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The Cullman Tribune

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WORKING FOR YOU!



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

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Holly Pond sinks Addison 72-69 with a Dunn buzzer-beater in double overtime
» PAGE 4

Crane Hill man accused of traveling to Georgia to kill President Biden in 2024

U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia

ATLANTA — Adam Benjamin Hall, 23, of Crane Hill was arrested and appeared in federal court Wednesday, Jan. 28, on a federal charge of traveling in interstate commerce with the intent to kill then-President of the United States Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

"Threats against the President are gravely serious and must be treated as such," said U.S. Attorney Theodore S. Hertzberg. "Hall's alleged actions went beyond mere words and included traveling to Georgia with a firearm to murder President Biden. Political violence is never acceptable and must be countered by swift intervention and meaningful consequences."

"Our highest priority is protecting the President of the United States, and every potential threat is » PAGE 8



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Former President Joe Biden

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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
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CONTRIBUTED

Fairview Elementary School Librarian Jenny Helton

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview Elementary School has a new addition: a Little Free Library.

School Librarian Jenny Helton said the Little Free Library was purchased with funds raised from the community, to help students and families have access to books they can take home and keep.

"I decided on this project after noticing how often students asked if there were books they could have, which highlighted their eagerness to read beyond the school day," Helton said. "While our school library is designed for shared circulation, we also receive many generous book donations that cannot be added to our collection but are still meaningful to children."

The Free Little Library is open to anyone to leave or take a book, giving students the joy of owning books of their own and building home libraries, Helton shared.

"Also, and most importantly, it reflects their desire to nurture a lifelong love of reading, not just for our students, but for families and the entire community," she said.

"I am grateful for the support and encouragement of our school and district leadership, including Dr. Rutherford, our principal; Mr. Crowe, our assistant principal; and Dr. Barnette, our superintendent, whose shared commitment to literacy helped make this project possible."

The Free Little Library is located directly in front of the school.

Commission on Aging seeking volunteers for homebound meal deliveries » PAGE 5

Vinemont hosting Valentine's Day-themed senior community luncheon Feb. 16 » PAGE 3

Jubilee Kitchen + Bar hosting weekly flight nights



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A gin flight from Jubilee Kitchen + Bar » PAGE 3

EDITORIAL

Cullman County's mental health gap is a choice, not an accident » PAGE 6

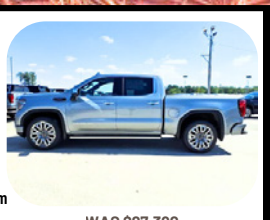
Career Paths: Real estate with Rita Tucker



RITA TUCKER

Rita Tucker » PAGE 5

Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 30

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 30, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 27

- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1551
- trespassing; CR 813
- harassment; CR 544
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; Kilpatrick Ln. NW

Jan. 28

- assault; CR 791
- burglary; CR 641
- domestic violence; CR 321
- theft of property; CR 831
- violation of protection order; Magnolia Ave. NW
- harassment; CR 107

ARRESTS

Jan. 26-28

Austin, Elizabeth M.; 41
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Beam, Clayel D.; 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Boone Jr., Bobby W.; 41
- FTA- fail equipment vehicle operations
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- failure to register vehicle
- FTA- no seat belt
- FTA- no plainly visible tag
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- speeding-no workers-construction zone

Bryan, Staci L.; 49
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- interference with public safety communication
- FTA- appears in public place under influence
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Corbin, Christopher L.; 54
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Freeman, Abigail B.; 29
- Probation Violation – damaged property
- Probation Violation – possession of dangerous drugs

Garner, Bradley W.; 28
- Probation Violation – forgery-forged instrument
- Probation Violation – unlawful possession with intent to distribute

Glover, Amanda D.; 44
- FTA- drug trafficking

Hicks, Eric T.; 37
- buying/receiving stolen property

James, Carie R.; 46
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Little, Judith W.; 73
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Martin, Ricky D.; 54
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute controlled substance

Schofield, Alexis C.; 23
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Smith, Karrie N.; 32
- burglary-residence-no force

Turney, Elizabeth A.; 43
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- appears in public place under influence

Villa Jr., Antonio; 46
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- appears in public place under the influence
- FTA- criminal trespass-enters/remains in/on premises

Wise, Dustin R.; 33
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- unlawful possession of certain chemical compound
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous less than $500
- FTA- tampering with physical evidence

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 28
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-2nd degree; Walmart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $124

Jan. 29
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Hwy. 157; damage to 2016 Kia
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash

ARRESTS

Jan. 28

Beam, Clayel D.; 33
- FTA- criminal trespassing-3rd degree
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stewart Jr., Kenneth M.; 49
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Bryan, Staci L.; 49
- FTA- possession drug paraphernalia

Wise, Dustin R.; 33
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespassing-3rd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- public intoxication

Schofield, Alexis C.; 23
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Jan. 29

Boone, Jr.; Bobby W.; 43
- FTA- fail to register vehicle
- FTA- driving while license suspended (2 counts)
- FTA- insurance violation

Uselton, Dana M.; 36
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Stewart Sr., Kenneth M.; 49
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Checchi, Michael P.; 56
- unlawful distribution controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-1st degree

Crawley, Timothy P.; 25
- DUI

Daneau, Philip A.; 36
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- expired tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JAMES ROBERT MABRY, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-455**
Deceased. *

Case# PC2025-455
PB MIN Book: 240 Page: 379
Recorded in Above Book and Page
01/29/2026 3:49PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
WJC

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to ROBIN HENDERSON as Personal Representative of the Estate of JAMES ROBERT MABRY deceased, on the 29th day of January, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

ROBIN HENDERSON
Personal Representative

Atty for Petitioner:
CLINT L. MAZE
WILMER & LEE, P.A
Attorney for Petitioner
725 North Brindlee Mtn. Pkwy
Arab, Alabama 35016
Telephone (256) 586-9000

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Times**

Please publish the above Notice once a week for (3) 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 JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
G.K.M., * **CASE NO.: JU 25-246.02**
a minor, DOB: 04-16-2025 *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

The unknown father of the above child born to Angel Kay Lamey on April 16, 2025, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources by the 9 day of March, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

FILED IN OFFICE
JAN 22 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
THOMAS JOHN CHRISTENSEN, * **CASE NO.: PC 2025-448**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to LINDA ARLENE REA, as Personal Representative of the Estate of THOMAS JOHN CHRISTENSEN, deceased, on the 28th 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.

Linda Arlene Rea
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey
409 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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 JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
T.L.K., * **CASE NO.: JU 24-319.04**
a minor, DOB: 02-10-2022. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

The unknown father of the above child born to Laura Jean King on February 10, 2022, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources by the 9 day of March, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

FILED IN OFFICE
JAN 22 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
GLEN HARVEY DIGMAN, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-417**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that *Letters of Testamentary* having been granted to JOHNATHAN GLEN DIGMAN as Personal Representative of the Estate of GLEN HARVEY DIGMAN, deceased, on the 21st day of January 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Johnathan Glen Digman
Personal Representative

Kenneth R. Widner
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 359
Eva, Ala. 35621

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

DONALD LEE NAPHY, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-025

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF DONALD LEE NAPHY, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to YOLADA ARLENE NAPHY on the 28th day of January, 2026, 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.

YOLADA ARLENE NAPHY, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith and Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone: (256) 734-4721

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-012

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EMILY VIRGINIA FARR, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to RITA TUCKER on the 12th 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.

RITA TUCKER
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

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MARK ALLEN BENEFIELD, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-028

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF MARK ALLEN BENEFIELD, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Jeanna Michelle Harris on the 28th day of January, 2026, 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.

Jeanna Michelle Harris, 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 & SMITH ATTORNEYS, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774

Luncheon (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Town of Vinemont will host a Valentine's Day-themed senior community luncheon on Monday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center.

Vinemont Town Clerk Kayecea Sasser said they will also be sharing from "Remember When," a storytelling event encouraging seniors to share memories of Vinemont from years past.

"The last 'Remember When' event had to be rescheduled, so it will be a part of this event," she said.

"When attending a senior citizen event, expect a mix of shared meals and opportunities to meet peers in a supportive, often accommodating, environment."

Sasser said she, Mayor Bonnie Goodwin and the assistant clerk help plan the meals and activities for the monthly community luncheons.

"These events would not be possible without our local businesses in the area helping to support our senior citizens," Sasser said.

"We will be having a candle light Valentine's luncheon, with pasta, salad and bread.

"We will also be giving away door prizes that are Valentine's themed."The senior community luncheons have been happening since January 2023.

"Every month since then we have steadily increased the number of our seniors," Sasser said.

"We average around 50-60 seniors each month. We don't have a theme every month.

These events provide opportunities for seniors to connect, make new friends and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation – a primary reward.

The resulting laughter, camaraderie and conversation are invaluable."

Sasser said Rodger Walling will be sharing the history of Vinemont and encouraging seniors to share memories of Vinemont back in the day at February's luncheon.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/townofsouthvinemont or call 256-737-5311.

The Vinemont Community Center is located at 88 Ridgeway St.



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
• Sunday, Feb. 1 – 8:15 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. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
• Families are joining the library for fun and programs! The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685.
• Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. Spanish class with Alejandra Pena
• Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. Storytime with Valentine card making, led by Angelyn Riggs
• Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m. Storytime with Rachel McFarland leading the children's Valentine Party
• Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m. Spanish class with Alejandra Pena
• Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 10 a.m. Storytime with Melissa Porter
• Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. North Alabama Agriplex storytime and book club led by Briana Taylor
• Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hanceville Irish Festival and BOOK SALE

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.

21st Annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner
Monday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cullman. Dine in or carry out. 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. 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. Benefits Cullman Caring for Kids. First United Methodist Church is located at 320 Third Ave. SE, Cullman. Tickets are $15 and are available at the church or Cullman Caring for Kids (402 Arnold St. NE, Suite W-1, Cullman).

Holly Pond Lions Club Annual Beans and Greens Dinner
Saturday, Feb. 21, from 4-7 p.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club building. Admission is by donation, with proceeds supporting community projects related to vision, hunger, diabetes, environment and childhood cancer. Additionally, we are collecting canned and nonperishable food items for the local food pantry. Donations can be dropped off at the pantry (located between town hall and the fire department) or brought to the dinner Feb. 21.

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.

Men of the Covenant Men's Conference
• Sunday, March 1, from 5-7 p.m. at Seventh Street Baptist Church, 708 Seventh St. SW in Cullman. Men, you're invited to a powerful and timely gathering designed to strengthen your walk, sharpen your leadership and renew your commitment to Christ and your family.
• We are honored to welcome two dynamic speakers: Jason Simpson, north Alabama meteorologist and faithful deacon at Valleydale Church in Hoover; and Christopher Smith, longtime Men's Ministry Team Member at Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville.
• This evening will be filled with strong biblical teaching, real-life encouragement, worship and authentic brotherhood. Our theme is rooted in the bold declaration of Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." - Joshua 24:15
• Whether you are a husband, father, grandfather, young professional or student, this conference is for you. Be challenged to lead your home with conviction, courage and commitment. Bring a friend. Bring your son. Bring your small group. Stand as a Man of the Covenant.
• Register at www.7thstreetba-12tist.com.

Cullman County Master Gardners Native Azalea and Wildflower Sale
Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fairgrounds at Sportsman Lake Park

Cullman County Master Gardners Spring Plant Sale
Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fairgrounds at Sportsman Lake Park

Nights (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Jubilee Kitchen + Bar hosted its weekly flight night on Tuesday, Jan. 27, offering a flavorful variety of curated drink flights.

Jubilee hosts flight nights every Tuesday, featuring rotating selections of wine, margaritas, mimosas, gin, bourbon and beer. Guests may choose red, white or mixed wine flights, seasonal margarita flavors or themed spirit flights designed around specific styles or regions.

"We try to keep them fun and interactive," Owner Katie Fine said. "Some flights are themed, like a classic Kentucky bourbon flight or different botanical gins, and others let customers mix and match flavors themselves."

Fine said margarita and mimosa flights are among the most popular, encouraging guests to experiment with flavors and share tastings with friends.

"The best way to enjoy them is to come with a group. You can taste a little bit of everyone's flight and make it more of an experience." Flight nights are designed to encourage repeat visits, with guests able to try new combinations each week.

Jubilee Kitchen + Bar is located at 515 Fourth St. SW, Suite 101 in Cullman, on the first floor of The Flying Fifty Hotel. Find it online at www.jubileekitchenandbar.com.

Cullman Manor Apartments

Now Accepting Applications

We're excited to announce that Cullman Manor has the waitlist open. Please come joy us at Cullman Manor Apartments.

To ensure our community knows about this opportunity, we are placing an ad in the local newspaper. We have the waitlist open and inviting qualified applicants to apply.

How to Apply:

- Visit the management office during business hours
- Pick up a pre-application form
- Submit completed paperwork for consideration

Applicants will be placed on the waitlist in the order received and contacted as openings become available. Don't miss your chance to live in a welcoming, affordable housing community!

For more information, please contact:
Cullman Manor Leasing Office
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Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 31, 2026

Former Cullman star, UNA's Kaleb Heatherly declares for the NFL Draft after playing in showcase event

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Like many other kids getting into football in the 2010s, Cullman-native Kaleb Heatherly fell in love with the high-flying Matt Ryan and Julio Jones-led Atlanta Falcons offenses that took the team to a Super Bowl in 2016.

"You know, I'm still upset about the 28-3 thing of course," Heatherly said in reference to the Falcons historic implosion in Super Bowl LI, where Tom Brady and the Patriots erased a 25 point third quarter deficit to win the championship game. While that heartbreak stuck with him, so did the play of former Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski.

The relentless blocking style, the attitude and the team player mentality all stuck with Heatherly, who, after walking away from the sport in his sophomore year of high school, will get the opportunity to fulfill the dream of playing professional football after declaring for the NFL Draft this past week.

Football wasn't always the dream for Heatherly, however. His brother, Jacob, was a third round pick in the 2017 MLB Draft by the Cincinnati Reds. He wanted to follow in his footsteps, but was pulled back into football by Bearcats coaches due to his size and speed, which gave him a real shot of playing at the college level.

His 6-6 frame, along with standout junior and senior years at tight end and defensive end did just that, and he'd commit to the University of North Alabama, just an hour and 15 minutes northwest of Cullman. Heatherly played exclusively tight end at UNA, becoming a standout blocker over his time in Florence. In addition to sealing edges and creating gaps, he had his best year as a pass catcher in 2025, grabbing 17 passes for 223 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The block-first tight end isn't the flashiest position, and doesn't result in the most eye-popping of statistics. Heatherly's ability to be an extra tackle in the run game, and the upside in the pass game however, were enough to land him an invite to the Dream Bowl, a college all-star showcase event. He'd attend four days of practices, playing for college coaches in front of NFL and CFL scouts, then play in the game itself, which took place in the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium.

"Oh yeah, it was certainly a high emotions just because I knew all the work I put in to get there and knowing what I could get out of it. I really worked hard on improving my times in the combine drills and the 40 (yard dash)," Heatherly said on being a part of the event. He added, "That was totally different than anything I've ever played in, other than maybe at Florida State, but it was just unreal to play in that game and I did really well and all the attention I've been getting ever since that game's been pretty fun, so it was awesome."

From the jump, he'd caught the eye of teams. The first day of practices had the athletes take part in drills they'd potentially be seeing at the NFL Combine, and Heatherly ran a 4.7 40-yard dash and didn't lose a single one-on-one rep again defenders, more signs of his upside in the pass game. His blocking ability showed in the game itself, driving a linebacker into another, then all the way out of bounds from nearly the middle of the field on one play.

While he couldn't dive into specifics on which teams he spoke to, Heatherly said the communication between himself and NFL scouts were promising enough for him to declare for the draft after the event.

"I've been completing interviews for several teams and all of the interviews I can say are different within each team that I've done them for. It's really unique, and what kids need to know, especially in high school, is that these NFL teams value special teams more than anything- your work ethic and how you can buy into producing more for the team and for your teammates," Heatherly said.



UNA ATHLETICS

UNA's Kaleb Heatherly

In between now and the Draft, which begins on April 23, Heatherly will focus on refining his route running and cutting time off drills. He'll get another chance to show out for NFL eyes at his Pro Day in March at UNA.

PREP BASKETBALL

Holly Pond sinks Addison 72-69 with a Dunn buzzer-beater in double overtime

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Addison Bulldogs (18-5) of Winston County, newly minted as the fifth-ranked 1A team in the state per ASWA, traveled to take on 3A Holly Pond (9-11) on Thursday night.

On paper, it looked to be an exciting matchup of a scrappy, athletic Bulldog team vs. a technically sound veteran Bronco team that's better than their record indicates. After a strong second quarter, Holly Pond seemed primed to blow the game open and led by 11 at the half, but the Bulldogs' defense prevailed late. Addison would force overtime, then the Broncos forced another, and after a back-and-forth double OT period, Holly Pond's Ty Dunn put an end to the madness with a deep ball at the buzzer, winning the game 72-69.

Despite the 1A to 3A jump in competition between the schools, it was clear Addison came to play from the tip. A Scout Flynn layup would open scoring, but the Broncos would break off a 10-2 run behind a pair of threes from Asher Thrift and Ty Dunn capped off by a breakaway dunk from Cade Allbright.

To this point, Addison was out-rebounding the Broncos and moving the ball well on offense, but shots weren't falling, and Holly Pond's transition offense had them up. An Elijah Roberts and-one finish got him rolling and gave the Bulldogs time to settle down, only down 12-7.

With their feet under them and their hands active, Roberts, Flynn and Conner Lane all notched steals to take it back the other way and get three buckets to take the lead. A pair of Fox Westall free throws would give Holly Pond the lead back, and they headed into the second leading 14-13.

The second period saw Holly Pond breaking through Addison's strong defense, with Thrift and Dunn threes fueling an 8-0 run to start the quarter. While their defense remained solid, the Bulldogs couldn't find the basket. Forced shots on bad looks and taking on unnecessary contact gave the Bulldog crowd a four and a half minute wait for the first bucket of the quarter, which would be a Kiah Lake hook shot to make it 22-15.

The teams would go back and forth, with Thrift hitting a mid-range jumper, a floater and a layup before the half, which ended with the Broncos leading 28-17.

With some time to breathe, Addison got back to their first quarter form, playing strong defense and getting a Lake layup and two Lane threes to fall to cut the deficit to just three within the first two minutes of the second half. A run with responses by Allbright, Westall and another Dunn three stretched their lead back to ten. After a Judah Wilkins three, a pair of trips to the free throw line sent Holly Pond into the fourth leading 43-33.

The Bulldogs, already a press defensive team, moved into hard press, double teaming ball handlers and meeting them at the half-court nearly every possession. After Roberts and Westall exchanged threes to open the quarter, Addison's defense took charge. The Broncos struggled to find an open look, let alone a made shot, giving the Bulldogs' transition offense a chance to shine. Roberts fought through contact for another tough and-one bucket, kicking off a 10-0 Addison run to bring them within one point, trailing just 47-46 with three minutes to go in regulation. A pair of free throws from Roberts would give Addison the lead for the first time since it was 4-2, but a Dunn three and an Allbright layup to go along with some free throws would give Holly Pond a 53-50 lead with just six seconds to go.

The Bulldogs, who have no shortage of speed, raced down the court and kicked it out to Conner Lane in the left corner, who drilled a three to send the game to overtime, tied at 53.

With both teams on the ropes, scoring opened in overtime with a Westall three, followed by a free throw make by Thrift to give Holly Pond a quick four point lead in overtime.

Flynn would respond on the other end, hitting a three, then going back and forth on layups with Thrift. At 59-58, Roberts stepped to the line, hitting both in spite of the Broncos' home crowd noise to give Addison a 60-59 lead. Thrift went back for another layup, attempting to win the game. He missed, but drew a trip to the line, where he'd hit one to send the game into a second overtime period.

Roberts and Joey Wilson went layup for layup with Allbright to open the period, with a Lake floater giving the Bulldogs a 66-64 lead. Ty Dunn's fifth three of the night sent the crowd into a frenzy, putting the Broncos up 67-66, but Flynn raced down to the other end to quiet them, nailing another three to put Addison back in front, 69-67. In true nail-biter fashion, Thrift answered with an athletic layup and tied the game up at 69 with under 30 seconds to go.

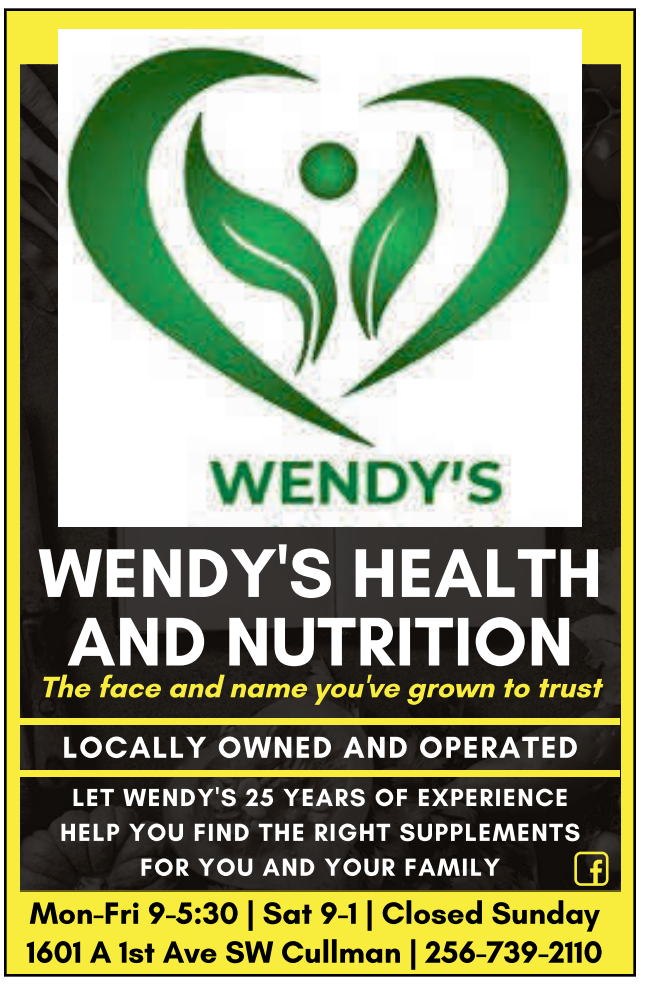
Addison missed their attempt at a game-winner, giving Ty Dunn the spotlight on the other end, as time expired, the senior hurled up a three from the top of the key. He nailed it, sending the Holly Pond bench and crowd into mania after witnessing one of the most exciting games of the season, a 72-69 Bronco win.

Holly Pond was led in scoring by Thrift, who led the game with 24 points and tacked on three rebounds and a pair of assists.

Dunn's six threes and a free throw put him at 19 points on the night, but added two rebounds and five assists. Leading the game in rebounds, Allbright put up a double-double with 12 boards to go with 14 points and an assist.

The Bulldogs' strong performance was led by Roberts, who scored 19 and added three rebounds, two assists and four steals. Behind him, Flynn put up 18 points, four boards and three assists. Lane, who sent the game into its' first overtime, ended the night with 13 points and a pair of rebounds and steals.







Career Paths: Real estate with Rita Tucker

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Some people believe that having a college degree is the only way to have a career. And while there are professions that do require one, plenty of trades can be mastered without a college degree. One of those is real estate.

Cullman's Rita Tucker has been in the real estate business since 1985, when she began working for Pioneer Real Estate. She is a full-time Real Estate Associate Broker and Licensee since 1996 as well as a member of the Cullman Association of Realtors and the Greater Alabama MLS.

In 2002 she co-owned a local agency, Alabama First Real Estate, also working there as a broker.

"I wanted to be my own boss," she stated.

In 2005, she said, she acquired her Alabama Contractors License and built several homes around the Cullman area.

She currently works as a real estate agent for D.R. Horton because of her love for helping families find their perfect homes.

With real estate you aren't confined to just selling houses. The profession opens the doors to many opportunities. You can help finalize sales and close houses, invest in real estate, appraising, assist in leasing processes, become a real estate photographer or maybe even a broker eventually. Some even invest in properties to restore them and sell them. This is called "house flipping." It became popular in the early 2000s and regained its popularity in 2020 as housing prices rapidly increased.

Tucker advises new agents, "Anyone starting out needs to focus on marketing. That will help a lot in the long run."

There are many doors that open with this career path and the reins are in your hands. Of course different variations of this profession may require additional coursework and training.

The requirements to become an agent are at least 60 hours of course work then passing practice exams before your final exam. Once that is completed you can choose a broker or agency to get started with.

If you are interested in taking real estate classes, Tucker recommends browsing courses available from My Real Estate School at www.alabamarealestateclass.com. It offers courses that are in person, online and some that are at the student's pace.

To get exam ready Tucker suggests taking real estate crash courses and becoming familiar with real estate law. If you have additional questions, visit www.alabamarealestateclass.com/contact.



RITA TUCKER

Rita Tucker

Volunteers (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission on Aging is seeking volunteers to help deliver hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors across the county, a service officials say helps senior adults remain in their homes longer.

Director Stephanie Lawson said the homebound meals program operates through seven full-time senior centers located in Colony, Crane Hill, Cullman, Fairview, Hanceville, Holly Pond and West Point. Each center coordinates meal delivery routes within its surrounding area Monday through Friday.

"These are individuals who are truly homebound," she said. "They may not physically be able to cook for themselves or get out to get food, and in many cases, they don't have anyone available during the day to bring them a hot meal."

Volunteers deliver meals during a set time window to ensure food safety and quality. Each route must be completed in under two hours, which has led the agency to divide routes in higher-need areas, increasing demand for additional volunteers. Lawson said some centers, including Hanceville and Crane Hill, are preparing to split routes due to growing demand. Cullman's routes also cover a wide geographic area, stretching into surrounding communities, which may require additional routes in the future.

Volunteer drivers typically arrive at their assigned center between 9:30-10 a.m., pick up pre-packaged meals and deliver them using insulated bags provided by the center. After completing their routes, volunteers report back to staff with any concerns or notes about clients they were unable to reach.

Beyond providing food, Lawson said, the program offers seniors emotional and physical benefits and peace of mind for families. "This program helps seniors stay in their homes longer instead of moving into assisted living or nursing facilities," she said. "It also reassures families, whether they live nearby or out of state, that someone is checking in on their loved one."

The program offers flexible volunteer options. While some drivers commit to a regular weekly schedule, others volunteer one or two days a month or serve as on-call backups when regular drivers are unavailable.

Individuals interested in meal delivery volunteer opportunities should contact Laurie Knight at 256-734-1241 or lknight@co.cullman.al.us.

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

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EDITORIAL

Cullman County's mental health gap is a choice, not an accident

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

There is a quiet truth many families in Cullman County already know but rarely see acknowledged in public.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis here, there is nowhere to truly go.

Cullman County has one hospital. That hospital has an emergency room.

It does not have a dedicated in-patient mental health unit. It does not have a wing designed for stabilization, observation and treatment of those in psychological distress.

Instead, people in crisis are placed in an emergency room bay and told to wait. Sometimes for hours. Sometimes longer. Often until an outside provider can physically drive to the hospital after hours.

That is not mental health care. It is containment. This gap did not happen overnight.

In 2009, Cullman Regional purchased Woodland Medical Center, the only other hospital facility in the county at the time.

Woodland previously provided services that included mental health care. Following the acquisition, Woodland was closed and its operations consolidated.

No replacement in-patient mental health unit was created in its place.

More than a decade later, that absence remains.

Cullman County has grown. Our population has increased. Our economic development leaders regularly speak of momentum, opportunity and quality of life. Our hospital promotes itself as a regional leader in care.

Yet when it comes to mental health, the most basic level of in-patient treatment simply does not exist here.

If someone is suicidal, severely depressed, experiencing psychosis or in acute emotional crisis, they are routed through the emergency room.

After medical clearance, they wait. They wait for an outside entity. They wait for transport. They wait for availability somewhere else.

This is not a staffing issue. It is a structural one.

A hospital that purchases the only facility offering mental health services and then fails to replace those services is making a choice.

A county with one hospital that does not offer in-patient psychiatric care is making a choice.

Sending patients elsewhere for treatment while branding yourself as comprehensive is a contradiction that cannot be smoothed over with marketing language.

Mental health is not an optional department. It is not an add-on. It is not something that can be outsourced indefinitely without consequences.

The reality is this. Cullman County needs a dedicated mental health wing. Not a room. Not a protocol. A wing. At minimum, 20 beds. Staffed. Purpose-built. Designed for safety, dignity and stabilization.

Anything less is not meeting the need. It is managing appearances.

People experiencing mental health crises are not inconveniences. They are not liabilities.

They are neighbors, parents, teenagers, veterans, caregivers and workers. Many of them walk past us every day carrying far more than anyone can see.

We talk often about taking care of our own. This is what that looks like in practice.

If a hospital must send its patients elsewhere for core care, then it is not providing full service.

If a county must rely on after-hours drives from outside providers to address crises, then the system is broken by design.

This is not about blame for the past. It is about responsibility in the present.

Cullman County deserves better than a waiting room when minds are breaking and lives are on the line.

Mental health care should not depend on geography, timing or whether someone can endure hours of waiting while already in distress.

A community that prides itself on growth, faith and family must also be willing to build the spaces where healing can actually happen.

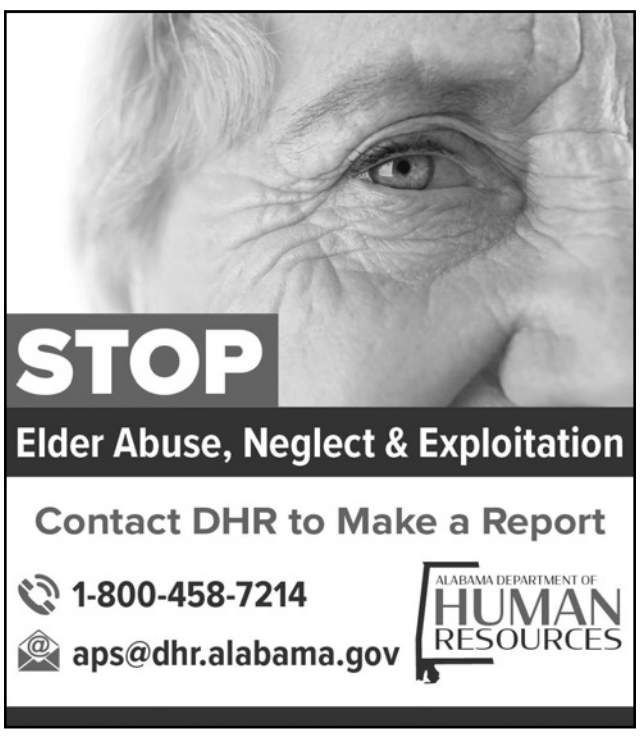
Silence has been easy for too long. The gap is no longer invisible. It is time to close it.

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Obituary Announcements: Jan. 29-30

Ira Stoney Lee Milburn
Mr. Ira Stoney Lee Milburn, 77, of Cullman passed away Jan. 29, 2026, at his residence. He was born April 26, 1948, to Ira Vernon and Opal Mae Ford Milburn. He loved hunting and fishing, loved watching old westerns, riding his golf cart and being outdoors when he was able. He loved working on cars and building projects. A service will be held at McDaniel Funeral Services in Kennett, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Brenda Milburn; son, Vernon Milburn; sister, Shirley Hardin; brothers, Bobby and Jerry Milburn. Survivors include his wife, Lucenda; daughter-in-law, Jessica Milburn; step-daughter, Alease Harrington (Matthew); grandchildren, Haley Bryant (Forrest), Nathan Milburn (Cheyenne), Abigail Brady; step-grandchildren, Ella and Miles Harrington; great-grandchildren, Silas Bryant, Thomas Bryant, Noah Bryant, Josie Milburn, Elijah Milburn; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Kindess LeeAnn Dye
Funeral service for Kindess LeeAnn Dye, age 57 of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, burial at Blair Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Dye passed away on Wednesday, Jan.28, 2026, at Cullman Regional. She was born Sunday, March 17, 1968, to Jessie Hines and Margie Hines. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her daughters, Lauren Watson, Meagan Harris (Drake); grandchildren, Brenlee Watson, Carson Dye, Kayden Watson, Adalyn Harris, Amelia Harris, Hudson Harris; sisters, Sheila Mefford (Randy) & Machelle Braswell (Spencer); brother, Jason Hines (Tasha); aunts, Margaret Stidham, Jeraldean Kellem and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

George Arnold Oden
Funeral Service for George Oden, age 58, of Vinemont, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Dewayne Harper officiating; burial at Oden Ridge Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Oden passed away on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at his residence. He was born Feb. 9, 1967, in to Vernon Arthur Oden and Carolyn Childers Oden. He was preceded in death by his father; brothers, Arthur Oden and Jim Oden; brother-in-law, Steve Ryan; and grandparents; Ollis Arthur and Venora Oden and Orbin and Loil Childers. Survivors include his mother; sisters, Sonya Ryan, Linda (John) Webb, and Mary Jane Oden; sister-in-law, Doris Oden; nephew, Bradley Fields; niece, Hannah (Cody) Landis; niece, Elizabeth (Justin) Maxwell; nephew, Ben (Haley) Oden; great niece, Paislee Fields; great nephew, Eli Landis; and great nephew, Slade Landis.

Gennie Lue Jones
Funeral service for Gennie Lue Jones, 78, of Falkville will be at 11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Flint Creek Cemetery, Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating. The family will receive friends from 10-11 prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Jones passed away Jan. 26, 2026, at Falkville Nursing & Rehab. She was born July 21, 1947, to William A. and Gertrude Lulabell Vaughn Curvin. Gennie loved decorating for Christmas and putting together puzzles and especially loved her little dog, Crimson. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Rayburn Jones and her brothers and sisters. She is survived by her nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Charles Ray Phillips
Funeral service with military honors for Charles Ray "Cha Cha" Phillips, 93, of Crane Hill will be at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Union Grove Cemetery, Rev. Randy Phillips officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Phillips passed away Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, The Folsom Center. He was born Dec. 5, 1932,Charles Sanford & Grace Dean Bolt Phillips. Charles proudly served his country in the Navy during the Korean War. Charles loved the Lord and was glad to tell everyone. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was still water skiing at the age of 80. Charles was preceded in death by his parents; the love of his life for 65 years, Joyce G. Phillips; brother, James Phillips; great-grandson, Alex Currington. He is survived by sons, Randy (Jenny) Phillips, Rex Phillips; grandchildren, Tanya (Tim) Arnold, Tim (Melanie) Phillips, Cody (Andrea) Phillips, Cory (Emily) Barnes; eight great-grandchildren; one great- great grandchild; sisters, Gail Namaker, Melba Strong; family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to The Gideons International, 409 Regent Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL 35802. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Susan Michelle Finch
Funeral service for Susan Michelle Finch, age 60, of Vinemont, will be at 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Josh Marshall officiating; burial at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home-Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Finch passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026, at her residence. She was born Feb. 28, 1965, to Hubert Eady and Melba Eady. She was preceded in death by her husband, Doug Finch; parents; brother, Glenn Eady; and brother-in-law, Mike Finch. Survivors include her sons, Dylan (Bailey) Finch, James (Tonya) Finch and Earl Finch; grandchildren, Natalie, Kyleigh, Paisley, and Lillian Finch; brother, Keith Eady; sisters, Peggy Lemon and Joyce Miller; and brother-in-law, Darrell Finch.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The winter storm of '93

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



It looks like we dodged the storm down here in L.A. (Lower Alabama). Much of our nation is caught in the grip of more snow and ice than they've seen in a while. That includes part of the northern end of Alabama, especially the northwest corner. I am praying for all of those who have been, or will be, impacted. I give thanks that this one missed us down here.

I'm also remembering the one that didn't miss us. We called it The Winter Storm of '93. Some even call it The Blizzard of '93. It was as close as we've come to having a blizzard in this part of the country.

The snow began to fall on Friday, March 12. By that time of the year, we are usually looking for springtime, not a snow storm. We lived in Rainbow City, where I served as pastor of White Springs Baptist Church. Ron, our youth minister, was planning a retreat for the coming summer. He and one of the church members had gone out to Arkansas to tour a campground for a possible destination for the retreat. They started back home on that Friday, bringing the snowstorm with them. They made it as far as the northwest side of Alabama, on Highway 72, when their car had gone as far as it could go. They were stuck in the snow in the middle of nowhere. They couldn't see a house or anyone anywhere.

As they debated whether to try to walk for help or hunker down in the car and try to wait it out, they saw the lights of a truck approaching. It was a big four-wheel drive that pulled right up to them. The driver got out and walked up to their car. When Ron rolled down his window, the man looked inside and shocked them when he said, "Ron, is that you?" It turned out that he and Ron had gone to school together. He said, "I only live a mile or so from here. Jump in my truck and y'all can stay with us until you can travel again."

As it turned out, that would be several days from then. They spent the following days around a fireplace, playing cards and eating homemade chili and soup. Some might say that was a lucky coincidence that an old friend on the other side of the state happened along to find the stranded travelers. Ron said he thought his old classmate might have been an angel that day. No doubt, I would say that they were not only rescued by the hand of a friend, but by the grace of God! It is quite likely they could have frozen to death out there had he not found them.

Back in Rainbow City, Jean, Ashley and I hunkered down in our home around our open fireplace. Five-year-old Ashley was sick with strep. When the snow finally stopped falling, I measured 16 inches in our backyard, with some drifts that were almost waist deep. We were without electricity and central heat for three or four days. We pulled out a hide-a-bed that was in the room with the fireplace. Since we had an electric oven and stove, we couldn't cook on it, so we cooked in the fireplace. We made soup and baked potatoes. I think we even popped popcorn in the fireplace. When I was a boy, I would have called that "adventure living!" Adventurous or not, I certainly don't want to do that again!

I'm praying you all made it safely through this latest round of crazy weather! I'm also looking forward to spring!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Jan. 31, 1935

From the files of Jan. 31, 1935

HANCEVILLE NEWS

Hanceville, Jan. 29.—The W. M. S. met at the church Tuesday afternoon for the meeting.

Miss Hildron Thigpen of Birmingham, spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thigpen.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Ashwander moved to Texas Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Pass of Blountsville, visited Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Wade Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Greene spent Sunday in Garden City.

Miss Anna Teague visited Mrs. T. H. Sudduth Sunday afternoon.

Miss Rosebud Waldrop of Birmingham-Southern, spent the week end with home folks.

Miss Evelyn Wynn was called to Florence last Monday on account of the illness and death of her brother-in-law.

Dr. and Mrs. T. H. Sudduth and Mrs. John Latta spent Thursday in Birmingham.

Miss Rosebud Waldrop spent Friday morning in Cullman.

Mrs. Wesley Vest left last Sunday to visit her mother in Hartselle.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith of Birmingham, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Johnson.

Miss Clara Mae Compton spent the week end with Miss Thelma Rimel.

Clyde Sapp spent Monday afternoon in Cullman.

The Culture Club sponsored an entertainment Monday night by Brack Phillips and his entertainers at the high school auditorium.

Miss Bula Caudell of Falkville, spent the week end with her parents.

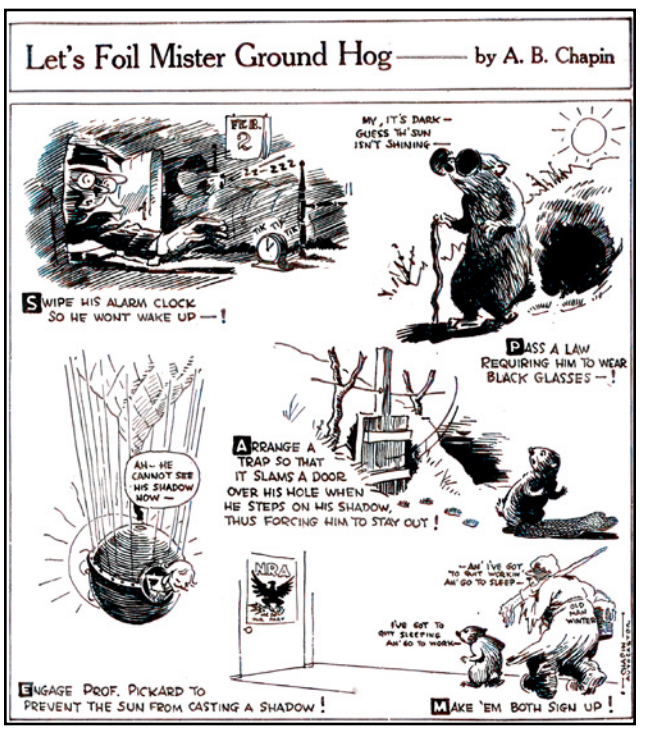
NEWS OF WEST POINT F. F. A.

Cullman R. 5, Jan. 28.—Future farmers in this locality are already planning ways and means of winning a radio receiving set for the West Point chapter this year, according to T. M. Pruitt, local adviser. A set has been offered in each vocational supervisor's district in Alabama by the Chilean Nitrate Educational Bureau, Inc., to the F. F. A. chapter which puts on the best demonstration of the use of chilean nitrate on 2½-acre plots of cotton or corn.

Whether they win the radio set or not, the boys will at least have two acres of fine crops, since the bureau will furnish 400 pounds of chilean nitrate for side-dressing the demonstration. The other half acre is to be left without the additional nitrate.

When its nearly time for harvesting everyone will be invited to come around to a meeting we'll have at the demonstration and guess what the yield will be. Some one who is a good judge of crops is going to win two dollars.

Mr. Pruitt himself will supervise the demonstration and guessing contest.



POET'S CORNER

Pictures | By: Randy C. Hale

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

What material things in life
have the most meaning?
Is it your fine china or
favorite paintings?
Shelves of books, quilts, or clocks,
jewelry, clothes, whatnots?

Could it be your pictures of life,
memory flashes of yesterday,
captured, frozen in time?
The treasured albums,
loose photos kept in boxes.
The ones you sometimes
take down on holidays,
take out to show company.

How would you ever replace
them?
You cannot go back to retake
them.
If you could, you already would
go back to cherished occasions,
when babies were born,
past Christmas times,
that surprise birthday party
for your mother.
Setting on your grandfather's
knees, vacations, picnics,
or going to the zoo.

Pictures, perhaps it's your pictures
which means the most to you.



My mother Janet in 1948

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JAN. 31

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

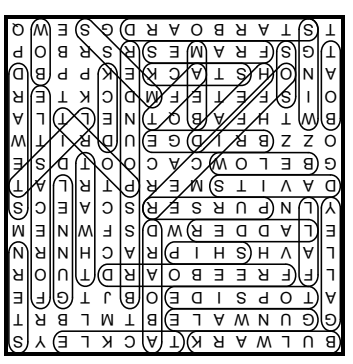
Aboard
Aft
Beam
Below
Boat
Bow
Brass Pounder
Bridge
Bulwark
Davits
Deck
Fall
Forecastle
Frames
Freeboard
Galley
Gunnel
Gunwale
Head
Ladder
List
Mess
Officer
Port
Purser
Ship
SOS
Stack
Starboard
Stern
Steward
Tackle
Thwart
Topside
Wings

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JAN. 31

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

ANSWERS:



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

Man (from Front)

treated with the utmost seriousness," said Acting Special Agent in Charge Robert Donovan of the U.S. Secret Service, Atlanta Field Office.

"Our agents, working in close coordination with prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia, worked tirelessly to advance this investigation. Hall's arrest is representative of the effectiveness of our combined efforts to safeguard our nation's leadership."

According to U.S. Attorney Hertzberg, the charges and other information presented in court: on June 27, 2024, Hall allegedly drove from Alabama to Atlanta planning to sneak into the presidential debate hosted by CNN that evening so he could kill then-President Biden.

A screenshot of a map allegedly found on Hall's phone contained a location marker indicating that the phone was three blocks from the debate site approximately 28 minutes before the debate's scheduled start time (when adjusted to local time).

Hall's phone also allegedly contained a note that Hall termed his "exposé" or "manifesto." The note was addressed "[t]o all the Palestinian journalists . . . and in remembrance of the ones who lost their lives along the way." It further stated in part:

- "Hopefully my actions snap you all awake long enough to thoroughly understand the point I will make in this exposé."
- "Our enemies are not in any other country but our own and Israel's."
- "It's time we overthrow these bastards and threaten to pull a f–king D-Day on Tel Aviv . . . ."
- "On the week of July 4th, forget your f–king barbecues and pool parties. Instead do the patriotic thing by marching on Capitol Hill, the White House, and the Supreme Court armed with whatever you have . . . . Unless the feds shoot first, you must not engage. If they are unwilling to comply after a few hours, then I permit you to march into those buildings and do what is necessary to regain control of our country from the deep state."

Hall's manifesto concluded "Free Palestine" next to an emoji of the flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian Authority.

Hall was charged by a criminal complaint on Jan. 26, 2026, with interstate stalking.

He was arrested Jan. 28 and appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Staci G. Cornelius in federal court. Notwithstanding Hall's arrest, the investigation is ongoing, and additional charges may be filed later.

Members of the public are reminded that the criminal complaint only contains charges.

The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges, and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Pearce is prosecuting the case.

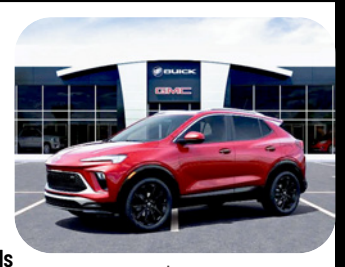
For further information please contact the U.S. Attorney's Public Affairs Office at USAGAN.PressEmails@usdoj.gov or 404-581-6016. The Internet address for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is http://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga.



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SAVE $4,600

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- Leather
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STK# 68068
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- X31 Off-Road Package
- 20" Machined Aluminum Wheels
- Front /Rear Park Assist


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NOW $89,930
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- Super Cruise
- Heads-Up Display
- Front/Rear Park Assist


WAS $87,505
NOW $72,992
SAVE $14,513

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- 2.5L DOHC Engine
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- Leather
- Enhanced Automatic Parking Assist


WAS $61,105
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- Power Liftgate
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