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

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Longtime City Arborist Darrell Johns dies at 81

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Darrell Johns, a longtime City of Cullman employee who spent more than two decades caring for the city's public trees, died Dec. 24, 2025, at the age of 81.

Johns was born June 19, 1944, in Alabama. Over more than two decades with the City of Cullman, he became a familiar presence in the care and maintenance of the city's public trees.

He retired in 2021 after 23 years in the arborist role, during which he played a key part in the ongoing management of Cullman's tree canopy and supported the City's long-running urban forestry initiatives.

In his role as city arborist, Johns was » PAGE 2



CITY OF CULLMAN

Darrell Johns

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CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sportsworld Skate Center Owners Shae and Valerie Gentry

Chasady Woods, Anabelle Howze

VINEMONT, Ala. — Sportsworld Skate Center hosted a kid-friendly New Year's Eve celebration Wednesday from 2-5 p.m. before holding its annual all-night skate from 7 p.m.-6 a.m. for teens and adults.

"We used to take our kids to a daytime New Year's celebration. For us it is a way to give back to the community," Owner Shae Gentry said. "There aren't a lot of New Year's Eve events for kids."

Of the all-night skate he said, "We do it mainly for the teenagers and for the people who want to relive their youth. A lot of adults come and skate with us and stay, so that's why we do it."

Shae and Valerie Gentry took over ownership of Sportsworld Skate Center in March 2025. They have a love for skating as they grew up doing so and also take part in the sport with their children.

The kid-friendly event was a first for the rink. "The community and the kids need it," said Gentry. But the all-night skate is a long-standing tradition in Cullman, spanning generations. The skate has been held every year since the rink first opened in 1979. "We're just happy it's still such a big part of the community," he said.

Unlike regular skating sessions, the New Year's skate keeps the rink open all night and features special activities throughout the evening. This year's event included games, balloon drops and continuous raffles, with prizes donated by skate companies and vendors. "We're giving away a VR headset, wheels, signs, sweatshirts – with drawings all night long," Gentry said. "This is the first time in the history of the skating rink that we've done giveaways this big."

Since taking ownership, Gentry said he has focused on reinvesting in the rink to restore it as a community gathering place.

"We're trying to bring it back to its glory days," he said. "We've spent a lot of time and money redoing the floor, improving the concession stand and making upgrades so it's better and safer for the community."

Sportsworld Skate Center has several upcoming events planned. The rink has recently launched a once-a-month "praising skate," a Christian-focused skating night that includes a meal for $10. The rink will also host a community skate night in partnership with Desperation Church on Jan. 16, as well as a large Autism Awareness Skate scheduled for April 24-26. The April event will feature nationally known skaters and raise funds for the Autism Foundation.

Keep an eye on www.facebook.com/CullmanSkating for any upcoming events. Get more information at myskateparty@gmail.com.

Aniah's Law: Vinemont man held without bond in sodomy cases



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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EDITORIAL

Public accountability requires real names, not fake profiles » PAGE 8

Auditions open this month for 'Pride and Prejudice' » PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 2

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 2, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

Dec. 29-31

Artiaga, Manuel Alejandro; 22
- public intoxication

Cammon, Michael E.; 61
- public intoxication

Conn, Katherine L.; 55
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Deason, James E.; 38
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – knowing that he does not have the consent of the owner, he takes, operates, exercises control over or otherwise uses a propelled vehicle
- FTA – reckless endangerment

Dover, Janissa C.; 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

East, Cedric V.; 37
- FTA – DUI (controlled substances)
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone
- FTA – tinted windows

Glass, Billy R.; 51
- possession of dangerous drugs

Guthrie, William J.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Norris, Brandon S.; 35
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Reynolds, Jeffery G.; 43
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant

Rodgers, Barbara H.; 66
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Rosin, Cody A.; 34
- DUI (alcohol)

Sawyer, Thomas K.; 44
- possession of dangerous drugs
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Serens, Ryan; 32
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- weapons-carrying brass knuckles/sling shot

Slusher, Dakota A.; 36
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 27
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Lincoln Ave. SW
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $816; Olive St. SW

Dec. 31
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $30; Hwy. 157
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '11 Honda Pilot; $150; Hwy. 157
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Dripping Springs Apts.; Dripping Springs Rd. NW

Jan. 1
- harassment; person; Olive St. SW

Jan. 2
- burglary-2nd degree; Phone Shop; miscellaneous; 4th St. SW

ARRESTS

Dec. 29

Cotton, Malcolm J.; 30
- theft of property-4th degree

Barnett, Christie L.; 57
- theft of property-4th degree

McCormick, Jeffery S.; 36
- criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Phelps, Christy M.; 42
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

Hyde, Bronada F.; 49
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Marsh, Jr., Myron C.; 61
- resisting arrest

McKnight, Chelsea C.; 35
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Joshua S.; 33
- 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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Johns (from Front)

responsible for overseeing the planting, maintenance and removal of trees on City property, including along streets, in parks and in other public spaces.

The position also involved monitoring tree health and safety, advising City officials and the Tree Commission on urban forestry practices and supporting long-term planning efforts aimed at preserving the city's natural landscape.

Following news of his passing, the City of Cullman released a statement recognizing Johns' years of service and the impact of his work.

"Darrell dedicated many years to caring for Cullman's trees, leaving a lasting mark on the beauty of our city," the statement read. "His knowledge, commitment and love for the outdoors were evident in his work and appreciated by colleagues and community members alike."

Johns was survived by his daughters, DeAnne Johns and Leanne Sterling (Anthony); granddaughters Ashley, Bethony and Callie; grandsons Josh and Hunter; and great-grandchildren Ember, Alaya, Carson, Blakely and Jaylen. He was preceded in death by his father, Herbert Johns; his mother, Icee Mae Speegle Johns; and his wife, Joyce Wilson Johns.

A celebration of life graveside service was held Monday, Dec. 29, 2025, at Bowman's Chapel Cemetery in Cullman County.

IN LOVING MEMORY,
QUILLION CALVERT



11-13-37
01-05-97

Throughout the years we are reminded of you in special ways but more so this time of the year. We miss your Wisdom and Compassion, your Love for Life and the way you showed that love to others. The days bring us joy and love when you enter our thoughts. The pain in our hearts has been replaced with smiles and wonderful thoughts of you. We remember you with love and appreciation for the wonderful person you were. You will always remain alive in our hearts and you will forever be a part of us.

LOVE, FAMILY

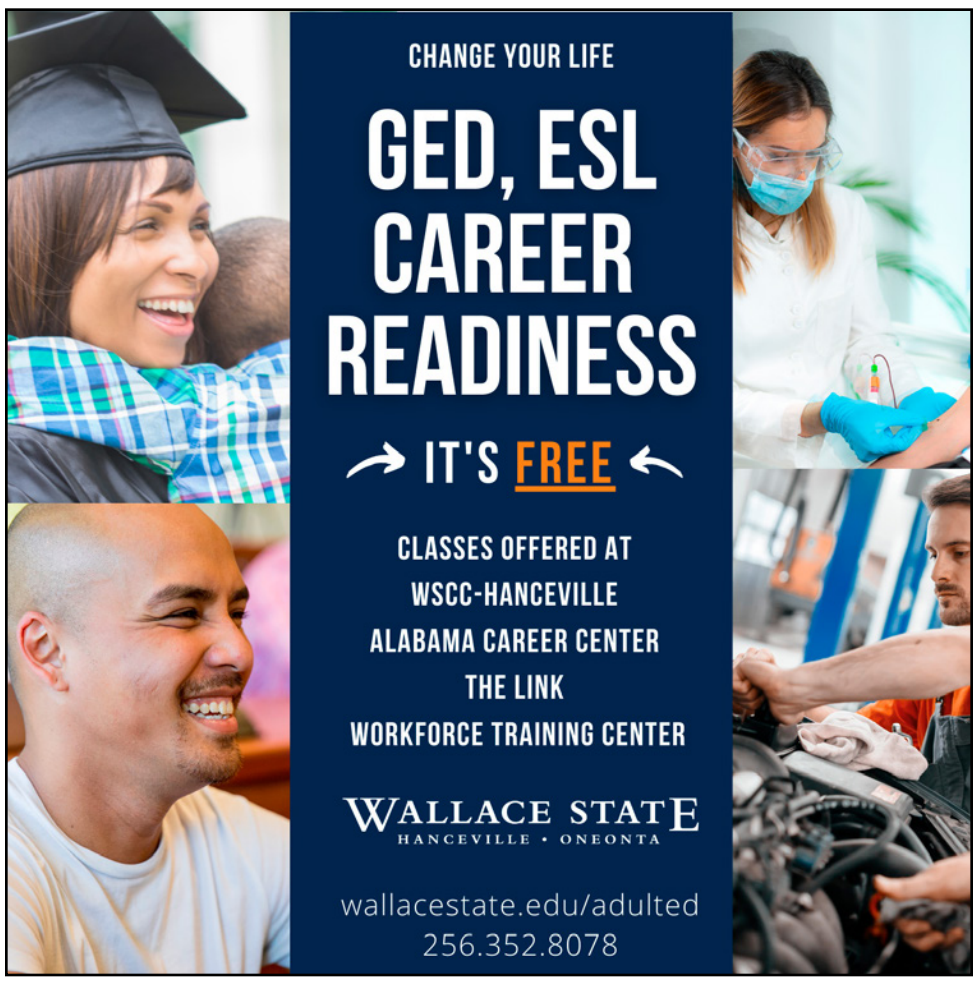
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

NOTICE FROM CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS
The new "Spirit of Christmas" book is available for a $20 donation to Cullman Caring for Kids. This is the newest "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book with a story by local writer Tanya Shearer. They make great Christmas gifts! Your donation will also help provide meals for those in need in our community. Contact Cullman Caring for Kids at 256-739-1111 or Tanya Shearer for delivery.

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.

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.

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.
• 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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 Saint Joseph Dr. NW in Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501 Fourth St. SW in Cullman.

Cullman Women's Health Forum
Saturday, Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek. Local nonprofit Lotus Health Inc. is hosting its inaugural Women's Health Forum with the generous support of our Gold Sponsors – Alabama Farmers Federation and First Federal Mortgage – along with other gracious sponsors/collaborators. Please join us as we connect with community/state leaders and health care professionals for a day focused on women's health, education, preventative screenings and local resources. We will open the Free Day Forum at 1p.m. with women's healthcare exhibitors hosted by The Venue at Cotton Creek (417 Third Ave. SW Cullman). We have a great itinerary of speakers on women's health and free women's health screenings. We are also honored to present Senate hopeful Jared Hudson (R), and Attorney General candidates Katherine Robertson (R) and Pamela Casey (R) for a live podcast. Topics will include trafficking and current legislation impacting women's health in Alabama. We are currently accepting exhibitors and welcome sponsors for this important day of education and dialog. Following our FREE day forum, we will gather for a Meet and Greet dinner. For more information and to purchase dinner tickets/sponsor or become an exhibitor please visit https://lotushealthinc.org/events/womens-health-forum. We look forward to meeting with you in our effort to improve women's health outcomes in the state of Alabama.

Cullman Area Chamber Foundation Mardi Gras Parade & Gumbo Cook-Off
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. in the Art District (Fourth Street Southwest and Cotton Creek area). This family friendly event will feature a colorful Mardi Gras parade, followed by a gumbo cook-off showcasing teams competing for best gumbo and community pride. Attendees can enjoy delicious gumbo tastings, festive décor, live music and the vibrant energy of Mardi Gras right here in Cullman! Grab your beads, bring your friends and family and join us in the Art District.

LEGALS

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on July 2, 2021 by Wesley Dunn, spouse of Jaime Dunn and Jaime Dunn spouse of Wesley Dunn, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1971, Page 656 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 January 23, 2026:

Lot 11, in Muscadine Point Subdivision, as shown by the recorded plat thereof in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, in Map Book 3, Page 225.

LESS AND EXCEPT: A parcel of land located in Lot 11 of Muscadine Point Subdivision (Map Book 3, Page 225) recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, and located in part of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 22, Township 11 South, Range 05 West, Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the SE corner of Lot 11 thence N 6°53'19" W for a distance of 19.55 feet; thence S 59°22'34" W 229.74 feet to a point on the 510 contour of Lewis Smith Lake; thence along the meanderings of said 510 contour line in a southerly direction 19 feet, more or less, to a appoint 110.17 feet from the NW corner of Lot 11; thence northeasterly 229 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

Including a 1989 Cavalier mobile home located thereon.

Property Address: County Road 855, Cullman, AL 35059

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-January 3, 10, 17, 2026

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
PEGGY SWANN ANDERS, * CASE NO.: PC2025-140
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Robert Kyle Anders, as Personal Representative of the Estate of PEGGY SWANN ANDERS, deceased, on the 18th 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.

Robert Kyle Anders
Personal Representative

Charles L. Anderson, Esq.
Anderson, Williams & Farrow, LLC
7515 Halcyon Pointe Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

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

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

DONE this 18th day of December, 2025.

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

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 3, 2026

Bartram exhibit starts tour of Alabama State Parks

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

As one of the first people to experience Alabama's incredible diversity of landscapes and wildlife, 18th century explorer William Bartram traversed much of central and south Alabama during a three-year period of exploration from 1775-1778. He extensively documented the plants, animals and native tribes in what is now the Southeast U.S.

To commemorate that period of discovery and the vast contributions of this early adventurer, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' State Parks Division is teaming up with Auburn University to highlight Bartram's travels through Alabama with a traveling display that will be showcased at 12 Alabama State Parks, starting at Lake Guntersville State Park, where the exhibit is currently on display until Feb. 1, 2026.

"Alabama State Parks are living classrooms," said Alabama State Parks' Chief Naturalist Renee Raney. "This has been our theme over the past few years as we increase our education outreach and bring more field trips and K-12 teachers into our parks.

"Bartram's story belongs in the landscape that shapes those discoveries, and I believe our public lands are those landscapes. Hosting this exhibit allows guests to encounter Bartram, not as some distant, historic figure, but as a fellow explorer or naturalist to walk many of our rivers, forests and ridges. I really think our parks provide the perfect settings to connect observations from more than 250 years ago to the living ecosystems you can experience in our state parks today."

Raney said Dr. Mark Wilson invited Alabama State Parks to host "William Bartram and Alabama." Raney and her team then developed a program to enhance the exhibit at State Parks. In addition to Alabama, Bartram's travels included North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

"Bartram's work not only helped lay the foundation for the study of natural history in America, his observations in 1775 as he traversed Alabama inspired the very roots of our own interpretive program and the mission of our state park naturalist team," Raney said. "As we approach the 250th birthday of our nation in 2026, I can't imagine a better way to celebrate our country's natural history and Alabama's Year of Trails than by sharing this remarkable exhibit and its companion program, 'In the Footsteps of Bartram: Discovering Alabama's Natural Heritage,' with visitors across our state parks.

"Bartram's legacy of curiosity and wonder, whether he was 'paddling through innumerable millions of mating mayflies, marveling at the gilded coat of mail of the yellow bream or observing the frog whose call resembles the barking of little dogs' continues to inspire how we interpret and protect Alabama's natural treasures today. We look forward to welcoming the public as the exhibit travels to 12 state parks from December 2025 through January 2027 and as our statewide education team leads special programs ranging from hiking to kayaking to nature journaling to Junior Ranger activities and beyond!"

Raney said Auburn's Bartram exhibit will visit many cultural venues around the state, while the exhibit at Alabama State Parks will be in the midst of the landscapes that Bartram discovered and documented.

"The Parks-based exhibit will be history unfolding where it happened," she said. "We're inviting visitors to stand in the same ecological story that Bartram helped record."

The State Parks' Bartram exhibit expands the experience with the "In the Footsteps of Bartram" programming that allows visitors hands-on involvement developed by State Parks naturalists.

"The programming invites guests to slow down and observe the world the way Bartram did," Raney said. "Through guided hikes, interpretive kayaking, nature journaling, immersion programs and place-based adventures, participants engage their senses and curiosity. These experiences transform visitors from spectators into naturalists, echoing Bartram's restless spirit of inquiry. Not only was he exploring, he was deeply documenting what he found, like the experience near Meaher State Park (at the head of Mobile Bay) where he commented that the little frogs remind him of barking puppy dogs. I just love that he took the time to write that down.

"I also hope the exhibit helps visitors see Alabama State Parks differently. So many of our visitors are repeat customers. They love our parks as they are, but they enjoy diverse experiences. Through this exhibit, I feel like Bartram gives us a lens of wonder and attention. His writings encourage visitors to notice the texture of bark, the scent of wildflowers, the movement of birds and the sound of frogs. Through his eyes, familiar places become layered with history, science and storytelling. My personal desire is that it will reveal the parks as both natural sanctuaries and cultural landscapes."

Visitors headed to Lake Guntersville State Park to view the Bartram exhibit will also be able to visit during peak eagle-viewing season as well.

"The Alabama State Parks Division is continuously striving to enhance the opportunities for our visitors to experience our beautiful parks," said State Parks Director Matthew Capps.

"The Bartram exhibit is just one example of how our team goes beyond expectations to share the story of the discovery of Alabama's biodiversity and natural wonders. Take advantage of this opportunity when the exhibit comes to a park near you."



JONATHAN GRUBER

Visitors to Lake Guntersville State Park learn about William Bartram's explorations in Alabama.

For those who want to follow the route of Bartram's exploration in southwest Alabama, the Bartram Canoe Trail traverses the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, also known as "America's Amazon" because of its amazing flora and fauna. The Bartram trail allows paddlers to experience our nation's second largest river delta, a vast wetland of estuarine marsh, swamps rife with tupelo and cypress trees and stands of bottomland hardwoods. More than 50 rare and endangered plant and animal species can be found in the Delta, which encompasses 250,000 acres, 100,000 of which are publicly owned and managed.

ADCNR's Alabama State Lands Division opened the Upper Bartram Canoe Trail system in 2003, followed by the Lower Bartram Canoe Trail system in 2018.

Day-use and overnight trails with land-based campsites and floating or elevated platform campsites are available. Visit www.alabamacanoetrails.com/bartram for more information about the paddling and camping opportunities available.

Raney said Bartram's adventurous science mirrors the mission of Alabama State Parks: discovery, conservation and connection.

"His desire to understand nature through direct experience is the same spirit we cultivate in our interpretive programs," Raney said.



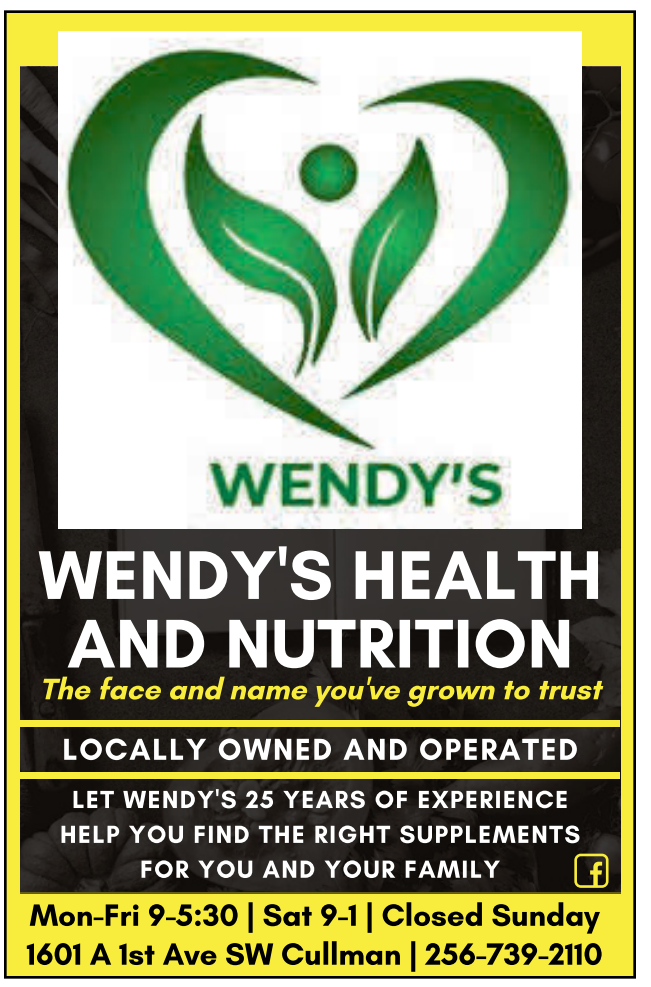
JONATHAN GRUBER

The Bartram exhibit will be at Lake Guntersville State Park until Feb. 1.

"As Chief Naturalist for Alabama State Parks, I believe his work continues to inspire how we invite guests to learn from the land, enjoy it, protect it and feel a sense of belonging within Alabama's natural heritage."

The Bartram exhibit will be displayed at Gulf State Park Feb. 6-28, followed by Meaher State Park from March 3-30, Rickwood Caverns State Park April 2-23, DeSoto State Park April 29-May 28, Chewacla State Park June 3-24, Monte Sano State Park July 1-29, Joe Wheeler State Park August 4-18, Cheaha State Park Sept. 1-22, Lakepoint State Park Oct. 1-23, Oak Mountain State Park Oct. 27-Nov. 30, and Wind Creek State Park Dec. 3, 2026-Jan. 15, 2027.

Visit https://reserve.alapark.com/register for a list of upcoming events at Alabama State Parks.







Man (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Vinemont man will be held without bond in two cases in which he is charged with first-degree sodomy against minor children. The Cullman County District Attorney's Office said in a statement that Jesse Lee Conn, 33, was ordered held without bond by Circuit Court Judge Emily Niezer Johnston in an Aniah's Law hearing held Dec. 30.

The DA's office said District Attorney Champ Crocker and Assistant District Attorney Nathan Brock represented the State at the hearing.

The Tribune has chosen not to share details of this case, due to the graphic nature of the offenses and the involvement of minor children.

"This case is the result of tireless work by Cullman Sheriff investigators, who left no stone unturned. The Grand Jury issued an indictment earlier this month, the Defendant was taken into custody and we opposed bond. Children are our greatest gift, and they deserve to be protected, not exploited or abused," the DA's office said.

Conn's trial is scheduled for March 2026.

Reaction (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The story of a Vinemont man being denied bond on sodomy charges involving minor children prompted a wave of reaction on social media — including an unusual grassroots response from local tattoo artists offering discounted or free alterations and cover-ups for individuals who said they no longer wanted his work on their bodies.

Jesse Lee Conn, 33, is charged with two counts of first-degree sodomy involving minor children and was ordered held without bond following a Dec. 30 Aniah's Law court hearing.

Cullman County prosecutors described the charges as serious and emphasized the need to protect the community while the case proceeds.

The trial is scheduled for March 2026.

Full arrest story above or online at: www.cullmantribune.com/2025/12/31/aniahs-law-vinemont-man-held-without-bond-in-sodomy-cases.

The original Tribune post linking to that arrest story drew in comments from readers across the region.

Many commenters offered prayers and expressions of concern for children.

Lisa Hill wrote, "Prayers for the children involved," and Dewan Barbee Ratliff, identifying herself as a survivor of similar trauma, said she was "praying hard for these children."

Other commenters expressed anger, frustration and fear. Some urged harsher punishment, calling for predators to be held without bond and advocating tougher consequences for those accused in such cases.

Amid that outpouring, a more unusual theme emerged. Multiple commenters said they had received tattoos from the accused in the past and no longer wanted that work on their bodies.

"Anyone offering tattoo removals?" asked Michelle Basinger in the thread.

Callisto Johnson said she had a tattoo done by the accused and was "ashamed to have it on my body."

Julia Ruth Brown wrote, "I'm getting mine altered because I'm in the same boat. I refuse to have his work on my body."

Lydia Cantrell asked if anyone could change her oldest child's name tattoo so she didn't have a design "done by a suspected pedo."

Responding to those requests, several local artists and apprentices began offering cover-up or alteration services in the same comment thread.

"I can do alterations!" wrote Brianne Perry, identifying herself as a working apprentice at West Coast Tattoos in Florence. "I will offer discounts for anyone who wants something they have done by him altered."

Kalika Beth Owens said a friend at Beauty Marks Tattoo "does amazing work," and Miranda Weaver suggested Bloodline Ink for cover-ups. In some cases, commenters tagged specific businesses or artists willing to help.

The offers were unsolicited, uncoordinated and emerged organically as part of community discussion.

While the volume of comments reflected widespread anger, some commenters urged restraint and reminded others of legal principles such as the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Rebecca Kritner Martinez wrote in caps: "HE IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY!!!!!!" prompting replies about the serious nature of the charges.

The range of comments illustrates both the emotional intensity of the reaction and the unexpected ways online communities organize in response to news.

Tattoo artists and apprentices offering help

The following individuals and businesses were publicly mentioned on social media as offering tattoo cover–ups or alterations:

West Coast Tattoos (Florence)

• Brianne Perry, apprentice — offering discounted alterations for work done by the accused

Beauty Marks Tattoo

• Referenced by Kalika Beth Owens, with artist Megan Cregger mentioned for cover-up work

Bloodline Ink

• Referenced by Miranda Weaver as a shop that "does amazing cover-ups"

Independent artists

• Riley Bryson Dutton — stated willingness to fix tattoos previously done by the individual

• Additional unnamed artists volunteered help in direct replies.

Inquiries can be made directly with the artists or shops for availability and details.

Editor's note on comment moderation

The Cullman Tribune encourages public discussion on its social media platforms, especially surrounding public safety and criminal justice stories.

We allow a range of viewpoints, including grief, anger, fear and disagreement, as long as they remain lawful and do not include direct threats, graphic depictions of violence or hate speech.

Comments that violate platform rules or present a risk to individuals or the publication may be removed or hidden in accordance with newsroom policy and social media standards.

This moderation is intended to safeguard respectful discourse and legal compliance, not to suppress legitimate public sentiment.

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Legal Notice

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

STATE OF ALABAMA,
CULLMAN COUNTY.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **BB Jones Properties, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company,** to **First National Bank**, dated May 31, 2023, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2051, Page 632; and the undersigned **First National Bank**, as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on January 27, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commence at the point of intersection of the West right-of-way line of Cullman-Trimble Road with North line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 11, Range 4 West and go West along the Quarter Quarter Section line 210 feet then go South (on line parallel to road right-of-way) 210 feet; then go East (on line parallel to North line of Quarter Quarter section) 210 feet; to point on right-of-way and then go North 210 feet to the point of beginning containing 1 acre.

Property Address: 4896 County Road 222, Cullman, AL 35057

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. 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 a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
By: Nancy F. McClellan, Attorney for First National Bank
401 Second Avenue, SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-4040

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
MARGARET S. BARRON, * CASE NO. PC 2025 - 447
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Brooks Sutliff Barron as Personal Representative of the Estate of Margaret S. Barron, deceased, on the 19th day of December, 2025, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Brooks Sutliff Barron
Personal Representative

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Personal Representative

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three 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 MATTER OF:)
)
LYNNE G. BATES,) CASE NO. PC-2025- 451
)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY of said deceased having been granted to **LYNN BROCKMAN ELLIS** on the 29th 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 the latter to occur or the same will be barred.

/s/Lynn Brockman Ellis
Lynn Brockman Ellis, Personal Representative of the Estate of Lynne G. Bates

Seth B. Thompson, Attorney for Petitioner Lynn Brockman Ellis

Of Counsel:

The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone: 256.734.4591
Fax: 866.826.4785

TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CASE NO. :PC2025-356
ELEANOR VEIGL BOIKE,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to **ROSE BOIKE SMITH**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **ELEANOR VEIGL BOIKE**, deceased, on the 29th day of December, 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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.

ROSE BOIKE SMITH
Personal Representative

Annette Irons-Parker
Attorney for Personal Representative
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C. ATTORNEYS
215 Main Avenue S.W.
Cullman, AL 35055
256-775-4444

TO: The Publisher of CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate Cullman County

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
GERALDINE ROBERTSON *
CORNELIUS SWEATMON, * CASE NO.: PC2023-374
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to DAVID CHRISTOPHER CORNELIUS, as Executor of the Estate of GERALDINE ROBERTSON CORNELIUS SWEATMON, deceased, on the 15th day of May 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

DAVID CHRISTOPHER CORNELIUS
Executor

David Lee Jones
Attorney for Executor
PO Box 940
Guntersville, AL 35976

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

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

DONE this 15th day of May, 2025.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA,
CULLMAN COUNTY.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **BBJ Property, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company,** to **First National Bank**, dated August 19, 2024, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2094, Page 327; and the undersigned **First National Bank**, as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on December 30, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A tract of land containing 1.08 acres, more or less, lying in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ and the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of NE ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama state plane west zone coordinate of N:1494143.53, E:2141672.34; thence North 89°11'29" West along the northerly boundary of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ for 125.46 feet to a set capped rebar: thence South 17°42'12" East, passing a set capped reference rebar at 276.61 feet, for a total distance of 281.63 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence along the centerline of said ditch the following bearings and distances: North 41°34'24" East for 53.77 feet, North 42°41'47" East for 72.52 feet, North 42°07'46" East for 20.18 feet, North 47°43'25" East for 132.74 feet, North 65°00'56" East for 24.37 feet, North 68°06'03" East for 20.88 feet, North 60°53'25" East for 39.87 feet, North 34°04'02" East 17.90 feet, North 22°06'43" East for 13.89 feet to the intersection of said ditch and the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼; thence North 89°10'49" West along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, passing a set capped reference rebar at 2.09 feet, for a total distance of 248.31 feet back to the point of beginning. All capped rebars are ½" rebars stamped "Wilhite PLS 21785" unless noted otherwise.
ALSO AND SUBJECT TO an ingress/egress easement being 30 feet in width and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama state plane west zone coordinate value of N:1494143.53, E:2141672.34; thence South 89°10'49" East along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ for 248.31 feet to the intersection of said northerly boundary and the centerline of an existing ditch, said point being the point of beginning; thence continue South 89°10'49" East along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ for 293.80 feet to the intersection of said northerly boundary and the westerly right of way margin of County Road 222; thence South 44°10'39" West along the westerly right of way margin of said road for 41.26 feet; thence North 89°10'49" West, parallel with the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, for 283.96 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence North 60°53'25" East along the centerline of said ditch for 4.19 feet; thence North 34°04'02" E along the centerline of said ditch for 17.90 feet; thence North 22°06'43" East along the centerline of said ditch for 13.89 feet back to the point of beginning.

Subject to the following:

1. Underground easement conveyed to Cullman Electric Cooperative recorded in Deed Book 725, Page 99 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
2. Ingress-egress easement shown as existing gravel drive on the survey plat prepared by Ricky Wilhite, AL Lic. No. 21785, dated June 2, 2022, which is recorded as Exhibit A to warranty deed recorded in Deed Book 729, Page 601 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
3. Easement and Joint Use Agreement recorded in Deed Book 729, Page 660 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Property Address: 4480 County Road 222, Cullman, AL 35057

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. 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 a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
By: Nancy F. McClellan, Attorney for First National Bank
401 Second Avenue, SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-4040

STATE OF ALABAMA,
CULLMAN COUNTY.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **BBJ Property, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company,** to **First National Bank**, dated May 31, 2023, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2051, Page 636; and a second mortgage executed by **BBJ Property, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company,** to **First National Bank**, dated May 2, 2024, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2083, Page 108; and the undersigned **First National Bank**, as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on January 27, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A tract or parcel of land containing 3.0 acres of land, more or less and being a part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter and a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 11, having an Alabama State Plane, West Zone, NAD83 coordinate value of N.1494143.59', E.
2141672.39, and run North 89 Degrees 11 minutes 39 seconds West (bearing based on AL State Plane, West Zone, NAD83, Grid), and run along the North Section line, a distance of 125.46 feet to a set rebar; thence South 17 degrees 42 minutes 12 seconds East, a distance of 323.42 feet to a found pipe marking the Northeast corner of the Cullman Electric Co-Op Tract as recorded in Deed Book 399, Page 263 in the Office of the Judge of Probate Cullman County, Alabama; thence South 46 degrees 09 minutes 06 seconds East, a distance of 200.18 feet to a found pipe marking the Southeast corner of said tract, same being on the Northerly right of way line of County Road No. 222; thence North 44 degrees 09 minutes 43 seconds East, and run along said right of way line, a distance of 400.46 feet to a set rebar marking the Southeast corner of that certain tract as recorded in Deed book 580, Page 918; thence North 89 degrees 11 minutes 38 seconds West, a distance of 210.00 feet to a set rebar marking the Southwest corner of said tract; thence North 44 degrees 22 minutes 36 seconds east, a distance of 210.00 feet to a set rebar marking the Northwest corner of said tract and being on the North line of Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence North 89 degrees 11 minutes 39 seconds West, a distance of 333.17 feet to a point of beginning. Subject to any rights of way and / or easements of record.

Less and Except:

A tract of land containing 1.08 acres, more or less, lying in the NE¼ of the NW¼ and the NW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, being more particularly described as follows: beginning at the Northeast corner of NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama State Plane West Zone Coordinate of N:1494143.53, E:2141672.34, thence North 89 Degrees 11 minutes 27 seconds West along the Northerly boundary of the NE ¼ of the NW¼ for 125.46 feet to a set capped rebar; thence South 17 Degrees 42 minutes 12 seconds East passing a set capped reference rebar 276.61 feet for a total distance of 281.63 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence along the centerline of said ditch the following bearings and distances, North 41 Degrees 34 minutes 24 seconds East for 53.77 feet, North 42 Degrees 41 minutes 47 seconds East for 72.52 feet, North 42 Degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds East for 20.18 feet, North 47 Degrees 43 minutes 25 seconds East for 132.74 feet, North 65 Degrees 00 minutes 56 seconds East for 24.37 feet, North 68 Degrees 06 minutes 03 seconds East for 20.88 feet, North 60 Degrees 53 minutes 25 seconds East for 39.87 feet, North 34 Degrees 04 minutes 02 seconds East for 17.90 feet, North 22 Degrees 06 minutes 43 seconds East for 13.89 feet to the intersection of said ditch and the Northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE¼; thence North 89 Degrees 10 minutes 49 seconds West along the Northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ passing a set capped reference rebar at 2.09 feet for a total distance of 248.31 feet back to the point of beginning, said tract of land being subject to any existing easements or rights of way, both recorded and unrecorded. All capped rebars are ½" rebars stamped Wilhite PLS 21785 unless noted otherwise.

Also and subject to an ingress/egress easement being 30 feet in width and being more particularly described as follows; Commencing at the Northeast corner of the NE ¼ of the NW¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama State Plane West Zone Coordinate of N: 1494143.53, E:2141672.34, thence South 89 Degrees 10 minutes 49 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of the NW¼ of the NE ¼ for 248.31 feet to the intersection of said Northerly boundary and the centerline of an existing ditch said point being the point of beginning; thence continue South 89 Degrees 10 minutes 49 seconds East along the Northerly boundary of the NW 1/4 of the NE ¼ for 293.80 feet to the intersection of said Northerly boundary and the Westerly right of way margin of County Road 222; thence South 44 Degrees 10 minutes 39 seconds West along the Westerly right of way margin of said road for 41.26 feet; thence North 89 Degrees 10 minutes 49 seconds West parallel with the Northerly boundary of the NW¼ of the NE ¼ for 283.96 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence North 60 Degrees 53 minutes 25 seconds East along the centerline of said ditch for 4.19 feet; thence North 34 Degrees 04 minutes 02 seconds East along the centerline of said ditch for 17.90 feet; thence North 22 Degrees 06 minutes 43 seconds East along the centerline of said ditch for 13.89 feet back to the point of beginning, Said tract of land being subject to any existing easements or rights of way, both recorded and unrecorded.

Property Address: 4944 County Road 222, Cullman, AL 35057

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. 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 a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
By: Nancy F. McClellan, Attorney for First National Bank
401 Second Avenue, SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-4040

Legal Notice

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

1995 Chevrolet Corvette, blue, VIN#1G1YY22P1S5112953

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fees at Williams Auto Repair, 450 County Road 1603, Cullman, Alabama 35058, on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Page 1 of 1

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF LIMESTONE)

IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NO.: AD2025-040

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF
SHANIKA SHANTEL FARRIS
FOR THE ADOPTION OF J.G.T., A MINOR

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Any unknown legal, natural, and/or putative father of J.G.T., whose whereabouts are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of J.G.T. who was born to Amanda Mae McCurry on or about the 29th day of September, 2024, in Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama, has been filed in said Court by SHANIKA SHANTEL FARRIS, Petitioner, and that the 12th day of March, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock A .m. has been set for a hearing on the same at the Limestone County Probate Judge's Office on the Second Floor of the Limestone County Courthouse-Annex in Athens, Alabama. Please be advised that if you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response no later than (30) days of the last date of publication with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court, whose address is 100 S. Clinton Street, Suite D, Athens, Alabama 35611.

DONE THIS THE 30th day of December, 2025.

ANNE G. BURROWS, SAR007
Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC
102 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611
Telephone: (256) 232-0202
Fax: (256) 233-2407
E-Mail: aburrows@handfirm.com

Attorney for Petitioner

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-044

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JOHN WESLEY GEORGE and TAYLOR DUDLEY GEORGE.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: UNKNOWN FATHER of T.S.G., DOB 12/09/2025

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of T.S.G., a minor child born December 9, 2025, to Tracy Leann Spurgeon was filed on the 9th day of December, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners John Wesley George and Taylor Dudley George. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 29th day of December, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ROBERT DALE BLACK, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2025-463

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ROBERT DALE BLACK, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Amy Leanne Jarrett on the 17th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Amy Leanne Jarrett, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith and Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

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 Christopher W Wilks and Ariel L Wilks, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for FirstBank, its successors and assigns dated August 6, 2019; said mortgage being recorded on August 9, 2019 in Deed Book 1886, Page 129 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to FirstBank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2105, Page 232 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, FirstBank, 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 February 5, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

All that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 9 South, Range 1 West, Cullman County, Alabama, more particularly described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 23; thence N 0°36'57" E 180 feet; thence S 89°00' E 938.58 feet to an iron set at an existing agreed fence corner, which is the point of beginning of the property herein conveyed; thence N 9°12'46" W 165.08 feet to an existing nail; thence N 84°34'38" E 200.74 feet to the West right of way of County Road 1718; thence S 4°52'02" E along said right of way to an existing agreed upon 3" iron; thence N 89°31'55" W along an agreed line 189.04 feet to the true point of beginning.

Subject to right of way for County Road 1718, including that certain right of way for public road recorded in Deed Book 480, Page 245.

Said property is commonly known as **4515 County Road 1718, 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 foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

December 29, 2025

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.

FIRSTBANK
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. 25-07753AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
01/03/2026,01/10/2026,01/17/2026

25-07753AL

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Creatures of habit

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Do you know the Hokey Pokey song? It begins with, "You put your right foot in, you take your right foot out. You put your right foot in and you shake it all about." Then after you've done all you are told to do, you are instructed to do it all over again, but this time you put your left foot in. Now, I'm not trying to stir up controversy, but why does it always begin with the right foot? Personally, I would naturally begin with my left foot, because I am left-footed. Having said that, I have no problem putting my right hand in first, because I am right-handed. Okay, I'll go ahead and admit that I may be a little mixed up, because I am right-handed and left-footed. That means I hit a ball with my right arm, but I kick a ball with my left foot. I've tried to change, but it feels awkward to write with my left or to kick with my right.

This brings another question to my mind. Which sock do you put on first? I don't know if it's because I'm left-footed, but I always put on my left sock first. Oh, you've never thought about it? Pay attention and you'll probably find that you put the same one on first most of the time, too. Do you put on both socks before you put on either shoe, or do you put on a sock and a shoe one foot at a time?

Someone suggested we should put on both socks first. That way if our house caught fire we would at least not have to run out of the house barefooted.

Which side of the bed do you sleep on? Which side of your body do you sleep on? I will be willing to guess that you sleep on the same side of the bed, as well as the same side of your body, every night. I sleep on the left side of the bed, but on my right side.

What time do you go to bed and get up? Even my dog, Cocoa (15) goes to bed at the same time each night. Most nights she will get up to go to her bedroom at 9:00, give or take a few minutes either way. What's so amazing about that is she doesn't like to wear a watch!

We are indeed creatures of habit, and once certain habits have been established they are not easily changed or broken. Good habits need to be strengthened but bad habits need to be broken. Truth is that the more we do something the easier it becomes to do, and the harder it becomes to not do. Sometimes we think we can't change, but the truth may be that we don't want to change.

Many habits can be broken and some actions can be changed. For instance, there have been people who lost their dominate hand, so then learned to write and do other things with the other hand. That's not natural or easy, but it can be done.

As we begin a new year, we often think about making some changes. Some say they don't make resolutions, because they can't keep resolutions. Can't or won't? How about, instead of resolving to do certain things for the entire year, we resolve to do them for a day and simply renew that resolve every new day. It's kind of like putting on your socks and shoes one foot at a time, but in this case it's one day at a time. Happy New Days!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Jan. 3, 1946

From the files of Jan. 3, 1946

HANCEVILLE HAPPENINGS

By HAZEL CARSTENSEN

Mrs. Geo. A. Green spent last week with her mother, Mrs. W. L. Shelton in Electric.

Mrs. Earnest Grund and little daughter, Joyce were the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grund in Birmingham last week.

Olmer Compton was able to return to her home Sunday after a week in the Cullman Hospital.

Allan Horton of Dallas, Texas spent last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Longshore.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Walker of Warrior were the guest last week of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Mann.

Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Steele of Chicago visited Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thomas Friday.

Mrs. George Eoles and Amuel Pitts spent Sunday in Gadsden with Mr. and Mrs. Arvil Pitts.

Lt. Ralph Bland of Kessler Field, Mississippi spent last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lossey Bland.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. South and Percy South of Auburn were the guests last week of relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Burkart and son, George Jr. visited Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Muse Sunday.

Mrs. Lewis Dean and Sgt. Robert Dean of Birmingham spent last Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Casey.

Mrs. Watson Carter and daughter Jan spent last week with Mrs. J. S. Snoddy in Double Springs and attended the funeral of her uncle, Dr. W. R. Bonds of Winfield.

Major and Mrs. C. E. Caudell and children, Earl Jr., Jimmy and Annette of Macon, Ga., are the guest of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Caudell this week.

James B. Kelly of Atlanta spent last week with Mrs. Kelly and James.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Little and Gunne and Nancy of Trion, Ga., spent the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Longshore.

Faye Nell Hardin was home from the University for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Crow and children, Joanne and Neil are spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. J. N. McNutt.

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Hargrove and Charles spent last week with relatives in Ardmore.

Miss Wynelle Freeman, student of Toccoa Bible Institute of Toccoa, Ga., spent the holidays at home.

Mrs. Mary Milbourn has returned to her home in Washington after spending several weeks with Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Gantt and Mr. and Mrs. Matt Hillbourn.

Mrs. Paul Milam spent last week end in Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Rance Vincent are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Jr. McFarland in Pensacola, Fla.

Mrs. Pearl Schlaf spent the week-end in Cullman with her sister, Mrs. Sherman Grant.

Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Rush spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Rush of Birmingham and Mrs. L. W. Bishop of Glen Allen.

Lt. Charles McNutt recently returned to Moody Field, Valdosta, Ga., after visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. McNutt.

Pfc. J. C. Garner of Camp Gordon, Ga., was the week end guest of his mother, Mrs. Walter Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy White of Oneonta and Pfc. Willard White of Virginia were the guest last week of Mr. K. L. White.

Melvin Thomas is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fred Posey in Blount Springs this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Morgan received a call from their son, Jackson Morgan, F2c, who has been overseas for four months. He is now in San Francisco, Calif., awaiting reassignment.

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Chappell and children, Dale and Ann of Birmingham spent last week with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ollis Wood and children of Birmingham spent Sunday with Mrs. Walter Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Blackerby of Chelsea announce the engagement of their daughter, Evelyn, to Major W. I. Spraitzer of Warren, Ohio. The wedding will take place in February. Miss Blackerby is the sister of Mrs. E. J. Ashwander.

CALL
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(Pan-Am Service Station - - U. S. Highway No. 31)
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Fully Insured
CAREFUL DRIVERS
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

POET'S CORNER

Farewell Tooth Fairy | By: Randy C. Hale

I would love to hear from you if you enjoy Poet's Corner. randyhale62@yahoo.com

My daughter walks into the room
having performed an extraction
of a loose tooth.
She holds a white handkerchief
to her mouth for the few
drops of blood without alarm,
for this is now routine.

The tooth is placed on the
nightstand by her bed because
though she invites her,
she is not comfortable
with a mystical winged fairy
getting close enough to make
the trade beneath her pillow.

The fairy, knows our place well,
this being our last daughter
of three that has graced our home.
We never see her come or go,
yet there might be a slight trace of
magical dust upon treasured coins left behind.

But, this will be her final visit,
the last baby tooth and the end
of this enchanted era.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JAN. 3

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

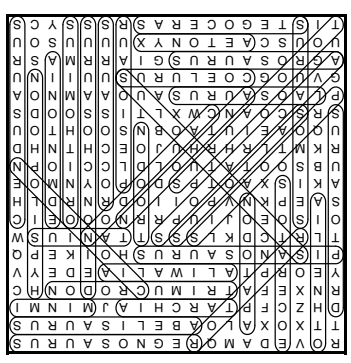
Abelisaurus
Aetonyx
Agrosaurus
Aliwalia
Anthodon
Apatodon
Avaceratops
Caulodon
Chendusaurus
Cionodon
Coelurus
Deinonychosaurus
Dryptosaurus
Edmontonia
Eoceratops
Hypsilophodon
Laosaurus
Minmi
Ornithomimus
Othneilia
Pisanosaurus
Plesiosaur
Protoavis
Rapator
Regnosaurus
Roccosaurus
Saltopus
Seismosaurus
Stegoceras
Stenotholus
Tanius
Tarchia
Torosaurus
Trimucrodon
Troodon

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JAN. 3

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

ANSWERS:



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

EDITORIAL

Public accountability requires real names, not fake profiles

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

The Cullman Tribune supports open public discussion on issues that affect community safety, criminal justice and accountability. Those conversations matter, and strong emotions are often part of them.

What does not serve the public is the growing use of fake profiles, burner accounts or accounts created in the names of children to launch accusations without evidence.

Hiding behind anonymity to make serious claims undermines credibility, harms innocent people and poisons legitimate discussion.

If an individual is unwilling to stand behind their words using their own identity, those accusations belong in anonymous blogs and private Facebook groups that thrive on speculation, not on verified information.

The Tribune will not serve as a megaphone for unsubstantiated claims posted from false or deceptive accounts.

The Cullman Tribune encourages public discussion on its social media platforms, especially surrounding public safety and criminal justice stories.

We allow a wide range of viewpoints, including grief, anger, fear and disagreement, provided those comments remain lawful and grounded in reality.

Comments that include direct threats, graphic depictions of violence, hate speech or knowingly false accusations may be removed or hidden in accordance with platform rules and newsroom policy.

This moderation exists to protect victims, safeguard due process and maintain a space for meaningful public dialogue, not to silence legitimate concern or criticism.

Accountability applies to everyone, including those who choose to speak online. If you have something to say, say it honestly, responsibly and under your own name.

The Cullman Tribune social media policy

The Cullman Tribune encourages public discussion on its social media platforms, particularly on stories involving public safety, criminal justice and issues that affect our community.

We welcome a wide range of viewpoints, including grief, anger, fear and disagreement. Constructive dialog is an important part of a healthy community, and strong emotions often accompany serious news.

What we do not allow is the use of fake profiles, burner accounts or accounts created in the names of children to post accusations, attacks or unverified claims.

Anonymous or deceptive accounts undermine accountability and contribute to the spread of misinformation.

If an individual is unwilling to stand behind their words using their own identity, those claims do not belong on Tribune platforms.

Comments that include direct threats, graphic depictions of violence, hate speech or knowingly false accusations may be removed or hidden in accordance with platform rules and Tribune newsroom policy.

This moderation is applied evenly and is not based on viewpoint or opinion.

Our goal is not to suppress public sentiment, but to protect victims, respect due process, safeguard individuals from harm and maintain a space for meaningful and responsible discussion.

We ask all users to engage honestly, respectfully and under their own name. Accountability matters, both offline and online.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Auditions (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Community Theatre will present a classic love story this spring with its production of "Pride and Prejudice," directed by veteran theater director Kristy McCrickard.

McCrickard, co-chairman of Cullman Community Theatre and one of the organization's production directors, said the beloved Jane Austen story was a natural choice for the season.

"It's such an iconic story," she said. "It's a romantic comedy at its heart, but it also offers social commentary on class, marriage and relationships. Audiences love watching Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy struggle through their pride and prejudices before finding their happy ending."

The play follows the spirited Elizabeth Bennet as she navigates family pressures, societal expectations and her complicated relationship with the reserved Mr. Darcy. McCrickard described the story as family friendly, humorous and emotionally rich.

"We wanted something different for the spring," she said. "It's beautiful, fun and appropriate for all ages. It also has a built-in audience. When people hear 'Pride and Prejudice,' they already feel connected to it."

Auditions will be open to performers ages 15 and older. The production will feature a cast of approximately 25-30 actors, with roles available for teenagers through older adults.

"There are powerful roles for all ages," she said. "While the lead roles tend to fall in the 20- to 30-year-old range, characters like Mr. and Mrs. Bennet and Lady Catherine de Bourgh offer wonderful opportunities for older performers."

Auditioners are encouraged to be familiar with the story, whether through the novel or a film adaptation, given the iconic nature of the characters. While they aren't looking for direct imitations of the characters, the goal is for actors to understand what audiences expect from them.

Monologues specific to the show are available through the group's Facebook and Instagram pages, though performers may bring their own selections if preferred. Cold readings may also be part of the audition process, particularly during callbacks. Resumes and headshots are welcome but not required.

The audition process is designed to be welcoming, especially for those new to acting.

"If it's on your heart to audition, you should do it," McCrickard said. "I've been directing for 30 years, and I want people to succeed. Auditioning is just another opportunity to perform and grow."

Cullman Community Theatre's 2026 season will begin with a children's production of "Matilda" in March, directed by Paige Clabo, followed by "Pride and Prejudice" in late April.

McCrickard said the production offers strong opportunities for actors looking to deepen their craft.

"Pride and Prejudice" audition dates are Saturday, Jan. 24, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 25, from 1-4 p.m.; and Monday, Jan. 26, from 6-9 p.m. Auditions will take place at Technology Village Cullman, 105 Clark St. NE in Cullman.

Rehearsals start Feb. 16, and the show dates are April 23-26.

If you have questions, email kristymccrickard@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/Cullmancommunitytheatre.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 1-2

Howard Ray Posey, 56
Funeral service for Howard Ray Posey, 56, of Cullman were at 2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at Daystar Church, Pastor Jerry Lawson and Jason Johnson officiating. The family received friends at the church on Friday from 12-2 p.m. prior to the funeral service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Posey passed away Dec. 30, 2025, at CRMC. He was born June 20, 1969, to Howard Hoyt and Henrietta Brewer Posey. He was preceded in death by his mother, Henrietta Brewer Posey. Survivors include his dad, Howard Hoyt Posey; his wife of 37 years, Trish Posey; sons, Mycah (Karli) Posey, Najee (Brittaney) Davis, Korbin Posey; daughters, Breana Posey, Raven Posey; brother, Henry (Laurie) Posey; grandson, Jack Posey; granddaughters, Lily Posey and Kensington Davis; a host of nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, family and friends. We remember today a devoted husband and family man whose life was marked by meekness and humility. He loved the Lord deeply, and that love guided the way he lived, served, and cared for others. He faithfully served his church and his community, never seeking recognition, but always willing to help where he was needed. To those who knew him best, he was a gentle giant—strong in presence, yet tender in heart. Howard would speak at COJ (Crossing Over Jordan) and would ask "are you all in?" He was "ALL IN" with the Lord and made such an impact on everyone he spoke to. His legacy lives on through his devotion to his family, his quiet faith, and the countless lives he touched with kindness, patience, and love. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to The Choose Life Fund at Daystar Church. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Elizabeth Ann Adair, 88
Funeral service for Elizabeth Ann Adair, 88, of Vinemont will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Ebenezer Cemetery, Rev. Tim Dubberly officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Adair passed away Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025, at CRMC. She was born July 25, 1937, to William O. and Lizzie Gardner Grund. She was a seamstress and loved sewing and quilting. She enjoyed playing board games, loved going to church and loved her family. She was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Shelia Adair. Survivors include her husband of 67 years, Jessie Dwain Adair; sons, Phillip (Avra) Adair, Dwight Alan (Chandra) Adair; daughter, Teresa Adair; brother, Alford (Linda) Grund; step-brothers, Kingsford Worthington, Hershel Worthington; step-sister, Viola Jett; grandchildren, Joseph Adair, Alexia Moye, Kaylee Adair; great-grandchildren, Aubree Adair, Waylon Adair, Amberlyn Adair; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Delba Jean Murphree Bright, 92
Mrs. Delba Jean Murphree Bright passed away at her home on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, at the age of 92. Delba is preceded in death by her husband of fifty-one years, Ira Edward Bright; her parents, Oncie Murphree and Dessie Lambert Murphree; brothers, Leonard Murphree, Therman Murphree, Rayburn Murphree, Douglas Murphree, Bobby Ray Murphree, and Kenneth Murphree. She is survived by her sisters, Glenda Murphree Bates and Elaine Murphree Simpson. Family was deeply important to Delba. Raised in a Christian home, she learned the values of hard work and strong family ties. She especially enjoyed large family gatherings, weddings, and a good weekly game of Rook! Ira was the love of her life. Delba considered their marriage to be her greatest accomplishment. Delba was a longtime member of Union Grove Presbyterian Church, and also attended Edison Chapel Presbyterian Church. Employed by Blue Bell/Wrangler for 40 years, she made many lifelong friendships and a whole lot of blue jeans! She found joy in crocheting, cooking, sewing, and reading. A kind and valued neighbor and friend in the Edison Chapel Community, Delba had a heart for others. She also cherished her nieces and nephews, taking great joy in their lives and accomplishments. In Delba's own words, "I want my family to remember me not for what I have done, but the fact that I always loved every one of you. I always tried to do what is right and love my Lord." The family will receive friends on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, for a time of visitation, beginning at 12 p.m. and concluding as services begin. Services will follow at 1 p.m., in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastors Hermon Lambert and Daryl Bailey officiating. Mrs. Bright will be laid to rest in Union Grove Cemetery, alongside her beloved Ira, where Jim Murphree, Chris Murphree, Steve Murphree, James Murphree, Jason Simpson, and Andrew McElvey will serve as pallbearers. Mrs. Bright's obituary was provided by her family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Murphree-Bright family.

Thella Ruth Smith, 92
Thella Ruth Wren Smith passed away on Dec. 29, 2025, at the age of 92. Mrs. Smith was born on June 5, 1933, to W. L. and Lillie Guthrie Wren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Doice Smith, her parents, her sister, Tressie (Hubert) McKissack and her brother, Troy Wren. She is survived by her daughter, Glenda (Cameron) Harbison, grandson Jason (Tara) Harbison, granddaughter Bethany (Kenny) Boulahanis, and four great-grands, Malachi, Shiloh, Selah, and Josiah Boulahanis. She is also survived by her dear sister-in-law, Odeen (Troy) Wren and special nieces, Phyllis (Mike) Vines and Sherrie (Buck) Simmons. A visitation was held at Moss service on Jan. 2, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. with the funeral immediately following. Burial followed at Spring Hill Baptist cemetery. Thella Ruth loved her family and enjoyed serving them any way she could. One of her favorite things to do was search through recipes for special foods they might enjoy. But no matter the occasion, her family's most requested dish continued to be her wonderful chicken dumplings. She delighted in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She saw her family as gifts from God and loved spending time with each of them. More than anything else, Thella Ruth loved her Lord. A church bulletin from several years ago quoted her as saying that she was saved at a young age and had felt God's protection and guidance every day throughout her life. During her later years, it was difficult for her to attend church regularly, so she watched several online church services every Sunday. She also faithfully read her daily Bible reading, Sunday School lesson, and devotional book. She prayed for her family and for any other prayer needs she knew about. Her faith was firmly grounded in Jesus Christ. Several years ago, Thella Ruth learned to text, and several times a day Glenda would check in with the simple words: "Are you okay?' And Thella Ruth would reply with, "I'm okay." There is no doubt that if she could tell us, she would assure us that she is doing so much better than just "okay" in her new Heavenly home with Jesus. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Spring Hill Cemetery fund in care of Mr. Belford Grey 310 County Road 1094 Cullman, Alabama 35057. The family sends appreciation to the caring staff on the West Hall of Woodland Village nursing center and to the kind compassion shown by each of the Aveanna Hospice nurses. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Courtney Holmes Ballenger Lynn, 39
Arrangements for Courtney Holmes Ballenger Lynn are pending and will be announced at a later time.

Thomas Lee Mitchell, 76
Funeral service for Thomas Lee Mitchell, 76, will be at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Livingston Chapel. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday from 12-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Mitchell passed away Dec. 31, 2025, at The Folsom Center. He was born Oct. 7, 1949 to Harmon Perry Mitchell Sr. and Nora Mae Auston Mitchell. He was a member of the Crane Hill Fire Department and an EMT for many years. He loved the Crane Hill Senior Site. He was an auto body repair man and was known for the refinishing of the antique ambulance that was displayed at CRMC. Mr. Mitchell was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Geree Baker; brothers, Perry Mitchell, Jr. and Dennis Mitchell. Survivors include his sisters, Faye Fincher, Mary Lou (Delton) Perry of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Debbie (Zelter) Murphree; sisters-in-law, Donna Mitchell, Margaret Mitchell; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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