Since the Revolutionary War, according to some figures – and they vary – some 2,260 Americans died in the War of 1812; 13,283 died in the Mexican War (1846-1848); 620,000 (Union and Confederate) died in the Civil War (1861-1865); 2,446 died in the Spanish-American War (1898); 116,516 died in World War I (1914-1918); 405,399 died in World War II (1941-1945); 36,574 died in the Korean War (1950-1953); 58,220 died in the Vietnam War (1964-1973); and 383 died in the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991).

During and since The War on Terror that began on Sept. 11, 2001, many others have died.

Although we have picnics, cookouts, swim parties and many other fun activities, Memorial Day is in fact a somber holiday.

May we enjoy the holiday, but may we never forget those who gave so we can. May we not only "Remember the Alamo," but all the other battles and wars as well and those who died in them. Happy Memorial Day!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-728-5514 (office).

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: May 24, 1951

From the files of May 24, 1951

Two Scout Troops Spend Night In Woods

Two Girl Scout Troops—Cullman No. I and Logan No. I—enjoyed a camping trip together last week-end.

The fun began immediately after school Friday when the Cullman troop journeyed to Logan where they joined the troop there for a swimming party with two members of the Logan school faculty, Principal Ray Brown and James Wesson, as life guards.

After supper which was cooked at the camp the girls enjoyed a program around the camp fire.

The program included everything from ghost stories, readings, group singing, stunts and a hypnotism act to a hat making contest.

In spite of literally sleeping with their coats and shoes on and under several blankets nearly everybody froze stiff and was glad to get up a t five o'clock for a hot breakfast.

Girls attending the camp were: Betty Jean Bailey, Louise Guthrie, Betty Moore, Betty Ray Brown, Clara Ann Alvis, Peggy Still, Joyce Quattlebaum, Sue Sims, Betty Jean Guthrie, Betty Sapp, Virginia McDonald, Peggy Morrow, Marie Peinhardt, Jackie Young, Bernie Dean Whaley, Gail Rains, Sara Kathryn Green, Ann Arnold, Marion Noneaker, Mary Faith Jordan, Margaret Jones, Shelby Jean Fuller and leaders and troop mothers were Miss Nina Gay Whatley, Mrs. Henry F. Arnold, Mrs. Robert W. Sapp, Mrs. Ray Brown, Mrs. Vester Young and Mrs. W.K. Bailey

Cullmanites Get First Awards

Winning State First Place in five of the six classifications in the Journalism Division of the Scholastic Awards Contest is a wonderful climax to a year of hard work for four members of the Hilight Staff, student publication of Cullman High. The judging was done at Northwestern University.

Quill and Scroll, International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, presented Bill Rasco, senior; Lora Lee Poore, senior; Clarice Smith, junior, and Susie Holmes, junior, Creative Award Certificates as recognition of their placing as State Winners in several classifications.

Placing first in the Editorial Division and first in the Interview Writing Division, was Bill Rasco, editor-in-chief of the Hilight. Last year Bill placed second in the State Contest, Column Division.

For her column "As I See It", Lora Lee Poore, front page editor, won first place in the Column Writing Classification. Next year's Hilight editor, Clarice Smith, placed first from Alabama for the Feature Writing Division. Clarice is President of the Alabama High School Press Association.

In the News Writing Division, Susie Holmes placed first with several news stories. Editing the yearbook, the 1952 Black and Gold, will be Susie's job for next year. Mrs. Mable Bailey teaches journalism and serves as advisor to publications at CHS.

Roy Drinkard Indicted By Montgomery Grand Jury

Roy Drinkard, Cullman auto dealer, has been indicted by a Montgomery County grand jury for the offense of perjury.

He was arrested this week and made a $2,000 bond today. His trial will be in circuit court at Montgomery.

It was charged by the grand jury that he "falsely swore" that he did not receive money or anything of value for using his influence concerning a parole or pardon. Mr. Drinkard appeared several weeks ago before the legislative committee which is investigating the Pardon and Parole Board of the Folsom administration.

Mr. Drinkard is at the Cullman Hospital where he has been confined for several days due to illness.

BEAUTENA—W. H. Weaver of Route 7, Cullman, is shown with his 3-month-old Jersey calf, Beautena—the Purina-fed calf at the Nesmith Feed and Farm Supply.



POET'S CORNER

May we never forget | By: April McCay

Dear fallen soldier
Of the red, white and blue,
May we never forget
Freedom because of you.

You served us greatly
A sacrifice so brave,
A life well lived
A country to save.

What you did
Matters to us all,
A day of Memorial
An honor to recall.

May we never forget
The price you paid,
A time to reflect
The sacrifice you made.

May we never forget
Our freedoms because of you,
For all the people
Of the red, white and blue.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 24

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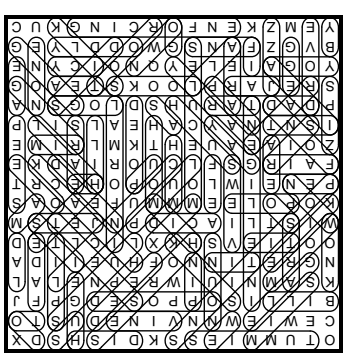
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 24

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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US.
ROMANS 5:8

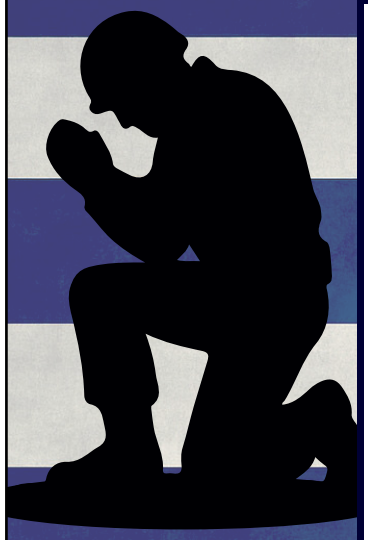
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Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

MEMORIAL DAY 2025