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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Vinemont sweeps Hanceville at home

» PAGE 4

Shop with a Cop: 'What it's all about'

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department's longest running community policing event, Shop With a Cop, took place Saturday, Dec. 13. Officers took local children shopping for Christmas gifts at the south Cullman Walmart, thanks to generous donations from the community.

The annual event has been happening for more than a decade. This year, said CPD Public Relations Officer Adam Clark, they initially had 20 kids signed » PAGE 5

The Cullman Police Department's longest running community policing event, Shop With a Cop, took place Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. Officers took local children shopping for Christmas gifts at the south Cullman Walmart, thanks to generous donations from the community. Pictured is CPD Traffic Unit Officer Ryan Warren. »



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

'We shall remember'

Cullman honors veterans during Wreaths Across America ceremony



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A row of ceremonial wreaths rests at the headstones of many of Cullman's veterans.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — "Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach our children the value of freedom."

The Cullman community gathered Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Cullman City Cemetery for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony to reflect on that mission, joining thousands of locations nationwide in honoring fallen service members during the holiday season.

This year's ceremony marked a significant milestone for the local effort, with more than 1,400 wreaths sponsored, exceeding the goal by 12.8%, while also adding additional local cemetery sites who held their own Wreaths Across America ceremonies. Each sponsored wreath covered the » PAGE 6



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Raiden Day places a ceremonial wreath at the headstone of his great-great-grandfather, Carl Edgeworth, a U.S. Army World War II veteran.

Michael Golden
OWNER
GOLDEN TOUCH THE ONYX COLLECTION LUXURY SHOWERS
256-213-1852
MICHAEL@GOLDENTOUCHLUXURYSHOWERS.COM
216 2nd Ave. SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Cullman man killed in I-65 crash; multiple people injured

» PAGE 2

Cold Springs High FCCLA spreads holiday cheer



STEPHANIE BLAIR

2025 Christmas Angels buying gifts, left to right, were Baylee Perdue, Aiden Freeman, Maddie Davis, Kinsley Smith, Mimzy Mavers, Baylee Dye and Izzy Howell. » PAGE 8

Honey Baked Ham holds grand opening

» PAGE 3

West Point Scholars Bowl fundraiser to feature local musicians



LEE HENRY

Performing at the Jan. 17 fundraiser will be, from left to right, Tim Bolin (drums), Brady Smith (bass), Lee Henry (guitar), Eric Figueroa (guitar) and Sophie Henry (vocals, seated). » PAGE 2

Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 15

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 15, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 11

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 601
- giving false identity to avoid arrest; CR 504
- possession of controlled substance; Harmony Ln. SW
- violation of protection order; harassing communications; CR 1221
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1184
- domestic violence; CR 601
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91

Dec. 12

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Cemetery Rd.
- criminal mischief; CR 1141
- burglary; CR 1204
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 6200

Dec. 13

- possession of controlled substance; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; CR 1154
- theft of property; CR 1197
- theft of property; CR 616
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; CR 216
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 1693

Dec. 14

- trafficking drugs; possession of controlled substance; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Hwy. 69S
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1101
- assault; CR 747
- domestic violence; CR 813
- domestic violence; CR 700
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; Cherokee Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Dec. 11-14

Abercrombie, John P.; 43

- DUI (alcohol)

Armstrong, Jason E.; 50

- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – public intoxication

Baker, Joseph W.; 55

- Possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – open container-alcohol in a vehicle

Brown, Gregory G.; 56

- GJ – counterfeiting (2 counts)
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant (2 counts)

Chandler, Barry G.; 71

- DUI (alcohol)

Collins, Brenda D.; 44

- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia
- PROBATION VIOLATION – illegal possession of prescription drug
- PROBATION VIOLATION – buying/receiving stolen property

Collins, Charles G.; 64

- Assault-aggravated assault-non-family-knife

Crowell, Charles R.; 43

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Curvin, Meshach J.; 30

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- attempt to elude a police officer
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – failure to register vehicle
- FTA – failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA – driving without drivers license
- FTA – failure to signal
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Davidson, Cedric B.; 59

- negotiating worthless instrument

Douglas, Noah B.; 20

- minor in possession of alcohol

Frasier, William B.; 44

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Gilley, Christopher J.; 34

- theft-miscellaneous
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – drug trafficking
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- Using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution

Givens, Malynda J.; 55

- FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Hancock, Matthew J.; 36

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Helms, Konnor D.; 20

- minor in possession of alcohol

Johnson, William B.; 24

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Lynn, Alexis T.; 27

- possession of methamphetamine

Nash, Angela M.; 31

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine

Pamplin, Kevin T.; 42

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Perkins, Tracie R.; 52

- GJ – passing forged instrument

Smith, Jonathan K.; 51

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Taylor, Ian N.; 22

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Villa, Joseph S.; 54

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Weaver, Jason J.; 33

- possession of methamphetamine

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 9

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $50; Olive St. SW

Dec. 12

- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $54,450
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

Dec. 13

- harassing communications; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $110; Olive St. SW
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; Dripping Springs Apts.; damaged window; $75; Dripping Springs Rd. NW
- retail theft of property-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $2,240; Olive St. SW

Dec. 14

- unauthorized use of vehicle; person
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '09 Chev. Silverado & '23 Ford Bronco; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Dec. 12-14

Villa, Joseph S.; 54

- FTA – driving without license (5 counts)
- FTA – fail to register vehicle
- FTA – insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – improper muffler

Gilley, Christopher J.; 34

- FTA – unauthorized use of vehicle

Collins, Brenda D.; 44

- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Weaver, Jason J.; 33

- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Wright, Christopher S.; 49

- GJ – unlawful distribution of controlled substance (2 counts)

Gold, Thomas A.; 57

- certain person forbidden to possess pistol

Smith, Jonathan K.; 51

- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – obstructing governmental operations
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Reynolds, Jason L.; 45

- possession of controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Perkins, Tracie R.; 52

- theft of property-4th degree

Scott, Brittany M.; 42

- public intoxication

Curvin, Meshach J.; 30

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – attempt to elude
- FTA – assault-3rd degree
- FTA – criminal mischief-3rd degree
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while suspended

Perkins, Shellie R.; 51

- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- resisting arrest

Roper, Bethany K.; 41

- retail theft of property-2nd degree

Martin, Brent S.; 49

- public intoxication

Figureoa, Eric; 19

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Crash (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was killed in a two-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 2:10 p.m. Friday, Dec.12. Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Gregory B. Booker, 33.

Troopers said Booker was fatally injured when the 2005 Infiniti G35 he was a passenger in was struck by a 2006 Toyota Tundra driven by Richard L. Hand, 65, of Gardendale.

According to Troopers, Booker was not using a seat belt at the time of the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Hand was injured and transported to Cullman Regional for treatment.

Two juveniles, 17 and 15, both of Kimberly, who were passengers in the Toyota, were injured and transported to local hospitals for treatment.

The driver of the Infiniti, Connor D. Eaton, 24, and a passenger, Matthew Z. Ponder, 26, both of Cullman, were also injured and airlifted to UAB Hospital for treatment.

Neither Eaton nor Ponder were using their seat belts at the time of crash, Troopers said.

The crash occurred on Interstate 65 near County Road 222, approximately 1 mile north of Good Hope, in Cullman County.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

Fundraiser (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — The West Point High School Scholars Bowl Team will host a fundraiser on Saturday, Jan.17, in the school auditorium. The event will feature singer Sophie Henry, daughter of Scholars Bowl Coach Lee Henry, along with Eric Figueroa, Tim Bolin, Brady Smith and the coach himself.

The team won the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) Small School National Championship Tournament (SSNCT) in April in Chicago, and is looking to return this year to defend their title.

"Running a national championship-caliber program is expensive and unfortunately, scholars bowl is not really a revenue-producing activity like athletic sports are," Henry said. "We host tournaments and ask for donations throughout the year to help out. We generally need around $20,000 a year to cover our various entry fees in local, state and national events – as well as travel, lodging, food, practice materials, equipment, etc. We'd love to make at least $2,000 or $3,000 profit from this event."

Henry said the national tournament is April 24-26, 2026. With that, they decided to book a local band to help with the fundraising.

"Sophie, my daughter, became a professional singer in Nashville in 2022 at the age of 13," he said. "It was an unexpected, incredible whirlwind! Before she was 14, she was singing full four-hour shifts at Kid Rock's and Tootsies, among other famous venues on Lower Broadway. We were making the 2.5-hour drive back and forth almost every weekend, She performed under the stage name 'Raine,' which is her actual middle name. She got to perform at the Tootsie's Birthday Bash, where she got to open for acts like Oliver Anthony, Montgomery Gentry and others."

He continued, "Unfortunately, a change in policy made it where they would no longer allow anyone under 18 to perform at those establishments. She was a few months shy of 15 when that happened, but she didn't give up. She played in a local band for a couple of years. And when that ended, she decided to start her own band. She had become good friends with local drummer Timothy Bolin and bassist Brady Smith from a previous band. And she and Eric Figueroa – who is an amazing young guitarist – had wanted to work together for a while.

"And then she asked me if I wanted to play rhythm guitar in her band. I played in a rock band called Mother of Pearl many, many years ago. It meant the world to me that she asked me to do this. So, I decided to get on stage for the first time in almost 25 years. Playing guitar is NOT like riding a bike! I'm not nearly as good as I used to be, but we've got Eric to do the heavy lifting on guitar. But every time we're performing and I look over and see my daughter up there with me, it's an indescribable feeling."

The proud dad said Sophie Henry's first single was released in July.

"It's called 'Do You Even Know My Name?' It was recorded in Nashville at the studio of award-winning producer and musician John Willis," Henry said. "It is available on all streaming platforms. When I was trying to come up with unique ways to raise money for our scholars bowl team, I decided to try combining these two important endeavors. I wanted to give our community the opportunity to support our national champion academic team while ALSO supporting local musicians with a real shot of making it in the music business. At 17 years old, Sophie already has more professional experience than a lot of musicians twice her age. And I cannot overstate the talent of the other young musicians in the band. Tim Bolin is an incredible drummer. Brady Smith is a great bassist. And Eric Figueroa is well on his way to being a guitar virtuoso. The potential is there. We just need the community to step up and support us."

He's hoping for a big crowd at the show. The band will play a mix of rock and country hits, as well as a few originals, including the single "Do You Even Know My Name."

Tickets are $10 in advance and can be purchased from any West Point Scholars Bowl Team member or by emailing Lee Henry at thenry@ccboe.org.

Tickets will also be available at the door for $12. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7.

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Honey Baked Ham (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Honey Baked Ham held a grand opening event Saturday, Dec. 13, with the first 50 guests in line receiving free sandwiches for a year.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's Honey Baked Ham held a grand opening event Saturday, Dec. 13, with the first 50 guests in line receiving free sandwiches for a year.

Owner Andy Gaghagen said, "We had a great turnout this morning for the grand opening event. We are really excited to be here, and can't wait to be officially open to the public."

The store opened for business Nov. 17, with customers being served from an outdoor kiosk.

Gaghagen said the plan is to officially open to the public Wednesday, Dec. 17 – stay tuned for updates.

Honey Baked Ham is located at 1738 Second Ave. SW (U.S. Highway 31) next to Farmers Home Furniture.

In addition to the store's signature ham and turkey, Honey Baked Ham sells sandwiches, soups, salads, deli items, ribs, chicken salad, broccoli salad and more. Full-service catering and business gifting options are also available.

Cullman's 2,500-square-foot location will seat 16 guests inside and is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

Find out more at Facebook/Honeybaked Ham of Cullman, Al.

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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
• Wednesday, Dec. 17 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, Dec. 19 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, Dec. 20 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Dec. 21 – 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.

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.
• 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.
• Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Claus and author Dorenda Doyle ("The Kid and the Dog"). Take your picture with Mrs. Claus. 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.

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. 16-23 | 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

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
Dec. 16-23, 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!

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PREP SPORTS

Cold Springs' Swidecki stars as Eagles, West Point compete in Holiday Invitational

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Both West Point's and Cold Springs' track and field teams participated in the Holiday Invitational indoor competition at the Birmingham Crossplex on Saturday. The event featured teams from across the state, and had over 30 individual competitions take place.

Kicking off the early-morning event was the field competitions. West Point's Miles Fairchild improved on last week's performance, setting a personal season-high in the long jump with a distance of 17 feet plus 10 and a half inches.

Warriors' junior Hanna McKenney placed 22nd out of 58 entries in the girls' shot put competition, recording a distance of 26 feet and three inches.

Cold Springs' Mackenna Taylor came just six spots behind McKenney, placing 28th in girls' shot put with a 24 foot plus 10 and a half inch distance. In the pole vault, Eagles' junior Blake Belcher recorded a distance of just under 11 feet, and senior Claire Huffstutler went seven and a half feet.

On the track, Cold Springs' eighth grader Reese Swidecki came in 8th place out of 63 entries in the girls' 1600 meter run with a time of five minutes and 32 seconds.

Behind her, Eagles' Paizley Whitlow came in 17th, Claire Hancock placed 47th and Ally Mavers 52nd. In the boys' 1600m, West Point senior Jesus Tovar recorded his personal best time, placing 39th with a time of five minutes and 8.81 seconds.

Behind Tovar, Cold Springs' Garrett Scheer placed 41st, James Baggett in 68th and Easton Freeman 92nd.

Then, in the 3200 meter run, Eagles' Swidecki once again starred, coming in 2nd place among 16 entries with a time of 12 minutes and 18.05 seconds.

Whitlow also participated, and came in 5th with a time just 20 seconds over Swidecki's.

Cold Springs' girls were the only group to run in the 800 meter, with senior Macie Huffstutler placing 31st out of 83 entries to lead the team. Huffstutler's two minute and 46 second time was followed by Kynzlie Myrex, who placed 40th, then Hancock in 59th and Ally Mavers in 69th.

In the boys' 400 meter, West Point's Ray McKenney finished 32nd out of 100 runners with a time of 54.96 seconds. In the girls' 400m, Cold Springs' M. Huffstutler led the team again, placing 42nd out of 89 entries.

In relays, Cold Springs girls placed 5th out of 11 teams in the 4×800 meter, and 14th out of 17 in the 4×400 meter.

West Point's Rush Lamar participated in two solo events as well, finishing 10th out of 30 in the boys' 60 meter hurdle competition with a time of 9.35 seconds. Lamar also ran in the 60 meter run, and set a new personal best with a time of 7.58 seconds.

PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont sweeps Hanceville at home

Sammy Confer
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VINEMONT, Ala. — The Vinemont Eagles hosted the Hanceville Bulldogs in a county matchup on Friday night, and Vinemont came away with a 2-0 sweep. In the varsity girls' game it was a tight contest through three quarters, but Vinemont broke things wide open in the fourth, outscoring Hanceville 25-2 en route to a 60-37 rout of the Lady Bulldogs. In the varsity boys' game, the Eagles held the lead after one period and kept adding onto it, as they would go on to knock off the Bulldogs 68-55.

VINEMONT 60 – HANCEVILLE 37
(Varsity Girls)

Kerrigon Moore got Hanceville on the scoreboard first on a basket down low, but a pair of buckets on the other end by Vayda Yarbrough gave Vinemont an early 4-2 lead. Mattie Keith tied the game at four on a pair of free throws. Caroline Miller hit a pair of free throws, Arleigh Thomason split from the line and Reagan Robinson added a pair from the charity stripe to give the Lady Eagles a 9-4 lead. Robinson put in a driving layup to make it an 11-4 game, but Keith nailed a short jumper, and Alex Twitty added a basket down low to cut it to 13-8 late in the first period. Miller, though, drained a trey to put Vinemont ahead 16-8 going into the second quarter.

Keith buried a three, and Mckenzie Aaron added a short jumper to make it an 18-13 game. Later in the period Kynzlee Farr hit a tough basket in the paint, and a rebound and putback by Twitty cut it to 20-17. Another Vinemont player reached a career point milestone with 3:43 remaining in the first half, as Miller's first free throw put her at 1,000 points for her career. She ended up hitting the second one as well to give the Lady Eagles a 22-17 lead. Piper Butts knocked down a three to trim the Lady Bulldog deficit to just two at 22-20 late in the first half. Twitty hit a pair from the line, and Farr knocked down a short jumper to tie the game up at 24. Vinemont, though, broke the tie with an Addison Holcomb trey just before the buzzer sounded, as the Lady Eagles took a 27-24 lead into the locker room.

Moore and Twitty each knocked down a pair of free throws to give Hanceville their first lead since the start of the game at 28-27. Farr dropped in a floater, and Butts nailed a trey from the left corner to make it a 33-29 game late in the third quarter. Miller put in a three from the left wing to cut it to 34-32. Keith split from the free throw line to give the Lady Bulldogs a 35-32 lead, but Yarbrough scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to tie the game up at 35 going into the fourth quarter.

The Lady Eagles quickly broke the game wide open in the final period. Holcomb hit a basket down low, then Miller started getting red-hot from behind the three-point line, as she nailed a pair of treys to give Vinemont a 43-35 lead. Twitty hit a basket on the other end to cut it to 44-37, but that ended up being Hanceville's final basket of the game, as the Lady Eagles scored the final 16 points of the game. The Lady Eagles ended up defeating the Lady Bulldogs, 60-37.

Miller finished with 18 points for Vinemont (9-3). Holcomb ended up with 13 points. Yarbrough added 12 points, and Robinson collected 11 points. For Hanceville (4-6), Twitty finished with 11 points, and Keith put in eight points.

VINEMONT 68 – HANCEVILLE 53
(Varsity Boys)

Both teams hit a pair of baskets early in the opening period, then baskets down low by Will Conquest and Cheston Wilhite gave Vinemont an 8-4 lead. A steal and a floater by Nick Davis cut it to 8-6. Wilhite added another basket in the paint, then Preston Lee scored through a foul and completed the three-point play from the charity stripe to put the Eagles ahead, 13-6, going into the second quarter.

Hunter Black knocked down a pair of threes to cut it to 17-12, but Lee put in a pair of baskets down low to stretch Vinemont's lead to 21-12. Drake Bentley drilled a three, and Avery Carnathan knocked down a short jumper to make it a 21-17 game. The Eagles, though, finished the first half strong, as Bryson Bush collected a steal and a layup, Sam Marsh buried a three, then baskets by E.J. Sharpe and Gee Flores gave them a 30-19 lead going into the locker room.

Flores put in a driving layup, then Sharpe knocked down a short jumper to widen Vinemont's lead to 34-19 early in the third quarter. Sam Abney put in a floater to make it a 36-24 contest, but Sharpe knocked down a trey from the top of the key, and a steal and a layup by Bush stretch the Eagle lead to 39-24. Abney and Sharpe each knocked down a three to keep it at a 15-point game at 42-27. Abney drilled another long-range shot, and Bentley added a basket down low to cut it to 44-32, then later in the quarter, a trey by Bentley made it a 46-35 game. Colton Gillis and Wilhite scored the final eight points of the quarter for Vinemont, as that gave them a 54-35 lead going into the final quarter.

Bush scored through a foul and drilled the free throw to put the Eagles ahead, 57-35, early in the fourth. Bentley and Abney combined to go on a 11-2 run, as the Bulldogs swiveled the deficit to 13 at 59-46. Flores and Abney each knocked down a trey to keep it at a 13-point game at 62-49, then baskets by Tucker Mauter, Bush, and Wilhite made it a 68-49 contest. Vinemont would go on to knock off Hanceville, 68-55.

Bush led the way for the Eagles with 13 points, and Sharpe and Gillis each ended up with 10 points. For Hanceville (4-9), Bentley finished with 19 points, and Abney posted 15 points.

Vinemont will host Priceville next Monday night, and Hanceville will head home to take on Holly Pond in another county matchup next Tuesday night.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Vinemont's Caroline Miller shooting over a Hanceville defender

PREP BASKETBALL

West Point wins both matchups over Addison

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — 1A Addison hosted a double header against 5A West Point on Friday night and came out with two losses. The Addison's girls' varsity team played West Point's junior varsity team and came away with a 39-30 defeat. The Bulldogs' boys played 3 good periods but got boat raced in the last to come away with a 69-48 loss.

WEST POINT 39 – ADDISON 30
(Varsity Girls)

The first period started with both teams relying on their leading scorers. Addison's Ava Bartlett carried the Lady 'Dawgs early as she scored six of Addison's first nine points. Morgan Lee accounted for the other three with a deep ball. The game was a back-and-forth affair as each team exchanged baskets. Neither team could garner much of a lead, and West Point led 12-9 at the end of the first. West Point was led by Mary Beth Penn who had four points and five rebounds. Kennedy Pagan hit two three-pointers and had eight points in the period. You should get used to hearing the names Penn and Pagan, sounds like a law firm.

West Point started taking advantage of the young Bulldogs as the press defense forced numerous errors. Addison played solid defense as well, but could only muster four points in the second. The Lady Warriors managed 10 themselves and managed a comfortable 22-13 lead into the half. Lady Warrior Beckitt Nunnely hit a three and Penn tossed in four with three boards while Pagan grabbed three boards herself.

The young Bulldogs came out playing much better on both ends in the third, and won the period 14-9. Addison actually took the lead at 25-24 with 2:45 to go in the third. The Lady Warriors fought back and with Pagan and Nunnely hitting back-to-back threes and West Point led 31-27 going into the fourth period. Addison's Lee hit two three pointers while Kabri Dyson nailed a deep three as well.

The fourth period was not kind to the ladies from Addison as they could only muster a Dyson three for their only scoring in the period. West Point didn't blow the doors off the house either, but they did manage to drop in eight. Nunnely had four while Penn tossed in a three. The ladies from West Point came away with a solid 39-30 win.

Unofficial stats:
Addison was led in scoring by Bartlett with 11 points and nine rebounds. Lee had nine points with two boards. Dyson had six points. Emma Cleghorn had four points with five boards. Saibre Dover tallied five rebounds while Hadley Welch had three boards.

West Point was led in scoring by Penn, who recorded a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Pagan had 12 points with seven boards. Nunnely had 10 points with three boards and Mylee Echols had two points and three rebounds. Harper Jones had three rebounds.

WEST POINT 69 – ADDISON 48
(Varsity Boys)

The first period started out with both teams going toe-to-toe. West Point would score and then Addison would answer. It really was an exciting period. Little did the Addison crowd know that West Point had a young man that the Bulldogs had no answer for the entire night. His name was Chapman, Maddox Chapman, and he did whatever he wanted against the Bulldogs. Addison took the period 18-17 but it was a mirage. Addison's Elijah Roberts did his best to match up with Chapman, and had a heck of start. Roberts scored nine points and had four rebounds. Kiah Lake had four points and Joey Wilson drilled a deep trey. West Point on the other hand had Chapman with 12 points and two rebounds. Jaxson Shelton had five points.

The second period was one that Addison would like to forget. West Point ran over the 'Dawgs 16-2. The Warriors opened the period by scoring the first nine points to take a 26-18 lead. The Warriors had a Noah Franklin basket followed by two Chapman putbacks with a Kade Vincent trey for good measure. Addison's Roberts scored the lone Bulldog basket to end the run. The Warriors would finish out the period with another 7-0 run. This entailed a Ayden Ennis trey, free throws from Chapman and Shelton along with a Shelton jumper. West Point took a 33-20 lead into the half.

The third period was much of the same. West Point won the period outscoring the Dawgs 17-10. Addison's Roberts and Connor Lane each chipped in four points a piece for Addison.

Roberts also grabbed four more rebounds. Warrior Chapman threw in six points and four boards. Shelton had four points and Franklin three for West Point as well. West Point led 50-30 heading into the final frame.

Addison and West Point finished out the game with the Warriors taking the fourth 19-18. West Point came away with a resounding 69-48 win.

Chapman capped off his scoring night with nine points and four boards in the fourth. J.J. Minck put in five points. Addison was led by Wilson's five points and Roberts' four. Judah Wilkins and Major Snoddy each drained a three pointer for the Dawgs.

Quite simply, Addison couldn't match Chapman's presence inside and it was the difference in the game.

Unofficial stats:
Addison was led by Roberts, who's been a walking double-double this season. He had an outstanding game with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Wilson had eight points and two boards. Kiah Lake had six points and four rebounds. Scout Flynn had three points and two boards. Connor Lane had four points. Wilkins had three points and three boards. Snoddy had a trey and Joe Hacker had a basket.

West Point was led by Chapman, who had a game high 31 with 12 rebounds. Shelton had 15 points and three rebounds. Franklin had seven points and six rebounds. Minck and Vincent each had five points. Ennis had a trey, and Asa Sutter had two points and three rebounds.


BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
West Point's Ayden Ennis fights through Addison defenders.

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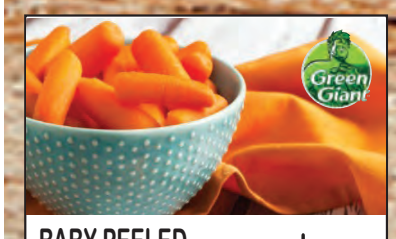


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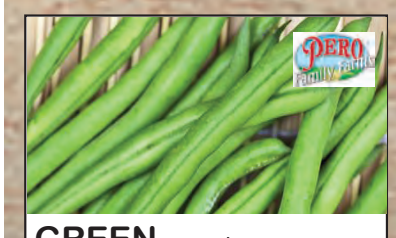
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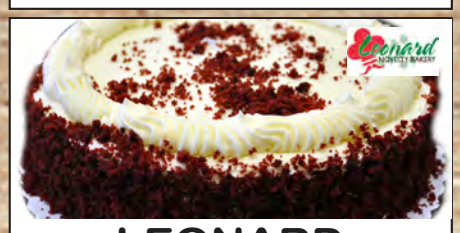
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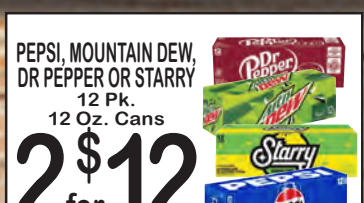
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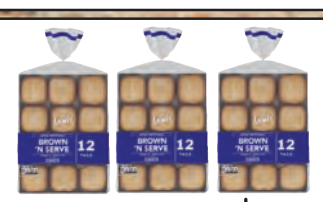
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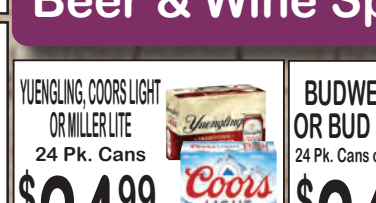


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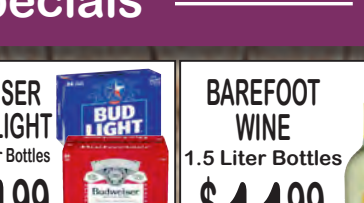


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or Vegetarian
69¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB CRANBERRY SAUCE
14 Oz.
Jellied or WholeBerry
2 for $3



LE SUEUR SWEET PEAS
15 Oz.
2 for $3



VEG•ALL VEGETABLES
29 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



ALLENS ITALIAN GREEN BEANS
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



FRENCH'S CRISPY FRIED ONIONS
6 Oz.
Original
$3.99 EA.



SUGARY SAM OR BRUCE'S YAMS
29 Oz.
2 for $5



IDAHOAN MASHED POTATOES
4 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



HEINZ HOME STYLE GRAVY
12 Oz. Jar
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



FOOD CLUB DELUXE MACARONI & CHEESE
14 Oz. Original or
12 Oz. Shells & Cheddar
2 for $4



STOVE TOP STUFFING MIX
6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



SWANSON BROTH
32 Oz.
Chicken or Beef
2 for $4



OCEAN SPRAY JUICE DRINKS
60-64 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



LIPTON DRY SOUP & DIP MIX
2 Pk.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



KRAFT MAYONNAISE
30 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.88 EA.



KRAFT SALAD DRESSING
16 Oz.
All Varieties
2 for $6



OSCAR MAYER REAL BACON BITS OR PIECES
2.8-3 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



FOOD CLUB RELISH
10 Oz.
Sweet or Dill
99¢ EA.



FAYGO SOFT DRINKS
12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans
Selected Varieties
3 for $12



CHINET PLATES OR BOWLS
24-70 Ct. Classic
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



THAT'S SMART! FOAM PLATES
30 Ct.
Selected Varieties
88¢ EA.



SIMPLY DONE PLASTIC CUPS
30 Ct., 18 Oz.
2 for $5



PIT BOSS HARDWOOD PELLETS
20 Lb. Bag
Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Studio space housing Split Tree Designs Hat Bar

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Split Tree Designs Hat Bar

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — What began as a personal project has grown into a full creative business for Stephanie King, owner of Split Tree Designs Hat Bar, a custom hat shop now operating inside Studio K and Co. in the Klein Building. If you're looking for the perfect statement piece to express yourself, support a local business and have a fun experience while doing so, the Hat Bar is the perfect place for you.

King said the idea for her business came about after she purchased a hat and was not satisfied with it. Eventually deciding to create her own, she soon began making hats for others, too. Early orders often included memorial pieces or personal elements, and the joy customers expressed motivated her to continue her creative journey.

Split Tree Designs gets its name from the view outside King's home workspace. "I sat at my big window, and at the end of our driveway, there was a tree that had split," she said. "I was always looking at that tree, so that's why I named it Split Tree Designs."

Balancing the business with her medical field job has been challenging. Her goal is to devote more time to the hat bar. She said her daughter offered her space in the salon, allowing the shop to grow.

King designs fully custom fedora and western-style hats, often incorporating unique materials and elements that make an impression and feel personalized. "This hat I'm currently wearing is made from my husband's blue jeans," she said, explaining that each creation can be personalized with charms, florals, chains, embellishments or even hand-burned designs. She also creates custom trucker hats, belt bags, children's items, koozies and pressed-patch accessories.

Currently, trucker hats are her most popular items, especially at festivals, and custom western and fedora styles remain favorites in the shop.

King participates in as many local festivals and Chamber of Commerce events as possible and said she can also "bring the party" to customers by traveling with her supplies for team-building events, private parties or children's groups.

King said costs vary depending on the hat material and design complexity. Simple embellishments start around $20-$25, while fully customized hats with elements like hand-burned, intricately sewn designs, can reach prices nearing $145. Most customers can expect to spend around $100 for a quality custom hat.

Looking ahead, King said, she hopes to increase community awareness about her business and maintain a more consistent shop schedule. "My goal is to let Cullman know this is a fun place for the community to gather, build, create and leave with something they love," she said.

King said customers can reach her most easily through social media, where she stays highly active on Facebook Messenger and Instagram. Split Tree Designs offers items for men, women and children, and King said she welcomes anyone interested in creating something unique.

Get more information at www.splittreedesigns-hatbar.com.

Shop (from Front)

up, but added two more Saturday morning.

"One family had a tragedy last night so we didn't have one here, but we still bought for them," Clark said.

"We ended up getting $12,000 donations from the community.

"We paid for Chick-fil-A for their breakfast and lunch and really enjoyed the time today."

Clark said 16 officers participated in Shop with a Cop, and Walmart also assisted with the family who experienced the tragedy.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said the event was a huge success.

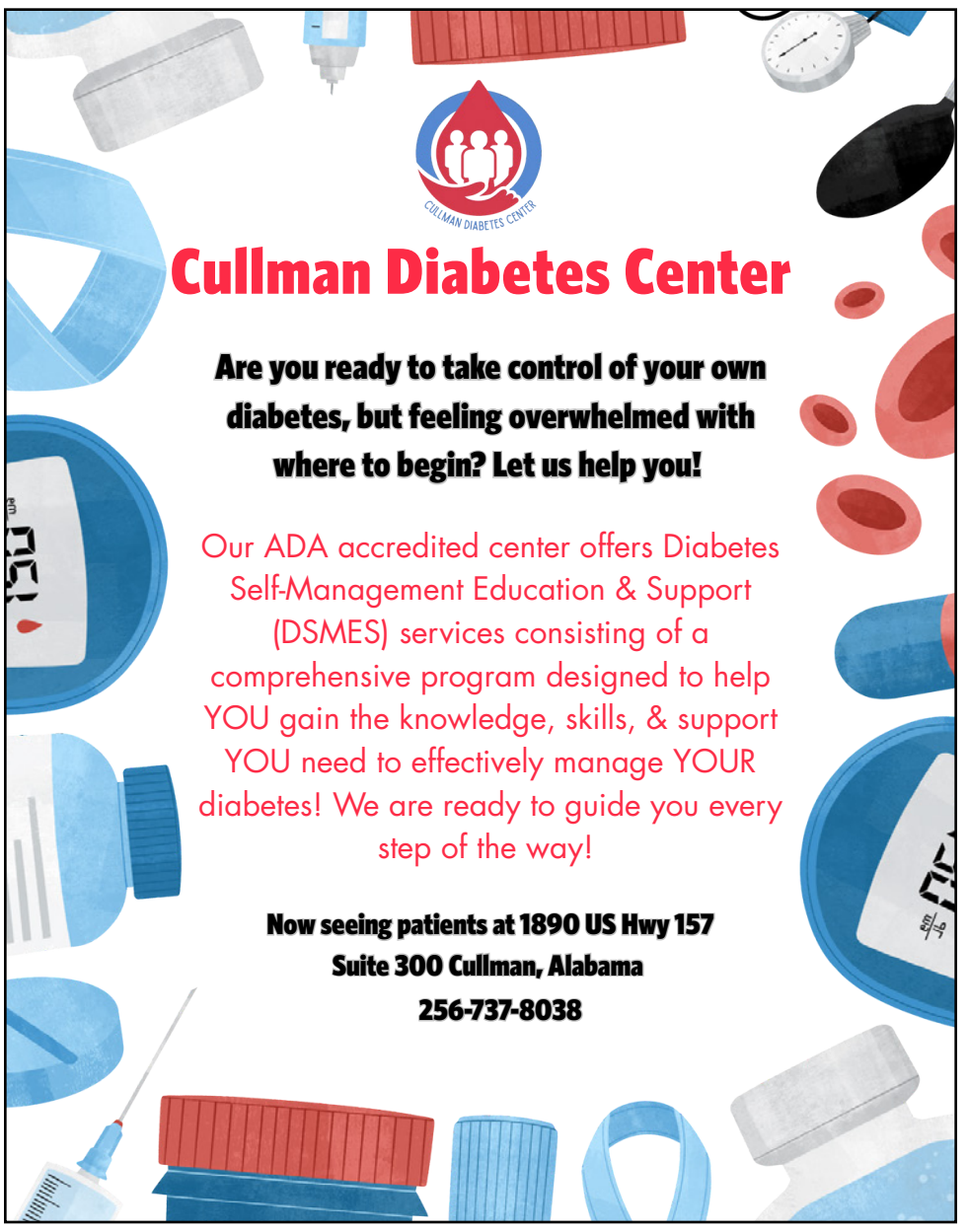
He also thanked the Fairview High School JV and varsity girls' basketball teams for volunteering their time to help out.

"Shop with a Cop was a lot of fun for everyone involved," he said.

"Seeing the kids' smiles and spending time with them was what it's all about.

"A huge thank you to all the volunteers who showed up and helped make it happen; we truly couldn't have done it without you."

LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE







BOOK REVIEW

‘A Redbird Christmas’ By Fannie Flagg

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

It is Christmastime, and I am rereading my favorite Christmas book, “A Redbird Christmas.” I remember Fannie Flagg on the WBRC-TV Morning Show in the 60s. After being refused a raise she quit her job and moved to New York City. Flagg has written several novels including “Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe,” “Welcome to the World, Baby Girl,” “Standing in the Rainbow,” “Can’t Wait to Get to Heaven,” “The Whole Town’s Talking” and my all-time favorite, “The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion.”

While I find most “Christmas reads” contrived, “A Redbird Christmas” quietly warms your heart and makes you laugh at the same time. It starts so simple with an elderly man facing a devastating diagnosis, a small town in south Alabama and a redbird named Jack who everyone in town loves. But soon, Flagg weaves together a story of grief, friendship, loneliness and second chances. It is also about child abuse, but it is more about the community that envelopes the child with love and compassion. “A Redbird Christmas” is quick read, but it will stay with you for a lifetime.

Oswald T. Campbell has just been told by his doctor that his health is so bad he that this is probably his last Christmas. The doctor advises him to move from Chicago and head to a warmer place without air pollution. Oswald takes a brochure from the doctor about a place in south Alabama that promises a warmer climate and clean air.

After calling the number in Lost River, Alabama, he receives an invitation to come down. He is offered a room to rent that includes his meals. He catches a bus to Mobile and is picked up by a resident of Lost River. Oswald is wary of how friendly the residents are but soon makes friends. His day consists of rising early, eating a hearty breakfast followed by a walk either to the river or to the country store to visit with the other residents and an injured redbird named Jack. The town has a lot of eccentric, but kind, characters. There is Roy the country store owner, who rescued Jack and nursed him back to health. There are many little old ladies who belong to a secret society who are always playing matchmaker. A little girl with a deformed foot shows up at the country store and is fascinated by Jack. Roy lets Patsy visit Jack every day. The town makes sure she is fed and cared for while visiting Jack at the store. The town would like to do more for Patsy but are not sure how to help her.

“A Redbird Christmas” is not really about a redbird or about Christmas. It is about man who has given up on life who moves to a community that gives him a reason to live. It is a story of friendship, love, second chances and redemption. Y’all, this is a great book. Do yourself a favor and read it!

Learn more about Fannie Flagg at www.goodreads.com/author/show/6125.Fannie_Flagg.

Ceremony (from Front)

cost of its production and delivery, allowing volunteers the opportunity to place wreaths on veterans’ graves throughout the cemetery following the ceremony. As part of the tradition, volunteers paused at each grave to speak the veteran’s name aloud in an act of remembrance.

This year’s ceremony was led by Athelia Gibbs and Anita Winslow, Cullman City Cemetery coordinators for Wreaths Across America and members of the Dripping Springs Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Gibbs welcomed attendees and opened the ceremony by reiterating the organization’s mission.

“Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and their families and teach the next generation the value of freedom,” Gibbs said.

She asked attendees to observe a moment of silence in honor of fallen service members, prisoners of war and those missing in action. Rev. Jimmy McClendon of Smith Lake Baptist Church led the prayer.

“This year, across the country, at many participating locations like this one, there are millions of Americans gathering safely as one nation to remember, honor and teach,” Gibbs opened.

“We are all proud to be Americans who live in a free society made up of many people from many walks of life. The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price.”

She added, “Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to believe as we do. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. And we have the right to succeed and the right to fail, at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue.

“The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice and equality.

”Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free, and we shall not forget you. We shall remember.”

Gibbs also took time to recognize both veterans and active-duty service members, including those serving at home and abroad, expressing gratitude for their sacrifices and those of their families.

“Many of you here today have answered that call and served your country well,” she stated.

“For this, we say, ‘Thank you,’ and we are honored to know you. There are many men and women serving today in all branches of the military, here at home and in places far away, that most of us have never heard of. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they make each day to keep our country safe from terrorism, hatred and injustice.”

Gibbs ended the opening ceremony with a quote from former President Ronald Reagan, reminding attendees of the responsibility placed on future generations.

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction,” she shared.

“It must be fought for, protected and handed on. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States, where men were free.”

The ceremonial wreath laying followed, with the JROTC honor guard presenting arms as veteran representatives placed wreaths in honor of each branch of the U.S. military, as well as prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Each ceremonial wreath was placed on a central pedestal at the gravesite of Col. John G. Cullmann, with a final salute offered by those presenting the wreaths.

Afterward, Captain Jon Green, representing the military, addressed the crowd and spoke about the importance of pausing to reflect during the holiday season.

“So, what are we doing here? What’s going on?” Green said.

“Well, this is about the weight of remembrance. What’s happening right now is everybody’s getting ready for Christmas, the hustle and bustle. Everybody’s running back and forth. This is a time to slow down, stop and remember the veterans that are here.” He continued, “I am proud to say that both my grandfather and father are buried here in the Cullman City Cemetery. They will both have wreaths on their graves after today.”

Cullman Police Officer Eric Cole, an Army veteran, also addressed the audience.

“The military prepared me for a lot, but it was the most simple of things that I felt ill-prepared for when I came home,” Cole said. “People saying, ‘Thank you for your service’ and for me to say, ‘You’re welcome’ just rang hollow and incomplete.”

Cole shared a perspective he learned from another veteran he read an article about. “When they were thanked, they would simply reply with ‘You’re welcome,’” he shared. “It’s a simple remark, but it encapsulates so much of where we chose to go and serve our country. Each one of these people that we honor today did the same and I think if they were here, they would simply say, ‘You’re welcome.’ We did it for the country. We did it for each of you.

“I pray that we continue to be a county that’s deserving of being told ‘You’re welcome,’” he added. “I pray that we continue to be people who honor our veterans, honor our country and live patriotic lives, as we are showing this morning. May God bless each of you and may God bless America.”

Patriotic music was provided by the Brass Quartet from the Cullman Community Band throughout the ceremony. “Taps” concluded the ceremony, performed by Cliff Hatfield.

With the conclusion of the ceremony, volunteers, made up of family members, friends, fellow service members, local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and other community members, set out to ensure each veteran’s grave was blanketed with a wreath.

Many would kneel in place at the headstone of a hero, or simply pause for a moment, saying aloud the veteran’s name, honoring his or her service and sacrifice in keeping with the mission of Wreaths Across America.

For Raiden Day, an 8-year-old whose great-grandfather is Army veteran and Cullman County Veterans Hall of Fame inductee Van Hutchins Jr., the ceremony marked his first time participating in the wreath laying.

Day spent the next hour alongside his uncle, Tommy Hutchins, who earlier led the national anthem, placing wreaths and saying the names of veterans they encountered throughout the cemetery.

During the experience, Day learned about his own family’s military history, including the story behind his mother Karlie Day’s name, which honors her great-grandfather, World War II Army veteran Carl Edgeworth. Day had the honor of dressing his headstone with one of the ceremonial wreaths.

“I liked saying their names because it felt like we were remembering them,” he said. “It was cool to know my family helped, too.”

Wreaths Across America’s 2026 sponsorships are already open. Each wreath costs $17 to sponsor and will go toward ensuring that even more graves are covered next year.

Community members can support the effort by sponsoring wreaths or reaching out to Athelia Gibbs at 256-505-2040 or awgibbs65@gmail.com for more information. Those wishing to go ahead and sponsor a wreath can do so at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CARY ALAN NAIL, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2025-431**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to CARY ALAN NAIL on the 1st day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Court Judge of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within six months after the grant of Letters or within five months from the first publication of this notice, whichever is later to occur or the same will be barred.

MEGAN NAIL SEARS
Personal Representative

Thomas E. Drake II
Attorney for Petitioner
419 2nd Avenue SW
Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-9445

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

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

DONE this 1st day of December, 2025

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

Case# PC2025-430
PB WIL Book:134 Page:865
Recorded in Above Book and Page
12/05/2025 2:42PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JACK L. SMITH, Deceased. **CASE NO: PC 2025-** 430

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to MICHAEL R. SMITH, as Executor of the Estate of JACK L. SMITH, Deceased, on the 5th day of December, 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.

MICHAEL R. SMITH,
Executor for the Estate of Jack L. Smith, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

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, Cullman, Alabama.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ NO. CHA2025-03
PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS (PBV)

Cullman Housing Authority (CHA) is seeking proposals from qualified, license, property owners/developers to provide Project-Based Vouchers (PBV).

Separate, sealed proposals to provide this service will be received at **408 Cleveland Avenue, Cullman, Alabama 35055** until **11:00 A.M.** CST, **January 6, 2026.**

Electronic documents are available through Housing Agency Marketplace E-Procurement, by accessing the following website:

https://ha.internationaleprocurement.com/requests.html?company_id=78231

CHA reserves the right to reject any/or all proposals, make the determination as to what is equal to the specifications and/or scope of work, or to waive any informality in the proposals received, and to accept any proposal, which, in its opinion, may be in the best interest of CHA.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
Marquisha Griffin, Executive Director

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GARY LYNN COLLIER, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC2025-314

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to GAVIN ROSS FRANKLIN as Personal Representative of the Estate of GARY LYNN COLLIER, deceased, on the 15th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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 be barred.

GAVIN ROSS FRANKLIN
Personal Representative

Kalif R. Green, Esq.
Kalif R. Green, Attorney at Law , LLC.
107 Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-735-6040

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case# PC2025-302
PB WIL Book:134 Page:859
Recorded in Above Book and Page
12/05/2025 2:24PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN) CASE NO PC 2025-302
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL (Self-Proved Will)

TO: PAUL EDWARD PETTIS and all known and unknown heirs of the estate of ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN, deceased.

The Petition of Bonnie Styles to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Annie Pettis Coleman, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **15th day of January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, Judge of Probate Office, Room 101.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 5th day of December, 2025.

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 and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith, LLP
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CYWILLA CAROL CRUMPTON a/k/a CAROL C. CRUMPTON, Deceased. **CASE NO.: PC 2025-434**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to RICHARD SHIVERS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Carol C. Crumpton, deceased, on the 5th day of December, 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.

Richard Shivers
Personal Representative

Robert Scott Dooley
Attorney for Petitioner
118 18th Street North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

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.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Aaron Graves to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Gateway Mortgage, a division of Gateway First Bank, its successors and assigns dated February 28, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on March 8, 2022 in Deed Book 2004, Page 659 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 395, Page 409 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on January 15, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the accepted Southwest corner of the above described forty; thence N 89 degrees 05' 41" E a distance of 736.17 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the point of intersection of the East right of way of County Road 698 and the North right of way of County Road 695 and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning follow said East right of way by the following chord bearings and distances (all points marked with 5/8 inch rebar irons); N 1 degree 44' 07" E, 37.74 feet; N 4 degrees 13' 01" E, 73.34 feet and N 5 degrees 54' 48" E a distance of 62.66 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence leaving said right of way run N 89 degrees 56' 05" E a distance of 125.00 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence S 4 degrees 15' 53" W a distance of 174.74 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron on the above described North right of way; thence N 89 degrees 34'39" W along said North right of way a distance of 125.00 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 0.50 acres, more or less. Said property subject to all right of ways or easements of record. Description taken from survey of H.D. Harris, Reg. No. 5742 dated March 4, 2006.

Said property is commonly known as **901 County Road 695, Holly Pond, AL 35083**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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

December 12, 2025

foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 24-05971AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

24-05971AL

COLUMN

Rudolph – an exclusive interview

Joe Hobby
Tribune Contributor



You know him. You've sung about him, watched him on TV and probably even worn his likeness on an ugly Christmas sweater. But how much do we really know about Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

I recently scored the interview of a lifetime, a sit-down with the most famous reindeer of all time. I found him at his exclusive North Pole home, just down the street from Santa's workshop. His publicist, fellow sleigh mate, Blitzen, insisted we meet in Rudolph's barn / studio "for privacy reasons." Also, it's heated to exactly 68 degrees, and the only refreshments allowed are oat milk and organic reindeer lichen.

Rudolph greeted me warmly. "Sorry for the delay," he said as he took off his headphones. "I was doing a podcast for the Reindeer Network. My episode drops next week; it's called 'Avoiding the Herd Mentality.'"

He sat down in a comfortable leather chair and smiled. I must admit, Rudolph looks good for his age. If you like puns, you could even say he glows. When I inquired about his physical condition, he answered, "I feel great. I credit my personal trainer, Maurice. He has put me on a workout regime that involves strength training, Pilates and hot yoga. "And I've been gluten-free for a while. Long before it was trendy." When I asked how his fitness affected his ability to fly, he laughed, and said, "It doesn't. That is 100% Christmas magic, dude."

Since the ice was broken, I went straight to my reason for the interview. Looking over his glowing red nose, and I said, "Let's talk about the song that made you an international celebrity when it became number one on the charts: 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.'"

"There were so many emotions," Rudolph said candidly.

At first, I couldn't believe it; I finally hit the big time. I was sky high until I learned that because of some legal loophole, reindeer don't get royalties. Can you imagine? I was so depressed, I started drinking. Was up to about a quart of eggnog a day when I finally stopped cold turkey. Donner was a huge help - probably saved my life. Anyway, eventually I had go to court to get what I deserved. It all worked out in the end. Just look around." When I asked him the amount of the settlement, he smiled and said, "Let's just say I'm glad I used Lassie's lawyer."

Rudolph also alluded to some tension that still exists among the other reindeer after all these years. "Not everyone's been supportive," Rudolph confessed. "It's jealously. Dasher thinks I'm a show-off. Hey, I can't help it because they wrote the song about me. I'm the star. 'Dasher the Red-Nosed Reindeer' just doesn't have a good ring to it. And I even caught Vixen trying to sell a piece of my shed antler on eBay."

When I asked him about their CEO, a gentleman named Santa Claus, Rudolph hesitated, before saying, "He's a good boss, he really is, but let's be honest, Santa's a micromanager. For example, he ignores GPS, and weather radar. The man insists on flying blind in a blizzard! I try to get him to use the technology. It's not 1847, you know. But he won't hear of it. I think it's because he doesn't want to put an LED screen on the sleigh."

Rudolph also came clean about Christmas Eve, saying is not all magical. "Hey, you try guiding a sleigh for 12 hours with eight of your coworkers singing 'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer,'" he said. "It gets old. All I can say is, I'm thankful for noise-canceling headphones."

He's also not thrilled about that old stop-motion TV special we see every holiday season. "They made me look so... whiny," he complained, rolling his eyes.

"And don't get me started on that voice. It sounds like I have a sinus infection."

Fame has brought a few perks, though. In the off-season, Rudolph keeps busy as a public speaker.

His talk, 'How to Shine When You Don't Fit In,' is very popular with the corporate crowd. "I do pretty well," he said modestly. "I actually spoke at a Mattel Toy sales meeting last year. Most people don't know that we outsource some of our work to them when we get busy."

Before I left, I asked him what the secret is to staying so positive after all these years. He paused, took a sip of his oat milk and said, "Look, I was bullied, laughed at and told I'd never pull a sleigh. Not to mention being left out of all those reindeer games. But I learned something; the thing that makes you different might be the thing that saves Christmas. Unless that thing is inflating a 12-foot Santa in your yard before Thanksgiving. In that case, please stop."

So, despite the fame and jingles, Rudolph is still that little reindeer who just wanted to belong. And maybe that's why we love him. All of us have been left out of reindeer games at some point.

As I was leaving, Rudolph gave me a nod and said, "Tell everybody Merry Christmas, and remind them to put out a glass of oat milk for me because I don't do dairy."

With that, he waved goodbye and headed back in his house. And I could've sworn I heard him singing to himself, "I'll go down in history."

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

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 13-15

Janice Ruth Dacus, 77
Memorial service is incomplete at this time for Janice Ruth Dacus, 77, of Vinemont. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Dacus passed away Friday, December 12, 2025, at Huntsville Hospital. She was born February 14, 1948. She was a God fearing woman. She loved to garden, decorate and build. She loved her family and grandchildren very much. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ozell Walden; husbands, Gary Dacus, Edward Stephens; brothers, Norman Bartlett, Bobby Walden; sister, Kathy Walden; son, Eddie Stephens. Survivors include her brother, Terry Eddy; sister, Barbara Wright; grandchildren, Brittany (Justin) Smith, Trenton (Rebecca) Stephens; Great-grandchildren, Kaylee Rogers, Bentley Wren, Aubrey Wren; nephew, Brian Wright; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Rodger Dale Pitts, 81
Rodger Dale Earney Pitts, 81, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away on December 11, 2025, at his home. A lifelong resident of Hanceville, Rodger was born there on April 14, 1944. Rodger was a devoted member of the Hanceville community throughout his life. He worked alongside his father and later his son at Pitts Grocery, a family-run business that became a cornerstone of the neighborhood. His dedication to the store and its patrons reflected his deep-rooted commitment to service and connection within the town he called home. He is survived by his loving family: his son Dale (Teri) Pitts; granddaughter Megan (Brett) Pennington; grandson Hunter (Micha) Pitts; great-grandsons Jasper Bryant, Ronin Pitts, Oliver Pennington, and Lincoln Pitts; granddaughters Ivy Pitts and Sileah Laursen Pitts; and his brother Willie (Elaine) Pitts. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews who cherished him deeply. Rodger was preceded in death by his father Earney Pitts, mother Velvalee Harper Pitts; sisters Betty Black (Howard) and Jean Ann Pitts; brother Billy Pitts (Ruby Ann); as well as his grandparents. A man of simple joys and strong passions, Rodger loved fishing and playing ball. He found immense happiness spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren—whether tossing a ball or sharing a laugh. An unwavering Alabama football fan, he cheered for the Crimson Tide with unmatched enthusiasm. Rodger was a veteran of the United States Airforce. Rodger's presence in the community was marked by kindness, familiarity, and steadfastness. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him. Visitation for family and friends will be December 16, 2025, at Hanceville Funeral Home. The United States Air Force will conduct the rendering of the military honors in the funeral home chapel at 4 p.m. followed by public visitation from 4:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.

Betty Dale Privett, 65
Betty Dale Privett, 65, of Blountsville, Alabama, passed away on Thursday evening, December 11, 2025. Ms. Privett was born on July 31, 1960, to the late Felton Eugene and Geraldine Carroll Denney. Ms. Privett is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Edward Privett; brothers, Johnny Denney and Bobby Denney; as well as a great-grandchild, Avery. Those left to cherish Betty's memory includes her daughters, Joni Posey, Jamie Franklin (Donald), Jessica Dobbs; grandchildren, Hallie Saye, Hannah Welsh, Dallas Tristan Dobbs, Kati Franklin, Tyler Franklin, Trevor Posey, Jayda Dobbs; and great-grandchildren, Evan, Braylen, Memphis, Jackson, and Corben. Ms. Privett was an adoring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and her passing leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. Ms. Privett will lie-in-state on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m., in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services will begin at 2 p.m., on Monday, at Rock Springs Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Privett family.

Gregory Bryan Booker, Jr., 33
Gregory Bryan Booker Jr, age 33, passed away on December 12th, 2025, leaving behind a love and legacy that will never fade. Born in Tampa, Florida, he spent his early years loving sports, especially baseball, where some of his favorite memories were made playing alongside his dad. As a child, he was easygoing and full of life, traits that stayed with him throughout his years. Gregory later moved to Alabama during his teenage years, where his interests grew to include fast cars, hunting, fishing, shooting guns out in the field, and spending time outdoors. It was there that he began building the life he loved most; his family. He was a loving father to his two sons, Grayson and Carter Booker and carried a deep, unbreakable love for his daughter, Nova Joanne Booker, born sleeping (November 2022). All three of his children were his world. He was laid back, genuine, and had a heart of gold. He would help anyone who needed it and was always there for others, no matter the time or circumstance. If you needed him, he showed up. He loved his motorcycle, the open road, and the brotherhood of his motorcycle club, where friendships became family. He also cherished time with friends, was always down for any adventure, and never turned down a chance to make memories. Gregory also enjoyed his family get togethers because it meant spending time with family. And while he wasn't much of a dancer, boy did he loved to get down. Gregory will be deeply missed by his family, his children, his friends, and all whose lives were better for knowing him. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nova Joanne Booker; grandfather, Robert Coulter; grandmother, Ruth Puleo; great-grandmother, Peart Batts. Survivors include his grandparents, Ray and Martha Booker, Arlene Coulter ("Joe"), Charlie Almerico (Donna); parents, Gregg and Charlene Booker; sons, Grayson Booker, Carter Booker; sister, Emily Jones; nephew, Bennett Jones; aunts, uncles, cousins, family and friends. Funeral service will be Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 5 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Pastor Matt Carmichael officiating. The family will receive friends on Thursday at the funeral home from 3-5 p.m. There will be a Celebratory of Life at Daystar Church immediately following the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Gerald Don Reid, 83
Born in 1942, Gerald Don Reid passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of December 10, 2025, on his 83rd birthday. On the previous day, he'd spent the afternoon and evening with his daughters Cheryl Reid (William Whitley) of Decatur, Georgia, and Terry Chamness of Decatur, Alabama. Always a devoted grandfather, his grandsons are Reid Whitley, Grant Whitley, Nathaniel Whitley, Chad Long, the late Dylan Chamness, and Cory and Justin Knoblock. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Elizabeth and Floyd Woodrow Reid, his son George Edward "Bim" Knoblock, and grandson Dylan Thomas Chamness. He is survived by his sister, Thelma Josephine Owens, of Hartselle, Alabama. Don grew up in Danville, Alabama, on his parents' farm and spent his life farming, raising cattle and working with horses. He graduated from Danville High School in 1961 then attended Auburn University. His favorite pastime, spanning his adult life, was being a "Dye-hard" Auburn fan and relished his time at Jordan-Hare Stadium, regularly attending games since the 1960's. He joined the National Guard from 1963-1969, achieving the rank of Senior Sergeant. In the early sixties he went to work for Southern Bell as a lineman, bringing telephone technology to North Alabama and throughout Tennessee. He worked for the company for forty years before retiring in 2001. In the last several years of his life, he rebuilt and restored his parents 1947 b Farmall tractor, a project he'd hoped to accomplish for a long time. He loved his kids and his pets dearly, and enjoyed nothing better than a good laugh, a cold Diet Coke, and driving down the road, country music playing on the radio, under blue skies with the windows down. Funeral Service for Gerald Don Reid, age 83, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Larry James Johns, 75
Funeral Service for Larry James Johns, age 75, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Darryl Bailey officiating; burial at Etha Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Johns passed away on Saturday, December 13, 2025, surrounded by his family. He was born August 17, 1950, to Ellis Johns and Edna Bailey Johns. He was a graduate of Fairview High School Class 1968 and the first drummer of the Fairview Band. He then went on to serve 2 years in the US Army during the Vietnam Draft, where he received the National Defense Service Medal & Sharpshooter awards. After returning home he went on to graduate from the police academy and served on the Hanceville Police Department, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, and with Fairview Volunteer Fire Department. Larry was best known for his years in autobody and garage doors. Not only did he serve his country & community, but he also fiercely served & loved his family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Rebecca Ann Johns; parents and his beloved son, Daniel Johns. Survivors include his daughter, Misty (Shine) Woods; grandson; Kaleb (Meg) Hudson granddaughter, Lona (Drew) Robertson; great grandchildren, Kase, Leah, Ozlee, Wilder Hudson, and Lucille "Lucy" Robertson arriving March 2026; Kristie Edmonson (Chris) whom he loved as his daughter and bonus grandchildren, Esther, Ellis and Bella Edmonson, and a host of extended family & friends.

Elnor Faynell Jacks, 78
Memorial service is incomplete at this time for Elnor Faynell Jacks, 78, of Cullman. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Jacks passed away Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, at Cullman Regional Hospital. She was born May 6, 1939, to Joe Brown Banks and Edna Mozelle Bailey Banks. She loved to sew, loved crafting and making quilts. She was known for making the Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Edward 'Buddy' A. Jacks; daughter, Robbin Diane Johnson; sister, Edna Wynell Banks. Survivors include her brother, Billy (Kathryn) Banks of Birmingham; two nephews, Joe (Jennifer) Banks of Collierville, Tennessee and Craig (Carrie) Banks of Montgomery, Alabama; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfunerahome.com.

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Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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

Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130



STEPHANIE BLAIR

2025 FCCLA Angels are, back row, left to right, Natalie Finch, Addison Kilgo, Baylee Perdue, Kayleigh Szedon, Aiden Freeman and Izzy Howell; front row, left to right, Ruthy Boggan, Ash'bie Rhodes, Taylor Phillips, Claire Huffstutler, Maddie Davis and Baylee Dye.

FCCLA (from Front)

Stephaie Blair
Contributor

BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs High School FCCLA chapter spread holiday cheer through its FCCLA Angels community service project. The students raised funds through a candle fundraiser to adopt three local elementary students.

Members applied leadership and life skills by budgeting and planning purchases.

They shopped together on Dec. 10, 2025, selecting thoughtful, age-appropriate gifts, and wrapped presents the following day. The chapter extended sincere appreciation to the Cold Springs High School lunchroom staff for their generous donations, which helped make the project possible.

Through teamwork, financial responsibility and compassion, FCCLA members made a meaningful impact and helped ensure a brighter holiday season for local children.



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