

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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WORKING FOR YOU!



SENATOR
GARLAN GUDGER
PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
314 2ND AVE. SE, CULLMAN 35055

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Jason Heath Birmingham, Yvonne Marilyn Gentry, Roy Payton Burroughs, Thomas Wayne Hampton, Kenneth George Doedtman, Deborah Burgess Crawford, Jerry Dale Burgess, Marvin Eugene Pounders, Carolyn Gail Barbee, Dale Douglas Parris, Regina Allaine Ryan

» PAGE 7

WEATHER

47 37

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

CHANCE RAIN/FREEZING RAIN THEN SLIGHT CHANCE SHOWERS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 2



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman City Schools honored with Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction Awards

» PAGE 5

Cullman Senior Center in need of volunteers

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Senior Center is searching for local volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors in Cullman.

Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA) Director Stephanie Lawson said they serve hot meals daily, Monday- Friday, from 10 a.m.-noon.

"Delivering these meals is so much more than just a hot nutritious meal," she said. "For many homebound individuals, our volunteers are the only connection they have. Maybe you can't commit to helping every day, but one day a week also makes a difference. The need is growing and every volunteer can be a part of making an impact in our community."

Lawson said they cannot serve the homebound without the help of volunteers willing to give their time.

"Individuals, church groups, business, let's talk," Lawson said. "We have several routes open. We have other centers throughout the county who are always in need of volunteers as well."

To be a driver you must have your own transportation, and mileage reimbursement is optional.

The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. For more information, call 256-734- » PAGE 6

Fairview High FCCLA students advocate on Capitol Hill



WHITNEY HAYNES

Faith Freeman and Lola Kate Haynes attended FCCLA's Capitol Leadership in Washington, D.C., held Nov. 15-19, 2025.

Staff Reports
Contributor

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Students from Fairview High School attended FCCLA's Capitol Leadership in Washington, D.C., held Nov. 15-19, 2025. The five-day event brought together youth leaders from across the country for immersive training in advocacy, civic engagement and leadership development.

Attending on behalf of the chapter were Faith Freeman, 10th grade, chapter officer – vice president of STAR EVENTS; Lola Kate Haynes, ninth grade, chapter officer – vice president of community service; and Whitney Haynes, adviser.

At Capitol Leadership, students gained experience in advocacy and government relations, exploring how federal policies impact Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Funding; strategic planning, developing goals related to increasing student and community involvement and professionalism and communication, through hands-on activities such as leadership training and career panels. They also met with legislators, advocating for CTE and Carl Perkins Federal funding with their elected officials, including Sen. Katie Britt, R-Alabama; Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Alabama; staff of Rep. Barry Moore, R-Alabama; and staff of Rep. Terry Sewell, D-Alabama.

"This experience helped me become more confident in my ability to lead and speak up for what I care about. I'm so » PAGE 8

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Holly Pond's Allbright signs with Murray State



KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Lilly Allbright, Heath Allbright, Cade Allbright and BreAnn Allbright. » PAGE 4

Town of South Vinemont 4th annual Christmas in the Park Dec. 7

» PAGE 2

CCSO hosting rodeo sponsor dinner Dec. 9

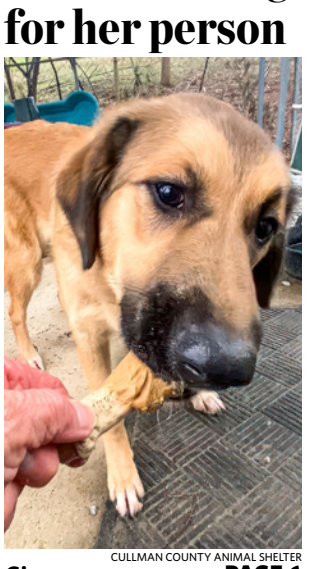
» PAGE 8

Ivey announces CHOOSE Act family applications for 2026-2027 school year

» PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Gina, a gentle soul searching for her person



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Gina » PAGE 6



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 3

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 1

• theft of services-1st degree; person; cash
• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $9; Olive St. SW
• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $108; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Dec. 1-2

Pierce, Geoffrey S.; 54
• possession of controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Richter, Shellie M.; 46
• theft of property-4th degree

Young, Bimmy L.; 49
• theft of property-4th degree

Pike, Justin K.; 36
• possession of controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Hernandez, Omar B.; 32
• FTA – driving without license
• FTA – speeding

Jones, Billy J.; 46
• theft of property-1st degree
• identity theft

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Vinemont (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Town of South Vinemont will host its fourth annual Christmas in the Park on Sunday, Dec. 7, welcoming the community for an evening packed full of Christmas cheer at the South Vinemont Walking Trail and Art Park. The event will take place from 4-6 p.m. and is free to the public.

Guests can enjoy visits with Santa Claus, complimentary cookies and hot chocolate and plenty of photo opportunities throughout the decorated park. The Town encourages attendees to bring their families, stroll the Tinsel Trail on display and take in the seasonal lights and decorations that transform the park during the Christmas season.

Town Clerk Kayecea Sasser said she looks forward to the event each year because of the joy and sense of unity it brings to South Vinemont.

"I'm excited for Christmas in the Park because it's more than just lights and music; it's a chance for our small town to come together, share smiles and make memories that last long after the season ends," Sasser said. "My hope is that everyone who comes leaves with a little more joy in their heart, a stronger sense of connection and the reminder that we're all part of something special here at home in South Vinemont."

For more information, contact the Town of South Vinemont at 256-737-5411 or info@townofsouthvinemont.com.

The park is located at 88 Ridgeway Street, Cullman, AL 35058.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Poetry of Recovery: Recovery Support Group
Every Saturday at 10 a.m. at 514 Cleveland Ave. SW in Cullman. Facebook/The Poetry of Recovery. Contact Jeff at 727-542-6413 or John at 256-636-0612.

Cullman County Historical Society Meetings
We meet the fourth Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. at the Cullman County Museum. Each meeting features a specific program or speaker. Join us!

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.

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.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Friday, Dec. 5 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, Dec. 6 – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Kids Loving Kids Christmas Giveaway
• Sunday, Dec. 7 – 9 a.m. Van runs in 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. 2 p.m. prayer service

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.

Cullman County Public Library – Main Branch
• The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman.
• Monday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. Cookies with Santa
• Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Claus will lead storytime

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville
• Families are invited to join us for fun at the library! Library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5p.m., closed from noon-1 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly event details.
• Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon. Cullman County Christmas Parade. Come see our float – new this year!
• Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. Agriplex – The Sweet Smells of Christmas, an evergreen program
• Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. Christmas dinner. Everyone bring a food dish. New Hanceville Mayor Paul Campbell will join us!
• Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Santa and author Dorenda Doyle ("The Kid and the Dog"). Take your picture with Mrs. Santa. Dorenda Doyle is an literacy advocate and writes an award-winning children's book series. She is an energetic, entertaining and enthusiastic author who goes the extra mile. Dorenda brings books to life through her engaging and interactive presentations. She has 30-plus years as an educator and curriculum writer. She motivates children to love to read and write!
• Wednesday, Dec. 24. The library will be closed. The staff wishes you all a Merry, Peaceful Christmas.
• Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Thursday, Jan. 1. The library will be closed.
• Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 20 and Feb. 3, 17, from 11 a.m.-noon New! Want to learn Spanish? This language has become the second language in America. Add this very easy language to your skills. Ms. Alejandra Pena has been teaching Spanish for over 16 years. She can teach to all ages. If you want to brush up on this language before college, sign up for the class, too. Call 256-352-0685 to sign up. This is a free class.

North Alabama Agriplex Programs
• www.agriplex.org
• Thursday, Dec. 4, 9-11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Elementary - Winter Wonderland Terrarium. In this hands-on workshop, you'll combine creativity and nature to construct your own enchanting miniature landscape with fun seasonal elements. $15 fee/max $30 per family.
• Thursday, Dec. 4, noon-2 p.m., Heritage Homeschool Secondary - Keepsake Resin Ornaments. In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to create personalized ornaments that preserve something special to you! Bring a treasure, all other supplies provided. $20 per person.
• Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m., Living Landscapes - Wreath- Make and Take. Make your own reusable grapevine wreath using Cullman County grapevine. Decorate your base with native greenery and nature's bounty for a stunning holiday garland. $35 per person.
• Friday, Dec. 12, 10-11 a.m., Little Farmers - The Hat. Jan Brett is a renowned author/illustrator whose books have been loved by many for decades. Each month, we will center our storytime, stations, craft and snack around a different Jan Brett book. $8 per child, max $16 per family.
• Saturday, Dec. 13, 9-10:30 a.m., Farm Kids Club - Cozy Craft & Cookie Decorating. Settle in, craft up something cozy, then try your hand at Christmas cookie decorating. Take home treats and a few new skills. $20 per person.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
Through Dec. 23 | Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. | Sundays, noon- 8 p.m. | Open seven days a week beginning Dec. 11 | Admission: Free | www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com

7th Annual Christmas at the Grotto
Dec. 4-7, Dec. 11-23 | 11 a.m.- 9 p.m., Thursday-Saturday and noon-8 p.m., Sundays; lights on at 5 p.m. | Ave Maria Grotto | Admission: Adults $12 | Seniors $10 | Military/first responders $9 | Teens (13–17) $10 | Kids (5–12) $9 | Kids 4 and younger FREE | Wagon rides (Dec. 12-13 only) $5. Don't miss the Grotto's BIG weekend Dec. 12-13! Live music, food trucks, horse-drawn wagon rides and Santa!

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
Dec. 4-7, Dec. 10-23, Dec. 26-28 (Christmas lights only), 5-9 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park. Admission is $10 per car and $20 per bus. Enjoy a drive-through Christmas light display. Santa will be here, and there will be horse and carriage rides on select nights and we will have our magical Christmas Train rides!

Town of West Point Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 5. Event starts at 5:30 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:30 at West Point Town Hall. The West Point High School Jazz Band will perform, as will Santa and Mrs. Claus. Letters to Santa. Free cookies, candy and hot chocolate.

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 7-10 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center. Plates are donation only. All proceeds assist Santa with Christmas. Pancakes, bacon/sausage. Dine-in plates include a drink.

Cullman VFW and Auxiliary Post 2214 Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Cullman VFW. Join Santa for breakfast. Get a picture with Santa. Kids get a present from Santa. Craft. Free and open to public. RSVP with age/gender of each child attending by Dec. 2 at Gina.Adams78@gmail.com.

36th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon. Route: Michele Street and U.S. Highway 31 South to Park Street, ending at Veterans Park. Admission: Free. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the holiday spirit as floats, bands and community groups fill the streets with Christmas cheer! Presented by the Hanceville Civitan Club.

Baileyton Senior Center Community Christmas
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 5:30-8 p.m. Everyone welcome! Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, sno-cones and drinks. Free picture with Santa! Each child will receive a candy bag and a gift.

Baldwin Heights Baptist Church Warm Clothing Giveaway
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. The church is located at 2489 U.S. Highway 278 West in the Baldwin community, which is about 2 miles from Cullman.

Town of South Vinemont Christmas in the Park
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4-6 p.m. at Vinemont Walking Trail/Art Park. Santa Claus, cookies and hot chocolate.

Curt's Closet Christmas Open House
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4-6 p.m. at Curt's Closet. Enjoy a cozy cup of cocoa, fresh cookies and a picture with Santa while soaking in the holiday spirit. This is also a special opportunity to step behind the scenes at Curt's Closet...We can't wait to celebrate with our friends, neighbors and community members while sharing the heart of Curt's Closet this Christmas season.

NARFE December Meeting
The December meeting of the Cullman Chapter of NARFE, for all active and retired federal employees and spouses, is Monday, Dec. 8, at Freddie Day Catering. The program will be a game of dirty Santa. Suggested gift price $15. Dutch lunch at 11 a.m. prior to program at noon.

Christmas on the Corner Family Meal
Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6-7:30 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church. Free, family-style Christmas meal and celebration hosted at St. John's in partnership with The Link of Cullman County. The St. John's team is preparing a lush Christmas meal of roasted pork loin, roasted potatoes, green beans and rolls with PLENTY of desserts and treats! Please join us for Christmas caroling, treats, a Christmas reading and a visit from Old Saint Nick himself! Toys will be provided for all children age 12 and younger. Seating is limited and you MUST RSVP. Stop by The Link or call 256-775-0028 to reserve your spot. We can't wait to ring in the Christmas season with you!

Pancakes with Santa at Winston County Rescue
Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8-10 a.m. at the Winston County Rescue, 236 County Road 77, Arley. Bring the whole family out for a morning of holiday cheer, delicious pancakes and photos with Santa! $5 donation per plate — all proceeds support our EMS operations. Enjoy a hot breakfast, meet our crews and let the kids share their Christmas wishes with Santa himself. We can't wait to see you there!

Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park
Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Route: Good Hope High School to Municipal Park. Admission: Free. Christmas in the Park will follow immediately after the parade. This year's theme is "Country Christmas."

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Christmas Singing
Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. with The Kellys from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1863 or 256-590-1501. Everyone is invited.

Vinemont Community Lunch for Seniors
Monday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. 55 and older. Come join us! We will be having a pie/cake contest; bring your best holiday pie/cake for a chance to win a $25 Walmart gift card. Hope to see you all there, and Happy Holidays.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Senior Christmas Party
Tuesday, Dec. 16. Doors open at 9 a.m. Event starts at 10 at the Cullman OmniPlex. We're inviting all Cullman County seniors (ages 55+) to come celebrate the season with music, door prizes, food, laughter and holiday cheer. This year's celebration will be brighter, jollier and more joyful than ever – you won't want to miss it! | Reserve your spot by Dec. 4, by calling 256-734-1241.

JOB OPENING

The Soil and Water Conservation District

Assistant District Administrative Coordinator/Assistant Education Coordinator

Job requirements:

- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills, with the ability to create and deliver presentations.
- Must have experience in computers and programs: Microsoft Word, Excel, QuickBooks, Access, PowerPoint, Canva, and others.
- Must have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or GED. College degrees and Agriculture experience are highly valuable.
- Full time with salary to be negotiable based on experience.

Send resume to: Kathy Holmes, kholmes@ cullmanswcd.com

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SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
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PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Broncos, Broncos sweep Locust Fork at home

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Broncos hosted the Locust Fork Hornets in a pair of area games on Tuesday night. In the varsity girls' game, the Lady Broncos trailed by 10 early in the third quarter, but they came back and ended up knocking off the Lady Hornets, 45-42. In the varsity boys' game, Holly Pond trailed by 10 at the half, but they outscored Locust Fork, 29-14, in the second half en route to a 50-45 win over the Hornets.

Holly Pond 45 - Locust Fork 42 (Varsity Girls)
Milly Huddleston drilled a trey from the left corner to put Holly Pond on the scoreboard first, then later on, Madison Butts found Sadie Nail down low for a basket to give the Lady Broncos an early 5-0 lead. Locust Fork, though, scored the next six points to take a 6-5 lead and later added a floater to make it an 8-6 game going into the second period. Ava Thomas nailed a jumper from the free-throw line to tie things up at eight early in the second. The Lady Hornets went on a 6-0 run to take a 14-8 lead, but another basket by Thomas made it 14-10. Huddleston hit her second three of the game to trim the deficit to three at 16-13. Locust Fork hit a floater and a long jumper to stretch their lead to 20-13, but a driving layup by Maggie Nail and a trey from the left wing by Thomas cut it to 20-18. The Lady Hornets knocked down a long-range shot just before the buzzer to put them up, 23-18, at the half.

Five quick points by Locust Fork made it a 28-18 game early in the third period. Thomas knocked down a pair of free throws, and a rebound and putback by Huddleston cut it to 28-22. A Lady Hornet trey put them up, 31-22. Holly Pond came roaring back into the game. Huddleston hit of her own from long-range on the other end, and Butts collected a steal and laid it up and in to make it a 31-27 game with 2:37 remaining in the third quarter. Later on in the quarter, Thomas put in a reverse layup, and Sadie Nail nailed a pair from the line to keep it at a four-point game at 35-31 going into the final quarter.

A rebound and putback by Sadie Nail cut it to 35-33, then later on that quarter, Thomas drained a three from the right wing to make it a 37-36 game. Sadie Nail put in another basket down low, and Thomas continued her red-hot shooting from deep, as her trey gave the Lady Broncos a 41-37 lead with 3:25 remaining in the contest. Locust Fork knocked down a three on the other end to cut it to 41-40, but a basket down low by Huddleston put Holly Pond ahead, 43-40. A Lady Hornet basket trimmed it to one at 43-42, but Thomas and Butts split their free throws to make it 45-42 with less than a minute to go in the game. Holly Pond came up with a couple of huge defensive stops to help seal their 45-42 win over Locust Fork.

Thomas led the way for the Lady Broncos with 18 points. Huddleston added 13 points, and Sadie Nail collected nine points.

Holly Pond 50 - Locust Fork 45 (Varsity Boys)
Cade Allbright scored the first five points of the game for Holly Pond, as that gave them an early 5-4 lead. Five straight points by Locust Fork gave them a 9-5 lead. A rebound and putback by Asher Thrift cut it to 11-9, but another run by the Hornets helped stretched their lead to 14-9. Cash Huddleston scored down low late in the first quarter to trim it to three at 14-11 going into the second quarter.

Locust Fork quickly widened their lead to 20-11 early in the second. Meighton McParlin drilled a trey from the left wing to cut it to 20-14. A pair of baskets on the other end by the Hornets made it 24-14, and they would stretch their lead to 29-15 late in the second quarter. Ty Dunn buried a trey from the left corner to make it a 29-18 game, then Thrift scored through a foul and finished the three-point play at the free-throw line to make it a 29-21 contest. A late basket by Locust Fork gave them a 31-21 lead at the half.

Allbright started the second half on fire, as he scored the first seven points of the third quarter for the Broncos to cut it to 33-28. The Hornets hit a pair from the line to give them a 35-28 lead. Allbright split his free throws to make it a six-point game, then after Thrift got fouled, a technical foul was called on Locust Fork. Thrift ended up hitting all four of his free throws to cut it to 35-33, then his driving layup tied it up at 35 late in the third quarter. Thrift's heroics were far from over, though, as he nailed a short jumper just before the buzzer to give Holly Pond a 37-36 lead going into the fourth quarter.

A basket down low by Allbright and a pair of free throws by Thrift gave the Broncos a 41-38 lead, but the Hornets scored on a pair of baskets on the other end to get the lead right back at 42-41. Huddleston found a cutting Dunn over the middle for a layup, and Dunn got fouled on the play. He ended up hitting the free throw to put Holly Pond ahead, 44-42, with 3:27 remaining in the contest. Allbright put in a huge driving layup to give the Broncos a 46-42 lead with a little over two minutes to go in the game. A trey by Locust Fork cut it to 46-45, but free throws by Allbright, Fox Westall and Huddleston helped put the finishing touches on a 50-45 win for Holly Pond.

Allbright finished with 18 points for the Broncos. Thrift collected 15 points, and Dunn put in six points.

Holly Pond will travel to take on Good Hope Friday night.

Alabama football inks 20 players on first day of early signing period

Alex Thompson
UA Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama football announced the addition of 20 student-athletes to its 2026 recruiting class on Wednesday, the first day of the early signing period.

The newest group of signees come from nine states - Georgia (7), Alabama (6) and one apiece from California, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio and Utah.

Listed by position, the Crimson Tide added to its roster - five defensive lineman, four offensive linemen, four defensive backs, two quarterbacks, two linebackers and one apiece at running back, tight end and wide receiver.

Among the 20 players added during the early signing period are:

- 4 signees that are five-star prospects by at least one major outlet (Ezavier Crowell, Jorden Edmonds, Jireh Edwards and Xavier Griffin) and 13 players that are four-star recruits by at least one of the following: 247Sports, 247Composite, Rivals.com, Rivals Consensus and/or ESPN.com
- 10 newcomers that were ranked in the top 150 of the ESPN300: Ezavier Crowell, Jorden Edmonds, Jireh Edwards, Zyan Gibson, Xavier Griffin, Jamarion Matthews, Cederian Morgan, Mack Sutter, Jett Thomalla, Nolan Wilson
- 14 players who were listed on the Rivals300: Chris Booker, Ezavier Crowell, Jared Doughty, Jorden Edmonds, Jireh Edwards, Zyan Gibson, Xavier Griffin, Kamhariyan Johnson, Tayden Kaawa, Jamarion Matthews, Cederian Morgan, Mack Sutter, Jett Thomalla, Nolan Wilson
- 10 players in the Top247: Ezavier Crowell, Jorden Edmonds, Jireh Edwards, Zyan Gibson, Xavier Griffin, Jamarion Matthews, Cederian Morgan, Mack Sutter, Jett Thomalla, Nolan Wilson



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama signed 20 players on the first day of the early signing period.

Allbright (from Front)

Katie Drummond
katie@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond's Cade Allbright on Wednesday, Dec. 3, signed his National Letter of Intent to continue his athletic career at Murray State University as part of the Murray State Racers football program.

A signing ceremony was held at the school, with officials noting, "We have only had two football players to sign D1, and the other was in 1989."

Murray State University is located in Murray, Kentucky.



KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Lilly Allbright, Heath Allbright, Cade Allbright and BreAnn Allbright.



Cullman City Schools honored with Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction Awards

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools has seen its guidance counseling programs honored among the best in the state this past year, with several schools receiving the Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction Award.

Cullman High School, Cullman Middle School, West Elementary School and Cullman City Primary School were all honored with the prestigious award for this past school year.

The Alabama School Counseling Program of Distinction recognizes school counseling programs that demonstrate an exemplary level of implementation of a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program.

It examines eight components that align with the Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Model for Alabama Public Schools (State Plan) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model.

"This incredible achievement reflects years of commitment, teamwork and passion in creating a school counseling program that truly supports our students," Cullman High School Principal Allison Tuggle said.

"We take immense pride in the remarkable efforts of our dedicated staff, who continually uplift our students, families and community. Together, we're building a brighter future!"

Cullman City Primary School Principal Elizabeth Shaddix added that this recognition highlights the comprehensive work and meaningful impact that our school counseling program has within the school.

"The program is focused on meeting student needs through data-driven practices.

"This is especially important, as our students have a wide variety of needs, and I am proud that this model has been implemented and recognized," Shaddix said.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Pictured left to right are Tonya McCravy (central office), Allison Tuggle (CHS), Jill Bishop-Hollis (CHS), Shannon Dutton (CHS), Kristen Gragg (CHS), Christy Free (CCPS), Savanna Ponder (CMS), Ashley Vaughn (WES) and Lindsay Brannon (central office).

"Mrs. Christy Free does an outstanding job supporting the diverse range of students and age groups at CCPS. We are grateful for the thoughtful and dedicated way she has implemented this model in our school. It is a privilege to work with her, and our students benefit greatly from her knowledge and expertise."

Eve Brantley named director of Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Staff Reports
Contributor

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn University has named Eve Brantley as the 1862 Extension director for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, effective Jan. 1, 2026, Auburn President Christopher B. Roberts announced Dec. 3.

The appointment follows years of Brantley's leadership within Alabama Extension, where she has served in roles ranging from multi-county agent to associate director. She also served as director of Auburn's Water Resources Center and has been a long-standing member of the faculty in the College of Agriculture's Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences.

President Roberts said Brantley's leadership reflects Auburn's dedication to community impact and the university's land-grant mission.

"Dr. Brantley has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving Alabama communities through research, education and collaboration," Roberts said. "Her ability to bring people together around science-based solutions and her deep understanding of Extension's statewide role will help advance the work of our land-grant mission and support the citizens who rely on Extension every day. I would also like to thank Dr. Mike Phillips for his years of impactful service as the 1862 Extension director for Auburn University. I am confident that Dr. Brantley and ACES can build upon this foundation to create an even brighter future for the constituents we serve."

Steve Taylor, Auburn's senior vice president for research and economic development, said Brantley's experience will strengthen the university's extension enterprise.

"I am confident that Dr. Brantley's expertise, professional integrity and dedication to public service will greatly benefit our university and the Alabama constituencies we serve," Taylor said. "Her background aligns with the position's charge to provide innovative leadership, advance applied scholarship and deliver high-impact outreach across rural, urban and suburban communities."

As the 1862 Extension director, Brantley will serve as the chief administrative officer for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, which is administrated jointly by Auburn and Alabama A&M. She will provide vision and leadership that support the system's long-standing tradition of excellence in education, applied research, service and statewide outreach. She will report directly to Auburn President Roberts in collaboration with Alabama A&M University President Daniel K. Wims and will work in joint leadership with the 1890 Extension administrator at Alabama A&M.

In this role, Brantley will guide more than 700 faculty and staff across both campuses and in all 67 Alabama counties. She will oversee strategic planning, statewide programming and partnership development with public and private organizations that support Extension's work across Alabama.

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve the university and the people of Alabama," Brantley said.

"Our Extension professionals do outstanding work every day to improve quality of life for Alabama communities. I look forward to strengthening the connection between Extension and the university's academic enterprise, including supporting faculty in their efforts to translate research into practical solutions for Alabama residents, creating opportunities for student learning and ensuring that our extension efforts reinforce the teaching and research missions of the institution."



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn University has named Eve Brantley as the 1862 Extension director for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, effective Jan. 1, 2026.

Brantley brings a distinguished record of leadership, collaboration and community engagement. Her career spans more than two decades of Extension work, including service as a professor and Extension specialist focused on water resources, stormwater management and watershed stewardship. Brantley provided leadership on irrigation watershed planning for Alabama farmers and the agriculture industry. She has coordinated more than 200 watershed and stormwater management workshops, supported the installation of demonstration practices statewide and enhanced miles of stream habitat. She has trained thousands of natural resource professionals through hands-on programs that support the needs of Alabama communities.

Her professional experience also includes service as an Extension educator with Auburn's Marine Extension and Research Center and work with the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Brantley holds a doctorate from Auburn University, a master's degree from Clemson University and a bachelor's degree from Berry College.

Wallace State celebrates industry partners, student success

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Center for Career and Workforce Development celebrated its successes by showing appreciation to the people who have worked with its programs to provide training and education to more than 7,000 area residents in the last year.

"The purpose of this evening is simple yet powerful — to recognize the vital role our industry partners play in shaping opportunities for students and driving workforce development in our region," said Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics. "Your collaboration helps us to prepare the next generation of skilled professionals, and for that we are deeply grateful."

"It's an honor to stand before a room filled with partners who help make our mission possible," Christina Holmes, director of career services and work-based learning. "Today is about appreciation, genuine appreciation for the industries that invest in our students and in our campus community. Your support goes far beyond hosting interns or offering training. You provide scholarships that open doors for students who might not participate otherwise and gives them a chance to pursue their goals.

"Every interaction you have with our students, whether in your workplace or here at Wallace State, creates a ripple effect of encouragement and opportunity. Because of your partnership, our students don't just learn about careers, they get to experience them. They gain confidence, direction and a clear sense of what is possible. You help build that bridge from the classroom to their future, and for that we are deeply grateful."

The event featured awards recognizing outstanding industry partnerships and student achievements.

Employer of the Year
Y-Tec Keylex Toyotetsu Alabama (YKTA) was named the Employer of the Year for going "above and beyond in their support of work-based learning and student success."

Holmes said YKTA has set a high standard as an industry partner by providing mentorship, hands-on training, scholarship support and ongoing engagement with the campus.

Work-Based Learning Students of the Year
Nursing student Pamela Tidmore and Mechatronics student Mindy Ditzler were each recognized as a Work-Based Learning Student of the Year for showing exceptional professionalism, growth and dedication in their experiences.

"These individuals embraced every opportunity, contributed meaningfully to their employers and represented Wallace State with excellence," Holmes said.

Tidmore serves as the class president for the May 2026 cohort and is a Registered Nurse Apprentice at UAB Hospital.

"This student is a pure joy," said Natalie Fortson, director of nursing network and outreach at UAB Hospital. "Her passion for patient care shines so brightly and everyone she touches can see it immediately."

Ditzler is an NCAL FAME AMT student and employed by Mazda Toyota Manufacturing. She is described as a hard worker who can be counted on to help wherever she can and who seeks out learning opportunities.

"This student has shown us that success in the technical field is not just about mastering tools, codes or machines. It's about curiosity, perseverance and the courage to solve problems that others might shy away from," said Tony Elkins, Ditzler's mentor Mazda Toyota Manufacturing.

Special recognition
Dale Greer, director of the City of Cullman Economic Development Agency, was recognized as a visionary leader for fostering partnerships that connect education, industry and community growth.

"Dale's relationship with Wallace State has been marked by collaboration and innovation," Karolewics continued. "His efforts have opened doors for our students and programs, ensuring that Wallace State remains at the forefront of workforce development. Through his guidance, we have forged impactful connections with companies...creating opportunities for internships, careers and cutting-edge training. His commitment to aligning education with industry needs has strengthened our ability to prepare graduates for high-demand fields while supporting the vitality of our region.

"Dale Greer's legacy is one of vision, collaboration and progress," Karolewics added. "His work has not only advanced Wallace State's mission but has also enriched the lives of countless students and strengthened the fabric of our community."

Program updates
The event also highlighted the Powerful Partnership program, designed to create meaningful connections benefitting students, employers and the community. In the last year, 25 partners have joined the program, surpassing their initial goal of 10. The Powerful Partnership program is a free program that offer benefits that include tuition discounts for employees and their families, complimentary credit evaluations, free meeting space each semester, increased visibility and networking opportunities, and a voice on college advisory boards that help shape programs. Other benefits include alumni memberships, discounted event sponsorships and access to Athens State University's Learning Partnership Program.

Another update provided information on the impact of the Center for Career and Workforce Development regarding student participation and increasing involvement in industry partners. A total of 6,994 students and 341 business and industries were served in the last year. Work-based learning students accounted for 2,577, or 35%, of those served, with the WSCC Testing Center serving 1,881, or 26%.

Looking ahead, the program expects to grow with the addition of more staff, the launch of a more user-friendly website, stackable workforce credits that can lead to students taking college courses, new community education courses and expanding grant funding.

For more information about Wallace State's Center for Career and Workforce Development, visit www.wallacestate.edu/ccwd, call 256-352-7450/7451 or email workforce@wallacestate.edu.

Gina (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Sweet, soft-hearted Gina is a shepherd and hound mix who is about 2 years old. She's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, and she carries the kind of quiet presence that stays with you long after you've met her.

Her medium energy and calm nature shine through in every moment, especially when she takes one of her favorite treats – a peanut butter biscuit – gently from your hand.

Gina's soulful eyes tell you everything about her temperament. She is unassuming, attentive and loyal in that old-fashioned way.

If you need a hand getting up from the ground, she will ease close with a steadying stance. If you need company, she settles in with the softness of a dog who understands people.

Her remarkable behavior makes her a strong candidate for therapy work or a steady companion on hikes and quiet days at home.

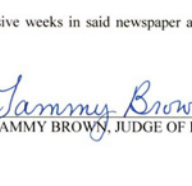
Gina's adoption fee is $130, which covers her spay procedure, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchipping and basic preventive care provided by the shelter.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. And if Gina happens to be adopted by the time you visit the shelter, don't hesitate to look around. She has many friends who are also hoping for a forever family to walk through the door and choose them.

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

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256-352-2221

Volunteers (from Front)

0145.

According to the COA's website:
"Hot meals are served daily, Monday through Friday (except holidays), at the seven Commission on Aging full-time senior centers. This includes Colony, Crane Hill, Cullman, Fairview, Hanceville, Holly Pond, and West Point.

"There is no charge for the meal, however a donation is appreciated and goes back into the meals program.

"Hot meals are delivered to the homes of homebound senior citizens in the service area of the seven senior centers listed above for those that meet guideline requirements.

"You must be 60 years of age or older to qualify for homebound meals.

"Meals for seniors are provided with funds from Alabama Department of Senior Services and the Cullman County Commission, donations from businesses, churches and individuals, NARCOG, and United Way of Cullman. You must be 60 years of age or older to attend full time centers or to qualify for homebound meals. For more information contact: Laurie Knight at (256) 734-1241, or lknight@co.cullman.al.us"

Learn more about the COA and its services at https://co.cullman.al.us/coa/index.html.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
ROBERT LEWIS HOLDER,) Case No.: PC-2025-348
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to BRIDGET HOLDER, on the 14th day of November, 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.

BRIDGET HOLDER
Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert Lewis Holder
Shelbie G. Hankey, Attorney for the Estate

To the publisher of *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*:

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

ALLISON MARIE GRAVES, PLAINTIFF,
VS. CASE NO.: DR-2025-403.00
JOHN HADEN WILSON, DEFENDANT.

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

John Haden Wilson, Defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Allison Marie Graves' Complaint for Divorce by January 5th, 2026 or thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case No.: DR-2025-403.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 4th day of November, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on March 21, 2002 by Phillip Ashley, a single man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in MTG Book 1238, Page 285, and modified on November 14, 2003 by Phillip Ashley, a single man, to EvaBank, which said Modification of Mortgage is recorded in MTG Book 1723, Page 328 and modified on January 5, 2016 by Phillip Ashley and wife Stephanie Ashley , to EvaBank which said Modification of Mortgage is recorded on in MTG Book 1778, Page 258 all recorded in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on December 19, 2025:

The E ½ of that portion of the E ½ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 17, T9S, R2W, lying and being South of the Goldridge Road; being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 17, T9S, R2W, thence North along the said section line to the South margin of the Goldridge Road; thence West along the South margin of the said Goldridge Road for a distance of 350 feet; thence South parallel with the East boundary of the land herein described to a point 330 feet due West of the P.O.B.; thence East to the P.O.B.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave.
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

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1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
PATRICIA ANN RICH, * CASE NO. PC2025-411
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL (SELF-PROVED WILL)

TO: LESLIE ALLISON LINDSEY, SCOTT RUSSELL, AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF PATRICIA ANN RICH, DECEASED.

Petition for Probate of Will (Self-Proved Will), filed the 31st day of October, 2025, made Court record the 3rd day of November, 2025, by Sherry H. Barrett, Attorney for Petitioner, Jimmy O'Neal Thomas, has been scheduled for the **8th day of January, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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 18th day of November, 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Sherry H. Barrett
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
RICHARD MONROE HOLCOMBE, * CASE NO. PC2025-400
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL (SELF-PROVED WILL)

TO: LORI DENISE HOLCOMBE HUNTER, AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF RICHARD MONROE HOLCOMBE, DECEASED.

Petition for Probate of Will (Self-Proved Will), filed the 30th day of October, 2025, made Court record the 31st day of October, 2025, by Steven C. Smith, Attorney for Petitioner, Richard Warren Holcombe, has been scheduled for the **8th day of January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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 18th day of November, 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.

Attorney for Petitioner:
Steven C. Smith
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

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1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
BENNIE DALE STRONG * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
DECEASED. * CASE NO.: PC2025-324

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Phyllis Marshall Simmons, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Bennie Dale Strong, Deceased, on the 11 day of July, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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

Phyllis Marshall Simmons
Personal Representative of the Estate of
Bennie Dale Strong, deceased

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3342

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, Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
ROBERT MATTHEW LEWIS, * **CASE NO. PC2025-272**
An Alleged Incapacitated Person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
EMERGENCY PETITION For PROTECTIVE SERVICES and/or PLACEMENT and APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN (and a CONSERVATOR if NECESSARY), AMENDED PETITION for PROTECTIVE SERVICES and/or PLACEMENT and APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN (and a CONSERVATOR if NECESSARY), NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE OF SERVICE

TO: GWENNA DILBECK AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Please take notice that an *Emergency Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary), Amended Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary)* has been filed by Susan Cupps, Cullman County Department of Human Resources through Attorney Diane. L. Dunning. A hearing on said *Emergency Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary), Amended Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary)* has been **rescheduled for the 21st day of January 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
Judge Of Probate Office
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 2nd day of December, 2025.

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

Dianne L. Dunning
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources

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1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL JOHN R. COOPER, DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Plaintiffs,
v. CASE NO PC 2025-308
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF E. HOMER DAVIS; DOLLY R. DAVIS; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L., VINTSON; CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE; BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER; ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID: 23-01-11-0-001-017.003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA;
Defendants.

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION, AMENDED PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION and AMENDED PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION

TO: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF E. HOMER DAVIS, DOLLY R. DAVIS, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L. VINTSON, CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE, BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER, OR ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL IS: 23-01-11-1-001-017-003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation, Amended Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation and Amended Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation filed by the State of Alabama Ex Rel John R. Cooper, Director of the of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Plaintiff, through Attorney, John E. Rollins. A hearing is re-scheduled on this matter for the **7th day of January, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear at which time they or any other parties interested in said cause may appear and contest the same if they think proper. Please note that an answer may be filed by each defendant within 30 days from the date of the last publication notice.

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

Done this the 24th day of November, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

TAMMY WHITLOCK,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2025-000391.00**

COREY WIilTLOCK,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Corey Whitlock, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Tammy Whitlock's Complaint for Divorce by January 5th, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DRw2025-000391.OO in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 28th day of October, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER:
TAMMY WHITLOCK
576 COUNTY ROAD 1555
BAILEYTON, AL 35019

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 2-3

Jason Heath Birmingham, 56
Jason Heath Birmingham, born on March 28, 1969, passed away on November 28, 2025. Jason was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a proud grandfather whose presence brought warmth, strength, and kindness to all who knew him. He is survived by his beloved wife, Krista D. Birmingham, his son Benjamin E. Birmingham, and his daughter Kirsten S. P. Stout and her husband Sam Stout. Jason was also a cherished grandfather to his two grandsons, Spencer L. Stout and Bellamy W. Stout, who brought immense joy and light into his life. Jason will be remembered for his big heart, steady guidance, and the unwavering love he had for his family. His legacy lives on in the lessons he taught, the memories he created, and the lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Yvonne Marilyn Gentry, 90
A memorial service for Yvonne Marilyn McAfee Gentry, 90, of Logan will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Harmony Baptist Church, Cody Wheeler officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Gentry passed away Monday, December 1, 2025, at Cullman Regional Hospital. She was born October 11, 1935, to Robert A. and Chelsie Williams McAfee. She loved to read her Bible, taught Sunday School and was Treasurer at church. She enjoyed listening to Charles Stanley and the Gaithers. She taught elementary school for 33 years. She loved cooking, loved her flowers, and spending time with her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Glenn Gentry; son, Mark Gentry; daughter-in-law, Cindy Lynn Hardesty Gentry. Survivors include her grandson, Sean McAfee Gentry and her sister, Melissa Ann McAfee Harbison. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Roy Payton Burroughs, 70
Mr. Roy Payton Burroughs, 70, of Falkville passed away December 1, 2025, at Falkville Health & Rehab. He was born December 3, 1954, to Robert Corbell & Elizabeth Adell Martin Burroughs. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Burroughs was preceded in death by his parent, and his wife, Phyllis Burroughs. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Melton (Terry Massey); step-son, Sean Welch (Lucie); sisters, Lucinda Faye Stroud (James), Regina Rabon (Michael); grandchildren, Jacob Melton, Savanna Massey, Ethan Massey, Grace & Jackson Welch, Abigail Welch, Zach Welch, Ella Welch; a host of family and friends. Mr. Burroughs was a missionary to the elderly and handicapped and had a nursing home ministry. He loved working in the church. He loved to fish and play card games with his family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Thomas Wayne Hampton, 61
Thomas Wayne Hampton, age 61 of Arab, passed away on Sunday, November 30, 2025. He was born August 19, 1964, to Thomas Afton Hampton and Vera Lillie Harrington Hampton. He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Camellia Hampton and Joyce Watts; brother, David Craig Hampton and a grandchild, Taylor Cade Hampton. Survivors include his son, Craig (Beth) Hampton; daughter, Sabrina Parker; grandchildren, Lyllie Hampton, GiAnna Hampton, Kadaaj Parker, Peyton Hampton and Kikyo Parker; brothers, Will Hampton (Tammy) and Bobby Hampton; sister, Sandra H. Roberts (Jerry) and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date TBA at First Baptist Church of Fairview.

Kenneth George Doedtman, 55
Kenneth George Doedtman, a beloved, gentle, and kind-hearted soul, passed away on November 29, 2025, at the age of 55. Born on September 2, 1970, Kenneth was a cherished resident of Fayetteville, Tennessee. He is survived by his loving sisters, Cynthia Perkins, Loretta Russell, Susan Roberts, and Donna Ray Sell, as well as his brother, Michael Doedtman, and step-sister, Dena Foster. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Nicholas and Ruth Doedtman, his brother, James Doedtman, and his sister, Judy Doedtman. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins who will fondly remember him. A visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, located at 1901 2nd Ave North West, Cullman, AL, on December 3, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Following the visitation, a Celebration of Life will take place at the same venue from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Kenneth's warmth and kindness touched the lives of all who knew him, and he will be dearly missed.

Deborah Burgess Crawford, 71
Funeral service for Deborah Burgess Crawford, 71, of Baileyton will be Thursday, December 4th, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in New Home Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11-1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Crawford passed away Monday, December 1, 2025, at her residence. She was born April 9, 1954, to Roy William & Mary Marie Peterson Burgess. She enjoyed sewing and making quilts and won several blue ribbons for her quilts. She had a green thumb and loved flowers and plants. She was a wonderful caregiver for her ladies. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Danny Burgess. Survivors include her husband, Paul Crawford; daughter, Michelle (Kenny) Eddleman; brothers, Billy (Brenda) Burgess, Dennis (Vicky) Burgess; sister, Brenda (Mike) Maynard; family and friends. Pallbearers will be Charlie Whitehead, Chris Crawford, Logan Crawford, Roger Landers, Bo Corbin, Roger Miller. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Jerry Dale Burgess, 78
Jerry Dale Burgess age 78 of Cullman, Alabama, passed away Monday December 1, 2025. He was born August 20, 1947, in Cullman, Alabama. Jerry is survived by his wife of 50 years Angela Burgess; daughters Kristie (Keith) Bush, Crystal (Heath) Sparks; sisters Lillie Tucker, Brenda (Charlie) Duke, Rita (Larry) Aker, and Patsy (Tim) Klein; brothers Jessie Burgess, Bobby Burgess, Donald (Elaine) Burgess, Joe (Linda) Burgess, and David (Vicki) Burgess; and grandchildren Gabriel, Peyton and Eli Burgess, Gavin and Wakely Bush, and Addy and Cooper Sparks. Jerry is preceded in death by his son Brian Heath Burgess; grandson Austin Gage Burgess; parents Grady and Alice Burgess; sisters Barbara Sandlin and Vera Campbell; and brothers Clarence Burgess and Rayburn Burgess. Jerry had been restoring old cars since he was a teenager. He was the proud owner of Burgess Body Shop for over 40 years. He enjoyed making his own wine and spending time listening to or playing guitar. He rarely went a day without music. Jerry was a devoted Alabama football fan. Above all, he cherished his family and friends. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. A celebration of life funeral service will be held Thursday December 4, 2025, at 2 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home chapel. The family will receive friends for a visitation from 12 p.m. until the service time at 2 p.m. with burial to follow at Cullman City Cemetery. James Fields Jr., Danny Buchanan and Tim Klein officiating. Keith Bush, Heath Sparks, Gavin Bush, Eli Burgess, Cooper Sparks, Will Buchanan and Frankie Buchanan will serve as pallbearers. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Marvin Eugene Pounders, 67
A Celebration of Life Service for Marvin Eugene Pounders, age 67 of Vinemont, will be Sunday, December 7, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel at 2 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Pounders passed away on Monday, December 1, 2025, at his residence. He was born, November 3, 1958, to Oneal Pounders and Earline Franks Pounders. He was preceded in death by his parents and 3 of his sisters. Survivors include his Theresa Sotelo his life partner of 23 years; daughters, Angie Russell (Jason) and Felicia Sotelo; son, Donny Farr; 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren; sisters, Marie Miles, Nelda Vidal, Jane Martinez, Shirley McDougal and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Carolyn Gail Barbee, 82
Funeral services for Carolyn Gail Barbee, 82, of Hayden will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Fairview West Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Barbee was born October 19, 1943, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Coy and Clara Campbell. She passed away December 1, 2025, in Cullman, Alabama. Carolyn passed away surrounded by the love of her family. She was a truly wonderful person whose warmth, kindness, and gentle spirit touched everyone who knew her. Carolyn cherished her family above all else, and being a mother and grandmother was one of her greatest joys. Her grandchildren held a special place in her heart, and she poured endless love, encouragement, and laughter into their lives. Carolyn will be remembered for her compassionate nature, her steady presence, and the way she made others feel valued and cared for. Her legacy lives on in the memories she created, the love she shared, and the family she adored. Mrs. Barbee is survived by her children, Tonya Hancock (Jeff), Charlotte Isbell, Michael Barbee; grandchildren, Stephanie Leach (Brian), Jessica Henderson (Jeremy), Pricilla Isbell, Justin Helms, Brittany Helms, Derrick Isbell, Shanna Alexander (Jonathan); and her brother, Troy J. Campbell (Wilma). Mrs. Barbee was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne H. Barbee; parents, Coy and Clara Campbell; and her sister, Brenda Watson. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Barbee family.

Dale Douglas Parris, 74
Dale Douglas Parris, 74, of Woodstock, Georgia (formerly of Cullman, Alabama), left this world far too soon on November 13, 2025, but not before living a big, bold, life that touched countless hearts and left everyone smiling through the tears. Born on December 10, 1950, in Cullman, Alabama, to Conrad and Rada Parris, Dale grew up the old-fashioned way—barefoot on a bustling family farm, one of ten children in a loud, loving clan that taught him early that family is everything. Even as a boy, Dale had a sparkle in his eye and a talent for finding (or creating) adventure wherever he went—a gift for good-natured mischief that never left him and kept life entertaining for everyone lucky enough to know him. When duty called, Dale answered proudly, serving in the United States Army with the legendary 61st Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam from March 1971 to March 1973. Following his Honorable discharge, Dale came home with an even deeper appreciation for the country and comrades he served alongside. The war left its scars, but it never dimmed his spirit or his legendary sense of humor and playfulness—traits that endeared him to everyone who knew him. Dale was a tender-hearted, modern-day Robin Hood who would always sacrifice to help others. Back on American soil, Dale turned his farm-boy work ethic and boundless energy into something extraordinary. He started his own construction and drywall business from scratch and, through sheer grit, vision, and a knack for building things right, grew it into one of the largest operations of its kind in the southeastern United States. He didn't just hang drywall—he built a legacy of quality, jobs for good people, and a reputation that opened doors across many states. Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Conrad and Rada Parris; and his siblings Loretta Parris, Gerald Parris, Randy Parris, and Janie Denney. He is survived by his devoted siblings: Juanita Vaughn (Bobby Ray), Wannis Parris (Jan), Ronald Parris (Charlotte), Betty Armstrong (Donald), and Myra Hunt, as well as a host of cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and extended family who will miss his stories, his warm-hearted nature, and his larger-than-life presence. Service of Remembrance A service honoring Dale's life and military service will be held at Flint Creek Baptist Church Cemetery at 3048 County Road 1354, Vinemont, Alabama on December 10, 2025, at 1 p.m. Dale lived life on his own terms—full rotor, full of laughter, and always ready for the next adventure. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Regina Allaine Ryan, 70
Regina Allaine Ryan age 70 of Vinemont, Alabama, passed away December 2, 2025. She was born November 12, 1955, in Huntsville Alabama. Regina is preceded in death by her father Ruben Allen "Pete" Ryan and mother Dorothy Mae Ryan. She is survived by her daughters Alicia Medina and Danielle (Amber) Bozeman; niece Ashely Wood; sister Rita French; and four grandchildren. Regina was an avid reader and enjoyed trips to the mountains. Her grandchildren were her whole world. Regina will be remembered as the most loving mother and Gigi anyone could ask for. There are no services to be announced at this time.

Moss Service Funeral Home
1901 Second Avenue Northwest
734-1821 Service You Can Count On

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Ivey announces CHOOSE Act family applications for 2026-2027 school year

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey on Tuesday announced The CHOOSE Act (Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education Act of 2024) family application portal access date information is available on the program's updated website at www.classwallet.com/alchoose, where Alabama families can prepare for the state's education savings account (ESA) program for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The website provides Alabama families with the latest information about the CHOOSE Act, including eligibility information, an online application for both renewing and new families, program FAQs, important deadlines and parent and education service provider (ESP) guides. The renewing family application portal for the 2026-2027 academic year will open on Dec. 15, 2025, and the new family application portal will open on Jan. 2, 2026. Both application portals close on March 31, with award notifications scheduled to be sent out on April 15, 2026.

"The CHOOSE Act is a great success for real Alabama families and our state's continued educational growth," said Ivey. "I am excited for even more Alabama parents to have a greater voice in their children's education, and I urge parents to apply and choose the education that best suits their children."

The CHOOSE Act makes refundable income tax credits, called ESAs, available to support the success of eligible K5-12 students across Alabama. An ESA can be used to pay for school tuition, tutoring, educational therapies and other qualified education expenses at approved ESPs.

Funding for eligible students includes:

- $7,000 per participating student enrolled in a participating school
- $2,000 per participating student who is participating in a home education program (this includes an individual or group program, homeschool, co-ops, etc. and is capped at $4,000 per family)

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the program is open to new families with an adjusted gross income (AGI) not exceeding 300% of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year. For the 2027-2028 academic year and beyond, the program is open to all families, regardless of income.

According to the governor's office, "The program will prioritize students with special needs, participating students and their siblings and students who are dependents of active-duty service members enrolled in or assigned to a priority school. Remaining ESAs will be available to students based on the family's AGI as a percentage of the federal poverty level."

For more information about CHOOSE Act Alabama, visit chooseact.alabama.gov.

Dinner (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office will host its annual rodeo sponsor dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 9, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Cotton Creek Warehouse in Cullman.

According to Sheriff Matt Gentry, the 2024 dinner had overwhelming success to say the least (more than 700 attended) and they are hoping for the same support in 2025.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of our sponsors for their support," Gentry said.

"It makes this rodeo possible year after year, and it's their commitment that helps keep Cullman County the special place we all love.

"By standing with the sheriff's office, they not only invest in public safety — they also make a real difference in the lives of our special needs programs and the families they serve across the county."

Gentry said he wants to thank everyone for believing in the community.

"Thank you for believing in our mission, and thank you for helping us continue traditions that bring us all together," Gentry said.

The Special Needs Rodeo is Thursday, Dec. 11, kicking off the weekend for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo Dec. 12-13.

Gates open at 5 p.m. both days, with the kids' scramble at 7, and the rodeo performance at 7:30.

Tickets are cash only at the door. Adults are $10; children/students $8; kids 6 and younger get in free. An ATM will be available onsite.

For more information about the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo, visit www.cullmansheriff.org/sheriffs-rodeo or www.facebook.com/cullman.sheriff.

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center is located at 17645 U.S. Highway 31.

FCCLA (from Front)

grateful to be part of an organization that allows me so many opportunities to truly grow and to be part of something bigger than myself," said Freeman. "I now understand how advocacy can create real change in our schools and communities."

In addition to their advocacy efforts, the students visited national landmarks such as the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the Library of Congress.

They connected with peers from 40-plus states and exchanged ideas on community service and promotion of CTE programs. The students plan to bring change back to the community of Fairview through chapter leadership and promotion of chapter projects and activities.



WHITNEY HAYNES





