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CONTRIBUTED

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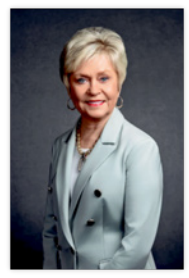


CAMILLE GIBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan and Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry at a press conference on Friday, June 13, 2025.

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VOTE | AUG. 26



JENNY FOLSOM
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL
PLACE 5
PD. POL. ADV. BY JENNY FOLSOM 1706 LEISURE LANE, CULLMAN, AL 35055

What's your favorite memory with your father?



SUSAN SELLERS

Susan Sellers and her father, Jim Boyd



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Tommy Holdbrooks and Jill Perry with her grandson and his great-grandson, T.H. Perry

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Father's Day is this Sunday, June 15. As the day approaches, many are taking time to reflect on the men who helped shape their lives. From sweet and lighthearted childhood memories to impactful moments and accomplishments, Cullman residents have shared their favorite stories about their dads in celebration of Father's Day.

"My dad, Jim Boyd, passed in October of 2023. We had lots of fun times on the farm and at home. His job as county school superintendent took a lot of time, but he always made it to our ball games and activities. A couple of my favorite memories include eating together and riding around on Sundays after church, as well as our annual family trips to Gulf Shores. He was larger than life and a great dad. He taught us a great work ethic and he was my biggest encourager!"

– Susan Sellers

Mike Richard shared fond memories of his father on Smith Lake, recalling experiences that have stayed with him for years. "We had a place down on a point at Smith Lake, in Crane Hill, kind of a private slough where my dad's friend owned all the land. That weekend, a group of our family came together: my uncle, aunt and some cousins from Sarasota and Chicago. It ended up being a surprise for the ones from Chicago, as the kids had kept it secret. We were all there at the same time, » PAGE 5



CONTRIBUTED

Cody and John Clark

McKinnon named Cold Springs Elementary School principal



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Adam McKinnon » PAGE 2

Nighttime resurfacing of I-65 in Morgan County to start next week



ALDOT

Contractors will soon begin resurfacing 23.4 miles of I-65 in Cullman, Morgan and Limestone counties. » PAGE 2

West Point's Kealie Harbison discusses her faith

» PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 13

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 13, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

June 9

- menacing; criminal mischief; CR 1343
- theft of property; CR 1678
- theft of property; CR 1114
- burglary; Hwy. 69N
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Tillery Rd.
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 46
- trespassing; assault; CR 1177
- domestic violence; CR 431

June 10

- trafficking drugs; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; CR 1807
- theft of property; CR 730
- trespassing; CR 18
- theft of property; CR 536
- theft of property; CR 718

June 11

- domestic violence; CR 728
- harassment; permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1343
- burglary; CR 1036
- theft of property; criminal mischief; CR 267
- trespassing; CR 925
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1511
- unlawful possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Hwy. 69S

ARRESTS

June 9-11

Arteaga, Oscar; 25
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Burks, Kenneth A.; 24
- possession of dangerous drugs

Chandler, Tony D.; 55
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card
- theft of lost property-3rd degree, $500-less than $1500

Cobbs, Kanyon R.; 20
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- no tag/tag not plainly visible
- attempting to elude a police officer
- speeding

Dill, James A.; 39
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- attempting to elude a police officer

Farr, Christopher R.; 49
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Foshee, Jennifer J.; 50
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – resisting arrest

Gannon, Adam D.; 26
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- attempting to elude a police officer

Graves, Kelly B.; 56
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Grove, Andrew J.; 28
- public intoxication
- possession of dangerous drugs

Hoskins, Terry D.; 63
- GJ – theft – grand jury arrest warrant

Husted, Lacy H.; 40
- FTA – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle
- FTA – false report to law enforcement
- FTA – duty upon striking an unoccupied vehicle

Lay, Rachel L.; 34
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- interference with public safety commission
- public intoxication
- criminal trespass
- disorderly conduct

Mann, Justin C.; 36
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Moore, Mathais K.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Ownby, Carson S.; 27
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle

Perez, Gilberto; 25
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Richards, Lewis C.; 34
- drug trafficking
- FTA – driving without driver's license
- FTA – vehicles entering highway from private road or roadway

Smith, Juana B.; 40
- FTA – negotiating worthless instrument

Weaver, Jason J.; 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Williams, Jeremy O.; 39
- theft-miscellaneous

Willingham, Tyren S.; 28
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 11
- domestic violence-2nd degree – burglary; theft of property-1st degree; person; miscellaneous; 5th Ave. SE
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Oakmont Dr. SE

June 12
- assault-3rd degree; person; Hwy. 157
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $39; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

June 11-12

Allen, Lauren B.; 32
- DUI

Drinkard, Brittney J.; 19
- criminal mischief-2nd degree

Day, Nicholas R.; 27
- DUI
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cox, Mary G.; 60
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Maynard, Brett S.; 59
- DUI (combined substance)
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Twilley, Carolyn B.; 67
- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

Ransom, Daniel A.; 47
- theft of property-1st degree
- theft of property-2nd degree

Duke, Joel K.; 61
- receiving stolen property

Stoves, Joshua C.; 37
- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- obstruction – giving false information

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

McKinnon (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Board of Education at its June 12, 2025, meeting approved Dr. Shane Barnette's recommendation to hire Adam McKinnon as the next principal of Cold Springs Elementary School.

McKinnon is currently the assistant principal at Cold Springs Elementary. He is replacing Micah Rice, who has decided to pursue another opportunity outside of education.

McKinnon has worked at Cold Springs in different roles for 15 years.

"It is an incredible honor to step into the role of principal at Cold Springs Elementary – a place I've proudly called home," said McKinnon. "I'm excited to lead, serve and grow alongside our students, staff, and families."

Resurfacing (from Front)

ALDOT
Contributor

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A project to resurface the entirety of I-65 in Morgan County will begin the evening of Monday, June 16, weather permitting.

The $16.1 million project will resurface from Hurricane Creek, north of Vinemont in Cullman County, to one mile south of the I-565 interchange (Exit 340) in Limestone County.

The contractor, Rogers Group, will resurface the total of 23.4 miles of interstate in two main phases. First, Rogers Group will resurface the segment south of SR-36 in Hartselle this year. Resurfacing north of SR-36 will follow in 2026.

Nightly lane closures

To reduce traffic impacts, most work requiring lane closures will take place between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday nights through Thursday nights. ALDOT advises motorists to expect delays due to single-lane closures.

Initial milling and paving operations will begin north of Lacon (Exit 318) in southern Morgan County.

For real-time traffic and road condition information, visit ALGOtraffic.com or download the ALGO Traffic app.

Bridge repair and raising

Later this month, the contractor will begin repairing and raising the bridge on Upper River Road over I-65 in Priceville. The bridge was damaged in late April when struck by a piece of equipment improperly loaded on a trailer. ALDOT plans to have the bridge repair performed as a supplement to the original contract.

The project also includes raising the bridge on Parker Road over I-65 in Hartselle.

ALDOT will soon announce further details about the plans and scheduling for the bridge repair and bridge raisings.

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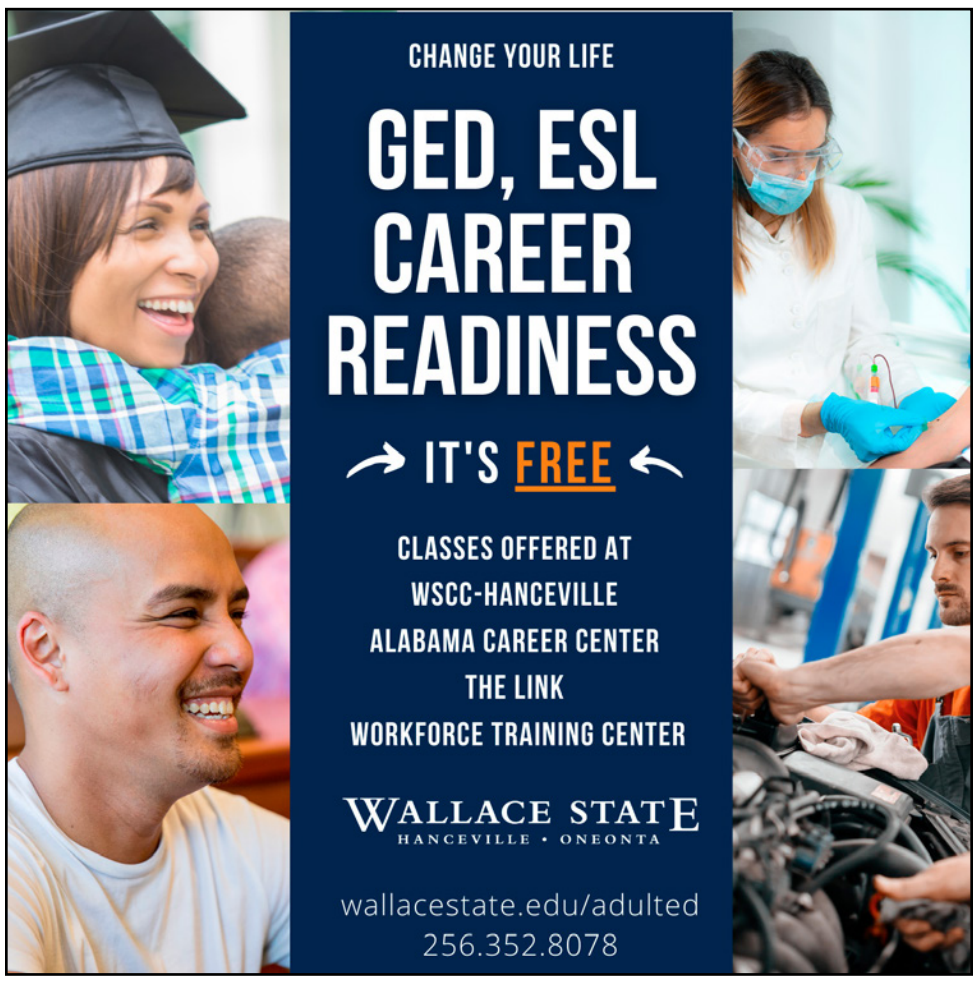
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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
Sessions 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, June 15 - 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.
• 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.

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.

Mt. Nebo VBS – 'Magnified'
June 16-20, 6-8:30 p.m. 11 County Road 1273, Cullman. (See The Tribune's full VBS listing at cullmantribune.com/2025/06/02/list-the-ultimate-cullman-vbs-summer-roadmap.

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.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, at 9:30 a.m. USDA Service Center, 501-B Fourth St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

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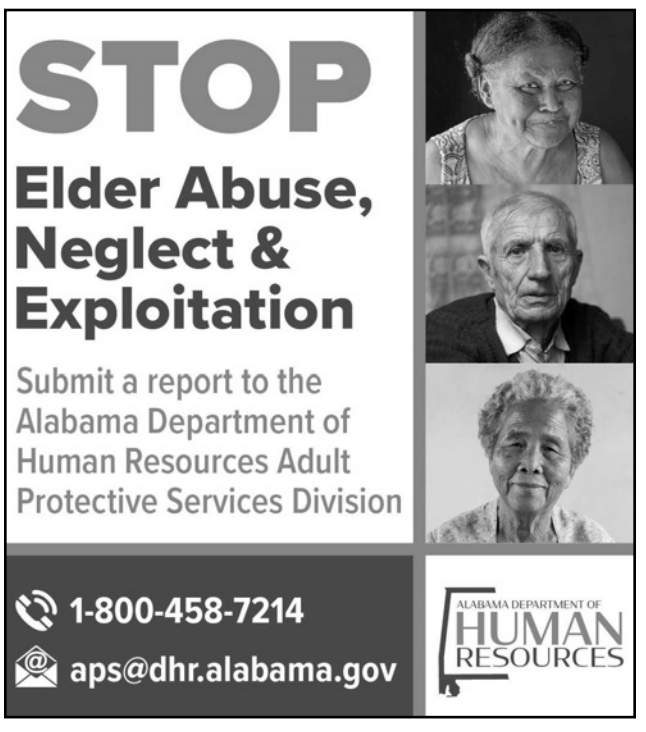
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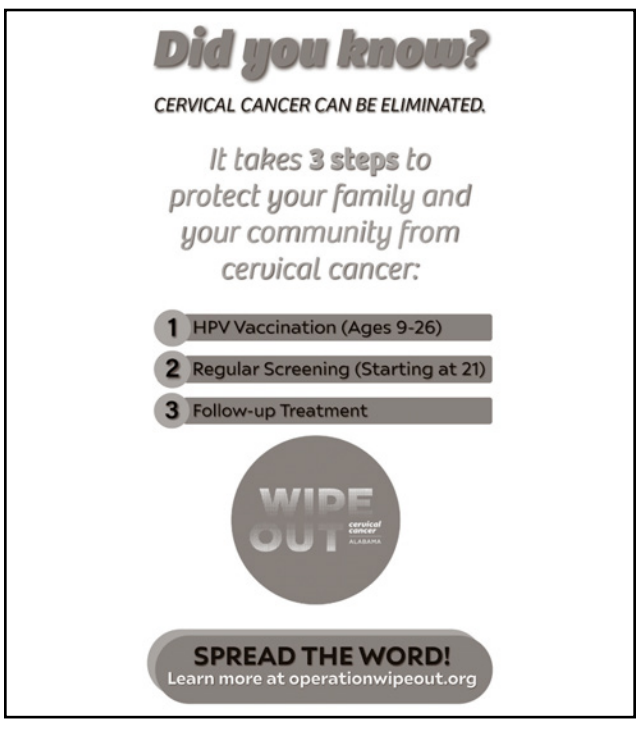
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 14, 2025

'Always help those in need': Fairview's Shelby Stringer reflects on Aggie years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview's Shelby Stringer collected her diploma in May, and in this interview, she shared some of her favorite memories participating in archery and the band at Fairview High School alongside her friends and teammates.

"The best memory I have from archery was when we made it to Nationals the first year, and that was a really big accomplishment for the archery team. We also qualified for Worlds last year, but because of the timing, we couldn't go. One of my favorite band memories was when the seniors rode the fire truck.

"Every year on the last day of band camp, the seniors are allowed to ride on a fire truck and spray their fellow band members with water and as a grand finale, the band director lets us spray him with water and silly string," Stringer said. "It was scary at first, but over the years, some of them became like my family, and one of them became my boyfriend, who is now my high school sweetheart. What I learned from them is to be yourself, no matter what, and to not let people push you around."

Shelby soaked up as much as she could from her band director and her archery coach. She will deeply miss being in the band this upcoming year, and she shared her favorite band performance and her favorite archery competition.

"I wouldn't trade my band director for the world. Mr. Kilgo has a scary face, but he is a sweetheart on the inside. I learned to not take everything to heart and to just go with the flow. Coach Tyler Ayers was amazing. He taught me math when I struggled with it, and to never be afraid to ask for help," Stringer said. "I will miss the family aspect of band. After we got done with a performance, we would all huddle up, and it was just so much fun. This year's show was Monster, and it was so much fun. My favorite archery match was Nationals. It's a little overwhelming, because there are so many people, but it was still fun."

Shelby kept her favorite high school memory short and sweet, and she absolutely loved her teachers at Fairview.

"My favorite high school memory was meeting my high school sweetheart," she said. "What made Fairview a special place to go to were the teachers that were there. Some of my favorites were Mrs. Nickels, Mr. Kilgo, Coach Jon Dumas, Mrs. Cheryl Magnum, Mrs. Elizabeth Lockhart, and coach Ayers. They were and still are like a second set of parents, and I will truly miss them. No matter how far I go from Fairview now that I have graduated, they will always have a special place in my heart. I will never forget them or the things that they have taught me over the years. I will truly miss them."

Shelby made a lot of memories during her time at Fairview, and she talked about her experience participating in the Key Club and the theater.

"I will always remember the school events and activities that our teachers and administrators put on for the students to make our year more enjoyable and memorable," she said. "I was in the Key Club for two years and the theater for three years. It was really fun being in the Key Club and the theater, and I learned to always help those in need, and have fun with all that you do."

She gave some advice to those students that will be starting high school in August and talked about the role God has played in her life.

"Always try everything once, because if you don't, you may regret it after you're gone. I can't tell you how many times now that I have graduated that I have told myself I should have done this. I should have done that. Don't wish your high school years away," she said. "He has been a big influence in my life with my friendships and in my relationship with my boyfriend. He gave me my best friend, Allidy Hackney."



SAGE NELSON

Fairview's Shelby Stringer

Shelby shared a couple of her favorite Bible verses, and she wants people to remember her as someone that sought to help others.

"The first one is John 3:16, and this verse has always been told to me. It keeps me grounded. The second one is Corinthians 13:4-7. My mom told me to use this verse to pray for my future husband and even with my friends to see if they are right. This verse talks about love and friends," she said. "I want people to remember me as the helpful one."

Safety (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Rock the South will take place next week in Cullman County, and local officials held a press conference at the Cullman County District Attorney's Office on Friday, June 13, to discuss safety.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan and District Attorney Champ Crocker were present.

"We're here to discuss Rock the South and safety," Crocker said. "We want everyone to have a good time and stay out of trouble. Rock the South is a big event in Cullman County and unfortunately sometimes people break the law. We are here to stress that you obey the law."

Gentry said the Cullman County Sheriff's Office will manage the area outside the venue and the Cullman Police Department will be over the inside of the venue.

"We will not put up with nonsense. If you are outside the venue and you are being a knucklehead, we will deal with you," Gentry said.

"We will have our mobile jail inside the Rock the South venue, so if you make knucklehead choices, you will not be attending the concert. We want you to come and have a good time, but we also want you to be safe."

Duncan said the major calls they usually get at the festival are medical calls — and they will have EMS on-site to help with any incidents.

"Dehydration medical calls are what we have the most of so we ask all attendees to make sure prior to the event and at the event that you're drinking plenty of water," Duncan said.

"There will be plenty of water stations inside the event to take advantage of. Also, if any attendees begin showing disruptive behavior or are highly intoxicated — they will be escorted out of the venue.

"There will be no refunds and there could be criminal charges."

Duncan and Gentry reminded all Rock and South attendees that although there are alcohol sales inside the venue, outside the venue is considered the county, which is dry.

For more information about the do's and don'ts of the event, visit www.RocktheSouth.com.





Memory (from Front)

and it was just one of the best times. I remember learning something new about my dad, Joe Richard — he actually knew how to swim. I'd never seen him do that before, especially not in Sarasota. He was always a fisherman, not a swimmer, so the way he swam was kind of pitiful but funny. We had a blast setting off fireworks and just being together. Looking back, that weekend meant a lot. My dad's been gone 25 or 26 years now, but those are the kinds of memories that stay with you."

— Mike Richard



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Gloria and Dorothy Dotson



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Clara, Andrew, William and Thomas Haynes



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ariel Jacobs



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

John Branscomb



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Thomas Myers



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Paul Hollis

Allen Gibbs said one of his favorite things to do is listen to his father's stories about growing up and seeing the man he became. "One of my favorite memories of my dad is just sitting and listening to all the wild stories he'd tell about his younger days. But what really stands out is what he accomplished later in life. In 2009, he graduated at the very top of his class from the University of Alabama with four degrees. He majored in accounting and minored in finance. He led the entire student body at graduation, won every major award and even had dinners with Warren Buffett. I still have a signed book from one of those events. Now, he's the corporate controller at one of Buffett's sister companies. I've always been proud of him, but moments like that really stuck with me."

— Allen Gibbs

For Ariel Jacobs, the importance of Father's Day is celebrating the influence fathers have on their children. "It's recognizing those who raise and guide us. Some dads do it all, and they deserve just as much credit." Jacobs shared different memories with both her biological father and stepfather, from water gun fights and Charlie Brown movies during the holidays to kitchen dance parties and backyard barbecues. "I love both of my dads, and I'm glad that you were able to be there in my life."

– Ariel Jacobs

Cody Clark recalled a birthday surprise from his father that turned into a lifelong memory: his first concert. "It was a Metallica show at the BJCC. We ended up almost at stage level, and he even surprised me with autographs from two of the band members." That concert, along with the support his father provided over the years, had a lasting impact on his life, giving him the motivation to become who he wanted to be. "We didn't always see eye to eye, but I always knew I could go to him and confide in him. And I do hope to be that beacon for somebody, whether it's now or someday in the future or for my kids in the future."

– Cody Clark

Thomas Myers credited his father with being a reliable, behind-the-scenes force in his life, from cooking to helping around the house. He shared that his dad's contributions are not unnoticed and definitely not unappreciated. "He's always been there, helping in his quiet way. He's helped me financially throughout my life, assisted me around the house and cooks whenever he can. Like he always makes the best food."

– Thomas Myers

Clara, Andrew, William and Thomas Haynes shared their favorite memories, including going onto the field during a Braves baseball game, watching football, working on the farm with their dad and being tucked in. When asked why celebrating Father's Day is important, they replied, "It's important to remember how hard they work. It's how we show we care."

John Branscomb said he loves his dad's hugs: "He always cares about me and hugs me."

Sisters Gloria and Dorothy Dotson shared exciting memories of a camping trip with their dad, roasting marshmallows and eating s'mores. They said it is important to celebrate Father's Day "because you get to spend time with your dad, and that they work hard and that you get to show them how much you care about them."

Paul Hollis shared a memory of his father's grace that still resonates decades later. As the son of a longtime Southern Baptist minister, Sam Hollis, Paul recalled the day his dad stood up for him after he was caught carving his initials into a church pew. Instead of scolding him, Hollis' father asked if the custodian had called the other children's parents as well, pointing out that the behavior wasn't unique. "That moment stuck with me. He chose grace over punishment, and that made a difference in how I saw him and how I try to be with others."

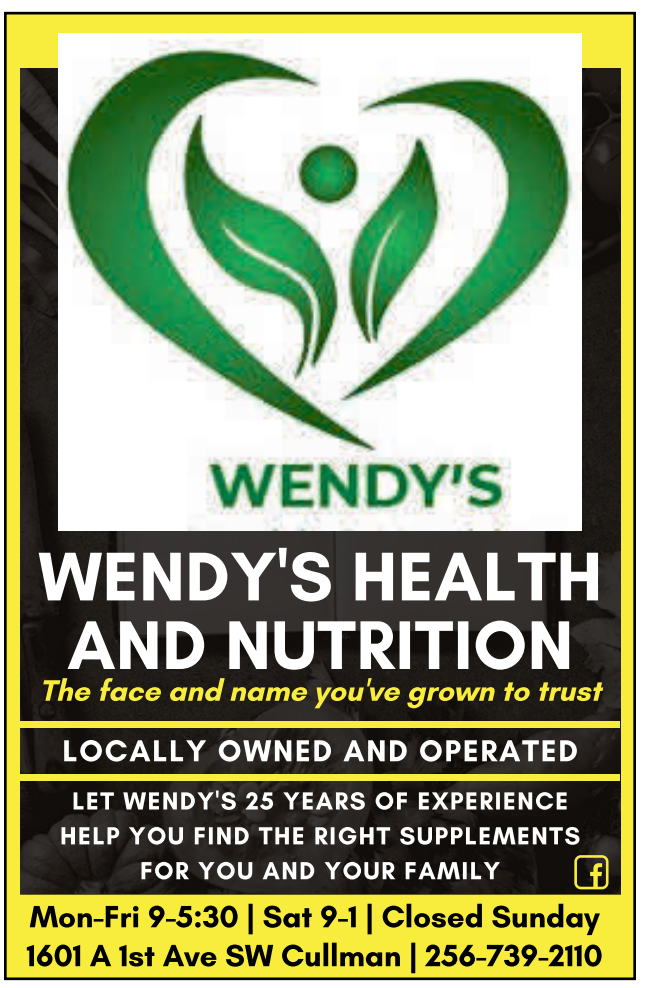
– Paul Hollis

And finally, Jill Perry and her father, Tommy Holdbrooks, shared memories of homemade popcorn and watching late-night TV as a family. "He makes the best popcorn in the world. My sister and I would get our baths early on Fridays, get in our pajamas, and he'd make it the old-fashioned way on the stove. Then we'd watch 'The Incredible Hulk' or 'The Bionic Woman.' There's just no popcorn like his. Dads are the behind-the-scenes heroes. They're the steady support system. We wouldn't be who we are without them."

– Jill Perry



















LEGALS

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.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF M.J.R.C.
A minor child.
D.O.B. 12-12-2020
CASE NO.: AD2024-059

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: Jordon Correll Biological father of a child M.J.R.C., born December 12, 2020, to Stephanie Brooke Stoebner

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption* was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Dennis Schlichting and Desiree Schlichting, Petitioners. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS THE 5th DAY OF June, 2025.

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

Jerry Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioners
413 First Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
DAVID EUGENE EVANS,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2025-143

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ERIN EVANS as Personal Representative of the Estate of DAVID EUGENE EVANS, deceased, on the 28th day of May 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

ERIN EVANS
Administrator

Amanda Hardin Schafner
Schafner Law
Attorney for Administrator
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, Alabama 35210

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE this 28th day of May, 2025.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MARY SUE BANISTER,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2025-322 2024-322

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to WILLIAM THOMAS BLANKENSHIP as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARY SUE BANISTER, deceased, on the 12th day of June 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

William Thomas Blankenship
Personal Representative

Clint Maze
Attorney for Personal Representative
Wilmer & Lee, P. A.
725 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, Alabama 35016

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE this 12th day of June, 2025.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
SANDRA JANE BEAVER,
Deceased.
Case Number: PC2025-214

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Sandra Jane Beaver, Deceased

Letters Testamentary upon last will and testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 11th day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

David Goolsby
Personal Representatives

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representatives
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

THE ESTATE OF
SIDNEY LYNN CANADA II,
a.k.a. SIDNEY LYNN CANADA
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC-2025-149

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Take Notice that Letters of Administration of the Estate of Sidney Lynn Canada II, a.k.a. Sidney Lynn Canada, are hereby granted to Karen Hyatt on the 30th day of May, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge for Cullman County, Alabama.

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.

Karen Hyatt
Administrator

Salem Resha, Jr.
Attorney for Administrator
1740 Oxmoor Road, Suite 100
Birmingham, AL 35209

TO:

Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
JONAH ROBERT CURVIN,
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC2022-125

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION OF ADMINISTRATOR FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: Jerry Delynn Curvin, Pearl Fay Jones, Pansey Nell Finley, Pamauala Sue Moore and any known or unknown next of kin or interested parties.

Petition of Administrator for Final Settlement received/Court record the 5th day of February, 2025 by James Joel Curvin, Administrator, through Attorney Michael J. Baggett. A hearing has been scheduled on this matter for the **25th day of July, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse/Probate Court
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 29th day of May, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Michael J. Baggett
Attorney for Petitioner
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
Walter Randell Phillips,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2025-165

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Caroyln Dotson Phillips as Personal Representative of the Estate of Walter Randell Phillips, deceased, on the 11th day of April 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Carolyn Dotson Phillips
Administrator

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney for Administrator
Berry, Berry, Little & Chaney
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-734-6330 (Phone)

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2024-303

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL DEWITT YEAGER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Michael Dewitt Yeager have been granted to Runna Faulkner on the 5th day of June, 2025, by the Hon. 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.

Runna Faulker
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
sherry@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
WAYNE LEE NUSS,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2025-167

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration, having been granted to the undersigned on the 4th day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Stanley Wayne Nuss
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
SUSAN CHRISTENSEN,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2025-124

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to THOMAS JOHN CHRISTENSEN, on the 4th day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

THOMAS JOHN CHRISTENSEN
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey
Hankey Law Firm, LLC
101 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 736-8744

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
COY TALMADGE JONES
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC2025-125

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: SANDRA A. GREEN, COY TIMOTHY JONES, SAMUEL PAUL JONES, LESLIE JEROME JONES AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Petition of Anita 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 are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 30th day of May, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Petitioner
PO Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

50 years didn't take as long as I thought

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



It happened 50 years ago, on Saturday, June 14, 1975. I remember that day so well that it almost seems like it was last week, or at most the week before that! I remember that it rained that day, but it stopped prior to the wedding. As the song says, "Don't blink, just like that you're 6 years old and you take a nap, and you wake up and you're 25 and your high school sweetheart becomes your wife."

Well, that's close, but it wasn't exactly like that for us. We started dating the summer before Jean's senior year, but I am slightly older than her and had already graduated, so we were never technically high school sweethearts. We were both still in our teens when we exchanged vows and rings, but now it does seem like I blinked and 50 years have passed.

We didn't simply answer a question with "I do" or "I will." We memorized our vows and spoke them to one another. I was so afraid that I would forget the words that I unnecessarily taped a copy to the prayer bench. We held hands, looked each other in the eyes, and said, "I, Bill/Jean, take thee Jean/Bill, to be my wife/husband from this hour forward. I promise to love you, to be faithful to you in times of plenty and in times of want, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of sickness and in times of health, as long as we shall live." Through prayer, and with help from God Almighty, we have managed to hold true to those 53 words for 50 years now. Not only have we loved one another during those years, but our love is deeper now than we ever imagined possible. We have managed to faithfully keep those vows for half a century!

We have had times of plenty and times of want. In the early years, we had plenty...plenty of not much! We lived in college and seminary apartments our first six years of marriage. We barely owned enough furniture to fill them up.

We managed to not starve to death, but we did eat our fair share of peanut butter sandwiches and Spam! Do you know you can bake Spam in the oven, with a little brown sugar and cloves on it, and it miraculously turns into ham? An imagination can be a wonderful thing! We've never been rich, except in the things of God, but with His help we have always managed to have what we needed and even some things we probably didn't need.

We have had times of joy and sorrow. We have smiled and laughed far more than we've cried. We have had 50 years of overall happiness. We've said good-bye to so many family members and good friends, some way too soon. Jean is blessed to still have all her siblings, but I only have one out of three still here.

We've said good-bye to all our parents. We've buried some of the best dogs I've ever known in the back yard, as well as a few cats and one giant hermit crab named Herman.

We've had times of sickness and good health. We've survived terrible vehicle accidents. We've had more surgeries than they had on "General Hospital." We've survived broken bones, replaced knees, damaged internal organs, colon surgery, torn retinas, cancer, open heart surgery and the common things such as flu and Covid. We are like Timex...we 've taken a licking and kept on ticking!"

Thank you, Jean Willis King, for 50 marvelous years! I look forward to 50 more! Okay, okay, I know, but at least many more!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: June 14, 1951

From the files of June 14, 1951

TEEN CHATTER

Seems lots of people have left for camp these days. Leaving Monday were: Barbara Cook, Bobby Bland, Betty Jean Fricke, Harold Keller, Peggy Armstrong, Joyce Chandler, and Hershel Arnold. Going to Camp Dunroamin near Fayetteville, Tennessee, Wednesday, were Nancy Graves, Carolyn Kilgoe, Joyce Martin, Bobby Chandler, Ann Vozt, and Joyce and Suzanne Ponder. They plan to stay a month.

Others away at camp during the week end were: Barbara Bland, Bobby White, Betty Handley and Dorothy Richard going to Jacksonville; Peggy Sticher, Mary Lois Warnke, Ott Tanner and Carolyn Burgess also visited the beaches last week end. Patsy, Ann, Faye Karter, Ellen Johnson and Dub Karter and Bill Arnold also were there.

Up at the Youth Center Friday night for a weiner roast were: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker and Finis St. John, Betty Johnson and Lewis Lindley, Betty Handley and Bob Black, Joyce Thompson and Ott Tanner, Joyce and Carole Ponder and Billy Dunlap, Joyce and Raymond Tucker.

Visitors Friday night were: Marilou Johnson, Margaret Joyce and Wayne Glasscock.

Skating Friday night were Marjorie Dean and Bill Hauk, Betty Johnson and Bob Smith, Betty Handley and Lewis Lindley, Jean Warnke, Dunlap and John Chandler.

Enjoying Cokes up at the Drug Store Saturday afternoon were: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker, Audrey Bush. Guests included Jane Hand, Janette Young, Elizabeth Ann Blalock, Ann Smith, Joyce Thompson, Emily Gibson, Esther Mae Sticher, Bill Hauk, Lewis Lindley, Hershel Arnold, Harold Keller, Bob Black, Elwin Robinson, Dub Jetton, Bill Johnson, Billy Dunlap, Harold Keller, Hubert Chandler, Charles Bottcher, Robert Bowling, Bob Bland, Bill Johnson, Jack Johnson.

Dates Friday night were: Joan Morrow and Bill Hauk, Patsy Sticher and Ott Tanner, Jane Hand and Jack Muse, Patsy Patton and Robert Boatright.

At the movies Saturday night were: Arlene Arnold and Lewis Lindley, Arvella Bradley and Charles Missildine, and Dick Schuessler.

Enjoying a weiner roast up at Tom Walker's place Saturday night were: Ann Durham and Johnny Edwards, Carolyn Burgess and Neil Glasscock, Jean Warnke and Bill Warnke, Lorene Rigsby and Etcel Lindley, Patsy Luethers and John Chandler.

Some people sure got a long distance call from up in Indiana, recently.

Johnny Burnham entertained a crowd of friends from out of town Monday night. Those there were: Barbara Cook and Bob Hauk, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker, Ann Brownie West, Dottie Shaefer and Ed Hopke, Patsy Ponder and Bill Arnold, Ann Smith and Jack Hand, Jimmy Wood, Jean Karter, Kaye Farrill and Hershel Arnold, Susan Cook and Elwin Robinson, Joyce Thompson, Jack Muse, Bill Hanes, Martha Speegle and Jack Johnson.

Up at the Teen Center for a Square Dance Monday night were: Neil Glasscock, Arvella Bradley and Pat Sticher.

Dates out Tuesday night were Jean Warnke and Jack Muse, Joyce Ponder and Jack Hand, Patsy Patton, Paula Aldridge and Marvin Scott.

Mary Nell Blair and Rosemary Smith visited in Cullman Sunday.

Mary Folsom visited her cousin, Betty Fricke, and also spent the week end with Carolyn Speegle.

Aranelta Bradley spent part of last week in Florence.

It is rumored that Jane has been having quite a bit of company from Johnny Edwards Saturday night.

Ellen Johnson is spending the week in Hartselle. She will return to nursing school last week. Ellen also helped the family celebrate a vacation trip last week. Mrs. Edwards is recovering from the measles soon.

A large crowd went to the ball game at the park last week end, guests of Patsy Patton.

By Teen Box.



POET'S CORNER

Chalk Time | By: Randy C. Hale

I call her "misses pickles," and other
cute pet names.
We visit fun filled places and play
some silly games.

And there on a sidewalk, she kneels
with her chalk,
drawing what she wishes
with her mind so deep in thought.

With a purple and a pink,
she draws upon the stone.
To me, the finest artist,
that this world has ever known.

Near a parlor filled with ice cream,
soon as bowl for her awaits.
As she rises from her canvas,
and the cold treat she partakes.

And I take it in as grandpa,
let her know that I am pleased.
With my precious, loving grandchild,
that scoots upon her knees.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JUNE 14

M	A	S	S	X	O	F	T	E	N	D	S	Y	D	N	R	X
A	O	B	E	L	F	G	R	F	A	M	A	W	A	Y	O	R
R	E	S	P	O	N	S	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y	F	B	A
C	U	T	T	S	B	G	P	A	L	M	S	R	E	V	Y	Y
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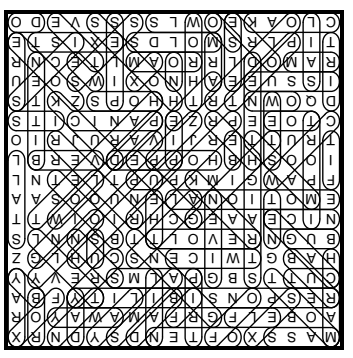
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Proper
Punish
Ram
Rank
Revolt
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JUNE 14

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ANSWERS:



9	7	3	6	5	8	4	1	2
5	1	2	9	4	3	6	8	7
4	8	6	7	2	1	3	5	9
8	6	4	2	9	5	7	3	1
2	3	1	8	6	7	9	4	5
7	5	9	3	1	4	2	6	8
3	4	8	5	7	9	1	2	6
6	9	5	1	3	2	8	7	4
1	2	7	4	8	6	5	9	3

Willoughby (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local business owner Jason Willoughby has announced his candidacy for Cullman City Council Place 3.

Willoughby said love for his hometown is what's driving him to become more involved and run for city council.

"My hopes are to preserve what makes us special and be willing to embrace necessary changes that don't negatively impact our lives or values," he said.

"I would like to explore a decade-long outlook plan for our infrastructure needs. I will also focus on ensuring that any future plan for growth be forward looking and approached with common sense."

Willoughby said he is a sixth-generation Cullman resident.

"My third great-grandfather was our family's first Willoughby to be born in the United States," he said.

"He homesteaded a tract of 120 acres in the Cold Springs area in 1895. This transfer of land was signed by President Grover Cleveland and is a cherished document that remains in our family today.

"My great-grandfather worked with his brother to help develop the Carroll Acres subdivision where I grew up. My grandparents worked locally in multiple aspects of business, including Cullman Radio & TV, All Steak Restaurant, King Edward Cigar Plant and as an independent truck driver leased to Cullman Banana Supply."

Willoughby said his parents instilled in him the value of hard work at an early age.

"By the way of Cullman High School's cooperative education program, I worked at All Steak and Little Bit of Everything furniture store," Willoughby said.

"In January of 1989, just before graduating, I received a position at McGriff Retread Company.

"Throughout my 10-year career with the McGriff Company, I was introduced to the transportation industry and gained vital knowledge of product value and customer service.

"Fortunately, I have been able to establish a transportation-based company in Cullman County with Equipment Logistics, Inc. and the (Exit) 299 Chrome Shop.

"I am grateful for the opportunities and quality of life that Cullman has provided for me and my family for over 130 years."

Willoughby said he and his wife, Susan, have been married for over 24 years. Their two children, Lillian and Ian, graduated from Cullman High School and work locally.

"I believe I can bring a fresh voice and innovative ideas that represent the citizens of Cullman," Willoughby said.

"I look forward to building strong relationships with the community and will work cohesively with City officials if elected. I humbly ask for your vote on Aug. 26."

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



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FAITH

'Helping others come to know God is very important': West Point's Kealie Harbison discusses her faith

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WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point's Kealie Harbison is preparing for her senior year and in this interview she discussed how her faith has helped her battle through adversity in her life.

"He has changed my life in several ways. I haven't always had the easy route in life, but I know He has a plan for me. When I was going through a rough patch my sophomore year, I knew that having a better relationship with Him and trusting His plan would be the only way I would get past all of the chaos," Harbison said. "Psalms 139:14 is my favorite Bible verse, because it helps me to remember that God made everyone unique in their own way. He finds beauty within us, even we don't find it within ourselves. We were made with a purpose."

One of Kealie's main goals in her life is to help people of all ages find God and also be a role model for younger kids.

"Helping others come to know God is very important. I want others to have a relationship with Him and know Him on a deeper level, because it truly does make a difference. We never know when we will take our last breath but knowing that you will spend eternity in heaven and you helped others come to know Him as well is such a beautiful thing," Harbison said. "I've always had great Christian role models in my life that has helped me with my walk in Christ, and I aspire to be like them with those who are younger than me. Being a senior, I have a lot of leadership expectations that have to be met, but my biggest goal is for those to see God through me. I hope that kids will look at me and know that I am a child of God."

There have been so many Godly role models in Kealie's life that have helped her become who she is today.

"My aunt has been one of the biggest role models for me. Through all of her hardship, she still managed to keep a smile on her face, and she never gave up. She has been there for me through everything, and I look up to her in many ways. She always pushes me to my best ability and holds me accountable when needed.

"My youth pastor, Steven Sutter, and his wife, Amanda Sutter, have also been very big role models to me and have helped me with my faith. They have seen my hardships and witnessed my accomplishments. They have been supportive through it all. Seeing their relationships with God makes me want to continue to grow mine with Him even more. They have truly made an impact on my life as well as many other people's lives."

Kealie has played a huge part in helping people come to church and have a relationship with God. She gave some advice to any people who want a relationship with God but might be new to the experience.

"Getting to go around and invite the community to church has been a very fun experience. Seeing how many lives have been changed at VBS because we encourage people around us to come is a very heartwarming feeling," she said.

"My advice would be to surround yourself with people who push you to be a better Christian. If you hang out with people who bring you away from God, then your relationship will never improve, but if you surround yourself with those who bring you closer to Him, then you will have a better relationship with Him. I also advise to go to church. Not everyone goes to church, but getting to hear the Word really helps to understand what you are believing in. Prayer is also a very powerful thing. I have had many prayers answered, but you can't expect it to happen after one prayer. You have to continue to pray, and you will receive."

Kealie shared some of her Godly rituals that she does with her teammates before games and talked about how God has helped them get even closer as a team.

"Me and my teammates pray before every game. We also encourage each other to come to church events we are having at our own churches. Our coaches want us to win, but they care more about us having a relationship with God.

"We all know that as much as the game means to us, we couldn't have the ability to be out there without God. During my sophomore year, I went through a lot of hardship, and it really put my relationship with God to the test, but I knew that if I continued to pray and lean on Him, I would be okay," Harbison said. "I've learned that God's plan is always better than your plan. I tried living for the world and quickly realized that I needed to start living for God."



KEALIE HARBISON
West Point's Kealie Harbison

Obituary Announcements: June 12-13

Linda Diane Gay, 75
Graveside service for Linda Diane Gay, 75, Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Cullman City Cemetery, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Visitation will be at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel from 12-1:30 p.m. before the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Gay was born on Jan. 30, 1950, to parents, Harold C. and Louise Battles Jones. Linda was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a homemaker and enjoyed taking care of her grandchildren. She loved fishing and Auburn football. Mrs. Gay was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Ricky Jones. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, David Gay; son, Rodney (Paula) Gay; daughter, Cindy (Shaun) Davis; grandchildren, Jesse Thomas, Levi Thomas, Mason (Macy) Davis, Carson (Lillian) Jones, Braxton (Ella) Jones; great-grandchild, Claire Jones; and a host of family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Jerry Mack Waters, 74 (Updated)
Jerry Mack Waters, a beloved father and grandfather and devoted husband, passed away on June 10, 2025, at the age of 74. A lifelong resident of Cullman, Jerry was born on Sept. 9, 1950, to parents Madie and Hosie Waters. A graduate of Cullman High School, Jerry pursued higher education at Jacksonville State University, where he met the love of his life, Susan Williams Waters, and the two shared nearly 50 years of marriage before she passed away in 2021. He served his country in the United States Army Alabama National Guard as a Communications Specialist and Helicopter Crew Chief, demonstrating the same dedication and work ethic that he would carry throughout his life. An entrepreneur at heart, Jerry was never one to sit still, always dreaming, creating, and connecting with people wherever he went. He owned and operated several successful businesses in Cullman for over 35 years. His first venture, Burger Chef, opened in 1978 and later became J. Mack's Hamburgers. He also brought the first Taco Bell franchise to Cullman and went on to launch J. Mack's Sporting Goods and Batting Cages. In addition to his business experience, Jerry was involved in several civic organizations such as the Cullman Kiwanis and Lion Clubs as well as his church. Coaching was one of his greatest joys and he spent many years coaching youth basketball, softball and baseball and later served as Head Softball Coach at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville from 1990-1992. His love for sports, especially his devotion to Auburn University athletics, was infectious. Over his lifetime, Jerry wasn't afraid to try new things, and he was a man of many hobbies. From learning to play the banjo to getting his pilot's license to racing go-carts to woodworking and photography, his zest for life will never be forgotten. He enjoyed music of all genres and loved to share his favorite songs with his family and friends. Jerry was most at home surrounded by people — especially his family. He was a proud and loving father to his three children and their spouses, and was always committed to supporting and helping his children pursue their interests with confidence. He was most proud to be known as "Poppy" to his seven grandchildren. Jerry tried to make every minute count with his grandchildren and tried to be present for all the special moments in their lives. Jerry will be most remembered for his love of life, his friendly disposition, sense of humor, and his incredible heart for people. "J.Mack" will be deeply missed by all those that knew and loved him. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31 Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, Madie and Hosie Waters, his wife, Susan Waters, and a sister, Patti Hollis. He is survived by three children, Carrie (Ryan) Thomas of Guntersville; Melanie (Matt) Townson of Cullman and Nathan (Maggie) Waters of Auburn; and seven grandchildren Riley Thomas, Tyler Thomas, Lanie Townson, Max Townson, Addie Townson, Baylor Waters and Paxton Waters. Jerry also leaves a niece, Emily (Steve) Tate of Milton, Georgia, and a brother-in-law, Frazier Hollis of Toccoa, Georgia. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, where all who knew and loved him are welcome to honor his memory. A visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, 512 Second Avenue SE, Cullman. The service will start at 1 p.m., Reverend Dr. John Richter officiating, with the graveside service to follow at Cullman Memory Gardens, 1516 Bolte Road SE, Cullman. Moss-Service Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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