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After decades at the line, Dale Greer reels in retirement



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman City Council officially accepted Dale Greer's resignation at its meeting Monday, Jan. 12, 2026. Left to right are Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, Greer and Cullman City Council President Kim Hall.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Dale Greer, director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA), is set to retire after decades of service in Cullman, bringing to a close a career defined by steady growth, long-term planning and an emphasis on relationships and collaboration.

Greer was named director of the CEDA effective June 1, 2017, following the retirement of longtime director Peggy Smith.

Greer had already spent approximately 25 years with the agency prior to assuming the director role, giving him more than three decades of total service with CEDA.

"This is a great community with a strong foundation already in place. My goal is to build on that foundation and continue working with our partners to make sure Cullman stays competitive for the future," Greer said during a 2017 transition interview.

During Greer's tenure as director, Cullman consistently earned national recognition among micropolitan communities from Site Selection Magazine, including top-10 rankings from 2017-2022, and 2024, with a No. 2 national ranking in 2023.

While the micropolitan designation is largely unfamiliar to the general public, it is widely used among economic developers to compare communities of similar size based on job growth, investment activity and long-term economic momentum. Cullman's repeated high placement signaled sustained performance rather than a single-year surge.

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Holmes retiring from CCSO; Hogue will be new chief deputy



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Ribbon cut on Phase II of Cullman Middle School expansion



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 12

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 12, 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

Jan. 8-11

Adams, Theresa S.; 55
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Braswell, Randall D.; 40
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Breeden, Donna M.; 54
- assault-aggravated assault-domestic-menacing-gun
- obstruction-governmental operations
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Brown, Gina A.; 55
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Cason, David E.; 49
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Collins, Tommy D.; 69
- public intoxication

Couch, Brandon S.; 40
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Denham, Christopher S.; 62
- open container-alcohol in a vehicle
- public intoxication

Forsyth, Holly M.; 40
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Gable, Dylan T.; 24
- burglary-residence-no force
- public intoxication

Graham, Kayla N.; 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Handley, Matthew G.; 43
- harassing communications

Hanners, Curtis R.; 58
- FTA – improper lane usage
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Henderson, Clayton W.; 51
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Jackson, Clark A.; 37
- FTA – public intoxication

Marcum-Cornelious, Becky S.; 37
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Martin, Jennifer N.; 43
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Martz, Koltin C.; 24
- possession of methamphetamine

Miles, Kimberly W.; 53
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Monroe, Ashley C.; 40
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-3rd degree

Parson, Ellis D.; 52
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Peterson, Amy R.; 45
- PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Riggs, Chandler D.; 26
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Robbins, Coty A.; 39
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA – DUI (controlled substances)

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

Self, Richard D.; 61
- possession of methamphetamine

Susskin, Kenya B.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Turner, Paul D.; 58
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- obstruction-governmental operations

Tyler, Kendall B.; 35
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Walker, Amanda M.; 44
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of dangerous drugs
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia

Williams, Michael C.; 34
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 9
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $140; Olive St. SW
- harassment; person

Jan. 10
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $94; Olive St. SW
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; theft of property-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Jan. 9-10

Ragelin, Ronald A.; 59
- domestic violence-3rd degree
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Phelps, Christy M.; 42
- domestic violence-criminal mischief-3rd degree

Hanners, Curtis R.; 58
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Riddle, Crystal H.; 42
- theft of property-4th degree

Couch, Brandon s.; 40
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – driving while revoked

Jones, Patrick E.; 39
- disorderly conduct

Reese, Lawanda M.; 48
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle
- theft of property-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Dodge City Town Council proclaims January Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. — The Dodge City Town Council approved multiple resolutions and ordinances during its regular meeting held Jan. 8.

Among the items approved was a resolution proclaiming January Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The resolution acknowledges human trafficking as a public health and safety issue and affirms the Town's support for awareness and prevention efforts.

Town officials said the proclamation is part of a broader initiative encouraged statewide to bring attention to the issue.

The council also approved an ordinance to participate in the annual Back-To-School Sales Tax Holiday.

The tax holiday will run from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 17, through midnight Sunday, July 19. During that period, no state or local sales or use tax is due on covered items. Learn more at www.revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/alabama-back-to-school-sales-tax-holiday-participating-localities.

In other business, council members approved updates to the Town handbook and voted to renew two certificates of deposit that had matured.

One CD is held at Peoples Bank and the other at SouthPoint Bank. The council also approved a $200 per month pay increase for the town clerk.

No additional ordinances or resolutions were introduced under the "Other" portion of the agenda.

Officials briefly noted that Christmas lights along Alabama Highway 69 were scheduled to be taken down, but no formal action was required.

Friendly reminder: the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce will host a meet-and-greet event - Cup O' Community – Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 7:30-9 a.m. Residents are encouraged to come out and meet the mayor, town council members and other local residents.

The event will take place at Peoples Bank (435 Alabama Highway 69) in Dodge City. The Sweet Foam Alabama coffee truck will be on-site. The first 25 cups of coffee are free. The event is sponsored by Peoples Bank.

Holmes (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office on Monday, Jan. 12, announced the upcoming retirement of Chief Deputy Brett Holmes, who will conclude his distinguished career at the end of February after nearly 28 years of dedicated service to the residents of Cullman County.

The CCSO said Holmes began his career with the department in March nearly three decades ago. "Over the years, he served in multiple capacities, including as a patrol deputy and as a member of the Narcotics Unit. His leadership abilities and commitment to public safety led to his promotion in 2007 to lieutenant over the Patrol Division."

It continued, "In 2011, Holmes continued his service to the community by transferring to the Cullman County District Attorney's Office, where he worked as an investigator. His experience, professionalism and steady leadership brought him back to the Sheriff's Office in 2015, when he was sworn in as chief deputy under Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"For the past 11 years, Holmes has served as second-in-command, helping guide the agency through growth, challenges and major initiatives that strengthened public safety across the county."

At the end of February, Holmes will retire from law enforcement to pursue a new opportunity in the private sector.

Gentry expressed deep appreciation for Holmes' service, noting his unwavering dedication, leadership and commitment to the residents of Cullman County; more personally, he noted their friendship, which has spanned almost three decades.

"Serving as chief deputy for the past 11 years has been the highlight of my career and one of the greatest honors of my life.

"It has been a career that was both rewarding and demanding. It would not have been possible without the strong support of my family. Most notably my wife – Leslie. I am honored to say we will celebrate 30 years of marriage later this year," Holmes said.

"Throughout my career, I've seen firsthand how this community comes together in times of crisis and how our deputies rise to meet every challenge.

"Cullman County is special because of its people — those who serve and those we serve.

"I hope each of you continues to support the men and women of the sheriff's office as they work every day to protect and strengthen our community. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. Stay safe, and God bless."

Major Matt Hogue, who has also served on Gentry's command staff for the previous 11 years, is being promoted to chief deputy.

Expansion (from Front)

Anabelle Howze, Trent Moore

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools hosted a community open house Sunday, Jan. 11, with City and State officials cutting the ribbon on Phase II of the large-scale Cullman Middle School expansion project. The event offered residents a first look at newly completed instructional spaces.

The Cullman City School Board in summer 2021 set the vision of providing a safe and modern campus for CMS students that offers adequate academic space and the ability to provide multiple extracurricular opportunities, the school system said. Ground was broken in May 2022, and students and educators have now officially moved into the state-of-the-art facility that replaces some of the oldest buildings in the district.

"Many of us have driven by the corner of Oak Street and Second Avenue over the past few years and have seen the transformation of this campus from the ground up," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "Something like this doesn't happen without everyone working together, and we are thankful to the mayor and Cullman city council for their support in our capital plan. We are excited about this campus and the opportunities it will provide for our current students and for many generations to come."

Kallhoff said Phase II includes several core curriculum learning classrooms along with specialized spaces, including a modern media center, band and choir rooms, agriculture and consumer science classrooms, an art studio, two science labs, a STEM lab, an FACS lab, an agriscience lab, a health science classroom and a special needs classroom where students can begin working on independent living and transition skills. The expansion allows programs that previously lacked dedicated space to spread out while supporting hands-on learning, which Kallhoff said is a priority for teachers and students. Many of the new classrooms are designed for lab-based instruction and feature updated technology and furnishings.

Kallhoff said the primary goals of the project are to improve student safety and prepare for continued growth in the city. The additional space will also help the district transition sixth grade to the middle school campus next school year, with renovations planned for older wings to accommodate the change.

Visitors touring the facility saw modern classrooms, new technology and upgraded learning environments, along with views overlooking downtown Cullman and nearby athletic facilities.

Kallhoff said inviting the community to tour the campus is an important way to show how local education funds are being used to modernize schools and invest in both current and future students.

"This doesn't just represent a new building, but a new chapter for Cullman Middle School and one of the most significant accomplishments here in more than 50 years," CMS Principal Jake Johnson said. "We appreciate your belief in what this school can be."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Marie Manning, an Alabama State Board of Education member representing the city of Cullman, noted there is "no lack of vision" in Cullman City Schools."There's something that fills your heart when you're surrounded by excellence, and in Cullman, you're surrounded by excellence," Alabama State Department of Education Superintendent Eric Mackey added.

The ribbon cutting was attended by several state and local officials, including current and former school board members, Alabama Sen. Garlan Gudger Jr., local businessman Roy Drinkard, Cullman City Council members, teachers, administrators and many more.

A few more renovations are left to be done on the CMS campus, including updates to the original gym, which was built in 1936, as well as updates to the 12 classrooms formerly used for seventh grade that will house sixth grade beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

The CMS project is part of a comprehensive Safety and Growth Plan that includes new construction and renovations on all campuses of the Cullman City Schools system.

United Way of Cullman County transitions to leadership donor model for 2026 campaign

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – United Way of Cullman County has transitioned away from its Business Alliance program and returned to a leadership donor model as the organization enters its 2026 campaign year, according to the organization.

The decision came after a period of reflection on how best to recognize community support while remaining focused on United Way's core mission and long-term community impact.

UWCC stated leadership giving is structured to support the entire community by funding all partner agencies and advancing four focus areas, healthy community, community resiliency, financial security and youth opportunity.

By returning to the leadership donor model, the organization said it will be better positioned to respond to needs where they are greatest and to ensure lasting impact across Cullman and Winston counties.

Under the leadership giving structure, donors may contribute in either their business name or family name and receive year-round recognition on United Way of Cullman County's website, with additional quarterly recognition shared on social media, the organization said.

The organization said donors who contribute $500 or more annually are recognized as leadership donors and are invited to participate in the 2026 campaign through a newly released Community Partner Pledge Form.

Leadership giving levels outlined in the pledge form include the Builders Society at $500 to $999, Red Feather Society at $1,000 to $1,999, Silver Feather Society at $2,000 to $3,499, Gold Feather Society at $3,500 to $4,999, Platinum Feather Society at $5,000 to $9,999 and the Tocqueville Society at $10,000 or more annually, according to United Way of Cullman County.

Multiple payment options are available through the pledge form, including payroll deduction, cash or check, credit card payments, billing options and gifts of stock or securities, according to UWCC.

Payroll deductions may be scheduled weekly, monthly or biweekly over 12, 26 or 52 pay periods, while billing options may be arranged on a monthly or quarterly basis for qualifying pledges, according to the organization.

UWCC encourages donors to make undesignated gifts to allow funds to be distributed where needs are greatest, though donors may designate gifts to specific partner agencies or initiatives if they choose.

In addition to outlining giving options, the pledge form highlights the organization's 211 resource line, which connects individuals and families to assistance related to housing, utilities, food and caregiving, according to UWCC.

UWCC is located at 104 Austin Ave. SW in Cullman, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 116, Cullman, AL 35056, and additional information about leadership giving is available by contacting the organization at 256-739-2948. Find out more at www.uwaycc.org.



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.

The Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 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, Jan. 16 – 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, Jan. 17 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Jan. 18 – 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.

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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Third Sunday Singing
Sunday, Jan. 18, at 5 p.m. with the Lacy Family. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501.

CHS Class of 1969 Luncheon
Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. Casual dress. Spouse/significant other included. Please check your email and respond accordingly.

Cullman Eagle Forum Meeting
Monday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Hanceville Housing Authority, 819 Kiki Drive, Hanceville, AL 35077. We will be training local citizens on hand counting election ballots. Come see how fun and easy it is to perform this essential civic duty. All are invited to attend.

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.

Casino Night Benefiting Hope Horses
Saturday, Feb. 28, from 6-10 p.m. at Cotton Creek, 417 Third Ave. SW in Cullman. Let's go all-in for a fun-filled casino night benefiting Hope Horses! Tickets are $100 and include dinner, drinks and starter chips! Hope Horses, Inc. is a nonprofit organization. All donations made payable to Hope Horses are tax deductible. For more information, please email us at krice@hopehorsesinc.com.





The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
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PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont comes from behind for 61-57 win over Hanceville

Lucas Gray
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After a comeback win over Locust Fork on Tuesday night, The Vinemont Eagles found themselves in familiar territory Friday, trailing Hanceville by as many as 11 points early in the second half. Bulldogs' sharpshooter Sam Abney had picked up right where he left off in the first, hitting his 7th three of the game to pin the team down even further. They lacked momentum on the floor, and a rowdy Bulldog crowd didn't help. Behind some stellar team defense and gritty play from guard Bryson Bush, however, the team stormed back late and captured a 61-57 road win over region foe Hanceville.

The win boosts Vinemont's regional record to 6-1, top in their region, and 13-7 overall. Hanceville, however, falls to 5-13 on the season and in possession of third place in the region with the county tournament just over a week away.

Opening the game, despite playing well overall, Vinemont had a clear issue: Hanceville's Sam Abney couldn't miss. The 6-1 guard has a knack for catching the defense off guard, seemingly disappearing and reappearing open at the top of the key. He capitalized on his opportunities, nailing six three-pointers in the first half and draining another three from the charity stripe. His 21 first-half points would've stood as a game-high even if he hadn't touched the floor again.

For much of the second quarter, the game was a slugfest. On one end, the Eagles would get a tough and-one finish from Colton Gillis or Cheston Wilhite to start a run, then Abney would leak open and hit a deep ball or Shawn Pilman would grab a board and find his way to the line.

Rounding out the first half, momentum was squarely on the shoulders of the Bulldogs, who closed out the second period on a 10-1 run that featured two Abney threes. Hanceville went into halftime with a 40-30 lead.

In Vinemont's locker room, the focus was clear, and the players recognized it more than anyone.

"(Abney) is great, I have a player-led team, and they talked about taking him out of the equation at halftime. It was simple, just gotta find him, just gotta know where he is on the floor at all times and make sure he's not getting clean catches," Vinemont head coach James Brown said.

After another three early in the second half, they did just that, holding the Hanceville guard to just three points in the third quarter. Without those momentum-killing shots, Bush began to take over and the Eagles began piecing together a comeback. Bush's scoring numbers weren't eye-popping, finishing the night with 14 points, but his impact on the game goes beyond the box score. The ball always seemed to end up in his hands, and whether he muscled his way into the paint for a tough finish or swung the ball to an open man for a score, he'd make the right move. His motor is undeniable, evident by the trio of rebounds, six assists and two steals he recorded on top of his scoring.

"He's my most consistent player. He's physical, gets after it. He's on the glass, he can get downhill, shoot a little bit. He's our most complete player and he helps fuel this fire for sure," Brown said.

Vinemont would go on to tie the game up at 50 at the end of the third, and open the fourth with five more points on what would end as a 13-0 run to take the lead for the final time.

While Abney's final three and a pair of tough layups would keep things interesting late, the Eagles always answered. Abney finished the night with 27 points (eight three-point makes), two rebounds and an assist. Closing off a game that had his fingerprints all over it, Bush sunk a free throw to ice a Vinemont victory. Another player that stuffed the box score for the Eagles was Wilhite, who finished the night with eight points, four rebounds, four assists, two steals and a block.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vinemont guard Bryson Bush fights through pressure from Hanceville defender.

"We just did this Tuesday night at Locust Fork. We were down 16 midway through the third quarter, fought back and won by five. These guys have got alligator blood in their DNA or something, you're just not gonna kill 'em, they just keep grinding," said Brown.

Vinemont's next matchup comes on Monday night, when they visit the Good Hope Raiders. For Hanceville, their next matchup will be another home game vs. Locust Fork on Tuesday.

PREP BASKETBALL

West Point collects 56-40 area win over Russellville

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

RUSSELLVILLE, Ala. — After collecting a huge win in their area opener at home against Lawrence County, the West Point Warriors traveled to Russellville to take on the Golden Tigers in their second straight area game on Friday night. West Point got out to a quick lead, but Russellville went on a late run in the first half to take the lead at the break. The Warriors started the third quarter out strong and stretched their lead out to double digits. They outscored the Golden Tigers, 19-10, in the third en route to a 56-40 win over Russellville.

West Point started the game red-hot from the field. Maddox Chapman hit a basket down low to put the Warriors on the scoreboard first.

Nolan Franklin split his free throws, but Jaxon Shelton grabbed the offensive rebound off the missed free throw and knocked down a short jumper to give the Warriors a 5-2 lead. Franklin added a layup to make it 7-2, then Shelton scored six straight points to stretch their lead to 13-5.

Chapman hit a pair of baskets down low to make it a 17-7 game almost midway through the opening quarter, but Russellville went on a 7-1 run to close out the quarter, as that cut it to 18-14 going into the second quarter.

Chapman scored in the paint to give West Point a 20-14 lead early in the second, but the Golden Tigers went on an 11-0 run to take a 25-20 lead late in the first half.

The Warriors finished the quarter out strong. Shelton stopped the bleeding with a three from the left wing, then Franklin scored off of a Russellville turnover, and Shelton added another basket before the half ended to give the Warriors a 27-25 lead at the half.

West Point carried that momentum over into the third quarter. Their defense forced a turnover, and Graph Byram turned it into a basket on the other end to make it a 29-25 game.

Baskets by Chapman and Shelton put them up, 33-25, then later in the quarter, Byram drained a three, and Chapman's rebound and putback helped widen their lead to 38-28. Another turnover by the Golden Tigers turned into another basket on the other end by Bryam, as that made it a 40-28 game.

Shelton drained a short jumper, and another rebound and putback by Chapman gave the Warriors a 44-32 lead late in the third quarter.

Chapman put in another basket down low to put West Point up, 46-35, going into the final period.

Kade Vincent buried a three, then Shelton hit a pair of baskets to stretch the Warrior lead to 53-38. Chapman, Franklin, and Vincent each hit a free throw to help seal West Point's 56-40 win over the Golden Tigers. The Warriors have now won four straight games.

Shelton led the way for West Point (15-6, 2-0) with a game-high 21 points. Chapman posted 18 points, and Byram added seven points.

The Warriors will continue area play next Tuesday night at Lawrence County.

PREP BASKETBALL

Addison girls fall, boys grind out tough win over rival Winston County

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — Addison hosted their arch rival the 2A Winston County Yellow Jackets on Saturday evening and came away with a split. The Lady Bulldogs lost 53-27, while the Bulldog Boys came away with a thrilling 57-54 victory.

WCHS 53 – Addison 27
(Varsity Girls)

The Lady 'Dawgs scored the first bucket of the game on a Braylee Bartlett jumper, but then the Lady Jackets went on a nice little run. The Lady Jackets scored the next 14 points, led by Lynleigh Cobb, who has been playing varsity basketball for the Jackets for it seems like, the last decade. Cobb had five points and was assisted by Marleigh Stewart who also had five points. Addison's Emma Cleghorn hit a layup and Addison had cut the lead to 14-4. The Jackets would score the last four points of the period and win the frame 18-4. Cleghorn led the Lady Dawgs with two points and three rebounds. Bartlett chipped in a bucket. The afore mentioned Lady Jackets did their damage while Emma Kate Veal had four points of her own.

The second period was a little better for Addison, who only lost the period 12-8 to go in at the half down 30-12. Addison had Cleghorn with another bucket and two boards, while Morgan Lee and Chaisly Obrien each drained a trey. Saibre Dover had three rebounds and a block in an improved period for the Bulldogs in the second. The Jackets were led by Ellie Veal with five points while Jaylee Calloway had four points and four rebounds.

The third period was again a challenge for the Lady Dawgs, but they managed to keep it close. The Ladies from Addison only scored four points, but they played solid defense and only gave up 9. The Lady Dawgs only points came on free throws as they went four for four in the period. Cleghorn and Obrien had two each. Cleghorn and Hadley Welch each had three rebounds for Addison. Cobb, shockingly, led WCHS with six points while Emma Kate Veal drained a three. Addison went into the fourth period trailing 39-16, a marked improvement from their earlier meeting in the season.

The final period was a little more exciting, as both teams heated up from deep and WCHS won the period 14-11 and the game 53-27. Stewart led the Jackets with five points, while Cobb and Calloway had four each. Addison was led by Bartlett, who nailed two treys while Obrien hit another three. The young Lady Bulldogs should be greatly encouraged as they actually outrebounded the taller and older Lady Jacket team 30-28. The Lady Bulldogs are basically a junior high team playing very young girls with a smattering of upperclassmen, with only two. The future seems brighter if the young ladies keep improving.

Addison 57 – WCHS 54
(Varsity Boys)

The Bulldogs were hoping to improve their shooting from their last two games, when they seemingly couldn't make a basket. They did improve somewhat, but the Jackets from across Smith Lake brought some fight in them tonight and actually outplayed the Bulldogs for most of two and a half quarters. Addison jumped on the boys from Twin Springs, and got out to an 11-3 lead. The 'Dawgs were led by their do everything, Mr. Elijah Roberts with four while Connor Lane, Scout Flynn and Major Snoddy each hit long three pointers. That is when the Jackets got hot, and went on a 14-2 run to take the period 17-13. The Jackets dominated the inside, hitting their cutters and making layups. The Jackets also dominated the glass in the last half of the first period. Max Moore, Camden Smith and Garrett Lewis each hit a trey while Will Elliott had four points and three boards. Colt Cobb was a presence inside with four points and three boards.

The second period started out much like the first as WCHS scored the first six points of the period to take their largest lead of the game at 23-13.

Bulldog Joey Wilson hit a runner to end the run and cut the lead to 22-15. The teams basically exchanged buckets the rest of the period going into the half with WCHS leading 33-27. Roberts, Lane and Flynn led Addison with four points apiece. Flynn led Addison with three boards. The Jackets were led by Smith with six points, while Lewis hit another trey and young Colt Cobb had three points with three rebounds.

The third period started out with the Jackets suffering a major blow as Cobb, a 9th grader, suffered an injury to his lower body and was taken by EMS personnel for treatment. The cheerleaders and players from both teams along with the fans were led in prayer for the young man's health. Best Wishes, Mr. Cobb.

The Bulldogs took advantage of Cobb's absence by winning the period 18-8 to take the lead into the final frame. WCHS was leading 37-36 when the injury occurred and Roberts immediately grabbed a rebound and scored a put back when play resumed giving Addison the lead at 38-37. Flynn would drain a top of the key three pointer to extend the lead to 41-37. Addison extended the lead to 45-38 when Jacket Smith hit a deep three to cut the lead to 45-41 going into the fourth.

The fourth period was an exciting back and forth as with the score tied at 48; Smith nailed another three pointer to push the Jacket lead to three, 51-48. After a Lane free throw cut the lead to one, Kiah Lake grabbed a rebound, had his shot partially blocked, grabbed his own rebound and put the ball up and in for the tie at 51 with 1:57 to go in the game.

Flynn, who had an excellent second half, hit around a 15-foot jumper and then knocked down two free throws to give Addison the 55-51 lead with 42 seconds to go in the game. Jacket Camden Smith hit a clutch three pointer with a 'Dawg in his face to cut the lead to 55-54 with only 21 seconds left. With the Jackets having to foul, the Jackets chose Roberts to hack and he calmly stepped to the line with 8 seconds left drained two free throws to give Addison the 57-54 lead. WCHS managed to get off a pretty uncontested three pointer that looked like it was going in. The ball actually went into the cylinder, spun around the rim once and fell off where it was rebounded by Roberts, sealing the Bulldog victory.



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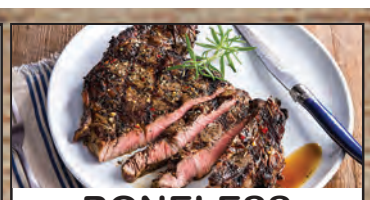
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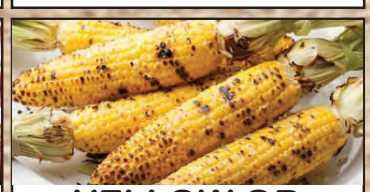
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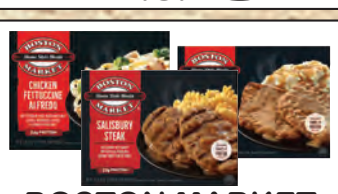
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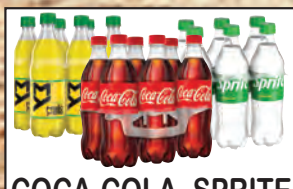
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SHERRY BROWN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer addresses the audience at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce's annual Industry Appreciation event at Terri Pines on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025.



SHERRY BROWN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right, three former Burgermeisters — Casey Harbin, Dale Greer and Steven Sides — pose for a photo at the Cullman Oktoberfest Burgermeister Ball on Sept. 25, 2025.



CONTRIBUTED

Undated photo of Dale Greer

Greer (from Front)

early years of Greer's tenure as assistant director and today, Cullman's population grew from approximately 61,000 to more than 87,000, while the number of major employers increased from fewer than 20 to more than 30, and local jobs grew from roughly 18,000 to more than 26,000.

CEDA also received state and international recognition during that period for agency performance and long-term development strategy.

"Our success comes from consistency. We've focused on creating an environment where businesses can grow and employees can succeed," Greer said in 2019 while discussing Cullman's national ranking.

Greer frequently emphasized collaboration as a defining factor in Cullman's development progress.

"This ranking reflects the teamwork between our city and county governments, our industry partners and our workforce. Economic development is never about one person," he said in 2024.

Former CEDA Director Smith said Greer's retirement marked the close of a partnership that shaped decades of progress in Cullman.

"After many years of dedicated service to our community, I want to congratulate my friend and colleague on his retirement. Working alongside him for more than 20 years was one of the highlights of my career," Smith said.

"Together with our small staff we helped bring meaningful projects to our small town, and his commitment, vision and hard work made all the difference," she said. "We valued the vision put in place by The Flying Fifty, and they inspired our team to follow that vision."

Smith said the agency's evolution during that period laid the groundwork for Cullman's later success.

"We went from a handful of industries to marketing sites and parks that provided a good location for industry and helped drive the strong record of success that followed," she said.

Smith said Greer's leadership style combined professionalism with genuine joy for the work.

"Dale was known for his dedication and long hours, bringing vision, determination and professionalism to every project, along with a lot of laughter," she said. "It has been my honor and pleasure to work with him."

She said Greer's impact will continue long after his retirement.

"I wish him every happiness in retirement and know he will be happy to have unlimited fishing days.

"He will be greatly missed, but his contributions to this community and state will be felt for years to come," Smith said.

As Greer prepares to step away from the agency, those who worked alongside him said his leadership style was defined as much by character as by accomplishment.

CEDA Assistant Director Jamie Troutman said Greer's influence was felt both professionally and personally.

"Dale Greer is truly one-of-a-kind. He's one of those rare people who is always in a good mood and will go out of his way to help someone or offer a kind word. People come to Dale because he is known for making things happen," Troutman said.

"It has been an honor to work with Dale for so many years. His impact on our community cannot be overstated. His contributions, whether through civic involvement, industrial recruitment or projects such as the Duck River Dam and Reservoir, to name just a few, have helped shape where we are today," she said.

Troutman said her time working alongside Greer helped shape her own approach to leadership and long-term planning for the agency.

"I have learned a great deal from working with him and am optimistic about the future. I wish Dale nothing but the best in a well-deserved retirement."

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson said Greer's impact extended beyond individual projects and rankings.

"The truest measure of a public servant is simple: they leave the place they served better than they found it. By that standard, Dale Greer's legacy is unquestionable, measured in decades of steady leadership, collaborative progress and a Cullman that is stronger today and positioned for generations to come," Anderson said.

Former Cullman Mayor Max Townson said Greer played a key role in multiple industrial and retail development efforts during his time in office.

"I was blessed to work with Dale Greer for eight years. He was responsible for several industrial development projects and retail development projects during my time as mayor," Townson said.

"I've always appreciated Dale and his heart and enthusiasm for the city of Cullman and for Cullman County. He's not a bad fishing partner either."

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Joey Orr said Greer's leadership style and commitment to collaboration played a central role in Cullman's long-term economic progress.

"Dale Greer's impact on Cullman's economic growth cannot be overstated. He believes wholeheartedly in collaboration and communication.

"This has been key to his success as he has helped to recruit investments to the area, support local industry, identify ways for long-term growth and create opportunities for our business owners and citizens. Dale knows that progress happens when people work together," Orr said.

She said Greer's influence also extended beyond professional collaboration into mentorship and personal leadership.

"Since taking my position at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Dale has been a mentor, friend and advocate. He is always ready with a quick joke, an encouraging word and a fishing story or two. Dale's ability to build relationships and lead people has made the Cullman area a better place to be. His legacy will be felt for years to come," Orr said.

Under Greer's leadership, CEDA focused on industrial recruitment, infrastructure development and workforce alignment, with those efforts tied to sustained growth across manufacturing, logistics and commercial sectors.

Infrastructure initiatives associated with the agency during Greer's tenure included coordination related to the Duck River Reservoir project, which expanded water resources and recreational opportunities for the region.

Workforce development and education alignment were recurring themes in public discussions involving Greer.

"We have to make sure students understand the opportunities available here and that our training programs match the needs of our employers," Greer said in 2022.

As Greer reflected on his years with CEDA, he said the most meaningful takeaway was the collective effort behind Cullman's progress.

"The growth and development of the community and the partnerships that made it happen stand out the most," Greer said. "Our agency worked closely with the mayor and council, industrial development boards, the county commission, the chamber of commerce, education partners, utility providers, regional economic development groups, State agencies, City departments and local and national legislative delegations.

"We always strived to showcase Cullman as a great place to live, work and play," he said.

Greer said the agency's evolution during his tenure was part of a much longer continuum of growth.

"Cullman has had a 40-year history of growth and progress, starting with industry recruitment and expansion and the creation of jobs," he said.

"I'm proud of the fact that I stepped in as only the second executive director in our history and that Cullman continued to rank among the best counties in Alabama for new and expanding industry.

"To maintain the remarkable track record of supporting existing industry and ranking annually in the top 10 among 550 micropolitan cities in America is something I'm very proud of," Greer said. "What pleases me most is how those measurable metrics contributed to other significant achievements throughout the community."

Greer said working alongside Troutman was an important part of the agency's continuity and future.

"Jamie is extremely task-oriented and focused on detail," he said. "She has a keen ability to grasp opportunities for personal and professional growth. When a door opens, she rarely misses an opportunity for improvement.

"She has 25 years of service to the Cullman community and is in tune with its needs and how to achieve goals," Greer said.

Greer said the behind-the-scenes work of economic development is often misunderstood.

"Every decision made is based on community involvement and consensus, with an eye on what is best for all of us," he said. "No one person controls actions. We strive to bring in the right groups and individuals into the decision-making process."

As he steps away from day-to-day leadership, Greer said he remains confident in Cullman's future.

"Every aspect of the community is solid," he said. "Industry, retail, workforce development, housing, quality of life, health care, parks and recreation, tourism, education and leadership.

"There is no glaring weakness or downturn in any single area of the economy that could dramatically alter Cullman's ability to continue to prosper," he said. "I am convinced that our future has never been brighter."

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics said Greer's influence extends beyond economic development into education and long-term workforce investment.

"Dale Greer is an uncommon professional. Dale's inescapable, energetic, relentless focus on developing infrastructure, creating jobs, building the workforce, expanding partnerships, launching entrepreneurs and elevating Cullman's quality of life makes him truly exceptional, and his legacy will endure for generations," Karolewics said.

She said Greer's commitment to education was reflected in his direct support of students.

"Dale is such an advocate for education. As a long-serving member of Wallace State's Future Foundation, he has a heart for Wallace State's students," she said. "It was Dale's idea to implement the Second Chance scholarship to provide financial support for students who just need another opportunity and who need someone to believe in them. Countless students have benefited from his investment, and ultimately they will pay it forward into our community."

Greer's work also left a lasting impression on local entrepreneurs and private-sector leaders.

Joey Robertson of Wagon Trail Hemp said Greer played a key role in helping Med-Serv navigate local and state-level support during its development process.

"Without the assistance and guidance of Dale Greer, Med-Serv could not have gained the traction and support garnered by our local and state government," Robertson said. "Without hesitation, Dale went to bat for us locally and as part of our presentation to the AMCC (Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission).

"Hearing that Dale is retiring fills my heart with joy for him and simultaneously a hole knowing that his knowledge, abilities and friendship are impossible to replace," Robertson said. "Cullman is a better place due to his years of tireless dedication."

In addition to recruitment and expansion work, Greer was instrumental in incubating locally rooted companies such as Sequence Health, DB Technologies and ZeroRPM. He also played behind-the-scenes roles in expansions involving RWC and HomTex, as well as the addition of the REHAU paint line.

Before entering economic development, Greer worked in journalism, an experience colleagues said shaped his understanding of trust, discretion and long-term relationships.

Larraine Greer said family and community have always been central to her husband's life and career.

"Dale is such a great husband, father and friend. Family is very important to him. He has a big personality and he loves Cullman. He loves showing off our town. He is so proud of what he has gotten to play a part in over the years," she said.

"He loves people. Being the 2023 (Oktoberfest) Burgermeister may be the most rewarding job he has ever had. I know for a fact it was the most fun for him," she said. "Community is so important to him and I think he can look back on his career and see how very important he was to ours."

Beyond economic development metrics, Greer was recognized for civic leadership and community involvement. In 2023, he received the Emma Marie Eddleman Citizenship Award.

"This community has given me far more than I could ever give back. I've been fortunate to work alongside people who truly care about Cullman," Greer said at the time.

At the first Cullman City Council meeting held in 2026, the council formally accepted Greer's resignation.

"Dale Greer is a true visionary leader. His impact throughout our community will be felt for generations to come. I will forever be grateful for his selfless service to the citizens of Cullman," Cullman City Council President Kim Hall said. "His background in journalism and economic development has provided him with a unique perspective that he has used for the advancement of our community. I appreciate his leadership, heart and wisdom."

Former Cullman City Council President Jenny Folsom said Greer's leadership combined vision with personal connection.

"Dale Greer has been a community builder, visionary leader and navigator of complex economic landscapes throughout his service to Cullman. Dale never meets a stranger and people always gravitate to his kindness, sense of humor and trustworthiness. It has been an honor working with Dale and I am proud to call him my friend," Folsom said.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said Greer's impact extended well beyond economic metrics, pointing instead to character, leadership style and the way Greer treated people.

"Dale Greer has played an instrumental role in getting Cullman to where it's at today. Dale is a man of honesty and integrity. He's helped to shepherd our town into a golden age through his long-term vision," Jacobs said.

Greer's leadership was defined not by recognition but by humility, according to Jacobs.

"Dale is also a man who will never take the credit; rather, he is always the first to give the credit. I feel confident that Dale is considered a friend with everyone he's ever interacted with," he said.

Jacobs said those qualities are increasingly rare in modern public service.

"In today's world, and especially with the way government is run, finding a person who truly loves people and places others' needs in front of their own is a rarity," Jacobs said.

He said Greer consistently modeled what effective, people-centered government should look like.

"We preach that the customer service portion of government is lacking, and whether we are dealing with one person's complaint or putting a major economic deal together, you have to treat people right and let their needs be heard. Dale built a career this way," he said.

Jacobs said Greer's reputation was built on personal connection rather than accolades.

"Dale never meets a stranger. He's been a pillar in our community, winning probably every award out there; however, that's never been what Dale is about. He's about leaving something better than when he found it and loving people," Jacobs said.

He said those relationships define Greer's lasting legacy in Cullman.

"Dale is my friend, and I know there are many more who would use the same term whenever the name Dale Greer is brought up. That's what a true legacy looks like, building and maintaining relationships during our time here," he said.

Greer's retirement marks the end of a long chapter in Cullman's economic development history, closing a period defined by steady growth, quiet leadership and an enduring commitment to community.

Troutman has been named interim director of CEDA.

Aurora (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall on Monday, Jan. 12, announced the State settled a lawsuit with Aurora IV and Wellness, a Cullman-based IV infusion clinic, and its owners, Amanda and Chris Medders. The lawsuit said the clinic was providing research-grade GLP-1 medications, but advertising them as pharmaceutical-grade.

According to Marshall, the settlement requires the Medderses to pay $17,267.50 in damages to certain consumers who submitted complaints to the attorney general, as well as $7,000 in penalties and fees to the State.

The agreement also permanently closes Aurora IV and Wellness and prohibits the Medderses from working in the health care industry in any capacity that involves the direct treatment of patients. Amanda Medders has also surrendered her nursing license to the Board of Nursing.

"Exploiting the need for medical GLP-1 weight-loss medication by using unapproved, research-grade chemicals on unsuspecting patients is an extremely reckless form of consumer deception," said Marshall.

"This type of dangerous disregard for patient safety will not be tolerated in Alabama."

In November, Marshall announced a temporary restraining order against the business and owners after a lawsuit was filed for violations of Alabama's Deceptive Trade Practices Act he said constituted serious threats to public health and safety.

"The State's investigation revealed that the defendants advertised their weight loss drugs – tirzepatide and semaglutide, both GLP-1 medications – as 'pharmaceutical-grade.' In reality, the defendants were providing patients with research-grade versions of those drugs that were not approved for human use.

"The manufacturer of the drugs dispensed by the defendants explicitly stated that the drugs were meant for laboratory research purposes only," said a media release from Marshall's office.

Marshall thanked the Alabama Board of Nursing, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Cullman Police Department for their assistance in the investigation and lawsuit.

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LEGALS

PURSUANT TO ALABAMA CODE 32-13-1, EARLS BODY SHOP INC. WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ON SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE VOLLOWING VEHICLES:

DATE 02/24/2026
TIME 7:00: AM
LOCATION: 2251 DECATUR AVE NW
CULLMAN AL 35058

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2009	TOYOTA	CAMRY	4T1BE46K89U909910
2003	FORD	RANGER	1FTYR44U13TA50082
2010	HONDA	CIVIC	**2HGF**A1F53AH556866
2013	HYUNDAI	SONATALTD	5NPEC4AC6DH723003

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PHYLLIS HARRISON PHILPOT, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2023-046

NOTICE
PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

Notice is hereby given that a *Petition for Summary Distribution* filed the 14th day of October, 2025, made court record the 15th day of October, 2025, by Jean O. Brock, Petitioner, by and through attorney Kenneth R. Widner; and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Jean O. Brock
Petitioner

Kenneth R. Widner
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 359
Eva, AL 35621

To: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune*

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 9th day of January, 2026.

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

Case# PC2025-397
PB WIL Book:135 Page:435
Recorded in Above Book and Page
01/08/2026 10:47PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-397

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICKY WAYNE LEE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Ricky Lee Durden on the 8th day of January, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Ricky Lee Durden
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF K.F.N., a minor, DOB: 04-02-2013. * CASE NO.: JU 23-108.05

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

BETHANY ELLEN RIGNEY aka BETHANY ELLEN SCREWS, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above referenced child born on April 2, 2013, by the 17 day of February, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 6 day of January, 2025-2026

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

FILED IN OFFICE
JAN 06 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SHERRY LYNN CRISCOE, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2025-456

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Christopher Shawn Alexander, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Sherry Lynn Criscoe, deceased, on the 12th day of January, 2026, 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.

Christopher Shawn Alexander
Personal Representative

Joseph Callaway
MARSH, RICKARD, BRYAN
Attorney for Petitioner
2222 Arlington Avenue South, Suite 210
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF YVONNE A. STERLING, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-449

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary, having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Joan R. Anderson
Personal Representative

Benjamin B. Spratling III
Attorney/ Personal Representative
2320 Cahaba Road
Mountain Brook, Al. 35223-1102
(205) 401-2391

TO PUBLISHER: ***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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-400

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD MONROE HOLCOMBE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Richard Warren Holcombe on the 8th day of January, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Richard Warren Holcombe
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-411

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA ANN RICH, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Jimmy O'Neal Thomas on the 8th day of January, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Jimmy O'Neal Thomas
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

Case# PC2026-002
PB WIL Book:135 Page:339
Recorded in Above Book and Pa
01/02/2026 2:08PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate.
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA,)
) IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY.) PC2026-002

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JANICE RUTH WALDEN STEPHENS, who is one and the same person as JANICE RUTH DACUS, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to BRIAN O'NEIL WRIGHT and BRITTANY NICOLE SMITH, as Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF JANICE RUTH WALDEN STEPHENS a/k/a JANICE RUTH DACUS, deceased, on the 2nd day of January, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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.

Brian O'Neil Wright
Personal Representative

Brittany Nicole Smith
Personal Representative

Michael E. Sparkman
Attorney for Petitioners
P.O. Box 1166
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

TO: 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.

DONE this 2nd day of January, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GARRY DWAYNE MCDONALD, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-462

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary, having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Adam J. Cumberworth
Personal Representative

Adam J. Cumberworth
Attorney for Personal Representative
407 2nd Ave SW
106 South Side Square
Huntsville, Al. 35801
(256) 384-5295

TO PUBLISHER: ***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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of Christian Tyler James) Case Number: AD 2025-010

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: The Unknown Father of the minor child P.W.G. D.O.B, 6-23-2021 WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY CHRISTIAN TYLER JAMES. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST NOTICE OF PUBLICATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 18th DAY OF December, 2025.

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

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioner
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)775-4444

****

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

PLEASE PUBLISH THE ABOVE NOTICE IN SAID PUBLICATION FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS AND SEND PROOF OF PUBLICATION TO JUDGE OF PROBATE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

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

Workday scheduled for ECBA disaster relief warehouse project

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com



ECBA

A volunteer workday has been scheduled to continue construction on the East Cullman Baptist Association's disaster relief warehouse building.

CULLMAN, Ala. — A volunteer workday has been scheduled to continue construction on the East Cullman Baptist Association's (ECBA's) disaster relief warehouse building. The workday will take place Saturday, Jan. 17, from 8 a.m.-noon at the construction site adjacent to the ECBA Ministry Resource Center.

The warehouse is being built as part of the association's ongoing disaster relief efforts in partnership with Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief ministries.

Snacks and drinks will be provided for volunteers. Those who are able are encouraged to bring tools, including 8- to 12-foot ladders, cordless drills and metal cutting tools.

Organizers expressed appreciation to those who have already donated time and resources toward the project.

Additional workdays are expected to be scheduled and will be announced through the association's Facebook page and email updates.

Financial donations for the project may be mailed to the East Cullman Baptist Association, 341 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058. Donations should be designated "DR Building."

Get more information at www.facebook.com/eastcullmanBA or www.ecba316.org.

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21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County event set for Feb. 16

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The 21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner will take place Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, offering the community an evening of food, fellowship and fundraising in support of the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank.

The event will be held from 4-6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cullman. Tickets are $15 and are available at Cullman Caring for Kids and First United Methodist Church. Carry-out service will also be available.

Proceeds from the annual dinner benefit Cullman Caring for Kids, which provides food assistance to individuals and families throughout Cullman County and supports a range of programs focused on child welfare and family stability.

Over the past two decades, Empty Bowls of Cullman County has raised tens of thousands of dollars for local hunger relief efforts.

Proceeds from previous dinners have helped stock the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank, supporting food distributions for individuals and families facing food insecurity across the county.

Organizers say the annual event has become one of the community's most consistent grassroots fundraisers, combining local art, music and volunteers to address a year-round need.

The evening will feature chili prepared by Two Guys, grilled cheese sandwiches, handmade pottery bowls and a silent auction. Guests will also enjoy Southern gospel music by Brian Westbrook & the Misfits and Enell Baker.

Ron Mosely Jr. of WKUL Radio 92.1 will serve as the special guest emcee.

Empty Bowls is part of a worldwide movement that raises awareness of hunger and food insecurity through community meals and local art.

Each attendee receives a handcrafted bowl as a reminder of those facing empty bowls at home and the ongoing need for food assistance in the community.

Cullman Caring for Kids operates as a family resource center, providing food assistance, advocacy and support services to children and families across the county.

Funds raised through the Empty Bowls dinner help sustain food bank operations and expand outreach to residents in need.

21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner

- Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, 4-6:30 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church, 320 Third Ave. SE, Cullman
- Dine in or carry out
- Tickets available at First United Methodist Church and Cullman Caring for Kids (402 Arnold St. NE, Suite W-1, Cullman)

Cullman Housing Authority's Public Housing waitlist will open for applications

to be picked up at the Administration Building, 408 Cleveland Ave SW, beginning Monday, January 12, 2026, Monday – Thursday of each business week.

The last day to pick up an application will be **Thursday, April 2, 2026.**

All applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm by **April 23, 2026.**

No documents will be required at this time.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

St. Paul's Lutheran School to host Swamp John's Fundraiser Jan. 26

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Paul's Lutheran School will host a Swamp John's Fundraiser on Monday, Jan. 26, from 4-7p.m., in celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week. The event is open to school families, congregation members and the surrounding community.

Guests are invited to enjoy a Swamp John's meal while supporting the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran School. Tickets are $15 per meal.

Tickets may be purchased in advance through either the St. Paul's Lutheran School office or the St. Paul's Lutheran Church office. Tickets will also be sold between church services and after the late service. While a limited number of tickets may be available at the door, advance purchase is strongly encouraged, as availability cannot be guaranteed.

"This fundraiser provides an opportunity for our school families, congregation and community to gather in fellowship while supporting Christ-centered education," organizers shared.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit St. Paul's Lutheran School and support its continued commitment to academic excellence grounded in faith.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact St. Paul's Lutheran School at 256-734-6580 or St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 256-734-3575.

St. Paul's Lutheran School is located at 510 Third Ave. SE, Cullman.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 10-12

Mary Woods Reid, 71
Mary Woods Reid, age 71, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Jan. 10, 2026. Mary was born on July 15, 1954, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Arthur and Inez Alston Woods. She attended Cullman High School and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master's degree in Counseling from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Mary devoted her life to caring for others, working as both a nurse and a counselor, and later retiring as a home health nurse. She is survived by her beloved husband, James O. Reid; her son, Talmadge "Andy" James and wife Kim; her daughter, Amy "Becky" James Reese and husband Adam; and her eight cherished grandchildren: Milly, Kameryn, and Heidi Tucker; Beau and Brock James; and Alie Ana, Alexandra, and Mila Reese. She is also survived by her sisters, Susan Elizabeth Woods and Kathleen Anne Woods. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Inez Woods, and her brothers, James C. Woods and Arthur "Art" Woods. Mary found joy in reading, cooking, gardening, and cheering on Auburn football. Above all, she was incredibly proud of her eight grandchildren and delighted in every moment spent with them. She will be remembered for her big heart, her compassion for others, and her deep love for her family—especially her devoted love for her husband, Jim. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at noon at the Alston Family Farm at 303 Alston Road, Addison, Alabama.

David Keith Brown, 60
David Keith Brown of Cullman, Alabama passed away Dec. 24, 2025, at the age of 60. David was born on Aug. 18, 1965, in Alabama. David is survived by his sister, Kay Brown Pace, and longtime friend and fiancée Pam Dunn. He was preceded in death by his parents Alfred Brown and Dorothy Brown. David enjoyed serene and quiet hobbies. He could often be found fishing, hunting or gardening. As a true Alabama native, David loved Alabama football. Coupled with his nature centered hobbies, he also enjoyed watching Duck Dynasty. David will be laid to rest at Etha Baptist Cemetery, there will be no formal services.

Barbara Gardner, 82
Funeral Service for Barbara Gardner, age 82 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Barry Gardner officiating; burial at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Gardner passed away on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at Summerford Nursing Home. She was born, Oct. 22, 1943, to Loyd "Brownie" McClellan and Ethel Powe. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Gardner; and brother, L.D. McClellan.
Survivors include her daughter, Annette (Mark) Brooks; grandsons, Heath (Susan) Brooks and Zachary Brooks; great grandchildren, Kaitlyn Brooks, Tyler Brooks and Emma Golden; and sister, Beatrice Powe.

Iona Faucett, 91
Funeral services for Iona Faucett, 91, of Hanceville will be noon Thursday, Jan. 15, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Valley Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m.-noon at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Faucett was born Dec. 11, 1934, in Sanford, Florida to William and Irene Moore. She passed away Jan. 10, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Iona was an avid Alabama Football fan and loved watching all SEC games. She also enjoyed watching Dancing with the stars and really liked any show that was centered around music. She spent the first 30 years of her life in Sanford, Florida where she was born. Then she moved to Jefferson County, Alabama where she worked at American Printing for 30 years. After retiring she moved to Cullman County and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She was loved by all that knew her and liked by everyone who met her. She will be greatly missed. Mrs. Faucett is survived by her husband, Homer Faucett; son, Allen Thomas (Pam); granddaughter, Alaina Thomas-Wilson (Michael); and her siblings, Evelyn, Barbara, Ailene, and Carolyn. Mrs. Faucett was preceded in death by her parents, William Moore and Irene Moore; and her siblings, Buddy, James, Danny and Thelma. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Faucett family.

Brenda Gail Jennings, 70
Brenda Gail Jennings, born Feb. 22, 1955, passed away peacefully at her home on Jan. 11, 2026. Funeral service for Brenda will be at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Flint Creek Cemetery, Rev. Phillip Robinson officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Brenda was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Sherrell and Dorothy Hancock. She is survived by her devoted husband of 51 years, Marlin Jennings, whose love and partnership were the foundation of her life. She also leaves behind her two sons, Rusty (Jyme) Jennings and Randy (Alicia) Jennings, who were her greatest pride. Brenda was a cherished grandmother to Devan (Michaela Huffstetler), Carson (Abby), Caden (Chloe Edge), and Colton (Patton Fell), and a loving great-grandmother to Myles Brown, who brought her immense joy. She is also survived by her brothers, Ronnie (Mary) Hancock and Mike (Lendy) Hancock, along with a host of other family members and friends who loved her dearly. Brenda will be remembered for her love of family, her strength, and the kindness she shared with everyone she met. Her legacy lives on through the generations she nurtured and the lives she touched. Pallbearers: Chase Hancock, Matt Hancock, Devan Jennings, Carson Jennings, Caden Jennings, Colton Jennings.

FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

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

Allen releases list of counties where noncitizens illegally registered and/or voted

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Sec. of State Wes Allen announced last week "the identification of 186 'illegally registered noncitizens,' including 25 who had illegally voted in Alabama elections." On Monday, he released a list of counties where his office said "the illegal registrations occurred and where the illegal ballots were cast."

The list is available at https://tinyurl.com/4pun325d.

WHNT 19 News reported: "The findings were made through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

"Allen said he began the process of identifying noncitizens registered to vote in Alabama after entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with DHS-USCIS, which gave his office access to the SAVE program for voter file maintenance.

"Allen said each person identified by the SAVE program had a chance to submit documentation proving U.S. citizenship.

"Those who didn't provide documentation were removed, and Allen said all 186 removals have been completed."

Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown said, "The number for noncitizens registered to vote in Cullman is 1.

"There were NO noncitizens allowed to vote in Cullman County. Registering to vote is a process through the Board of Registrars."

"I have been clear that our elections should be decided by American citizens and only American citizens. Through a cooperative effort with the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, my office used the federal SAVE database to identify the names of people who are not American citizens but who registered to vote and, in some cases, cast ballots in our elections.



OFFICE OF ALABAMA SEC. OF STATE WES ALLEN

Alabama Sec. of State Wes Allen

"I will not tolerate this," Allen said.

Allen said he will refer these matters to local, state and federal law enforcement authorities for review and any appropriate action.



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