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Sacred Heart of Jesus Church bids farewell to longtime Pastor Fr. Patrick Egan

Celebration of ministry this Sunday, June 1

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — This Sunday, June 1, 2025, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in downtown Cullman will bid farewell to Senior Pastor Fr. Patrick Egan, O.S.B., a Priest of St. Bernard Abbey. Fr. Patrick will assume the pastorate of St. Michael's Catholic Church in St. Florian, near his hometown Florence, while current St. Bernard Abbey Prior Fr. Linus Klucsarits will assume the pastorate of Sacred Heart. The church will hold a farewell celebration on Sunday.

Fr. Patrick led Sacred Heart for 16 years, beginning in June 2009. During that time he has supervised over 125 repairs and upgrades to the 112-year-old » PAGE 2

Fr. Patrick Egan, O.S.B. »


SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH

Remember them



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 held a Memorial Day ceremony to dedicate 328 crosses for fallen heroes from Cullman County Monday night, May 26, 2025.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Britton announces candidacy for Cullman City Board of Education Place 5


CONTRIBUTED

Mark Britton » PAGE 7

New business spotlight: Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital


FACEBOOK/SMITH LAKE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital is located at 96 Speegle Road, in Cullman, behind Sunflour Bakery off Interstate 65 Exit 305. » PAGE 2

CHS graduate Evan Cherry awarded $1K 4-H scholarship » PAGE 5

Ari Randall of Cullman selected for University of Alabama Blackburn Institute Class of 2025 » PAGE 3

Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts to present 'Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.' May 29-30 » PAGE 2

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LILY HASTING

– SPORTS –

Vinemont's Lily Hasting looks back on Eagle years

» PAGE 4

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Hospital (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County natives Dr. Morgan Roberts White and her husband Daniel White will open Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital in late June-early July 2025.

"We would like to formally introduce ourselves as the owners of Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital," Dr. White said. "I grew up on my family's cattle farm and am a 2009 graduate of Good Hope High School. I continued my education at Auburn University where I received my bachelor's degree in zoology in 2013 and later a Master of Science in Animal Science in 2015. I earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019."

After graduation, White, then Morgan Roberts, moved back to Cullman where she met her husband, Daniel White. She has been a veterinarian at Compton's Veterinary Hospital.

"Daniel and I have been married for three years and have a 1-year-old son, Stetson Ross," White said. "We also have two Australian Shepherds, Emma and Jazz; two cats, Raven and Rhetta; four horses; and cows. Together we enjoy cooking, gardening and spending time on the farm. We look forward to meeting you all soon."

The Whites' dogs and one cat are the faces of the new business' logo. Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital is located at 96 Speegle Road, in Cullman, behind Sunflour Bakery off Interstate 65 Exit 305.

More information about a grand opening date will be posted once it becomes available. Visit Facebook/Smith Lake Veterinary Hospital for more information.

Heirlooms (from Front)

Gauge Day
gaugew@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heirlooms Fine & Performing Arts will present "Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.," a nostalgic celebration of Disney dreams, music and magic on Thursday, May 29, and Friday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Church in Cullman. Tickets are $5 at the door and children ages 3 and younger get in free.

"'Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.' follows an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio," said Paige Clabo, founder and artistic director of Heirlooms.

"As the group sets out to help each other discover their dreams, they work together to explore the power of dreams to unite, inspire and make anything possible."

Clabo described the show as a "high-energy, '90s-inspired take where Disney's favorite dreamers meet the retro fun of the Mickey Mouse Club."

She added, "With throwback tunes, bold characters and big dance moves, this show celebrates courage, creativity and the magic of believing in yourself — '90s style!"

The production is the result of a 12-week spring program involving students of various ages and performance backgrounds. "Heirlooms spring program classes have been working for 12 weeks to make this show happen.

"We are proud to be able to present a family friendly start to the summer with Disney favorites," Clabo stated.

"These students are all ages and have different levels of performance experience, which makes this show incredibly special.

"Seeing children of all ages on stage together is really something amazing."

For more information, contact Paige Clabo at paigeclabo@gmail.com or visit www.heirloomsfineandperformingarts.com.

St. John's is located at 512 Second Ave. SE in Cullman.

Egan (from Front)

facility, including:

- Roof replacement and other repairs following the 2011 tornado
- Refurbishment of the vintage German stained glass windows
- Replacement of the church's large round stained glass rose windows
- Addition of statuary honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary and her mother St. Anne on the south and north sides of the church, respectively, with memorial pavers honoring living and deceased parish members around both
- Most recently, the purchase and installation of the church's new pipe organ, accompanied by an extensive renovation of the choir loft/balcony

Beyond the physical plant, Fr. Patrick's service includes over 325 baptisms, over 800 funerals and 82 weddings. He started numerous educational classes, as well.

"Being the type of fellow he is, and by that I mean his military training, he's been sort of the 'pied piper' of our congregation," said longtime parishioner Barbara Ragsdale, who is helping prepare for the farewell celebration, "and his 'rally round the flag, boys' attitude has provided our congregation with so many opportunities to become united in these projects."

Fr. Patrick has also been constantly active with the faculty and students of Sacred Heart School, with Principal Shawna Norman calling him "a staunch supporter of the school and teachers."

He attended faculty meetings and visited the school at least three times a week.

On occasion he even taught history to the fifth- and sixth-grade students. He held a weekly children's Mass, during which he would come down into the aisle to converse personally with the students.

During Lent he led a special observance of the Stations of the Cross, just for the students at their level of understanding, and would hear confessions in the school for the students on a very personal level.

He regularly took part in the annual balloon Rosary, "shadow stations" of the Cross, and summer camps sponsored by nuns of the LIHM Sisters.

Ragsdale said, "He undeniably has impacted the lives of both the students and the staff during his tenure at Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Fr. Patrick has actively supported the various religious organizations in the Parish.

Ragsdale shared, "A member of the Knights of Columbus, he became a Fourth Degree Knight during his time here.

"He has attended every meeting of the women's Altar Society and constantly gives praise for the work of the Legion of Mary members, whom he calls his 'right hand' with all the work they do by visiting the sick, bringing Communion and comfort to the homebound and attending every funeral Mass in the Church. The members of all organizations in the Church have felt his love and support and pride in their accomplishments throughout the years."

Ragsdale concluded, "I have often said, and told him so many times, that he is the first priest in my 79 years of Catholic Masses who truly brings the Mass to life for his congregation. He brings Jesus down from His Sanctuary to the Altar and he brings us up to the Altar to celebrate the Holy Mass with him and Jesus. I go to other churches, even when Bishops have celebrated the liturgy, and I don't feel that I have attended Mass.

"Fr. Patrick has spoiled me, and I know from all the comments since we learned of his leaving, this is true for everyone in our Parish family. He has been the glue that helped form our loving relationships through the years, more so than at any other time in the past decades of Sacred Heart of Jesus, and we truly will miss this particular Servant of God."

A life of service

The following biography was compiled by Sacred Heart Church for the celebration.

Father Patrick Egan, O.S.B., a native of Florence, Alabama, was born on September 17, 1949, to Mr. Edward P. Egan, Jr. and Mrs. Mary I. Egan.

He graduated from Coffee High School in Florence in 1967 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in history and political science from the University of North Alabama known at the time as Florence State University. In 1981, he earned a Master of Science degree in counselor education from Long Island University.

From an early age, Father Patrick felt a deep calling to serve his country-aspiring to be a soldier since the age of three.

After college, he began his military career by reporting to Fort Benning on June 5, 1971, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

His career as an infantry officer quickly progressed. He served in a variety of leadership roles, including executive officer, training company commander, operations officer, tank battalion XO, infantry battalion commander, garrison commander, and, ultimately, assistant chief of staff for installation management at the Pentagon. His service took him around the globe-from Fort Benning to West Point, and to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War.

After three decades of distinguished service, Father Patrick retired as a colonel in 2001.

Shortly after retirement, while briefly working in the civilian sector, Father Patrick began to hear a deeper calling. In September 2001, he entered the monastic formation program at St. Bernard Abbey. He professed his first monastic vows in the spring of 2003 and later that year enrolled at St. Vincent Archabbey to pursue studies for the priesthood. He was installed in the Ministry of Acolyte on October 10, 2005, at Saint Vincent Seminary. On June 5, 2006, he made his solemn profession of vows before Abbot Cletus Meagher, O.S.B., and officially became Father Patrick Egan, O.S.B.

Following his ordination, Father Patrick served as manager of the Ave Maria Grotto before being appointed pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in June 2009.

There, his leadership and vision brought about significant improvements to the parish grounds and facilities.

Space does not allow every project to be listed, but his impact can be seen throughout the church and its surroundings each enhancement reflecting his dedication to both spiritual and community life.

Among his most notable projects was the restoration of the church's 64 stained-glass windows in 2011.

In 2013, three new rose windows closely resembling those from the original architectural plans - were installed.

An elevated pulpit was also added, enhancing the beauty and tradition of the sanctuary.

Beyond the church building, Father Patrick helped cultivate sacred spaces around the parish.

In a garden outside, a statue titled Our Lady of Cullman depicts the Virgin Mary cradling a young Christ Child holding a globe, symbolically watching over and praying for the town.

On the north side of the church, another garden features a statue of St. Anne, the mother of Mary.

Both gardens include paver bricks engraved in honor or memory of loved ones, creating a lasting tribute to family, friends, and On Palm Sunday in 2022, the parish suffered the heartbreaking loss of its century-old Austin pipe organ due to an electrical fire. In response, a campaign was launched to raise $600,000 for a new organ and for much-needed updates to the choir loft.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of the parish community, a new Austin organ was installed in December 2024, restoring music to the heart of worship.

Father Patrick Egan's journey from soldier to servant of God is a testament to a life devoted to faith, service, and leadership. His work continues to inspire and bless all those he serves.

From the incoming pastor

Fr. Linus Klucsarits, O.S.B., who will take the reins of Sacred Heart in June, wrote, "Congratulations to Fr. Patrick on his many years of service to Sacred Heart.

While I know I will have mighty big shoes to fill as the new pastor, I have been so blessed in meeting the skilled and gracious staff of Sacred Heart. God bless you Fr. Patrick in your new assignment!"

A fond farewell

Ragsdale shared this farewell letter drawn up on behalf of the congregation:

Father Patrick,

As you begin a new chapter in your ministry as pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in St. Florian, Alabama, we, the faithful of Sacred Heart Parish, gather in deep gratitude for your 15 years of devoted service among us.

Your presence, leadership, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark on our community. Through your faithful guidance, our parish has grown stronger in faith, richer in beauty, and more united in spirit. Because of you, our church has been forever changed for the better.

You have walked with us through seasons of joy and challenge, always pointing us toward Christ with compassion and conviction. Whether in your inspiring homilies, your tireless ministry to the sick and homebound, or your gentle encouragement of parishioners young and old, you have been a true shepherd to our flock.

Though we will deeply miss you, we send you forth with our love, prayers, and blessings as you embrace this new assignment. May God continue to guide and bless you abundantly in your service to His people at St. Michael's.

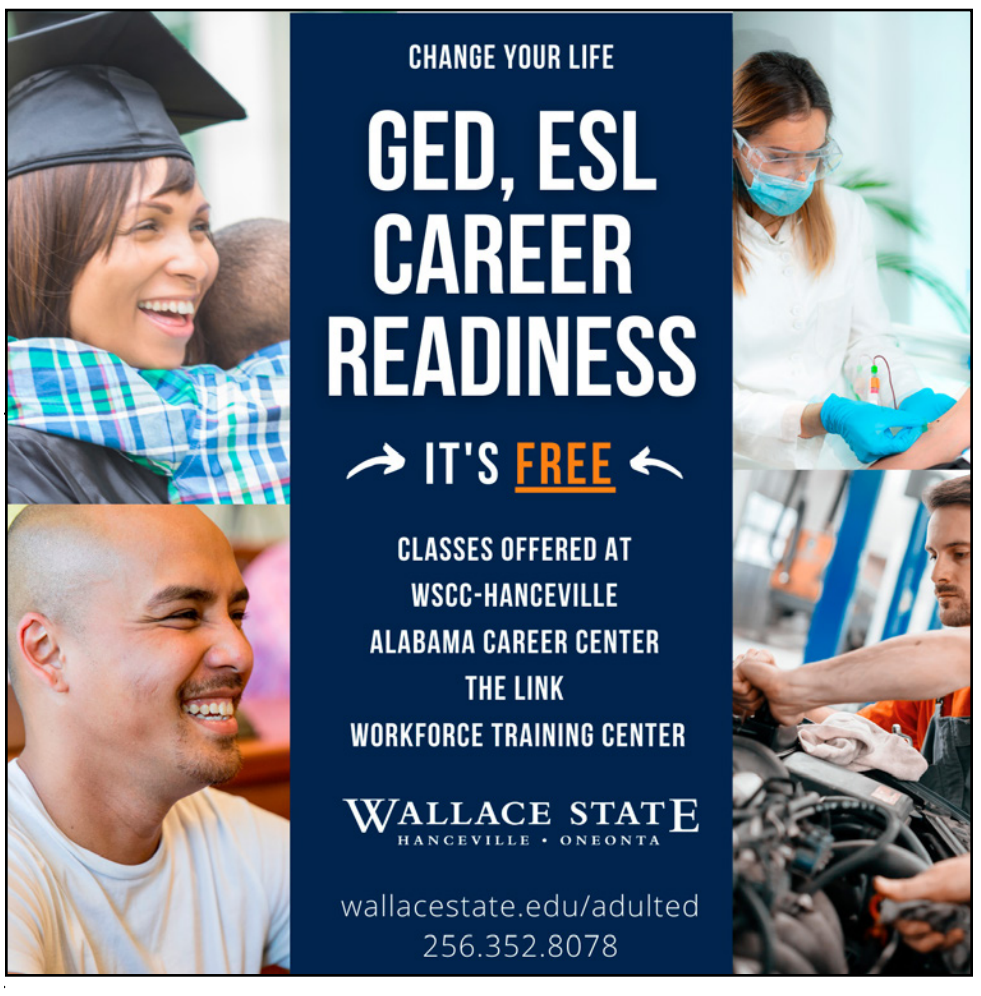
We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to staying in touch.

With deepest gratitude and affection,

Your Sacred Heart Parish Family

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Ari Randall of Cullman selected for University of Alabama Blackburn Institute Class of 2025

Stephanie Pettis
University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Ari Randall of Cullman was recently selected as a member of The University of Alabama Blackburn Institute's class of 2025.

Only 50 students are chosen through a highly competitive process to be a part of the 2025 Blackburn class.

The Blackburn Institute is a leadership development and civic engagement program specifically focused on improving the state of Alabama.

Through its work with students, alumni (Fellows) and Advisory Board members, the institute develops a network of leaders who have a clear understanding of the state's challenges. Selected students participate in a common new student curriculum of activities and events, after which they continue their involvement as returning students for their remaining time at the Capstone.

Upon graduation, participants earn recognition as Blackburn Fellows and begin their work through professional and civic involvement in their home communities and throughout the state, both individually and through the Fellows Involvement Network (FIN).

Supported by an Advisory Board of established leaders committed to the state of Alabama, the Blackburn Institute promotes change through an intergenerational network that learns from the past, takes action in the present and plans for the future.

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
• Wednesday, May 28 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, May 30 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, June 1 - 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.

Relay For Life of Cullman County Survivors Brunch
Wednesday, May 28, at 10 a.m. at Cullman Church of Christ. Relay For Life of Cullman County is thrilled to invite all cancer survivors and their guests to our annual Survivors Brunch! Join us for a heartfelt celebration of strength, hope and community. Let's gather, share stories and honor the journey together!

Cullman County Relay For Life Benefit Car Show
Saturday, May 31, from 5-9 p.m. at Depot Park. Organized as part of Cullman's Relay For Life efforts, the event aims to raise funds for cancer research and support services. Registration for vehicles will begin at 4:30 p.m., with cars, trucks, bikes, rat rods and project vehicles welcome to participate. Vehicles will park on both sides of Arnold Street, with overflow parking available along the side streets and around the Depot Park. A $20 donation is requested to enter a vehicle into the show, with all proceeds benefiting the Cullman Relay For Life through the Cars for a Cure team.

Relay For Life of Cullman County
Saturday, May 31, from 5-10 p.m. at Depot Park. This event is not just about raising awareness; it's about taking decisive action to enhance the lives of those touched by cancer. Your participation fuels vital programs in advocacy, research, and patient support, ensuring that no one faces cancer alone. Together, we can make a genuine difference!

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.

Rock the South
Thursday-Saturday, June 19-21 at York Farms, 1872 County Road 469, Cullman. Headliners include Hank Williams Jr., Kid Rock and Nickelback. Get tickets and more info at www.rockthesouth.com.

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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 27, 2025

'Be a great leader and a great person'

Good Hope's Jathan Smith reflects on Raider years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope's Jathan Smith just collected his diploma last week and in this interview, he talked about some of his favorite memories both on and off the field from his Raiders years.

"My favorite football memory was when we became county champs last year. We had the top defense in the state for four straight weeks, and we finished 10-2 last season, which had not happened at Good Hope since 2007," Smith said.

"It was amazing. They all held me accountable for the things that I did, and they were great people. They cared for me, and they taught me how to be a better person and a better man. I learned how to control the things I can control, how to treat people, how to be a leader, how to respect people, and most importantly, how to better my relationship with God," Smith said.

"It was great playing for my coaches. I loved every moment I had with them. They treated me like their own kid, if not better.

"They showed me love and kindness, while also holding me accountable for the things I did wrong and also rewarding me for doing things right. They taught me how to be a better person, and they showed me to the Lord."

Jathan talked about his favorite football game, his favorite track-and-field event, and his favorite archery event. He will remember and miss so many things about competing at Good Hope.

"I loved the game against Fultondale last season. We were not supposed to beat them, but we did, and it shocked the state and the county.

"In track, I liked doing the shot put, and in archery, I liked doing the 3D shoots," Smith said. "I will remember all of the fun times and the great people I met. I will miss playing on Friday nights in front of friends and family and making my community proud."

Jathan made a lot of memories off the field as well and talked about what made Good Hope a special place to be.

"My favorite high school memories were all the fun times that I had with my buddies in class, and rolling the teacher's yard," he said. "What made Good Hope a special place to go to is how welcoming everyone is and all of the great teachers and staff that they have over there. I will remember all the fun times I had in Mrs. Pope's class, and I will miss having fun times with my friends and teachers."

He competed alongside many great teammates, and he gave some advice to the students that will be starting high school in August. Being that role model for the younger kids was so important to Jathan.

"It was amazing. They were all great people who cared and loved one another, and they made school and sports fun," he said.

"Take your time. Don't wish for it to be over with, because it will be over in a flash. Have fun, and don't take any moment for granted. It was very important. I wanted to show them that anything is possible if you put your mind to it, and I wanted to show them how to be a great leader and a great person. I wanted them to be better than I was."

Jathan was in the Pep Club, and he soaked up so much from that experience. God has played a big role in his life too and he shared a couple of his favorite Bible verses.

"It was great being in the Pep Club. I learned how to always be helpful, how to give time and help people when I can, and how to serve my community," he said. "He has played a tremendous role in my life. He has taught me how to love and be a better person, and He has shown me the right way to do things and helped me stay away from the wrong things in life. My favorite Bible verses are John 3:16 and Romans 3:15.



JATHAN SMITH

Good Hope's Jathan Smith

In John 3:16, it shows us how much God really loves us, and in Romans 3:15, it shows my love and affection toward my girlfriend."

He talked about some of the role models he has looked up to in his life and wants people to remember him as someone that helped people around him.

"My role models in school were coach Matthew McCulloch and coach Griffin Morris, and my role models in sports were Alabama football players Kaydn Proctor and Will Campbell. They are great people. They do their jobs well, and they treat people with respect," he said. "I want people to remember me as someone who treated people well, and someone who helped out the community and the people around me."

'Vinemont is like a big family'

Vinemont's Lily Hasting looks back on Eagle years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — Vinemont senior Lily Hasting just earned her diploma to wrap up her high school career and in this interview, she shared some of her favorite memories from her time participating in archery, band, the Fast Track program at Wallace State and more.

"I made some of my best friends in the band and archery programs at Vinemont. In band, I was on the drumline and played a variety of percussion instruments. Band as a whole was a remarkable experience and brought forth a family of classmates that still support me to this day. Archery was also very positive for me. I was involved in the program from fourth grade until the 10th grade, and it was such a blessing," Hasting said.

"The Fast Track program opened many doors for me, and the furtherance of my education. It allowed me to become very involved on Wallace State's campus with their various honor societies and leadership roles in SGA and Rotaract.

"The program also allowed me to graduate with my Associate of Science degree before graduating high school, which has pushed me two years in advancement towards my bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from UAB. The program has also brought forth many opportunities to further myself outside of my education, some of which includes the ability for me to do mission work during the school year."

Lily added, "Davey Friedrich was by far the most wonderful archery coach that I have ever had. He was such a blessing and helped me with the mental game of archery. While I was facing medical issues in my early years of high school, he was one of my best supporters, and instead of giving up on me, he helped me overcome the challenges before me. He not only helped me become a better shooter, he taught me so much about the world and myself. He taught me that I was stronger than my pain and trouble. In band, I had some wonderful drumline friends that truly formed me into who I am today. Noah Holmes and Hanna McDonald were my section leaders during a time of great stress in my life. Despite my life outside of school, they gathered me in as family. They were my inspiration and rock through music and education."

Medical issues forced her to step away from archery and the band, and she missed being part of both. Despite dealing with that adversity, the support from her fellow archery teammates and band members didn't waver at all and they are still doing that to this day.

"I will always miss the opportunities that I lost when I had to step down from them both. After facing medical issues in my early high school years, I was no longer able to carry my drum or pull back my bow as well. I can't help but think of the friendships and memories that could've been made during those times but just weren't possible anymore," Hasting said.

"My friends that I made in both truly were my rock during my recovery time. I had back surgery in ninth grade, which put my schooling and social life on hold. They were there for me every step of the way and celebrated my 'little wins'. Whether it was my first days back to school, good doctor's reports, or my first days trying to practice archery or music again, they supported and pushed me to the best of my ability. To this day, they still lift me up in prayer and support me through the challenges of having spinal issues."

Lily made so many great memories during her time as an Eagle, but she wanted to mention one in particular that really stood out to her.

"One of my most recent and favorite high school memories was from this past week at our graduation practice. It was the last time we were all able to gather together without all of the stress and crowd of graduation, and it was honestly bittersweet. I haven't been very active on Vinemont since my time at Fast Track begun, but I have been flooded with memories of my classmates this past week. As I sat alongside my classmates at practice, I thought of how much we've changed so much over the years. I thought back to our childhood dances and classroom parties in elementary school. I thought about all the COVID jokes in seventh and eighth grade. I thought about how in ninth grade, we all were ready to graduate, and now it's actually happening. I thought about all those we've lost and gained over the years. I thought back to my sweet friend, Chris, who we lost way too soon in middle school, and all those who've joined our school since that will never have the joy of meeting him. As I was flooded with all the memories, the good and the bad, I was so thankful for every single person around me. At the end of practice, I was able to stand in the middle of my classmates and pray for each of them. I asked for the Lord to bless each of them and to be with us all, which is most important."

Being at Vinemont really changed her life, and she will deeply miss being an Eagle in August.

"Vinemont is like a big family. It is home to many Christian and wonderfully minded individuals that make up our staff and faculty. Vinemont has a wide range of students, those from different backgrounds, and those who have different dreams," she said.

"I will always remember the wonderful teachers and staff who have shaped me into who I am today. I will miss those who have supported me over the years and the sense of belonging I have when I enter certain classrooms across campus."

Lily shared some advice with the students that are starting high school in August and any students that are wanting to get into the Fast Track program.



LILY HASTING

Vinemont's Lily Hasting

"Do not forget where you've come from. Do not forget how far you've come or what you've had to overcome. And most importantly, don't forget who helped you to get to where you are today. Remember how the Lord has blessed you and put you where you are for a reason, alongside certain friends, families, and situations. Every season of life has a purpose," she said.

"It was very important to me to be a positive role model to those around me. I have experienced hurt and tried to find the joy and hope in the wrong places growing up, so I hope to show others a different pathway.

"I pray that my life can be a light for the Lord and proof of the change He can make in someone's life. I hope that I have been an inspiration to the younger kids. I have been very visible in my church life and have participated in the children's ministry at different parts of the year. I hope that I will inspire them to trust in the Lord and have a wanting to learn more about Him."

Hasting earned multiple scholarships, including one from UAB. She feels blessed to have God in her life, and she shared a couple of favorite Bible verses.

"I received three local scholarships for community service from local clubs and businesses. I also received the Presidential Scholarship from UAB. It was definitely a blessing, and it gave me a sense of relief. I have a lot of schooling ahead of me, and the Lord has blessed me with some wonderful people and opportunities to be able to afford my education," she said.

"God has been number one in my entire life. Without Him, I wouldn't even be here. 1 Corinthians 15:10 has been a remarkable verse to go by over the years. It shows and reminds me that the Lord has created me for a purpose and reason. Acts 1:8 has shown me so much of the love God has for us and His people. It teaches how He wants us to share His word to every nation, which is why I am passionate about mission work."

Lily was in the National Honor Society, and she had a blast being a part of a great club. She wants people to remember as someone that sought to help other people.

"The club brought a lot of structure to myself and on campus. It also helped me learn how to make connections with many different businesses in the community," she said. "I hope that people will remember me for the love I have for others and the Lord."

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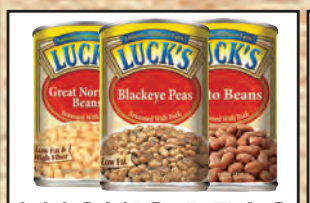
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CHS graduate Evan Cherry awarded $1K 4-H scholarship

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Recent Cullman High School graduate Evan Cherry was awarded a $1,000 scholarship from the Alabama 4-H Foundation for his years of involvement and dedication to the 4-H program.

Cherry's journey began in the fourth grade when representatives visited his classroom and introduced him to hands-on projects and friendly competition; he has been a member ever since.

"One time I made guacamole in class and let everyone try it, and another time I made a wooden duck decoy with the help of my granddad," Cherry recalled.

Eventually, he earned top honors in his class competition and won county and north Alabama competitions.

Throughout his involvement, Cherry said, he found his passion in shooting sports, eventually becoming a regular participant in the state 4-H tournaments for skeet, trap and sporting clays.

"Last year, I won the skeet portion with a perfect score," he said.

"These tournaments are always fun and enjoyable, and everyone is always respectful and supportive, including the staff."

In addition to his achievements in shooting sports, Cherry has left a lasting impression through unique demonstrations, including showcasing his rappelling skills in a freestyle performance.

Cullman 4-H celebrated Cherry's accomplishments with a scholarship presentation, where it honored and recognized his hard work and commitment over the years.



FACEBOOK

Evan Cherry and Cullman County Extension Agent Kerri Roberts

Alabama Drought Reach strengthens statewide monitoring

Kacey Watson
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Alabama has been a stranger to the rain several times during the past few years. To prepare the state with more than just a forecast, the Alabama Drought Reach (ADR) program provides climate data statewide.

The ADR program is a collaborative effort by the Auburn University Water Resources Center, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES), Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama State Climatologist's Office. Together, these partners coalesce relevant information and help the public prepare for changing conditions.

Kent Stanford, associate professor and specialist with Alabama Extension at Auburn University, said this statewide partnership is important to all Alabama residents.

"Partnering together to provide weekly updates is the best way to find success in this relatively new program that is still growing," Stanford said. "Furthermore, communication among these agencies allows us to extend our reach and closely monitor our impact as we continue developing the program."

The ADR program started in 2023 and continues to provide weekly online drought summaries accessible to anyone. Extension agents use an internal survey to complete an assessment of specific locations. Each Monday, the Alabama state climatologist receives this information and includes it in the state report submitted the U.S. Drought Monitor authors.

The U.S. Drought Monitor is a key resource for tracking conditions nationwide. As a result, data is widely used by researchers, policymakers and land managers. However, the U.S. Drought Monitor does not rely solely on statistics; it incorporates physical data with drought impacts. Moreover, approximately 450 experts contribute to ensuring data precision.

Farmer and landowner contributions

Farmers and landowners provide individual input through an online survey called Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR). This reporting system is managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These entities collect data nationally and make it publicly available. Additionally, the data is used to determine drought conditions and evaluate areas of concern.

Anyone can submit a CMOR drought report for their local area on the Alabama Drought Reach website. Data is compiled and analyzed to generate updates. The survey has a few simple questions and allows users to upload a photo for visual drought analysis.

Stanford encourages Alabamians to participate in the program regardless of climatic conditions.

"We are pleased with the success of the buy in to the ADR program, but continued support is vital to maintaining data," Stanford said.

"Fortunately, people are very inclined to submit data when we are dry. However, once the rain comes, they tend to slack off, but we need hydrological data to provide the most accurate reports."

Agricultural producers depend on the latest drought data being readily available. For that reason, the most valid information combines boots-on-the-ground assessments through the ADR survey.

It also includes producer input through CMOR reports along with vast weather data from the state climate office. For example, in 2024, ADR generated 52 drought reports and 35 crop impact reports to give farmers insight into conditions affecting production.

Insurance and disaster relief

Precise drought data collection is especially critical when crop insurance payouts begin to arrive. Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency within U.S. Department of Agriculture, uses U.S. Drought Monitor categories to determine if a county qualifies for assistance programs. Therefore, it is critical that valid data is provided each week for the U.S. Drought Monitor to reflect verified conditions.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) calculates payments to livestock forage producers based on the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor.

As a result, timely on-the-ground data is crucial to these producers being able to fully benefit from disaster relief and recoup some of their loss.

Consequently, this program is based solely on the drought severity and the number of weeks a county is in specific levels to qualify for the assistance.

In addition, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency also offers assistance with drought coverage for producers of varying commodities.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), under the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, allows growers to purchase insurance coverage for their operations.

Stronger together

Brianne Minton, climate services coordinator for the Alabama State Climatologist's Office, praised ongoing efforts among agencies.

"One of the biggest accomplishments has been creating that direct pipeline between Alabama Extension and our office," Minton said.

"Extension agents report drought conditions directly to the us via an internal survey. The climatologist's office uses those impact reports to give more accurate information about Alabama drought conditions to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"This ensures that we have a more accurate map of drought location and severity across the state."

The Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station also plays an important role in data collection with ADR. AAES outlying units are equipped with weather stations called Auburn's Weather Exchange by Medius Ag. By combining ADR reports submitted by Alabama Extension and AAES personnel at the outlying units with Auburn Weather Exchange data, the state achieves more comprehensive drought monitoring.

"Our collaborative approach enables us to provide timely drought information to the public, especially to our growers who rely on it," Stanford said.

More information

To contribute to the collective effort and report conditions at your location, visit the Alabama Drought Reach website at aaes.auburn.edu/wrc/extension-outreach2/al-drought-reach.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM





Why your family medical history matters: 5 things you should know

UAB News
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When you go to the doctor, the first thing you're asked is, "Do you have a family history of X?" Do you know the answer?

Understanding your family medical history might seem excessive, but it can play a major role in understanding and protecting your health.

From attending routine appointments to identifying genetic risks, knowing more about your family history can give your provider the tools they need to personalize your care.

Nathaniel H. Robin, M.D., is a professor in the Department of Genetics and the director of the Clinical Genetics Division at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which provides insight into the importance of family medical history.

Knowing and understanding your medical history

Knowing your medical history is important for disease prevention, personalized health care, and increased communication with healthcare professionals.

"Family members' medical history is an excellent predictor of your own health risks...it can be a guide for your risk for both common and not-so-common disease," Robin said. By learning about the health conditions that have affected your relatives, you can better understand your own risk and take proactive steps to manage or even prevent these conditions.

Start a conversation

It can be hard to discuss family medical history, but it is necessary. These types of conversations may be uncomfortable or feel intrusive, but they are essential to learn more. Robin explains that the best thing to do is to ask questions at family events. Begin by asking general questions:

Did someone have a life-threatening disease at a young age?

Did anyone have trouble learning?

Did someone have difficulty getting pregnant or staying pregnant?

Having open and honest conversations with your family members is the best way to learn. Once you are aware of certain diseases that run in your family, it is important to keep a written record.

Role in disease prevention

Understanding your family health patterns better allows you to take preventive steps regarding your health. For example, if your family has a history of cancer and you are aware of that, a doctor can recommend genetic testing. This helps doctors better identify certain risk factors. Being aware of your medical history helps not only you but also healthcare professionals be more prepared.

Illness at a young age

An important thing to look for is whether any family members had an illness normally associated with old age at a young age. One of the most telling signs of inherited disease is when it appears earlier in life in one or more family members.

"Knowing if anyone had a disease that was diagnosed at a young age that is typically associated with older age is important," Robin said. Examples of diseases to keep an eye out for are heart attacks, cancer, strokes, and kidney disease, but any medical condition may have significance, even less serious conditions.

Updating family history

A common question is, "How often should I update my family medical history?" It is recommended that you discuss family history once a year to see if something new has arisen.

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity, but any other family gathering will do. If there is something new to add to your family medical history, you should add it to your records and update your primary doctor.



Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2012 GMC Acadia VIN#1GKKRREDXCJ341374

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Lucas Auto Repair, 10271 US HWY 31, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, on June 24, 2025 at 8 A.M.

This Advertisement for Bids is provided by: LeonardDesign P.C., 115 Second Ave. N.E., Cullman, Alabama 35055, Telephone No. 256-739-8020

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for GOOD SAMARITAN HEALTH CLINIC PROJECT will be received until 2:00 PM CST June 26, 2025, at the office of Leonard Design PC located at 115 Second Ave NE, Cullman AL 35055.

Good Samaritan Health Clinic – new wood frame construction of ~ 4,200 SF structure with brick base, cementitious siding and asphalt shingle roof, containing Covered Patient Drop off, Waiting Room, Reception, Cardio Room, Four (4) Patient Exam Rooms, Lab, Nurses Area, Six (6) Office, Break Room, Two (2) ADA Restroom, Staff Restroom, File and Medical Storage, Dispensary, Medication Storage and Drive Thru Area.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Good Samaritan Health Clinic in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than $10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Bid Documents may be obtained from the Architect for a non-refundable fee of $10 per digital copy of the drawings and specifications in PDF format. No partial sets, individual pages, or drawing sheets will be provided. Drawings and specifications may be acquired by contacting the Architect, Leonard Design P.C., 115 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Any inquiries regarding this project bid may be addressed in writing and mailed to LeonardDesign, PC at address indicated above or emailed to admin@leonarddesign.net.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities, or to reject any or all bids, and to award the contract to the best and most responsible bidder. All bidders must comply with Code of Alabama, Title 39 – Public Works Bid Law and must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, must be certified for the type of work on which the proposal is and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. Each bidder must deposit with his or her bid, security in the amount, a statement identifying the drawings and/or addendums encompassed by the bid amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

No bidder may withdraw his or her bid within **thirty (30)** days after the opening thereof.

Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at the project site located at 118 Veterans Drive SW, Cullman, Alabama on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CST. Pre-qualification of Contractor is required for this project. Contractor must submit a completed AIA Form # A305 – Contractor Qualifications questionnaire and attachments to Architect Thursday, June 12, 2025, by the end of business day.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. All bidders must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgement, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted. All bidders must submit with his or her bid, a statement identifying the drawings and/or addendums encompassed by the bid amount.

Good Samaritan Health Clinic

(Local Awarding Authority)

Leonard Design P.C.

(Architect)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
DAVID VERLAND HACKNEY, * CASE NO.: PC 2025-152
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Steve Hackney as Personal Representative of the Estate of David Verland Hackney, deceased, on the 9th day of May, 2025 by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Steve Hackney
Personal Representative/Executor

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-352-2090

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-012

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT K.J.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: ADAM K. FOWLER,
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.J.F., a minor child born January 31, 2017, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. 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 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-013

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT M.G.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: ADAM K. FOWLER,
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.G.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. 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 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-011

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT M.G.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: MARILYN EARNESTIN GOINS
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.G.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. 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.

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Cullman, AL 35056-0398
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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-012

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT K.J.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: MARILYN EARNESTIN GOINS
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.J.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. 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.

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To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

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P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO VACATE UNNAMED COUNTY ROAD SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 1611.

WHEREAS, property owners Bobby Ray Hill, Sherrie Giles Hill, Minyard H. Blair, Jr., Josefina Valencia Hernandez, Eulalio Rodriguez Aburto, and Ashley Graves Bates, desire to vacate a county road within the municipal limits of the Town of Berlin, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-2 (1975), the Town of Berlin is required to hold a public hearing, prior to taking final action;

WHEREAS, notice of which is required by statute, shall occur once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, a public hearing will take place on Monday, 16th of June 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berlin Town Hall; 461 County Road 1615, Cullman, Alabama 35058;

WHEREAS, applicants, Bobby Ray Hill, Sherrie Giles Hill, Minyard H. Blair, Jr., Josefina Valencia Hernandez, Eulalio Rodriguez Aburto, and Ashley Graves Bates, are requesting vacation of an unnamed County Road described as follows, to-wit:

The existing unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety, more specifically shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto;

WHEREAS, an action is requested for an adoption and approval of a Resolution vacating an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety.

WHEREAS, said notice is posted in accordance with Title 23-4-2, et.seq. Code of Alabama, 1975. All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such resolution. This public notice is posted a minimum of Thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing at: Cullman County Courthouse Entrance Bulletin Board and Town of Berlin Bulletin Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provision of the Resolution vacating an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety, will be considered by the Cullman County Commission at a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, 16th of June 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berlin Town Hall, 461 County Road 1615, Cullman, Alabama 35058 at 7:00 p.m. at which time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such Resolution or any provision thereof.

Dated this the 30th day of April, 2025.

BY: _____
Heath E. Mellerg
Attorney for Town of Berlin
409 1st Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-0458

Britton (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Mark Britton has announced his candidacy for Place 5 on the Cullman City Board of Education. Place 5 is currently held by Amy Carter, who is seeking re-election.

Below is Britton's announcement, unedited and in full.

Longtime educator, coach, and community leader Mark Britton has officially announced his candidacy for Place 5 on the Cullman City School Board.

A devoted public servant with more than three decades of experience in education, Britton retired from coaching in 2017 and from the classroom in 2022. Today, he is stepping forward once again—this time to serve the community in a new capacity and help shape the future of Cullman City Schools.

"My heart has always been with the students and teachers of Cullman," Britton said. "After a career spent on the field and in the classroom, I want to continue serving in a way that puts students first, supports teachers, and builds on the strong foundation we've established."

Britton's dedication to education runs deep—not only through his professional service, but also through his family. His wife, Patti, and daughter, Meaghan, are both current teachers in the Cullman City School District. Now, as a proud grandfather, Britton is committed to helping build a school system that will serve his grandchildren and future generations of Cullman students.

"I'm running because I believe in public service, and I believe in Cullman. I want to be a voice for our teachers, our families, and most importantly, our students. Our schools are the heart of this community, and I want to help ensure they remain strong, innovative, and student-focused."

Known for his leadership, integrity, and community-centered mindset, Britton hopes to bring his experience and passion to the Cullman City School Board—focusing on transparency, collaboration, and excellence in education.

Mark Britton asks for your support and your vote for Cullman City School Board, Place 5.

The municipal election will take place Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.



COLUMN

I can see clearly now

Joe Hobby
Contributor

At my age, the time has come. One of the last parts of my body that was still working properly finally needs help, and needs it now. No, it's not that, you sickos. It's my eyes. At long last I'm joining the millions of people who need to wear glasses.

It all started when my grandkids began reading road signs to me from the back seat before I could read them myself.

I realized they were helping, not showing off. Soon I began to notice that oncoming vehicles looked like big, blurry globs of light. What made that disturbing was it was in broad daylight. Finally, when I mistook a mailbox for a possum on a tree limb, I knew it was time to accept reality. I put my vanity on the shelf, and officially become a spectacle wearer.

Shortly after my eye exam, I was herded into an adjacent shop where there were hundreds of glasses frames beautifully displayed.

It reminded me of how Disney steers you through a souvenir store when you exit a ride. But I'm not strolling into a place to try on a bunch of frames while a sales associate makes cooing noises when I put on a pair of tortoise shell rims.

Besides, I made another kind of noise when I saw the prices. These were not Wal-Mart readers. Instead of frames, they should be called framed, because that's what you are when you buy them from these places.

Most of them looked like they were made of regular hard plastic, but they were priced like they were carved from the tusk of a unicorn. Good grief! You could buy several dozen eggs for what you pay for one pair of these things.

So, in true 2025 fashion, I'm purchasing my glasses using the iPhone – because if I have to look older, at least I can shop like the kids – and I'll save a ton of money.

I discovered there are apps that allow you to try on glasses virtually. You make a headshot, swipe through dozens of frames, and your phone's camera magically pastes them on your face. It's even possible to ask AI to choose them, but you have to be careful with that. When I asked for a cool and artsy look, it fitted me with a pair of glasses that undoubtedly were rejected by Elton John.

You might think that choosing a pair of glasses is a simple thing. No, it's not. Not when you're trying to avoid looking like the keynote speaker at an AARP convention.

You see, I may be old, but I'm still chasing the cool factor. It's not only a matter of seeing, but being seen. I don't want glasses that scream "retirement home director." I want them to say, "distinguished writer and jazz musician."

So, I swiped. I frowned. I squinted. I posed. I ruled out anything that made me look like an eccentric professor or someone who owns an antique store.

I also avoided anything too "youthful" – there's nothing worse than an old guy wearing spectacles designed for a TikToker with abs and no insurance.

Eventually, I found them. A pair of black and brown frames that said, "This guy listens to Lady Gaga and might even know how to text." Cool without trying too hard. Mature without dipping into "retired accountant" territory. I tapped the screen and ordered them. Well, actually, I let my wife do it. She's much more tech savvy than I am.

So here I am, finally stepping into the world of eyewear for the first time, armed with an iPhone and a stubborn refusal to age quietly. Anyone who knows me shouldn't be surprised. And it is nice for cars to look like cars again.

But glasses or no glasses, I still swear that mailbox was a possum.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.





Obituary Announcements: May 24-26

Sharron Elby Jones, 78 Funeral service for Sharron Jones, 78, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, May 29th, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in White Oak Cemetery, Bro. Adam Edmondson officiating. Visitation will be Wednesday evening at the funeral home from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Jones passed away Friday, May 23rd, 2025, at her residence. She was born January 18, 1947, to Marvin & Lottie Inez Taylor Stewart. Sharron was a member of White Oak Baptist Church and the Eastern Star. She was a homemaker and a "full time" grandmother. She was full of love. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Frankie Jones; son, Jimmy (Lisa) Jones; daughter, Kandi (Eric) Rosenthal; grandchildren, Ashlee, Samuel, Leanna, Sean, Ky, Tristian, Keshia; great-grandchildren, Zoey, Fiona, Malaki; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: office@cullmantribune.com

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

BOOK REVIEW

‘Open Season’ by Jonathan Kellerman

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

“Open Season” is the 40th book in the Dr. Alex Delaware book series by Jonathan Kellerman. The main characters are Delaware, who is a child psychologist, and Detective Milo Sturgis, a homicide lieutenant with the LAPD.

When the series began, Delaware is working with seriously troubled children and teens at a children’s hospital. He would be called in occasionally to consult with the police. Now, he is in private practice choosing the cases that interest him. Usually, child custody cases. The series began in 1985 with bestselling book “When the Bough Breaks,” and Kellerman continues to keep the reader mesmerized.

Late Saturday night, a car pulls unto the emergency room. The driver dumps a body and speeds away. The first thought is it’s a drug overdose. But the coroner cannot find a cause of death. The victim is a young, aspiring actress.

The next victim is a man found dead with a bullet that precisely pierces both the carotid and jugular. Next, a young mother is shot while in a boat with her 2-year-old son, who is unharmed.

But he is left in the boat for hours before being rescued. More bodies are found. Some shot with the same gun. Delaware and Sturgis are unable to find a motive or a pattern. They have solved many cases. But this might be their toughest case.

Kellerman’s writing is highly descriptive and clever. The dialog between Delaware and Sturgis is witty and sometimes amusing. Kellerman uses supporting characters to move the story along and provide continuity between the books of the series.

Delaware’s longtime girlfriend, Robin, is a luthier (one who crafts stringed instruments like violins, guitars and violas). She provides him a sounding board for his thoughts.

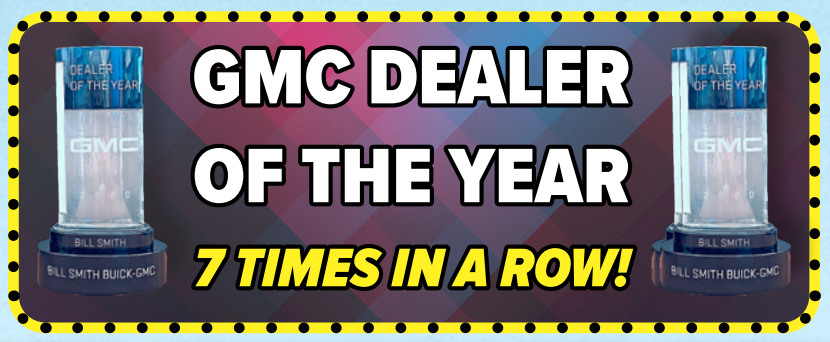
Sturgis’ husband, Rick, is a physician who helps the reader see the softer side of this hard-nosed policeman.

Read more about Jonathan Kellerman at www.jonathankellerman.com.



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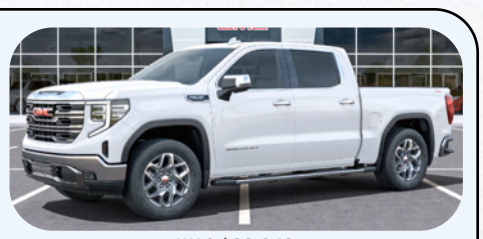
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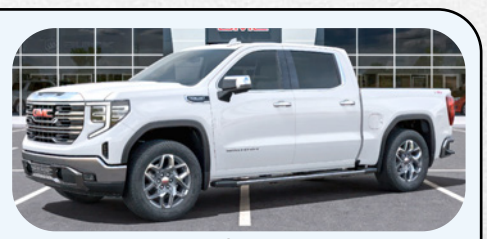
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