

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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COOK
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL
PLACE 3
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‘We just want people to have a great time on the lake’

Local business spotlight: Cappy’s Boats

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — From a pandemic-era conversation between Gretchen and Scott Travis came one of the most recognizable boat rental and cruise services on Smith Lake.

The couple, both long-time visitors to the lake and now owners of Cappy’s Boats, launched the business in 2020 at a time when travel restrictions and » PAGE 2



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Snacklebox

CCSO hosts annual Youth Leadership Academy



CHAD WHALEY

Participants in the 2025 Sheriff’s Youth Leadership Academy

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Sheriff’s Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA), hosted annually by the Cullman County Sheriff’s Office, was held June 23-27. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said the event continues to expand its reach and impact.

“This year’s academy welcomed more than 40 students from every school across the city and county, including homeschool participants,” Gentry said. “The Academy is offered at no cost to attendees.”

Over a decade ago, Gentry said, he envisioned a program that would inspire and develop the next generation of leaders in Cullman County.

“What began as a small initiative with just 12 participants has since grown into a cornerstone of youth development in the area,” he said.

“Participants must be at least 16 years old, or have reliable transportation, due to travel requirements throughout the week.

”Upon completion, students earn 40 hours of community service credit.

”More than just a leadership camp, SYLA offers an immersive experience in patriotism, civic responsibility and law enforcement operations.“

Gentry said the week-long program features a wide array of activities, including team-building and leadership exercises, firearms safety and training, K9 demonstrations, physical fitness sessions and more.

“While instruction is primarily led by members of the Cullman County Sheriff’s Office, the program enjoys broad support from community partners,” Gentry said.

“One such partner is the ROPES program (through Juvenile Probation), led by Chris Hopper, which plays a major role in the Academy’s success.

”Philip Robertson of Woodmen Life continues to provide an annual American flag etiquette course.

”Judges, juvenile probation officers and representatives from the district attorney’s office also volunteer their time to speak with participants, offering valuable insights into the justice system.

”Wallace State Community College remains a vital partner, providing facilities for physical training and access to its virtual law enforcement simulator.”

SYLA also includes a recreational component, with a visit to Zip Line Adventures at Smith Lake, a highlight for many attendees.

Preparation for the 2026 Sheriff’s Youth Leadership Academy will begin during the upcoming school year.

Applications will be available from school resource officers, school administrators, the Cullman County Sheriff’s Office and by contacting Lt. Chad Whaley at cwhaley@cullmansheriff.org.


VOTE | AUG. 26
JENNY
FOLSOM
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL
PLACE 5
PD. POL. ADV. BY JENNY FOLSOM 1706 LEISURE LANE, CULLMAN, AL 35055

OP-ED

A state out of step: Alabama’s sudden hemp ban hurts progress

» PAGE 6

Meet 2026 Alabama gubernatorial candidate Chad ‘Chig’ Martin



CONTRIBUTED

Chad “Chig” Martin

» PAGE 8

Caroleene Dobson announces candidacy for secretary of state



CONTRIBUTED

Caroleene Dobson

» PAGE 8



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 3

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 3, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

June 30

- resisting arrest; US. 31
- assault; CR 1498
- theft of property; CR 222
- obstructing governmental operations; resisting arrest; CR 1225
- trespassing; criminal mischief; CR 703
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; Hwy. 69N

July 1

- assault; Whaley Ave. NE Hanceville
- drug trafficking; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 490
- theft of property; CR 1651
- harassment; Countryside Acres Rd.

July 2

- burglary; unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; CR 1216
- assault; CR 698
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; CR 437
- harassment; Commercial St. NE Hanceville
- dog bite; CR 590
- theft of property; Magnolia Ave. NW Hanceville

ARRESTS

June 30 – July 2

Barnett, Christopher A.; 43
- public intoxication

Burnett, Gary L.; 68
- resisting arrest
- obstruction-governmental operations

Campbell, Terry D.; 61
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Chambers, Melissa A.; 46
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possessing forged instrument

Denney, Joseph L.; 35
- FTA – traffic-speeding – no workers – construction zone

Dial, Dolly F.; 60
- FTA – violation of registration of rabies
- resisting arrest

Eadie, Felicia L.; 37
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Freeman, Cameron T.; 25
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – obscene material-distribute
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Henley, Michael R.; 43
- burglary-residence-no force
- theft-miscellaneous

Johnson, Luther L.; 18
- criminal mischief – damage to private property
- criminal trespass

Johnson, William N.; 67
- FTA – unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc., of wine or alcohol generally

Nixon, Cathy B.; 62
- permitting dogs to run at large

Rainey, Kelsey A.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ritchie, Robin L.; 44
- negotiating worthless instrument

Sanford, Christopher L.; 41
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)
- FTA – expired license

Scott, James T.; 41
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Selvage, Robert D.; 42
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Statum, Courtney E.; 27
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Taylor, Jenna L.; 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Uselton, Adam L.; 35
- FTA – theft from a motor vehicle-3rd degree

Weaver, Jason R.; 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- disorderly conduct/disturbing peace/affray

Weeks, Christopher J.; 47
- PROBATION VIOLATION – passing forged instrument
- PROBATION VIOLATION – credit card/automatic teller machine fraud
- PROBATION VIOLATION – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card

West, Ammie R.; 45
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

West, Jr., William E.; 54
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 30

- theft of property-3rd degree; fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $320; Hwy. 157

July 1

- criminal trespass-2nd degree; criminal mischief-1st degree; Cullman Savings Bank; damaged property; $10,000; 2nd Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications; person

July 2

- identity theft; theft of property-3rd degree; person; cash

ARRESTS

July 1-2

Phillips, Shannon D.; 46
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – expired tag

Padgett, Eric S.; 46
- unlawful possession of smokeable hemp product

McClendon, Randy J.; 44
- DUI (controlled substance)

Willingham, Mickey J.; 63
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Sanford, Christopher L.; 41
- FTA – violation of protection order
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Herron, Patrick S.; 37
- aggravated criminal surveillance

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Cappy's Boats (from Front)

social distancing had significantly impacted the way people vacationed.

"During COVID, people couldn't travel, and we started noticing a lot of folks asking on social media where they could rent a boat locally. We already had a place at the lake, and I mentioned it to Scott. He said, 'Well, should we start a business doing that?' I told him we didn't know anything about boat rentals and he said, 'We can figure it out.' So we jumped in with both feet," said Gretchen Travis.

The couple purchased four boats, and that marked the beginning of Cappy's Boats.

The company has since expanded its fleet and services, with offerings now ranging from pontoons and kayaks to sunset cruises and a floating snack boat, known as The Snacklebox, that travels around Smith Lake.

During the first two seasons, the four boats reached full capacity quickly. "Boats were being used 100% of the time, so we added two more," said Scott Travis. "We've now run six boats for four seasons and recently added a larger cruise boat for captained tours and events."

The cruise boat has become a popular choice for bachelorette parties, family reunions and out-of-state visitors, available for both half-day and full-day rentals, along with the option for sunset cruises.

This year, the couple introduced their newest addition, The Snacklebox, a floating convenience store that anchors near popular swimming spots, offering snacks and drinks to lakegoers. With GPS technology, visitors can track the boat's location through a pin on Cappy's website.

"We're excited about The Snacklebox. It's been well received, and we're hoping it'll become a staple out on the water," Scott Travis said.

Cappy's operates like a hotel-style reservation system for easy accessibility. Customers can book online, select add-ons such as inner tubes, Maui mats or coolers stocked with ice, and receive email reminders and online paperwork before their visit.

For newcomers, safety and ease of use are top priorities.

"Not everyone has boating experience, and Alabama doesn't require a boating license to rent," said Scott Travis. "So we've created printed guides, safety briefings and one-on-one boat orientations to make sure everyone feels comfortable before heading out."

Each rental includes full tanks of gas, a QR code that links to lake maps and key locations (including gas docks and scenic spots) and personalized support from the Cappy's crew to make each outing as easy and enjoyable as possible.

In addition to pontoon and cruise boat rentals, Cappy's offers kayak rentals for those looking for a more relaxed experience on the lake. The business also offers tow services, trailer rentals and dockside delivery and pickup for a fee. Inside the storefront, customers can find Smith Lake merchandise, sunscreen, towels and other essential items for a day at the lake.

"We just want people to have a great time on the lake," said Gretchen Travis. "Whether it's their first visit or their 50th, we're here to help them enjoy it."

For more information, visit www.cappysboats.com. Follow on Facebook and Instagram for updates, photos and additional content.

Obituary Announcements: July 3

Phillip Hanson, 62
Phillip Hanson, age 62, of Crane Hill, passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. There are no services planned at this time. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Phillip was born on June 16, 1963, to Thomas and Margie Ann Hanson. He is preceded in death by his parents; grandmothers, Ethel Mae Smith Bailey and Mary Ann Hanson; brothers, Howard Hanson and James Hanson; sister, Tammy Hanson. He is survived by his daughter, Amanda Hanson and her children; brother, Roger Hanson; a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

Keith Wayne Jones, 77
Funeral Service for Keith Wayne Jones, age 77 of Hanceville, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Samuel Tucker officiating; burial at Antioch Baptist Cemetery- Fairview. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Jones passed away on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. He was born Jan. 26, 1948, to Dewell Jones and Marie Jones. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Calene Jones; sons, Clark (Staci) Jones and C. J. (Kendra) Jones; daughter, Lisa (Chris) Brooks and grandsons, Gage Jones and Cameron Brooks. He served in the United States Army and served in Germany as Military Police.

Douglas Michael Leipert, 55
Douglas Michael Leipert, 55, of Holly Pond, Alabama passed into glory on July 2, 2025. Michael was born in Flint, Michigan in 1970 to Douglas Ferrell and Melba Jean Leipert. He was the youngest of 5 children. Michael played football and graduated from Hanceville High School, Class of 1989. After graduation he served in the National Guard and then drove an 18-wheeler until his passing. He is preceded in death by his parents, Douglas and Jean Leipert. He is survived by his three children, Jacob Heaton, Michaela (Blake) Murray, and Mikey (Kayla) Leipert, along with his six grandchildren, Tripp Heaton, Hazel Heaton, Madilynn Murray, Ryan Leipert, Mabri Jean Leipert, and Porter Leipert. He is also survived by his four siblings, Kim (Britt) Steele, Karen (Philip) Calvert, Gregory (Sedena) Leipert, and Jeffrey Leipert. A viewing will be held on July 5, 2025, at Hanceville Funeral Home from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., with service following the viewing. No graveside services will be held.

Dwinel Freud Dujoud, 47
Dwinel Freud Dujoud, age 47, of Vinemont, Alabama, passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025. Dwinel Freud Dujoud is preceded in death by his parents: (father) Paul Telusca Dujoud and (mother) Louisianie Souffrant, his uncles and aunt: Lys A. Souffrant, Mirabeau Willy Souffrant, Anne Marie Souffrant Pascal, Germain Alphonse. He is survived by his spouse Stephanie Crawford Dujoud, his children: Aiden Carlito, Mikhail Brigante, Nicholas Dujoud. Elizabeth Bien-Aimè Simin (sister), Jean Max Simin (spouse), Ricarlize Valentina Pierre-Louis (niece) and Maxely Brahim Simin and Jean Elie Simin (nephews). Marie Jacqueline Lainé Beaubrun (sister), Lys Beaubrun (spouse), Sophendjiney l. Beaubrun (niece) and Eudes Whensly Beaubrun (nephews). His uncles: Lavaud Souffrant, Raoul Telusca Dujoud, Sonny Telusca Dujoud and family. All his cousins, godsons, friends and everyone who have impacted his life. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, July 12, at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cullman AL. Dwinel's family will receive friends after the 9 a.m. rosary service. Dwinel will be laid to rest at Jones Chapel Community Cemetery. To leave condolences for the Dujoud family, please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Moss Service Funeral Home
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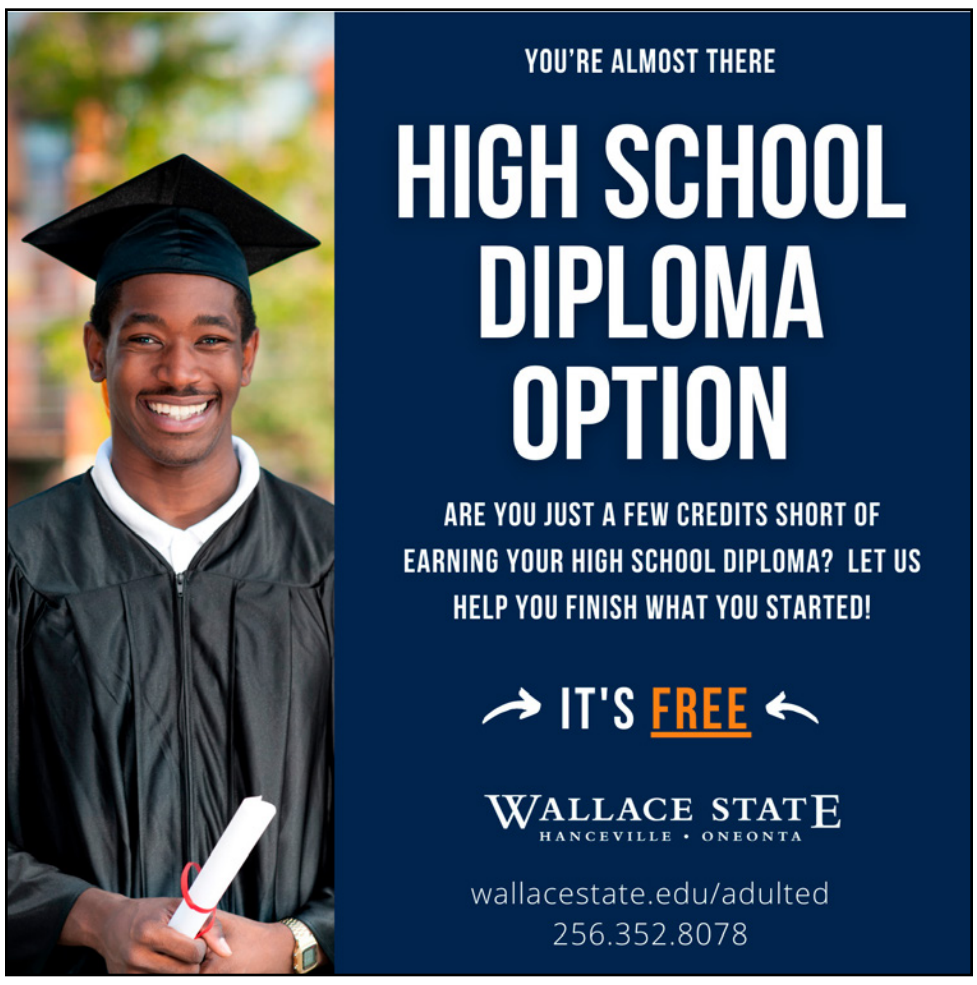
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 on Sundays at 2 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
• Saturday, July 5 – 8 a.m. Men's breakfast; 11 Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, July 6 – 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. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville: Events
• Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
• Wednesday, July 9 BREAK
• Wednesday, July 16, 10 a.m. Storytime presented by Cathi Bradford
• Wednesday, July 23, 10 a.m. Bookmobile will be on-site and Library Director Amber Thorton will read "The Wide Mouth Frog."
• Wednesday, July 30, 10 a.m. Lauren Bentley, board member, will read "Rainbow Fish."

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.

Heartland Quilt Guild
Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. Cullman, AL 35055.

Annual Reunion of the David Speegle Family
Sunday, July 13, at Speegle Family Point (334 County Road 321, Crane Hill, AL 35053) beginning around 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring a covered dish for lunch at noon. Contact Judy Shannon (256-338-0676) or Terry Phillips (256-656-3327) if you need additional information. Come eat and enjoy the day with us at the beautiful Speegle Family Point.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, July 14, at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Dutch lunch begins after 11 a.m. and meeting is at noon. Our guest speaker will be Kenneth Cornelius, director of Cullman County Parks and Recreation. Members, as well as nonmembers and guests, are welcome to attend.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Events
Summer revival will be the third week in July beginning with a singing Sunday, July 20, at 5 p.m. We will have The Williamsons from Wetumka, Oklahoma as our guest. Services will run day and night, Monday-Friday, July 21-25. Morning services will begin at 10:30 and evening services at 7 with Brother Dustin Smith as the evangelist. Lunch will be served each day after the morning service and we will have a prayer room at 6:45 before each evening service. All are invited. If you can't come, please pray for us. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501.

Swamp John's Dinner
Tuesday, July 22, 4-7 p.m. at Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Rd. $15 per plate. Fundraiser for the senior center. Tickets on sale at the center beforehand or that day. Cash, check or card. Dine in or carry out.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 5, 2025

WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State athletes recognized as All-Americans by NJCAA

Special to The Cullman Tribune



WSCC

Top L-R: Kami Young, Brooklyn Sertell, Kallie Tinker. Bottom L-R: Luke Fernandez, Mallory Brooks, Luke Kennedy

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College is proud to announce that several athletes were recognized by the Nation Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) as All-Americans in their respective sports.

"We are incredibly proud of our student-athletes and the dedication they've shown both on and off the field," said Wallace State Athletic Director Paul Bailey. "Being named an NJCAA All-American is a testament to their hard work, talent, and the outstanding support from our coaches and athletic staff. These honors reflect the excellence we strive for at Wallace State."

The Wallace State athletes recognized by the NJCAA for their outstanding performance during the 2024-2025 season include:

- Luke Fernandez of Cummings, Ga. - NJCAA DI Baseball First Team All-American
- Mallory Brooks of Southside, Ala. - NJCAA DII Women's Golf First Team All-Americans
- Luke Kennedy of Owens Cross Roads Ala. - NJCAA DII Men's Cross Country First Team All-American
- Brooklynn Sertell of Odenville, Ala. - NJCAA DI Softball 2nd Team All-American
- Kallie Tinker of Pisgah, Ala - NJCAA DI Women's Basketball 3rd Team All-American
- Kami Young of Atlanta, Ga. - NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Honorable Mention All-American

Fernandez was also named the NJCAA Division I Pitcher of the Year and is as two-time Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Pitcher of the Year. He is the national leader in ERA at 1.34 and strikeouts per game at 15.17. He was also named an ACCC Pitcher of the Week.

Brooks finished sixth in the nation individually in women's golf and helped the team finish fifth in the nation. She was twice named an ACCC Player of the Week.

Kennedy is a two-time ACCC Men's Cross Country Runner of the Year and helped lead the Lions to a third-place finish in the NJCAA Cross Country Championship, where he finished in 10th place.

Sertell helped lead the Lions softball team to a third-place finish at the NJCAA DI Softball World Series. She was named to the 2025 NJCAA DI Softball Championship All-Tournament Team. She was also named ACCC All-Conference and an ACCC Player of the Week.

Tinker helped the Lady Lions basketball team make their first trip to the NJCAA tournament in 14 years. She earned All-Conference honors and was named an ACCC Player of the Week during the season.

Young helped lead the Lions basketball team to their second straight NJCAA tournament and became just the second Wallace State player to participate in the NJCAA All Star game. He was twice named an ACCC Player of the Week.

"We are extremely proud of these student-athletes and all that they and our athletics teams have accomplished this year," said Kristen Holmes, Vice President for Students.

Seven Wallace State athletic teams claimed ACCC conference championships during the 2024-2025 season: Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Men's Golf, and Men's and Women's Tennis. Seven teams finished in the top 10 in national competitions.

Men's and Women's Cross Country finished third and fourth, respectively. Softball finished in third place, Women's Golf finished in fifth place, and Men's and Women's Tennis finished in eighth and 10th place, respectively.

Wallace State will soon field two new sports teams. Men's Soccer and Women's Flag Football will each begin play in Fall 2025. For more information about Wallace State Athletics, visit athletics.wallacestate.edu.

Atlantic Sun Conference and Western Athletic Conference to forge strategic alliance

Mike Ezekiel
UNA Athletics

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — On Thursday, the Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN) and the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) announced a groundbreaking strategic alliance, set to commence in July 2026. The WAC will rebrand as the United Athletic Conference (UAC) and together the ASUN and UAC will form a consortium. The consortium will be led by Executive Director Jeff Bacon, current ASUN Commissioner.

"We are proud to launch this innovative Division I conference alliance, creating an environment where institutions can elevate their programs, leverage collective resources, and champion a new era of intercollegiate athletics," Bacon said.

"This strategic alliance reflects our dedication to empowering the next generation of leaders, both on and off the field, ensuring a legacy of success and impact for years to come."

University of North Alabama Director of Athletics Josh Looney and select head coaches will address the media regarding this announcement on Friday.

The alliance will serve both conferences through the formation of a consortium designed to significantly enhance operational efficiency, foster deeper collaboration, and drive innovation across both NCAA Division I organizations.

"We find ourselves in a transformative era where conferences and institutions are proactively seeking opportunities to collaborate, forge scheduling alliances, unlock new revenue streams, and prepare for a modernized world of intercollegiate athletics," Bacon added.

"This alliance achieves all these objectives simultaneously for our two conferences. We are now prepared to sprint into a new future with a structure that will provide unprecedented support."

Key aspects of the alliance:

- WAC Rebranding and Membership Realignment: The WAC will rebrand as the United Athletic Conference (UAC) in July 2026, with intended membership of eight (8) institutions including Abilene Christian University, Austin Peay State University, the University of Central Arkansas, Eastern Kentucky University, the University of North Alabama, Tarleton State University, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of West Georgia. The ASUN will maintain a roster of seven (7) members: Bellarmine University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Jacksonville University, Lipscomb University, the University of North Florida, Queens University of Charlotte, and Stetson University.

- Independent Operation with Shared Efficiencies: While both the ASUN and the newly branded UAC will retain their independent conference structures and automatic qualifiers to NCAA championships, they will partner within a broadly defined consortium. This consortium will facilitate collaborative scheduling, the leveraging of collective assets, and the exploration of various shared operational efficiencies designed to benefit all member institutions.

- Optimized Geographic Footprint: The alliance strengthens the geographic footprint for both conferences, ensuring that student-athletes continue to benefit from extensive competition opportunities.

"The alliance could not have been achieved without the unwavering leadership and commitment of the fifteen university presidents involved, to whom I extend my profound gratitude," Bacon said. "I am tremendously proud to be a part of this historic moment, and I eagerly anticipate the future that lies before us."

Rebekah Ray – WAC Commissioner

"As collegiate athletics enters a transformational era, bold leadership is essential. Our alliance with the ASUN positions our institutions for long-term success and greater competitive opportunities. This important step includes a period of transition, highlighted by the rebranding of our conference.

"While we look ahead, we remain committed to honoring the storied history and tradition of the Western Athletic Conference.

"We are excited to embark on this next chapter as the United Athletic Conference and to collaboratively build the consortium with our partners."

Dr. Susan Donovan – Bellarmine University President, ASUN Board Chair

"As Chair of the Atlantic Sun Conference Board of Directors, I am delighted to guide the ASUN towards a promising future.

"The formation of our alliance with the United Athletic Conference arrives at a truly transformative period in intercollegiate athletics, and I believe it will empower all of us to achieve unprecedented success.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to the outstanding leadership demonstrated by both our Board and the WAC Board of Directors, and to ASUN Commissioner Jeff Bacon for his vision and stewardship throughout this process."

Dr. James Hurley – Tarleton State University President, WAC Board Chair

"We stand at a pivotal moment in collegiate athletics that demands vision, collaboration, and bold leadership.

"The evolving landscape of collegiate athletics presents both challenges and opportunities and our alliance with the ASUN represents a strategic step forward for our institution and peers.

"We honor the proud past of the Western Athletic Conference and carry that legacy with us as we move confidently into the future as the United Athletic Conference, in partnership with the consortium.

"Together, we are building something that reflects the values, ambition, and resilience of our universities and student-athletes."

Auburn football standouts earn preseason honors

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Three Auburn football standouts have earned preseason All-America honors and seven other Tigers are receiving preseason All-SEC recognition, Athlon Sports announced Tuesday.

Receiver Cam Coleman and defensive lineman Keldric Faulk have been named to Athlon's All-America third team while kick returner Rayshawn Pleasant made the fourth team as a specialist.

Coleman and Faulk were each named to Athlon's All-SEC first team.

Pleasant made the All-SEC second team as a return specialist.

Joining that trio on Athlon's preseason All-SEC team are receiver Eric Singleton Jr. and center Connor Lew on the second team, offensive lineman Xavier Chaplin, cornerback Kayin Lee and safety Kaleb Harris on the third team, and offensive lineman Jeremiah Wright and linebacker Demarcus Riddick on the fourth team.

Coleman, Faulk and Pleasant are three of the SEC's conference-best 43 selections on Athlon's preseason All-America team.

A sophomore from Phenix City, Alabama, Coleman made 37 receptions for 598 yards and eight touchdowns as a freshman in 2024.

Faulk, a junior from Highland Home, Alabama, earned a starting position as a true freshman in 2023 and continued to develop last season, totaling seven sacks, 11 tackles for loss and 45 tackles.

Pleasant, a redshirt junior transfer from Tulane, returned two kickoffs for touchdowns last season while also returning an interception for a TD.



AUSTIN PERRYMAN/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn's Keldric Faulk (15)

FAITH

‘Everyone deserves the chance to know God’: Holly Pond’s Melissa Williams discusses her faith

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond High School’s Melissa Williams is preparing for her senior year of school in August. Her faith and her relationship with God has meant the world to Melissa, and she shared a couple of her favorite Bible verses.

”God means everything to me. I am nothing without God. He gave me life, and He continues to bless and guide me. He gives me strength on the hardest days and is my number one source of comfort,” Williams said.

”One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 19:10. This comes from my favorite hymn, and I think it perfectly encompasses how sweet a relationship with the Lord is, as well as Romans 8:39. You can always come back to God. You are never irredeemable, no matter how far from God you may believe yourself to be.”

She was one of 401 girls that went on a trip to Alabama Girls State and took part in a mock state government camp. She enjoyed every second of that experience alongside so many great girls.

”There were 401 girls, and I ran for governor. I won against 16 girls in primary and then won general as well to successfully secure my position as governor. I gave speeches in front of over 400 people and had the time of my life. I gained a more in-depth understanding of legislative procedures and was able to actively participate in the debate on different bills.

”Once I became governor, I was able to sign bills into law that had previously passed both the House and the Senate. I was also able to understand the ideologies behind the other girls’ opposing beliefs. I was able to speak to girls from all different backgrounds, from Gulf Shores to Dothan.

”It was also unbelievably competitive in my race for governor. Those girls were considered the best from their schools, so I was literally competing against the best of the best. It was definitely one of my most rewarding accomplishments and experiences.” Williams said. ”I learned that with self-confidence and God, you can achieve anything.”

A couple of Melissa’s top goals is to be a role model for younger kids and help people of all ages find God.

”I think everyone deserves the chance to know God, and eventually, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess. We need to help those that are lost find God before it’s too late. However, this is not done by hate or condemnation; this is done by love and compassion,” Williams said.

”It’s extremely important. I hope that people see the love and light I have from Jesus in my heart, even though I still fail at times. I hope I give kids a good idea of what a Christian is.”

Melissa mentioned a couple of Godly role models that have helped her out in a huge way, and she shared some advice with anyone that wants a relationship with God.

”My dad is a huge one. He is the most selfless, kind, and humble man I’ve ever met. He has a servant’s heart and puts others’ needs before himself at all times, as well as my granny, who passed away two years ago. She never said a hateful word. She was always doing everything she could to help others. She loved church and sang hymns in her recliner every day. My idea of success is becoming half as good as my father and grandmother. God shines bright through them,” she said. ”Just pray. God is waiting for you. Just talk to Him. Losing my grandmother made me want to talk to God so much more. God is the driving force behind every achievement. You can’t accomplish anything without the Lord.”



MELISSA WILLIAMS

Holly Pond’s Melissa Williams

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OP-ED

A state out of step: Alabama's sudden hemp ban hurts progress

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Alabama has taken a shocking step backward. In late June 2025, Governor Kay Ivey signed a bill into law that effectively bans the sale and distribution of hemp-derived products like Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC across the state.

After years of slow but steady progress — and millions in tax revenue — the State has now chosen to criminalize an entire industry that it once welcomed, regulated and taxed.

Let's be clear: this isn't about full-blown marijuana. We are talking about legal hemp products that were once treated as agricultural and economic opportunities.

Since the passage of the 2018 federal Farm Bill and the launch of Alabama's hemp program in 2019, small businesses and family farms have been operating openly under State licenses.

Stores flourished. Jobs were created. And the state benefited.

What the new law actually does

The new law, effective July 1, 2025, makes it illegal to manufacture, sell, distribute or possess products containing synthetically modified or concentrated forms of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) derived from hemp. That includes popular items like Delta-8 gummies, vapes, oils and beverages.

Penalties range from hefty fines to felony-level charges depending on quantity, intent and whether the offense involves distribution.

Even possession of certain hemp-derived products now carries the risk of arrest.

The law provides little to no carve-outs for previously licensed hemp businesses, many of which are now shuttering overnight.

For customers, those CBD oils and Delta products you picked up at your local vape shop are no longer legal, even if purchased before July 1. Possession may now be treated similarly to marijuana in terms of criminal penalties.

For business owners, if you sell anything other than basic, non-THC hemp products like fiber or pure CBD isolate with zero THC, you may be at risk.

There is no grace period. Law enforcement across multiple counties has already begun enforcing the law, and rumors of seizures and shutdowns are circulating.

In her public statement, Ivey said she signed the law "to protect our children and ensure the safety of our communities."

She emphasized concerns over underage access and unregulated product content, which she described as "marketed to look like candy and snacks."

Her concern is not unwarranted — packaging and dosage inconsistencies are valid issues.

But banning an entire sector, rather than regulating it better, is not a forward-thinking solution. It is a reactionary measure that punishes those who played by the rules and operated in good faith.

Since its legalization, hemp has generated more than $10 million in state tax revenue, supported over 1,500 jobs statewide and spurred local entrepreneurship — particularly in rural counties where economic development is often hardest to come by.

Farmers, processors, shop owners and even delivery drivers now face sudden unemployment.

Alabama's Legislature moved swiftly, with little notice or public input. For a state that has long championed "limited government" and "pro-business" policy, this feels more like government overreach than principled governance.

The contradiction is glaring: in the same breath lawmakers celebrate job growth, they kill off an entire sector overnight.

The same leaders who say the State should stay out of your business are now, literally, getting into your business — and locking the door behind them.

Rage will not fix this. Riots and outrage won't lead to better laws — they'll only breed division.

If residents want change, they must do more than protest. They must organize. Register to vote. Call their lawmakers. Demand regulations, not bans. Push for oversight, not criminalization.

And to our leaders: regulation is not weakness. It's wisdom. It's time Alabama stops confusing control with progress. There is still a path forward — but only if we choose to take it.

Timeline: From legalization to criminalization

- 2018 - Federal Farm Bill legalizes hemp nationally
- 2019 - Alabama launches regulated hemp program and 10% excise tax
- 2019–2024 - Market grows steadily, generating tens of millions in taxable revenue
- May 14, 2025 - Governor Ivey signs HB 445 into law, banning smokables and redefining hemp-derived THC
- July 1, 2025 - New restrictions take effect statewide
- Jan. 1, 2026 - Full regulatory compliance required, including licenses and packaging

BOOK REVIEW

'Nightshade' by Michael Connelly

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

This is a new series for Michael Connelly. His previous series were about Los Angeles Police Detective Harry Bosch and the Lincoln Lawyer, his half-brother Mickey Haller. Connelly has a relatively new series about Renee Ballard. The Harry Bosch series has 24 novels and the Lincoln Lawyer series has six books. Yes, I have read them all. His other series about Renee Ballard has four novels. Unfortunately, I have not been a fan of this character. Connelly has also written a series of three books about Jack McEvoy and three books about Terry McCaleb, which I enjoyed.

This story takes place on Catalina Island just off the coast of Los Angeles. Detective Sergeant Stilwell has been banished to this island for police misfits. Stilwell had a murder investigation that went sideways partly due to fellow detective Ahearn, who cut corners on the case. Ahearn receives a warning, but Stilwell is banished. Turns out Catalina is a great fit for Stilwell. He also has a budding romantic interest in Tasha, the island's harbormaster.

Stilwell usually sees petty thefts and drunk and disorderlies. Most of his deputies are inept, which lends a little humor to a serious situation. First, there is a bizarre crime of the beheading of a buffalo in a protected park. Second, a valuable black jade marlin statue is stolen from the very exclusive Black Jade Marlin Yacht Club. Third, a woman's body is found in a bag that is held down with an anchor near the harbor. Her only identifying feature is a streak of purple dye in her hair. Soon, the detectives refer to her as Nightshade.

Stilwell is content with letting LAPD handle the investigation until he learns the lead detective is Ahearn! Stilwell is ordered to assist his nemesis. He follows orders until he realizes Ahearn is cutting corners and jumping to conclusions again. Stilwell defies his orders and begins to investigate the murder, along with his cases of the tortured buffalo and missing statue. He begins to discover peaceful Catalina is full of secrets and criminals. "Nightshade" is a fast-paced novel that is filled with twists and surprises that guarantee to keep the reader guessing. Stilwell is a likable character. I am pretty sure there will be more novels in this series.

Find out more about Michael Connelly and his novels at www.michaelconnelly.com.

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LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-015

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JAMES BRIAN CORDES and TERRI NORENE CORDES.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: RICHARD E. DEMLOW, whose whereabouts and location are unknown and to any UNKNOWN FATHER of G.M.G., DOB 04/03/2012

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of G.M.G., a minor child born April 3, 2012, to Rebecca Louise Allen Demlow was filed on the 21st day of May, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners James Brian Cordes and Terri Norene Cordes. 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 3rd day of June, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HENRY CURTIS VICKERS (deceased) — **PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, AL Case No. PC-2025-205**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to ANNE LOUISE VICKERS HUDSON as Personal Representative of the Estate of HENRY CURTIS VICKERS deceased, on the 2nd day of July 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.

Anne Louise Vickers Hudson
Personal Representative

Ginger H. Knight
Attorney for Personal Representative
Stonebridge Law Group
5184 Caldwell Mill Road
Suite 204 – Box #299
Hoover, Alabama 35244

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 2nd day of July, 2025.

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

Legal Notice

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: PARKER JETT, A Minor Child. * **CASE NO. JU-2025-000300.01**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NICOLE JETT, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Verified Petition to Terminate Parental Rights filed by Austin Jett and/or other relief by \0l-Ll0\0-aB ..... \0\0-5---------- ' or, thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against her in regard to case nl,lmber JU-2025-000300.01, Juvenile Court of Cullman County.

Done this the\0day ofq IJMl... ,2026.

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 18 2025
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

-/;Jcf ,
RK OF JUVENILE COURT

JERRY L. KILGO
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
413 FIRST AVENUE SW
CULLMAN, AL. 35055

TO PUBLISHER: PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE, BEGINNING: <, 1at d5°

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF: ANNA BROOKE COX & KALIE MARIE COX — **CASE NUMBER: AD2024-052**

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PETITION

TO: DANIEL WARD, ALLEGED FATHER AND ANY OTHER UNKNOWN FATHER OF A MINOR CHILD K.S.R., BORN AUGUST 29, 2019 TO DEBRA WARD

DEBRA WARD, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER OF A MINOR CHILD K.S.R., BORN AUGUST 29, 2019

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Anna Brooke Cox and Kali Marie Cox, 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, 200 2nd Avenue S.W., Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this 18th day of June, 2025.

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

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Avenue Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256-246-9600

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

South Dakota is amazing

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Continued from www.cullmantribune.com/2025/06/29/column-we-made-it-to-rapid-city-but-not-rapidly

After a few hours of sleep in Rapid City, we began our journey at the drug store... Wall Drug Store. Wall Drug is more akin to a shopping mall for tourist than a drugstore, but it began as a drugstore back in 1931. There is a drugstore still in there...somewhere. If you've ever traveled out West, you've seen the billboards advertising Wall Drug. They would give Alexander Shunnarah a run for his money with their number of billboards. Wall Drug sells most anything you might need, including prescription drugs, and a whole lot of what you may not need, but hey, you're on vacation. One of the cafes in the store sells a pretty good buffalo burger and not so good onion rings.

I suspect what has made them such a draw is location, location, location. Yes, it is located in the middle of nowhere, but one of the main entrances to the Badlands is across the street. Before you take off across the Badlands on a horse with no name, or in a car with no gas, you'll need to stop at the drug store for necessities you really don't really need. If you want a baseball cap with "The Badlands" written across its front, they have those too... and, so do I.

With a tank full of gas and my belly full of buffalo burgers, like the tourists we were, I pulled on my new cap and we hit the loop. The loop, also known as Highway 240, is 39 miles of two-lane blacktop highway that runs between Wall and Cactus Flats, South Dakota. It is 39 miles of some of the most unusual but beautiful countryside you'll ever see. The town on the other end may be called Cactus Flats but not much in between there is flat. I pulled up to the entrance gate into the park, whipped out my America the Beautiful National Parks Senior Adult Pass and drove in like we owned the place. Well, actually we do, all of us American citizens do.

Just inside the gate stood a herd of buffaloes waiting to greet us. When I saw the size of those big boys, I hoped they didn't know what I had just eaten for lunch! The road through the park is filled with walking trails and pullouts overlooking majestic, rugged rock pinnacles and buttes. The mountains look more like sand dunes than rocks. The God-made colors of nature there are amazing! They look like stacked white sand but with stipes of red, brown and bright yellow that appear to have been skillfully painted. They reminded me of that sand art in a bottle but without the bottle. They look like God has poured out a little of one color and then another as he alternated the colors and the thickness of the stripes. Some of the mountains are tall and narrow while some are shorter but broader, and they continue one after the other as far as the eye can see. All of that is below the most beautiful azure-blue sky that stretches out forever.

We finished the day in Mitchell, South Dakota, where we toured the world's only Corn Palace. The Corn Palace is more than 100 years old. The Palace is redecorated every year with naturally colored corn. The cobbs are cut in half and strategically fastened to the exterior and interior walls to create beautiful murals. Our timing was just right to see some of the annual work being done. On our way out we enjoyed a bag of freshly popped popcorn... it was all one color! Then, we were on the road again!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: July 5, 1956

From the files of July 5, 1956

Etha Community News
Miss Betty Barronton and Mrs. J. D. Burns and Cynthia are guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barronton.

Mr. and Mrs. Verbon Sparks and baby of Birmingham were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Evaughn Sparks.

Mrs. Odie McKinney was called to Franklin County last week because of the death of her father, H. B. Bolten.

Lawrence and Roger Calvert of Crane Hill are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Willard Calvert.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bell announce the birth of a son, at Cullman Hospital June 27, whom they named Roy Junior.

Sgt. and Mrs. Alvin Phillips are guests of their parents, Rev. and Mrs. D. H. Phillips.

Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Holden were Mr. and Mrs. Harvin McKinney.

Mrs. Cora Adams is ill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. G. Johnston.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnston were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Strickland at Fairview.

Mrs. Charlotte Keller was Sunday guests of her mother, Mrs. T. C. Talley.

Pet Show Scheduled At Park Playground
Rain during the last week knocked out many games of croquet, volleyball, horseshoe, and other games, but quite a few came to the playgrounds between showers. The attendance at the City Park and West Elementary playgrounds have been increasing each day. Many boys and girls are enjoying the many activities offered at City Park while the boys are enjoying baseball at the West Elementary playground.

The doll show at City Park last Friday afternoon was a big success. The following children won ribbons on their dolls: the largest doll, Patty Simmons; the smallest doll, Patsy Umphry; the prettiest doll, Charolette Mayer; the funniest doll, largest doll family, doll representing country farthest away, best home made doll, and most patrotic doll Louise Hackworth; best animal doll, David Patterson; and best baby doll, Sara Stanford.

The following won in the athletic contest: badminton, Michael Sutton, Brenda Schuman, Neal Rowell; croquet, Leslie Kelly, Joe Hugh Yates and Steve Danker; horseshoe, Paul Patterson, Joe Hugh Yates; box hockey, Neal Rowell, Leslie Kelly; checkers, Neal Rowell.

The special event for this week July 6, will be a pet show. The pets will be judged on the following: largest pet, smallest pet, ugliest pet, prettiest pet, most unusual pet, best trained pet, the pet that can do the most number of tricks, best dressed pet, funniest dressed pet, and largest number of pets.

Parents and visitors are always welcome to visit the parks.

Early Cullman Settler Dies
Conrad Graf, 87, died Monday July 2 at the Falkville nursing home after many years of ill health.

One of Cullman's early settlers, Mr. Graf was born in Buffalo, N. Y. and was a barber in Cullman for 40 years prior to his retirement 35 years ago. Some three years ago the Grafs had celebrated their Golden Wedding.

Funeral services were held at the Graf residence at 2 p. m. on July 4 with the Rev. F. J. Mehrtens officiating.

Mr. Graf was a member of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Surviving are his widow; one daughter, Miss Kathleen Graf of Montgomery; two sons, Elmer Graf of New York City, and Raymond Graf of Cullman; six grandchildren, one sister, Miss Mary Graf and two brothers Dr. Charlie Graf of Hanceville and George Graf.

Two Injured By Lightning
Two people at Fairview were injured by lightning on Monday.

Mrs. Grady Causey was hit by lightning at her home about 11 A. M. Her brother-in-law, who gave her artificial respiration until a doctor arrived, is credited with saving her life. She was brought to Cullman Hospital and remained there under an oxygen tent for 24 hours.

Also hit by lightning the same day was Lavon Hardin, 9, of Fairview. His uncle, Henry Benefield, with whom Lavon makes his home brought him to the hospital here where he, too, remained under an oxygen tent until Tuesday noon.



POET'S CORNER

'God Bless America' (chorus) | By: Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

God Bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a
light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America,
My home sweet home.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JULY 5

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
H A B G T W I C E N S C U H L G Z
B U G N R E V O L T T B S N N L S
N I C E A A E G C H R I O I W T T
E M O T I O N A L E N U O O S A A
F P A W G I M K P U P T L E T N L
I O O S H B H O P P E D V E R B L
T R U T T E R J I V A R U J R I O
C T O E E P R Z E P A N I C I T S
D Q O W N T R T H H O P S Z K T S
I S S U E E A H N O X I W S O E U
R A M O D L R R O A M L T E C N R
T I P L R S M O L D S E X I S T E
C L O A K E O W L S S S S V E D O

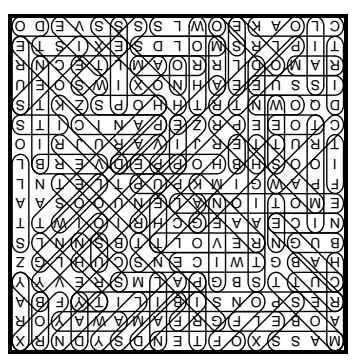
Acts
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Ate
Away
Ax
Bad
Be
Bitten
Boot
Bug
By
Cage
Cloak
Crow
Cry
Cut
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Dirt
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Giant
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Glue
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Molds
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Older
Only
Ore
Owls
Own
Pad
Palms
Panic
Pie
Piles
Poet
Proper
Punish
Ram
Rank
Revolt
Roam
Rob
Rub
Ruler
Sail
Sets
Sex
So
Stall
Stew
Sun
Sure
Tan
Tell
The
Thing
Throw
Tie
Toe
Trip
Twice
Up
Us
Verb
Vetoing
We
X-ray
Zip
Zone

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JULY 5

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

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





THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Snead's Farmhouse at the downtown library

Camille Gibbs
camille@cullmantribune.com

Judy Snead and her animals from Snead's Farmhouse in Vinemont turned the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System into a farm party on June 30.

Snead, who founded the farm after moving to Cullman, threw a dance party, read her book and introduced her animals to a large crowd of children.

Guests learned about and played with Queso the tortoise and two rabbits.

Snead encouraged audience participation and answered any questions about the animals.

Snead's Farmhouse is dedicated to the encouragement and education of the next generation.

The farm offers field trips, tours and school and library programs to create harmony between people and animals.



CAMILLE GIBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Wallace State hosting self-defense course for health care personnel

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College will host a self-defense course geared toward medical personnel on Saturday, July 12, from noon-2 p.m. at the Wellness Center.

The free training event will be presented by Gentle Solutions and will focus on staying safe in the workplace.

Topics to be covered include:

- Situational awareness and de-escalation tactics
- Tactics for making clear decisions under stress
- Optimal angles for approaching potentially aggressive patients
- Protection and prevention from striking
- Grip breaking and disengaging strategies

Instructors for the July 12 event will be Gentle Solutions Co-founders Daniel O'Brien, Chris Thrasher and Matt Blankensopp.

Both Thrasher and Blankensopp are graduates of Wallace State.

Blankensopp was named a Nightingale Award winner when he graduated from the WSCC Nursing program in August 2023.

All three men have martial arts training and black belts in multiple disciplines.

Blankensopp is a critical care nurse at UAB and worked previously as a paramedic. Thrasher is a SWAT operator with the Birmingham Police Department.

O'Brien is the owner and head instructor of three successful grappling academies.

For more information about the workshop or Gentle Solutions, contact Matt Blankensopp at 205-243-3785 or matt@gentlesolutionstraining.com.

Dobson (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Conservative Attorney Caroleene Dobson recently announced her candidacy for secretary of state in the 2026 Republican Primary.

Below is Dobson's announcement.

"As Secretary of State, I will reduce fees on Alabama businesses, streamline services for the public, and I will never back down from the liberal activist groups who want to undermine the security of our elections," said Dobson.

A native of Beatrice, Dobson was born and raised on her family's farm in Monroe County.

She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College and graduated from the Baylor University School of Law.

Currently, Dobson is a shareholder at Maynard Nexsen, specializing in natural resources, commercial finance, and real estate law in Montgomery.

"As a mother, I understand that without secure elections, my daughters won't grow up in the same country that I did," said Dobson. "In Alabama, we have great laws on the books, but there is always room to improve the enforcement of those laws."

Dobson has pledged to replicate the Florida Election Crimes and Division model in Alabama, saying, "Alabama has some of the finest law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the nation. I want to enhance their ability to bring cases by having a dedicated team of election experts who can investigate voter fraud claims proactively on the ground."

Dobson continued, "On the national level, I will advocate for President Trump's commonsense election reforms. I will also leverage my legal experience to fight back against out-of-state activists who are constantly attempting to use the courts to undermine our election security measures."

If elected, Dobson has pledged to prioritize election security enforcement, make our state the national leader in business incorporation, reduce fees on businesses and entrepreneurs, and pass statewide post-election audit legislation.

"Small businesses, farmers, truck drivers, and others depend on timely and efficient services to put food on their families' tables," said Dobson.

"I am committed to ensuring same-day business services so Alabama's economy can thrive, and I have also pledged to reduce fees on businesses looking to operate in our state."

Dobson concluded, "I want to collaborate with legislators, cabinet members, business leaders, or anyone else who wants to make Alabama the number one destination for businesses looking to incorporate. We need to be innovative about building a more prosperous future for our state."

For more information on the campaign, visit www.dobsonforalabama.com or follow the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

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

Martin (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

ENTERPRISE, Ala. — Chad "Chig" Martin is running as a Democrat for Alabama governor in 2026.

Below is his announcement.

Chad "Chig" Martin wears many hats as an Alabama entrepreneur, but felt inspired to throw another into the 2026 Alabama Gubernatorial race, igniting a profound grassroots campaign. Martin was born, raised, and decided to stay in Enterprise, AL. He founded Thunder Industrial Supply Company and established the first hemp dispensary in Alabama, Honeysuckle Hemp Company in Dothan. He is the innovative thinker Alabama needs to positively progress our state.

What he refers to as "The Citizen's Driven Movement" has grown rapidly to 28,000 followers. His years of experience in business creation and management can help elevate Alabama's job market and ultimately overall quality of life for ALL Alabamians. He is running on decriminalizing natural medicines in light of the recent HB445 passing, placing harder restrictions on those looking for alternative medications.

He believes in expanding Medicaid, and enhancing our health care industry by incorporating natural medicinal options. By creating health hubs in rural areas Alabama can provide preventive care options to alleviate emergency room overcrowding and under funding. This includes working to accept naturopathic practitioners and natural medicinal options under insurance providers. Alabamians should be afforded the freedom to choose their quality of care.

By investing in infrastructure for roadways, broadband, and waste water management, he believes Alabama can revitalize our Agricultural industries and enable remote Alabamians an opportunity to expand Agritourism efforts and boost their local economies. Recruiting high tech industries that invest back into our communities will provide stability and economic growth for generations to come. He strongly believes in being proactive about drawing in beneficial business opportunities. His focus is on sustainable industry growth that creates long lasting careers, paying livable wages with maintainable benefits, and respectable retirement packages. He plans on making an investment in Alabama's Black Belt Region with infrastructure improvements on roads and bridges. He will recruit new industry and have complimentary trade school platforms in place to help create long term employment solutions for the area.

His desire is to keep "Alabama the Beautiful" by strengthening and enforcing dumping and pollution regulations. Providing adequate funding to our state regulatory agencies, as well as working with private companies and nonprofits, can enable better monitoring and mitigate our pollution as well as monitor our wildlife. His desire is to integrate an affordable statewide Spay & Neuter program to help alleviate overpopulation.

Creating an Education lottery in Alabama is essential to affording our students opportunities in early childhood education, assistance with scholarships, and technical career training. His desire is to focus efforts in adult career training offering remote work opportunities for rural areas to increase economic development. Martin proposes four gaming entertainment zones throughout the state with the goal of every Alabamian living no more than two hours away. These zones will include both family friendly and adult aged resorts that feature water and amusement parks, professional daycare services, world class plays and musicals, concerts, entertainers and the arts in general. This provides gainful employment for our citizens, creates tax revenue for the state and affords Alabamians a realistic opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

Mr. Martin will be traveling the state hosting in person Meet & Greets where voters are welcome to ask questions as well as present solutions to issues their community faces. You can connect with him directly on Facebook at Chad Chig Martin for Governor 2026 where he hosts live Q & A's or Follow his "EVENTS" page on his website ChadChigMartin.com to see when he will be in your area.

- July 15 - Huntsville @ Big Springs Park
- July 22 - Gadsden @ Fairfield Inn & Suites
- July 24 - Birmingham @ Homewood Public Library
- Aug. 11-13 - Tour the Black Belt starting @ Selma High School
- Aug. 19 - Cullman @ Fairfield Inn & Suites
- Aug. 20 - The Shoals @ Alabama Music Hall of Fame

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