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PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
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OBITUARIES

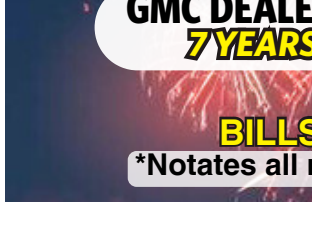
Stephen William Weissend, Randall Gene Buchanan, Alva Coyis Umphrey, Glenda Steele Bagwell, Melissa June Shabel, Ernest Elton Williams, John Wayne Heatherly, Melissa 'Missy Rae' Munger
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WEATHER

55 35
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY CLOUDY THEN SHOWERS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
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COLD SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL XC & TF/FACEBOOK

– SPORTS –

Cold Springs wins runner-up 1A-3A girls title, five local schools compete at State Championships
» PAGE 4

Garden City awarded $520K EPA grant for water system expansion

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

GARDEN CITY, Ala. — The Town of Garden City has been awarded $520,000 in federal funding to support improvements to its water system.

The funding, according to U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, was awarded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Grants program. The grant is intended to strengthen local water infrastructure and help ensure access to safe, reliable water service.

Aderholt said the investment will help Garden City modernize its water system and support long-term growth in the area.

The project does not require any matching funds from the Town, according to Garden City Town Clerk Amy Black. If additional funding were needed, it would come from the Town's utility system rather than the general fund.

Black said the grant will be used to expand Garden City's water system into parts of Blount County, allowing new customers in that area to receive a more adequate water supply.

The project is an expansion of the system and is not intended to address existing service issues.

Current Garden City water customers should not expect any changes as a result of the project. Black said residents already connected to the system will not experience service interruptions, and the expansion will not affect water rates now or in the future.

No timeline has been established for when construction will begin, and Town officials said additional details will be released » PAGE 3

Cold. Bold. Cullman.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Brave participants hit the water in the 2026 Polar Bear Plunge in Cullman on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Brave – very brave – participants jumped into icy waters for a great cause Saturday morning, Jan. 31.

It was a balmy 18 degrees (with windchills clocking in just below zero!), when the annual Polar Bear Plunge took place at WildWater and the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center. Did we mention there was snow falling??

Despite frigid temperatures and icy conditions on the pool deck, just over 100 people registered to take the plunge (into the 31-degree pool), raising funds for Special Olympics of Alabama.

The Polar Bear Plunge gives participants the opportunity to donate directly to Special Olympics programs that serve athletes across the state, said WildWater General Manager Michael Schwitek.

"Anything that participants donate stays within the state of Alabama. We're not a middleman in it. One hundred percent of the donations go straight to Special Olympics."

Schwitek said organizers were initially concerned about turnout due to the weather, especially with snow and ice creating colder-than-usual conditions. Unlike previous years, when ice was added to the water to heighten the challenge, Mother Nature did the job this time.

"The atmosphere is very exciting," Schwitek said Saturday morning. "People are excited, but also nervous. Last year it was warm, so this was a completely different environment."

Schwitek, who has worked in parks and water parks for more than 20 years, said his familiarity with similar events across the country inspired his involvement. He added that participants are often motivated by both the cause and the unique experience.

"It's for a good cause," he said. "There are also health benefits to cold-water exposure in limited amounts, and it makes for a great photo opportunity."

Saturday's plunge marked the fifth consecutive year CWAC has hosted the event. Organizers confirmed plans are already in place to continue the tradition next year.

Snead's Farmhouse, Fortner Farm raising funds to support Two by Two Petting Zoo after fire » PAGE 5

Notice: Business license renewals » PAGE 3

Get to know the Hanceville Library Board



TERESA RIVERA

Left to right are Hanceville Library Board Chair Cathy Bradford, Secretary Lacey McGriff, Treasurer Margaret Cowart and Vice-Chair Lauren Bentley. Not pictured is new board member Suhana Chikatla. » PAGE 5

OP-ED
It's time to stand up for Alabama workers » PAGE 8

OP-ED
In the spirit of Thatcher, for the people of Alabama » PAGE 8

EDITORIAL
Changing the standard » PAGE 8

7 winter reads » PAGE 5

Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 2

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 29

- harassment; College Dr. NE
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of property; Hwy. 278W
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1107
- violation of protection order; CR 388
- theft of property; Hwy. 69N
- theft of property; CR 109
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 617

Jan. 30

- domestic violence; CR 578
- criminal mischief; theft of property; CR 1725
- animal cruelty; CR 522
- domestic violence; CR 587
- reckless endangerment; menacing; CR 1564
- theft of property; CR 1102
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 157
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E

Jan. 31

- theft of property; Hwy. 278E
- reckless endangerment; Pine Ln. SE
- harassment; CR 565

Feb. 1

- menacing; CR 1866
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 222
- theft of property; CR 670
- dog bite; CR 1225
- dog bite; Hwy. 91
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 283

ARRESTS

Jan. 29 – Feb. 1

Bell, Leslie H.; 49
- theft-miscellaneous

Bentley, Jonah N.; 36
- operating vehicle without insurance
- driving while license suspended
- DUI (alcohol)

Brant, Jared L.; 47
- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of synthetic narcotic
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Compton, Patty L.; 44
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cunningham, Landon M.; 20
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Eason, Gary J.; 31
- burglary-residence-force

Evans, Winter D.; 42
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Ford, Julius G.; 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Green, Vallie D.; 39
- unlawful act by prisoners
- assault-aggravated assault non-family-strong arm

Hawkins, Paul F.; 52
- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence
- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Hernandez, Jonathan C.; 25
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Jacobs, Jenny M.; 53
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Johnson, Albert L.; 43
- unlawful act by prisoners
- assault-aggravated assault non-family-strong arm

Jones, Christy L.; 50
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled (2 counts)
- FTA – failure to dim lights
- FTA – improper tag light
- FTA – display of invalid insurance
- FTA – open container-alcohol in a vehicle

Kreps, Steven J.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Lang, Adam W.; 44
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – improper tail lights-trailer

Martin, Mitchell W.; 45
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Massey, Corina L.; 25
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- tampering with physical evidence

May, Austin L.; 29
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Pack, Martie D.; 65
- possession of dangerous drugs

Reid, James W.; 32
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ross, Justin W.; 30
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Smith, Jonathan K.; 51
- unlawful act by prisoners
- assault-aggravated assault non-family-strong-arm

Stewart, David R.; 51
- possession of dangerous drugs

Swann, Michael D.; 61
- burglary-residence-force

Turrentine, Austin E.; 25
- PROBATION VIOLATION – homicide-manslaughter-non-family other weapon

Whitfield, Nathan W.; 43
- possession of methamphetamine
- tampering with physical evidence
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wilson, Eric L.; 55
- DUI (controlled substances)

Wright, Randy L.; 29
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Yarbrough, Taylor C.; 36
- violation of a domestic violence protection order
- assault-domestic-menacing-gun

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 31
- burglary-3rd degree; person; Old Bolte Rd. SE

Feb. 1
- theft of property-2nd degree; Taco Bell; cash; 2nd Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Jan. 30-31

Jacobs, Jenny M.; 53
- FTA – DUI (2 counts)
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving on wrong side of road

Chandler, Steven I.; 35
- FTA – fail to register vehicle
- FTA – switched tag

Stewart, David R.; 51
- FTA – insurance violation

Hand, Kelsea R.; 19
- FTA – insurance violation

Jones, Christy L.; 50
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving without license

Wright, Randy L.; 29
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Garcia, Carlos C.; 48
- public intoxication
- persons forbidden to possess pistol

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Valentine events

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

Looking for fun ways to celebrate Valentine's Day with your loved ones this year? You're in luck! Cullman has a full list of events throughout February, with something for couples, friends and families alike. From cozy date nights to festive community dances, there are plenty of opportunities to make memories and share the love. Mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate all month long!

30th Annual Big Band Dance
- Friday, Feb. 6, from 7-9 p.m. at Loft 212. Swing the night away! Featuring the Cullman High School Jazz Band. Admission is $10 per person. It's a perfect Valentine's event for all ages. Enjoy great jazz and plenty of chances to dance. 212 Fourth St. SW, Cullman

Galentine's Wine Dinner
- Monday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Jubilee Kitchen + Bar. Gather your girlfriends and enjoy food, wine and sweet memories together. Tickets are also available for dinner and non-alcoholic mocktails. 515 Fourth St. SW, Suite 101, Cullman
- Link to tickets: https://tinyurl.com/f7vt53wt

Girl Dinner: Galentine's at The Grille at Trident Marina
- Thursday, Feb. 12, from 6-9 p.m. at The Grille at Trident Marina. A sparkling evening featuring live music by Antonio Woodruff, permanent jewelry by Anisa Rollo, curated wine tastings, specialty cocktails, charcuterie boards, carpaccio and a limited specialty menu designed for sharing. While the night is inspired by the girls, everyone's welcome! Friends, partners or even the kids! 21680 County Road 222, Crane Hill

Valentine's Day at The Grille at Trident Marina
Saturday, Feb. 14, from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Grille at Trident Marina. Celebrate Valentine's Day with a beautiful lakeside view, great food, amazing drinks and a romantic atmosphere. In addition to the regular menu, there are a few Valentine's-inspired specials and cocktails crafted just for the occasion. Indoor and patio seating (heaters on with weather permitting) will be available. No reservations required. 21680 County Road 222, Crane Hill

Valentine's Dinner at Goat Island Brewing
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing. A cozy evening of food and live music. Valentine's Day specials catered by Smokin Joe's BBQ, including a prime rib dinner or pork tenderloin dinner, both served with three sides and dessert. Guests can enjoy green beans, loaded mashed potatoes or smoked mac and cheese, followed by cheesecake topped with cherry or strawberry. Live music by The Natchez Trace Band from 7–11. Reservations are preferred and can be made by calling the taproom or stopping by the bar. 1646 John H Cooper Dr. SE, Cullman, 256-747-5556

Valentine's Day Love Party at Elks Lodge
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Elks Lodge. An unforgettable evening of romance, music and tasty food! Live music by The Hutch Edwards Band and the perfect opportunity to dance the night away. Dinner is served from 6-8. $50 per couple includes dinner for two. Choice of prime rib or chicken with cream sauce served with salad, scalloped potatoes, green beans and rolls. $10 cover charge (no dinner). All dinners must be pre-ordered by Feb. 7. Contact the Elks Lodge for more information. 1609 Brantley Ave. NW, Cullman, 256-734-9943

Ethos Speed Dating
- Saturday, Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m. at Ethos Craft Brewing. Meet new friends or potential partners while enjoying craft beers. 1849 County Road 222, Cullman
- Sign up link: https://tinyurl.com/5cxjhpw2

Napa Valley Night of Romance Wine Dinner
- Monday, Feb. 16, at 5:30 p.m. at Jubilee Kitchen + Bar. Couldn't go out on Valentine's Day? Not to worry! Intimate wine dinner inspired by the beauty and sophistication of Napa, featuring exceptional wines from Black Stallion Winery. The evening will feature a curated course, rich conversation and a perfectly romantic setting for couples looking to extend the Valentine's Day magic. 515 Fourth St. SW, Suite 101, Cullman
- Tickets: Call 256-735-4175

Valentine's Day Permanent Jewelry Pop Up at Bloom Winery
- Friday, Feb. 20, from 6-8 p.m. at Bloom Winery. Stop by for permanent jewelry by Spark Permanent Jewelry and enjoy a dinner of wood-fired pizza and flavorful wines! 1849 County Road 222, Cullman

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📣 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
📞 256-739-4140
🕒 Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm

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Garden City (from Front)

once the project schedule is finalized.

"Clean, dependable water is essential for every community, and this investment will help Garden City make needed improvements to its water system," said Aderholt.

"I am proud to support funding that strengthens critical infrastructure in north Alabama and helps ensure residents have access to safe water now and into the future.

"This grant is good news for Garden City and the surrounding area. It will help the town modernize its water system and better serve local families and businesses."

Renewals (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

City of Cullman business license renewals were due Jan. 1, 2026. Licenses not renewed by Feb. 1 are delinquent.

The City has mailed courtesy renewal forms.

These forms are also available at www.cullmanal.gov/depts/admin and at Cullman City Hall (204 Second Ave. NE).

For more information, call 256-775-7109, email businesslicense@cullmanal.gov or visit www.cullmanal.gov/depts/admin.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

Attention Senior Citizens
If you are 60 or over, please come to the Cullman Senior Center at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW and have some fun with us and eat lunch. Good fun, good friends and good food. Different things going on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. Volunteers needed to deliver meals to homebound. Call Commission on Aging for info. 256-734-1241.

Cullman County Republican Women Monthly Meetings
Second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman VFW. President Cathi Bradford: "We are going to begin training to track legislation in Montgomery. If you need information, you can directly message me on Facebook." Full meals at 5:30. Meetings start at 6.

The Crossing Food Bank
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman (in the Housing Authority).

Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

Baileyton Bargain Days
First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Al-Anon Meetings
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

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, Feb. 4 – 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, Feb. 6 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, Feb. 8 – 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. Healing service at 5 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

30th Annual Big Band Dance
Friday, Feb. 6, from 7-9 p.m. at Loft 212. Swing the night away! Featuring the Cullman High School Jazz Band. Admission is $10 per person.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 Saint Joseph Dr. NW in Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

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.

Vinemont Valentine's Day-Themed Senior Community Luncheon
Monday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center, 88 Ridgeway St. Candlelight Valentine's luncheon, with pasta, salad and bread. Door prizes. Rodger Walling will be sharing the history of Vinemont and encouraging seniors to share memories of Vinemont. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/townofsouthvinemont or call 256-737-5311. Free. Open to all seniors across the county.

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.7thstreetbal2tist.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

LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-050

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ANGELA RENAY JOHNSTON, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Heather Kalyn Creel and Tyler Lee Creel on the 30th 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.

Heather Kalyn Creel and Tyler Lee Creel
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 Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-302

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Bonnie Styles on the 15th 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.

Bonnie Styles
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, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

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TRACK & FIELD

Cold Springs wins runner-up 1A-3A girls title, five local schools compete at State Championships

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The ASHAA Indoor Track and Field championships concluded Saturday, and five Cullman-area teams participated in the event. To split classifications, 1A through 3A competed together on Friday, with 6A competing separately. On Saturday, 4A and 5A competed together, while 7A competitions stood alone. Of the five local teams competing, Cold Springs' girls stole the show. The Eagles raked in nine medals on the way to being recognized as the 1A-3A Girls Runner-Up State Champions. The Eagles, Holly Pond and Fairview all had state champions crowned in a thrilling weekend at the Birmingham CrossPlex. Full results can be found below.



COLD SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL XC & TF/FACEBOOK

Cold Springs' indoor girls track team

FRIDAY, 1A-3A

Cold Springs (2A)

- Lindan Hill, Boys High Jump: First place (Gold), 6-0.400
- Ella Dickerson, Girls High Jump: Second place (Silver), 5-0.00
- Ella Dickerson, Girls Triple Jump: Second place (Silver), 33-01.75
- Ryleigh Wright, Girls Pole Vault: Second place (Silver), 8-00.00
- Reese Swidecki, Girls 3200m: Second place (Silver), 11:54.09
- Claire Huffstutler, Girls Pole Vault: Third place (Bronze), 8-00.00
- Ella Dickerson, Girls Long Jump: Third place (Bronze), 14-10.50
- Reese Swidecki, Girls 1600m: Third place (Bronze), 5:24.97
- Cold Springs (Myrex, Huffstutler, Swidecki, Whitlow), Girls 4x800m: Third place (Bronze), 10:45.26
- Paizley Whitlow, Girls 3200m: Fourth place, 12:38.62

Holly Pond (3A)

- Daniel Figueroa, Para-Ambulatory Boys 60m: First place (Gold), 8.95
- Daniel Figueroa, Para-Ambulatory Boys 400m: First place (Gold), 1:07.73
- Daniel Figueroa, Para-Ambulatory Boys Shot Put: First place (Gold), 27-03.75
- Travis Barnett, Boys 800m: Second place (Silver), 2:03.24
- Caden Moody, Boys High Jump: Fifth place, 5-08.00
- Braden Ivey, Boys Shot Put: Sixth place, 41-05.50

FRIDAY, 6A

Cullman (6A)

- Cullman (Nalley, Vogelaar, Stidham, Free), Girls 4x800m: Second place (Silver), 10:02.32
- Cullman (Huelsmann, Crocker, Dempsey, Taylor), Boys 4x800m: Fifth place, 8:16.59
- Isaiah Moore, Boys Shot Put: Tenth place, 43-10.25
- Jackson Floyd, Boys Triple Jump: 12th place, 44-01.75
- Jackson Floyd, Boys Long Jump: 20-03.25
- Henry Crocker, Boys 3200m: 10.04.50
- Cullman (Nalley, Free, Vogelaar, Blocher), Girls 4x400m: 14th place, 4:25.57

SATURDAY, 4A/5A

Fairview (5A)

- Nic Fallin, Boys Triple Jump: First place (Gold), 43-02.00
- Nic Fallin, Boys High Jump: Fifth place, 6-00.00
- Nic Fallin, Boys Long Jump: Fifth place, 20-0.875
- Logan Race, Boys Shot Put: 15th place, 36-07.50

West Point (5A)

- Asa Sutter, Boys Long Jump: Third place (Bronze), 20-11.00 (School record)
- Asa Sutter, Boys Triple Jump: Fourth place, 42-06.50 (School record)
- Asa Sutter, Boys High Jump: Seventh place, 5-10.00

PREP BASKETBALL

Huge second half helps fuel eighth-ranked Meek's 63-54 comeback win over Falkville

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — After collecting a win at Cordova on Thursday, the no. 8-ranked Meek Lady Tigers continued their road trip on Friday, as they traveled to take on the Falkville Lady Blue Devils. Falkville had Meek on the ropes in the first half, as their eight treys helped them take a 35-16 lead into the locker room. The second half was a completely different story for the Lady Tigers, as they dominated on both sides of the ball, and held Falkville to just four made field goals in the second half in a 63-54 thrilling comeback victory over the Lady Blue Devils.

Zarah Harden drove to the basket and laid it in to give Meek the early lead almost two minutes into the game. Falkville, though, countered by drilling a trio of treys as part of a 13-2 run to take a 13-4 lead late in the first period. Addisyn Williams drained a pair of free throws, and Harden laid it in to cut it to 13-8. After a three-point play by the Lady Blue Devils made it 16-8, Cate Henderson put in a basket in the paint to trim it to six at 16-10 going into the second.

Falkville's three-point shooting got even hotter in the second quarter, as they drilled five more from deep to widen their lead to 31-13 almost midway through the second quarter. Two more Lady Blue Devil field goals stretched their lead to 35-14 late in the first half, but Harden knocked down a short jumper to cut it to 35-16 at the half.

Falkville banked in a three from the right wing to give them a 38-16 lead early in the third. That's when Meek started to get things going in a hurry on both sides of the ball. Rilee Williams nailed a short jumper, then Henderson hit a basket down low, and Addisyn Williams scored the next four points for the Lady Tigers, including a three-point play, to make it a 38-24 game.

They were just getting started, though, as Addisyn Williams knocked down another shot down low, Harden put in a driving layup, and Zoe Hearn scored five straight points, including a three from the top of the key, and all of a sudden, it was now a 40-33 game with a little over three minutes to go in the third.

Three free throws by Falkville gave them a 43-33 lead. Henderson knocked down a shot in the paint, and Harden and Kylar Shehan each added baskets of their own down low to trim it to five at 47-42 going into the final period.

Falkville nailed a trey to give them a 50-42 lead early in the fourth, but the duo of Henderson and Harden took over after that. Henderson put in a shot down low and later added a three from the right wing to make it a 50-48 contest.

Harden then proceeded to score six straight points for the Lady Tigers, as her steal and shot in the paint gave them their first lead since the beginning of the first period, 54-50.

After a pair of Lady Blue Devil free throws cut it to two, Harden hit another shot down low, and later that quarter, Addisyn Williams scored off a Falkville turnover to give Meek a 59-52 lead. Free throws by Addisyn Williams, Hearn, and Harden helped seal their 63-54 come-from-behind victory over the Lady Blue Devils.

Harden finished with a game-high 26 points for Meek (18-4). Henderson added 15 points. Addisyn Williams posted 11 points, and Hearn ended up with seven points.

The Lady Tigers will conclude their road trip next Monday, as they will go to Sumiton Christian.

PREP BASKETBALL

New ASWA basketball rankings released post-county tournaments

Lucas Gray
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama Sports Writers Association released their updated rankings for girls and boys high school basketball on Thursday. Notably, Addison's varsity boys are now top five in Class 1A after being previously unranked, Cold Springs and Cullman's boys slipped and West Point's girls stayed pat after winning the Cullman County Tournament.

GIRLS

Class 7A
1. Hoover (25-1)
2. Albertville (22-4)
3. Bob Jones (20-6)
4. Fairhope (24-4)
5. Auburn (17-3)
6. Daphne (18-7)
7. Prattville (19-4)
8. Alma Bryant (20-4)
9. Dothan (17-6)
10. Vestavia Hills (17-9)

Others nominated: Foley (13-9), Hewitt-Trussville (14-10), Huntsville (15-11), James Clemens (11-11), Sparkman (12-9).

Class 6A
1. Hazel Green (23-2)
2. Park Crossing (23-2)
3. Clay-Chalkville (20-1)
4. McGill-Toolen (24-4)
5. Fort Payne (20-4)
6. Stanhope Elmore (23-3)
7. Northridge (22-6)
8. Murphy (20-3)
9. Chelsea (18-6)
10. Decatur (21-4)

Others nominated: Buckhorn (17-7), **Cullman (20-6),** Gulf Shores (15-12), Homewood (16-8), Jackson-Olin (17-7), Jasper (19-7), Minor (18-6), Mountain Brook (12-10), Oxford (14-9), Paul Bryant (15-6), Russell Co. (19-2), Spain Park (14-12).

Class 5A
1. Scottsboro (20-3)
2. Guntersville (25-3)
3. Charles Henderson (23-0)
4. West Point (23-1)
5. Jacksonville (21-3)
6. Priceville (18-5)
7. Ramsay (19-10)
8. Springville (18-7)
9. East Limestone (17-6)
10. Sardis (20-8)

Others nominated: Andalusia (11-4), Briarwood (15-10), Carroll (16-4), Northside (17-3), St. Paul's (16-5), UMS-Wright (18-9), Valley (16-3), Vigor (16-9).

Class 4A
1. Plainview (26-2)
2. Deshler (21-3)
3. Cherokee Co. (24-2)
4. Good Hope (23-5)
5. St. Michael (17-3)
6. Geneva (23-3)
7. Montgomery Catholic (16-5)
8. West Morgan (17-5)
9. Hokes Bluff (18-4)
10. Wilson (18-6)

Others nominated: Anniston (14-5), Dora (19-7), Escambia Co. (9-5), Hatton (14-8), Madison Academy (13-10), Pleasant Grove (13-9),St. John Paul II (12-13), Straughn (19-6).

Class 3A
1. Saint James (23-4)
2. Mars Hill (20-3)
3. Midfield (19-6)
4. Whitesburg Christian (15-3)
5. Vinemont (17-10)
6. Lauderdale Co. (16-7)
7. Clements (17-9)
8. Mobile Christian (15-9)
9. Carbon Hill (19-9)
10. Lee-Scott (15-9)

Others nominated: Collinsville (9-9), Piedmont (11-12), Rogers (13-10), T.R. Miller (9-5).

Class 2A
1. North Sand Mountain (20-6)
2. Pisgah (18-8)
3. Highland Home (23-4)
4. Sand Rock (17-9)
5. Cedar Bluff (18-5)
6. Ranburne (21-7)
7. Sulligent (17-6)
8. Abbeville (21-3)
9. Cold Springs (16-8)
10. Clarke Co. (16-3)

Others nominated: Belgreen (18-7), Cornerstone-Birmingham (11-10), Winston Co. (14-7).

Class 1A
1. Winterboro (23-2)
2. Ider (19-7)
3. R.C. Hatch (20-2)
4. Marion Co. (19-4)
5. Kinston (19-4)
6. Brilliant (21-6)
7. Jacksonville Christian (17-1)
8. Meek (17-4)
9. Athens Bible (18-5)
10. Skyline (12-8)

Others nominated: Hackleburg (11-9), Lynn (14-7).

AISA
1. Southern Academy (19-2)
2. Springwood (13-2)
3. Clarke Prep (20-2)
4. North River Christian (18-3)
5. Abbeville Christian (16-6)

Others nominated: Fort Dale Academy (11-2), Hooper (12-6), Lowndes Academy (7-2).

BOYS

Class 7A
1. Huntsville (22-3)
2. Fairhope (21-5)
3. Dothan (23-3)
4. James Clemens (18-4)
5. Sparkman (18-9)
6. Albertville (21-5)
7. Hoover (18-8)
8. Vestavia Hills (18-6)
9. Oak Mountain (15-11)
10. Carver-Montgomery (18-10)

Others nominated: Auburn (18-9), Bob Jones (12-12), Enterprise (14-7), Hewitt-Trussville (15-9), Tuscaloosa Co. (22-5).

Class 6A
1. Oxford (20-4)
2. Paul Bryant (22-7)
3. Gadsden City (24-2)
4. Pelham (24-2)
5. Murphy (22-6)
6. Shades Valley (20-5)
7. Homewood (18-7)
8. Mountain Brook (17-6)
9. Clay-Chalkville (17-7)
10. Huffman (17-11)

Others nominated: Blount (13-9), Calera (20-4), **Cullman (19-5),** Gardendale (16-9), Hazel Green (18-9), Jasper (19-5), Jemison-Huntsville (16-11), Lee-Huntsville (15-8), Minor (17-7), Pinson Valley (11-9), Russell Co. (18-4), Saraland (21-6), Spain Park (18-9).

Class 5A
1. Williamson (20-3)
2. East Limestone (23-3)
3. Hayden (23-4)
4. Guntersville (20-4)
5. Wenonah (18-5)
6. Springville (22-3)
7. Charles Henderson (20-7)
8. Corner (21-5)
9. Briarwood (18-9)
10. Sylacauga (20-2)

Others nominated: Andalusia (14-4), Eufaula (14-7), Ramsay (9-13), UMS-Wright (18-8), **West Point (20-7).**

Class 4A
1. Jackson (18-1)
2. Orange Beach (23-5)
3. West Morgan (18-5)
4. Ashville (21-2)
5. Madison Academy (16-9)
6. Plainview (19-4)
7. Fairfield (17-10)
8. Anniston (11-5)
9. Escambia Co. (10-3)
10. New Hope (19-6)

Others nominated: Alexandria (15-6), Cleburne Co. (17-5), DAR (15-9), Fultondale (14-12), Munford (15-6), New Brockton (15-8), Opp (20-5), Tarrant (16-9), Westminster-Huntsville (12-8), White Plains (15-10).

Class 3A
1. Hale Co. (19-6)
2. Whitesburg Christian (20-4)
3. Montgomery Academy (20-5)
4. Houston Academy (19-8)
5. Lee-Scott (20-3)
6. Midfield (16-7)
7. Lauderdale Co. (19-4)
8. Piedmont (15-6)
9. Sumter Central (14-4)
10. Glencoe (17-7)

Others nominated: Collinsville (13-5), Oakman (15-9), Providence Christian (21-5)
6. Cold Springs (24-3)
7. LaFayette (18-6)
8. Luverne (16-4)
9. North Sand Mountain (16-8)
10. Sand Rock (16-9)

Others nominated: Ariton (18-4), Cedar Bluff (14-10), Covenant Christian (15-8), Westminster-Oak Mountain (16-12).

Class 1A
1. Oakwood (12-15)
2. South Lamar (20-3)
3. R.C. Hatch (20-0)
4. Hubbertville (22-4)
5. Addison (18-5)
6. Florala (17-3)
7. Meek (13-8)
8. Pleasant Home (12-6)
9. Brantley (16-7)
10. McKenzie (15-6)

Others nominated: Coosa Christian (11-8), Francis Marion (16-6), Marion Co. (11-10).

AISA
1. Abbeville Christian (19-0)
2. Valiant Cross (18-4)
3. Edgewood (17-7)
4. Macon-East (14-4)
5. Restoration (17-5)

Others nominated: Cornerstone-Columbiana (6-4), Escambia Academy (12-4), Evangel-Montgomery (9-10), Hooper (15-8), Patrician (16-5).

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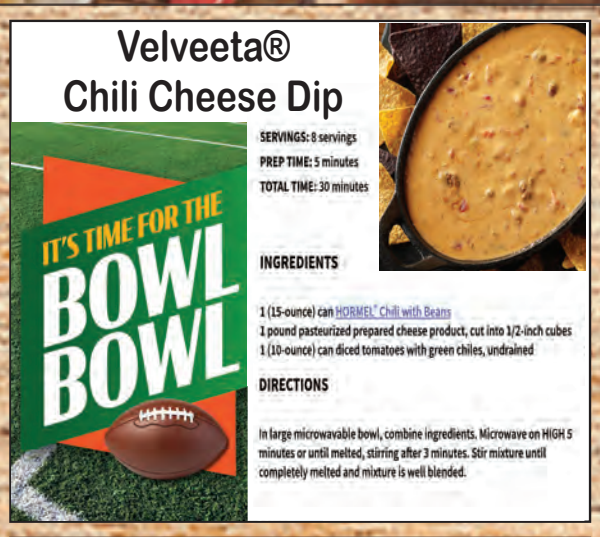
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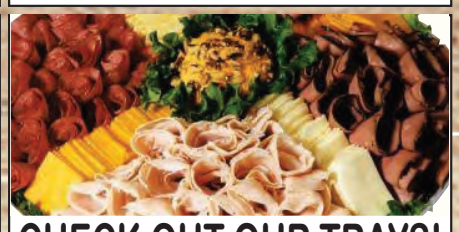
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8 Oz. Original or 1/3 Less Fat
2 for $5

Family Favorites



BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon
Selected Varieties
$5.99



BLUE BELL ICE CREAM CUPS
12 Pk.
Selected Varieties
$5.99

FRITO LAY TOSTITOS
9-14.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



TOSTITOS SALSA OR DAIRY DIPS
15-17.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



PEPSI, MOUNTAIN DEW, STARRY OR DR PEPPER
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
3 for $12





LEWIS BAKE SHOP BUNS
8 Pk. Burger or Hot Dog
2 for $5



LEWIS BAKE SHOP STEAK BUNS
6 Ct., 14 Oz. or Brat & Sausage Buns
2 for $5



FRITO LAY DORITOS
6-10.75 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



GOLDEN FLAKE, UTZ, ZAPP'S OR ON THE BORDER CHIPS
7-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
4.75-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

Beer & Wine Specials



SUNBELT GRANOLA OR SOFT BAKED BARS
7.61-11 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



LITTLE DEBBIE BIG PACKS
12.67-30.03 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $9

COORS LIGHT, MILLER LITE OR YUENGLING
12 Pk. Cans or Bottles
$12.99



MICHELOB ULTRA
24 Pk. Cans or Bottles
$26.99



JACK DANIEL'S COUNTRY COCKTAILS
6 Pk. Bottles
$7.99



JOSH CELLARS WHITE WINE
750 mL Bottles
$13.99





KRAFT BBQ SAUCE
17-18 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



KRAFT MAYO
30 Oz.
Original
$4.99 EA.



DALE'S STEAK SAUCE
10 Oz. or 16 Oz. Original or
Reduced Sodium Steak Seasoning
2 for $7



MOORE'S MARINADE OR WING SAUCE
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



A.1. OR HEINZ 57 STEAK SAUCE
10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



VAN CAMP'S PORK AND BEANS
15 Oz.
5 for $5



SAUCY SPOON BAKED BEANS
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$1.79 EA.



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



HUNT'S MANWICH
15-15.5 Oz.
Original or Bold
4 for $5



CASTLEBERRY'S HOT DOG CHILI SAUCE
10 Oz. Original or with Onions or
BRYAN HOT DOG CHILI SAUCE
99¢ EA.



CHEF BOYARDEE PASTA
7.25-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



BUSH'S BEST CHILI BEANS
or Chili Magic 15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



McCORMICK CHILI SEASONING MIX
1 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



KRAFT DELUXE MAC & CHEESE
or Velveeta Shells & Cheese
9-14 Oz. Selected Varieties
2 for $6



PREGO PASTA SAUCE
44-45 Oz. Family Size
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



McCORMICK BAC'N PIECES
4 Oz. Bits or Chips
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



PRINGLES POTATO CHIPS
5-5.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $10



CHEEZ-IT SNACK CRACKERS
5-12.4 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



PLANTERS DRY ROASTED PEANUTS
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



COUSIN WILLIE'S POPCORN
3 Pk. Microwave
Selected Varieties
2 for $3

CHEX MIX OR BUGLES SNACKS
7-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

PILLSBURY CAKE MIX
15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5

PILLSBURY FROSTING
12-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3

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



THAT'S SMART! FOAM PLATES
30 Ct.
99¢ EA.



ANGEL SOFT BATH TISSUE
4 Mega Rolls
$3.77 EA.



SPARKLE PAPER TOWELS
2 Double Rolls
$3.77 EA.



KINGSFORD CHARCOAL
16 Lb. Bag or
12 Lb. Match Light
$9.99 EA.

Snead's Farmhouse, Fortner Farm raising funds to support Two by Two Petting Zoo after fire

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A devastating barn fire at Two by Two Petting Zoo near Enterprise in south Alabama last week claimed the lives of 116 animals, prompting an outpouring of support from farms and community members across Alabama. In response to the loss, Cullman County's Snead's Farmhouse and Fortner Farm have partnered to help raise funds and support rebuilding efforts.

Judy Snead, owner of Snead's Farmhouse, said she felt compelled to help as soon as she learned of the fire. "My heart absolutely sank. As someone who cares for animals every single day, I know how hard it is to lose even one, much less to lose them all at the same time."

Snead said operating a farm is a full-time commitment that leaves little room for rest, making the loss especially devastating for animal owners. "Having a farm is showing up every day. No vacations, no sick leave, no snow days," she said. "I know the amount of hard work, sacrifice and dedication it takes to run a petting zoo and care for animals that depend on you for everything."

Snead said she immediately reached out to fellow petting zoo owner Stephanie Fortner of Fortner Farm, to coordinate a joint effort to help. "Instead of seeing competition, we chose community. When another petting zoo is hurting like this, other businesses have to step up," said Snead.

The partnership will include fundraising and outreach to help the owner of Two by Two Petting Zoo begin the long process of rebuilding. Snead emphasized that the effort is about more than business. "This isn't about business. This is about the heart." Snead said farms supporting one another during times of tragedy reflects the deeper values shared within Alabama's agricultural and small-business communities. "Farming isn't just a job, it's a calling," she said. "When tragedy strikes, it's not just a business loss. It's personal."

Financial help is urgently needed to support rebuilding and recovery efforts. "I'm asking everyone to consider making a donation," said Snead. "If you're not able to give, you can still help by sharing the link, spreading the word and keeping her in your prayers."

Donations can be made at www.sneadsfarmhouse.com. Donors are asked to include the note "for petting zoo rebuild" to ensure funds are directed toward the recovery effort.

Snead said the response so far reflects the strength of Alabama's farming community. "When one of us hurts, the rest step in," she said. "That strength doesn't come from barns or buildings. It comes from people."

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Cookies & All That Jazz

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Jazz Sharp, of Hanceville, started Cookies & All That Jazz in November 2023. It is a licensed, home-based bakery that makes a variety of classic treats. Sharp said she makes cookies, mini cookies, cupcakes and custom cakes.

She spoke of her inspiration to start her business, saying, "I knew I wanted to create something both beautiful and delicious, I've always loved all forms of art!"

As far as her favorite thing to make? All of them! "I love every theme and the creativity each one brings." Cookies & All That Jazz has treats for every occasion, including birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, holidays or any special event.

"Precision comes from preparation, patience and attention to detail," said Sharp. "Every design is planned, layered and finished carefully."

See a selection of delicious treats at www.bakesy.shop/b/cookies-all-that-jazz. For more information or to order, call 256-615-9443.



COOKIES & ALL THAT JAZZ

Baby shower cookies

7 winter reads

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

While the days are short and colder, there's no better time to slow down and dive into a new book. Whether you're drawn to historical tales, cozy mysteries or wintry romances, this list contains something for everyone. From snow-dusted magic to reflective, thoughtful classics, here are seven wintry reads to add to your bookshelf this season.

"Doctor Zhivago" is a novel by the Russian poet, author and composer Boris Pasternak, set during the Russian Revolution and the Civil War. The story follows brilliant physician and poet Yuri Zhivago, whose personal life and ideals are tested as political unrest and violence reshape Russia and disrupt his relationships, particularly his burning love for the enchanting Lara. It blends romance, philosophy and history.

"The Sugar Queen" is a warm, whimsical work of magical realism by Sarah Addison Allen set in a small Southern town in North Carolina, where everyday life is touched by soft magic. The story follows Josie Cirini, a young woman longing for independence, and Chloe Finley, a free-spirited young woman with a mysterious ability that causes books to follow her wherever she goes. A perfect mix of chicklit romance and fantasy, the novel explores found family, second chances, the subtle, healing magic of love, stories and choosing one's own path.

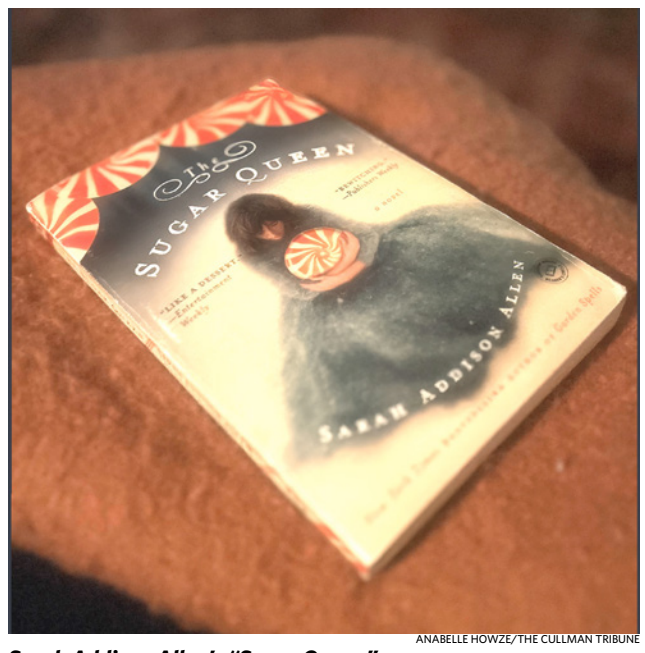
"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis is a treasured children's fantasy that follows four siblings who discover the magical land of Narnia through a wardrobe. They learn that the world is stuck in an endless winter under the vicious rule of the White Witch. With the help of the noble lion Aslan and new fantastical friends they meet along the way, the children must find courage, loyalty and faith to help restore peace to Narnia.

"Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone" is a clever, fast-paced mystery with a darkly comedic twist. Set during a tense family reunion at a remote mountain resort, the story follows Ernest Cunningham, who openly admits that every member of his family has been involved in a murder, himself included. As another body turns up, Ernest breaks the fourth wall to lead readers through clues, secrets and sharp misdirection. A classic "whodunit" structure with modern wit.

"A Gentleman in Moscow" is an elegant work of historical fiction that follows Count Alexander Rostov, a Russian aristocrat, as he is sentenced to lifelong house arrest at Moscow's Metropol Hotel after the Bolshevik Revolution. While decades of Soviet history unfold beyond the hotel's walls, Rostov builds a meaningful life within them by forming unexpected friendships and finding joy in small moments.

"The Winter Sea" is a lyrical concoction of historical romance and time-slip fiction set along the windswept coast of Scotland. The novel follows Carrie McClelland, a writer researching a lost Jacobite heroine, who begins to experience vivid visions that draw her into the past. As two love stories unfold over the centuries, the book weaves history, mystery and romance, exploring fate, memory and the pull of love.

"Still Life" is a cozy, inviting, yet intriguing mystery that centers around Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec. The story is set in the quiet village of Three Pines, where the suspicious death of a beloved local woman found in the woods after Thanksgiving has taken place. As Gamache investigates, he uncovers long-buried secrets below the village's surface



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sarah Addison Allen's "Sugar Queen"

Board (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Shirley Burden Public Library Manager Teresa Rivera recently shared appreciation for members of the library's board, saying she couldn't do it without them, their advice and knowledge.

"They are so supportive," Rivera said. "Hanceville Library Board members serve a term of four years and are appointed by the Hanceville City Council.

"Vacancies are filled in the manner by which board members are regularly named and are filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. In case of resignation of the chairman, the vice chairman automatically becomes the chairman."

Rivera said the board is vital to bringing ideas and recommendations and assists in programs. Some have even read in Wednesday storytimes for local children.

"They donate their time and talent to assist the Hanceville Library to better serve the community," Rivera said.

The Shirley Burden Library has a new board member. Lauren Bentley, a Hanceville native, was appointed in October of 2025, and is serving as vice-(chair). She brings to the library board creative talent and ideas.

She is married and has a son getting ready for college.



TERESA RIVERA

Left to right are Hanceville Library Board Chair Cathy Bradford, Secretary Lacey McGriff, Treasurer Margaret Cowart and Vice-Chair Lauren Bentley. Not pictured is new board member Suhana Chikatla.

She also teaches Kindergarten at Hanceville Primary. Another board member, our secretary Lacey McGriff, designed a flyer to encourage reading March 2-6 for the 'Read across America' campaign.

This will be given to the Hanceville Elementary School to bring home to their parents.

The next library board meeting is April 8 at 5 p.m. It is open to the public.

The board meets quarterly, in January, April, July and October, at the library.

"We are a small library and rely on volunteers to assist in the day-to-day operations," Rivera said.

"We currently have two part-time librarians with one position needing to be filled to bring us to three total part-time librarians.

"There are three volunteers that serve as well. Other duties of the library board is to assist in finding funds or grants for the library.

"We are in the process of creating our summer program with the theme 'Unearth a Story,' and are looking for business partners to assist us. They will be a part of the promotional materials."

The Shirley Burden Public 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. It's located at 201 Commercial St., Hanceville. Find it online at Facebook/Hanceville Public Library.



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 03/31/2026
TIME 7:00: AM
LOCATION: 2251 DECATUR AVE NW
CULLMAN AL 35058

2025	**GMC**	**G3500**	**1GD37SF71S1122707**
2014	**LEXUS**	**ES 350**	**JTHBK1GG0E2138045**
2017	**AUDI**	**A3**	**WAUAUGFF8H1047213**
2015	**NISSAN**	**ALTIMA**	**1N4AL3AP2FC140380**
2023	**FORD**	**F150 XL**	**1FTEX1CP6PKF87397**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Cullman is proposing a formal amendment to our FY23 Community Development Block Grant Project (CDBG Project #: LR-ED-PF-22-015 and ARC Project #: AL-21352) which constructed improvements to a section of County Road 222 from the intersection of the I-65 Exit 205 Interchange extending west to the Topre America metal stamping facility. A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Cullman City Hall. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss amending the city's project by removing engineering services from the approved budget and modifying the sources of local matching funds provided in support of this project. All citizens with questions or concerns related to the city requesting a formal amendment to this project need to attend this hearing. Any citizen who would like to attend the public hearing, but has a disability which might require special materials, services, or assistance, should notify Wesley Moore at (256) 775-7109 at least three days in advance of the public hearing.

Woody Jacobs
Mayor

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JUNE EVELYN JOHNSTON JONES, * CASE NO. PC2026- 040
DECEASED. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Kristen Johnston Jones Holmes as Personal Representative of the Estate of JUNE EVELYN JOHNSTON JONES, deceased, on the 23rd day January, 2026, 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.

Kristen Johnston Jones Holmes

Gaynor L. St. John
Attorney for Personal Representative

ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3542

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

«Project»**DRAFT DOCUMENT: NOT OFFICIAL LEGISLATION**

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County; to amend Section 45-22-70.01, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for when meetings of the county commission shall be held; and to make conforming changes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-22-70.01, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-70.01

(a) Effective for the term of the Associate Commissioners of the Cullman County Commission commencing in November 2022, the Cullman County Commission shall be composed of a chair and four associate commissioners who shall be nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the county at-large.

(b) One associate commissioner shall be elected for each district defined in this subsection and each associate commissioner shall be a resident and elector of the district that the member represents. The districts of the county commission shall be designated Commission District One; Commission District Two; Commission District Three; and Commission District Four. In order to stagger the terms of the

associate commissioners, the associate commissioner initially elected from Commission District Three and Commission District Four shall be elected for an initial term of two years and the associate commissioners elected from Commission District One and Commission District Two shall be elected for a term of four years. Thereafter, successors shall be elected for terms of four years. The associate county commissioners shall serve on a part-time basis.

(c) The Chair of the Cullman County Commission shall continue to be a resident and elector from anywhere in the county and shall serve on a full-time basis. The chair of the county commission shall serve a four-year term.

(d) The powers, duties, terms, and manner of election for the members of the county commission shall be the same as now provided by law, except as provided otherwise in this section. The chair of the county commission may not vote except in the case of a tie vote of the associate commissioners.

(e) The county commission shall establish and holdmeetings as required by Section 11-3-8, and shall post and publish the days, times, and places of their meetings. The commission, by resolution, may alter the regular meeting days as necessary, and may schedule a special meeting when determined necessary in writing by a majority of the members of the commission or, in case of an emergency, at the call of the chair."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Cullman will hold a public meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. at Cullman City Hall in the Council Chambers to discuss the FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant program. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the CDBG Program and the proposed applications the City plans to submit to the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs (ADECA) for funding consideration. All citizens are encouraged to attend this meeting. Anyone who would like to attend the public hearing but has a disability which might require special materials, services, or assistance, should notify Wesley Moore at (256) 775-7109 at least three days in advance of the public hearing.

Woody Jacobs
Mayor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the Cullman County Commission, Cullman County Commission Office, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. to receive comment on closing a portion of County Road 1465, more particularly described as the following:

All portions of County Road 1465 crossing the property owned by Brock Miracle Egg LLC or Sheila Brock.

Which abutting property owners wish to vacate and abandon.

Cullman County Commission
Jeff Clemons, Chairman

Notice is hereby given that (Burks Building, Inc.) whose office address and phone number are as follows:(309 3rd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055; 256-338-8264), has completed all work on the Berlin Farmers Market. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named Contractor and the Owner's Engineer (St. John & Associates, Inc., 256-734-2114).

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH AL CODE § 8-15-46): The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage 769 County Road 1435 Cullman, AL 35058 to satisfy a lien on January 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com : Unit 1024 Amy Lawson, Unit 1128 Jake Butler, Unit D102 Virgilia Woodard, Unit 1080 Nicole West, 1220 Nicole West.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
)
JEWEL MCCARN HALL,) CASE NO.: PC-2026-008
Deceased.

Case# PC2026-008
PB WIL Book: 135 Page: 681
Recorded in Above Book and Page
01/22/2026 4:25PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

WJC

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: TAMMY HALL EDMONDS, FAYE MCMILLEN and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a *Petition for Probate of Will* has been filed by Daniel Mosley and Ashley Mosley, Petitioner, through Attorney, Shay Persall. A hearing has been scheduled **for the 12th day of March, 2026, at 10:30 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, Probate Office Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 22nd day of January, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
TERRY D. KEY, * CASE NO PC 2025-363
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: DEL ROBERTS a/k/a DALE ROBERTS, AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS

Petition for Probate of Will filed by Dustin Key, Petitioner, through Attorney Matthew K. Carter for the Estate of Terry D. Key. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **12th day of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 23rd day of January, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper and send an affidavit of Publication to Judge of Probate

Matthew K. Carter
Attorney at Law
413 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JOHNNY ALLRED REEVES aka * CASE NO PC 2025-453
JOHNNY A. REEVES, *
Deceased. *

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

TO: JEANNIE WHITE, RACHEL WEST, RAVEN WEST, AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS

Petition for Probate of Will (Self-Proved Will) filed by Roger Burnett, Joe Butera and Daphne W. Butera, Petitioners, through Attorney John Bahakel for the Estate of Johnny Alfred Reeves aka Johnny A. Reeves. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **19th day of March, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 15th day of January, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper and send an affidavit of Publication to Judge of Probate

John Bahakel
Bahakel Law Offices
2131 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35234

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

1 Page(s)

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF **CASE NO:** PC 2025-444
RICKY ELDRID FROST, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration, were granted to **Brittany Hyde,** Personal Representative, of the Estate of **Ricky Eldrid Frost**, on 15th day January, 2026 by the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

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

BRITTANY HYDE,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to Bethany Ellison Malone, P.O. Box 740212, Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgages executed by **J. G. BENNEFIELD, A MARRIED MAN and FRANCES BENNEFIELD, A MARIED WOMAN** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage executed dated July 1, 2010, and recorded on August 2, 2010, in Mortgage Book 1630 Page 197 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the **25th day of February, 2026**, between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

The W ½ of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 15, Township 11 South, Range 2 west, containing 20 acres, more or less

Property address: 278 County Road 545, Hanceville, AL 35077

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

TRADITIONS BANK
Mortgagee
Steven C. Smith
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Carolyn Gail Barbee,) Case No. PC 2025- 468
)
Deceased)

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Tonya Hancock as Personal Representative of the Estate of Carolyn Gail Barbee, deceased, on the 15th day of January, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Personal Representative
Tonya Hancock

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.

Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

FILED IN OFFICE

JAN 06 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

1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026- 011

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LENORA ANN GOFORTH, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Brian Douglas Goforth on the 22nd 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.

Brian Douglas Goforth
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
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Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
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Obituary Announcements: Jan. 31 - Feb. 2

Stephen William Weissend, 77

Retired U.S N. Sailor Stephen William Weissend of Vinemont, Alabama completed his Earthly Voyage on Jan. 31, 2026. He was 77 years old. He was born on Dec. 7, 1948, in Cullman, Alabama. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the Weissend family. A memorial service will be held for Mr. Weissend on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Bro. John Garrison officiating. Visitation will held prior to the service from 1-2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Ruth Weissend, and his brothers, Phillip and Douglas Weissend, all from Cullman, Alabama. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Catherine, and his two daughters, Cynthia Bilbo of Texas and Wendy Sareini of Virginia, his sister, Linda Boike of Cullman, Alabama, and his brother, Daniel Weissend of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He has 11 Grandchildren, and 15 Great Grandchildren, with 1 on the way.

After graduating Cullman High School in 1966, Stephen's military career of 22.5 years began in 1968 and commenced in 1989. Following the military, he continued working as an aircraft mechanic until his second retirement in 2014 after 22 years. He will be fondly remembered as a hardworking man who loved his cars, fishing, yardwork and working around the house. He took pride in everything he did. He will be greatly missed.

Randall Gene Buchanan, 66

A funeral service for Randall Gene Buchanan of Welti, Alabama, will be noon Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Welti. Josh Sellers and Randy Sellers will be officiating. Visitation was Monday, Feb. 2, at Hanceville Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. Mr. Buchanan will be laid to rest at Hopewell Cemetery in Hanceville. Mr. Buchanan was born on May 11, 1959 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to the late George Buchanan, Sr. and Delma (Schienert) Buchanan. He died at the age of 66 on Jan. 30, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing Home, in Hanceville. A man deep in his faith, Randall was a devoted member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He had a love for people and was known for his gentle spirit. In addition, Randall spent many years working as a cook at Cullman Regional Medical Center where he enjoyed helping people, those he served and the coworkers he worked alongside. He leaves behind a legacy of what it means to walk humbly with God and care deeply for others. He is survived by his brother, George "Rusty" Buchanan, Jr., of North Pole, Alaska. It was Randall's request that donations be made to St. Jude or the Humane Society in lieu of flowers. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Buchanan Family.

Alva Coyis Umphrey, 83

Mr. Umphrey passed away Jan. 16, 2026, in his home in Deatsville, Alabama where he and his wife had lived since 1985. He was born on Dec. 25, 1942, in Cullman, Alabama to Urias and Macie Umphrey. He graduated from West Point High School in 1961. He served four years in the United States Air Force and attended Jacksonville State University earning his Bachelor of Science in Accounting. On Dec. 18, 1970, he married his college girlfriend, Sue Moore, and they began their life together in Montgomery, Alabama. Al and Sue were married 53 years. Al was a member of the First Baptist Church Montgomery since 1972 and had many lifelong friends in his Sunday School Class. Al passed the CPA exam in 1981 where he worked for the State of Alabama in the State Comptroller's office for more than 25 years. He retired in 1993 and later worked for Montgomery County an additional 10 years until 2003 as the County Deputy Administrator. Al and Sue enjoyed traveling, having been to Nova Scotia, Germany, Amsterdam, and Brussels. They enjoyed some time in British Columbia Canada and many parts of the United States. One of their favorite destinations was the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, especially during Christmas time. In addition to traveling, Al was a fan of math puzzles and enjoyed solving them. He loved dogs, especially German Shepards, and had several in his lifetime. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a brother Ulen Lee Umphrey (Patricia); a sister Doris Harry (Jimmy), and a nephew Calvin Lee Umphrey. He is survived by his nephews James Umphrey (Conniejo) and Tim Harry (Terri), a niece Jolanda Hutson (Darryl), and several great nephews and nieces. There will be a Memorial service at the First Baptist Church of Montgomery on Feb. 15, 2026. The service will be in the Stakely Sanctuary with visitation at 1 p.m. and the Memorial starting a 2 pm.

Glenda Steele Bagwell, 63

Funeral service for Glenda Bagwell, age 63 of Falkville, will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Gary McClellan officiating, burial at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be held prior to service from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Bagwell passed away on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at her residence. She was born Sunday, June 3, 1962 to Leldon and Gladys Steele. She was preceded in death by her parents and a host of brothers and sisters. Survivors include her children; Brandie Bearden, Matthew (Natasha) Bailey, Carie McDonald and Shannon McDonald, sister, Diane Westmoreland; brothers, Nathan Steele, Troy Steele, Danny (Vicky) Steele, and Kevin Steele, grandchildren; Haley Bearden, Taylor Bearden, Elijah Bailey, Ezarah Bailey, Brittany Baylor, Ethan Jackson, Katie Rickard and Blake Rickard.

Melissa June Shabel, 66

Funeral Service for Melissa June Shabel, age 66 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Shabel passed away on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, at her residence. She was born April 14, 1959, to James C. Dyer and Doris Mozelle Ogetree. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Thomas "Tommy" Shabel. Survivors include her sons, Wesley W. Shabel and Sawyer Shabel (Emilee); grandson, Rory Shabel; brother, Brad Dyer (Kristy); sisters, Melinda Jean Shabel & Beth Parker (Rod); nieces and nephews, Bobby, John, Sam (Jennifer) Nick, Kendra (Aaron) & Kenton (Anna); and a host of great nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Ernest Elton Williams, 79

Ernest Elton Williams, 79, of Crane Hill passed away Feb. 1, 2026, at his residence. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Williams was born Oct. 17, 1946, to William Carvin and Edith Jackson Williams. Ernest was a poultry farmer, cattle farmer and hay farmer. He worked on the oil rig for ten years. He loved to fish, hunt and was an avid outdoorsman. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Theresa Williams; brother, Kenneth Williams. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Cathy Williams; daughter, Sharon Williams Sharpton; brothers, Keith (Anita) Williams, Ronnie Williams; sisters, Karen (Johnny) Chambers, Sandra Sanford, Peggy Calvert, Cindy (Dean) Hill, Judy (Larry) Henson, Kassie (Jay) Burleson, Destry Sharpton; great-grandchild, Kythan Wayne Sharpton; family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to your church or your favorite charity. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

John Wayne Heatherly, 79

John Wayne Heatherly, known affectionately as Johnny by his friends, passed away on Jan. 30, 2026, at the age of 79. Born on April 3, 1946, he was a beloved and adventurous individual, known for his devotion, and generosity. Johnny was a gentle, hard-working, and honest man, whose humorous, kind-hearted, patient, and wise nature left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Johnny was a proud Army veteran. He enjoyed piddling in the workshop and was a huge fan of Alabama football. His love for community was evident as he frequently visited flea markets and cherished mornings spent with friends at Jack's. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Sieglinde Heatherly, and a loving father to his daughters, LeAnna Wood (Gary) and Carrie Leslie (Sylvester), and sons, Alexander Heatherly (Karen) and Christopher Heatherly (Tessa). Johnny's family extended to his sister, Judy Clack, and brother, Ronald Heatherly. He was predeceased by his sister, Janath McCluskey, and brother, Gerald Heatherly. Johnny was also a cherished grandfather to Nicole Brown (Roy), Makenna Atkins (Kaitlyn), Neriah Leslie, Auston Leslie, Jake Wood, Grove Carlock, and Jonah Heatherly, and a great-grandfather to Lettie Atkins. He was blessed with bonus grandchildren Caroline Cleghorn, Rosalyn Cleghorn, and Reece Cleghorn. His influence and love extended to a host of nieces and nephews, with special thanks to Greg McCluskey (Karen) and Bobby Stercho for their support. A visitation will be held on Feb. 4, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, located at 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Following the visitation, a Celebration of Life Funeral Service will take place at 2 p.m. in the Moss-Service Funeral Home Chapel. A graveside committal service will be conducted at Valley Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, 6979 County Road 437, Cullman, AL 35057. Pallbearers for the services will be Greg McCluskey, Sylvester Leslie, Auston Leslie, Roy Brown, Jake Wood, and Bobby Stercho. Johnny's legacy is one of laughter and love, as he was known for his sense of humor, his distinctive laugh, and his habit of giving everyone nicknames. His memory will continue to bring smiles to the faces of those who had the privilege of knowing him. To leave condolences for the Heatherly family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Melissa 'Missy Rae' Munger, 53

A Celebration of Life service for Melissa "Missy Rae" Munger, 53, will be Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Peck Funeral Home Chapel, with Peck Funeral Home directing. Visitation will be Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. at Peck Funeral Home. Mrs. Munger passed away on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, at UAB Hospital. Missy was born to Carl Michael and Gloria Joan Self Jackson in Michigan on June 6, 1972. She was raised in the Baptist faith and truly loved life to the fullest. She was a licensed massage therapist at Kindred Spirits Massage Therapy in Hartselle. Missy was a phenomenal sketch artist that loved life and all it had to offer, often trying new things, successful or not, she was onto to something else. Her greatest love was her family but her grandchildren were her world. She is going to be terribly missed by all who new her. Missy is preceded in death by her father, Carl "Mike" Jackson. Survivors include her Husband - Matthew Munger, a Son - Jackson Shaw, Daughters - Raegan Wiley (Seth) and Kelsey Riendeau (John), her Mother - Joan Self Jackson, Brother - Michael Jackson (Kristi) and Step-children - Adam Munger (Ashley), Daniel Munger (Kari), Meredith Edmundson (Kevin) and Benjamin Munger (Marty) her fourteen Grandchildren - Grayson, Axel, Nash, Kreed, Nashoba, Lennon, Arabella, Hudson, Lyla, Brooks, Jovi, Nora, Shane, Miles.

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EDITORIAL

Changing the standard

Noah Galilee
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There comes a moment, sometimes quietly and sometimes after damage has already been done, when you realize your level of self-respect was never where you believed it to be.

I learned that recently, not through a single event, but through patterns I kept excusing. Low self-esteem mixed with depression has a way of distorting reality. It convinces you that effort equals worth, that worry equals love and that if you just give a little more of yourself, things will finally feel balanced. Instead, everything feels heavier.

A lopsided friendship or relationship will do that to you. You show up fully, consistently, emotionally. You worry when they pull away. You replay conversations. You wonder what you said wrong, what you failed to notice, what you could have done differently.

Meanwhile, the other person moves freely through their life, untouched by your absence.

These are the people who can spend a week solid with you and then disappear for a month. They return without explanation, without accountability and without recognizing the cost of that silence.

If you find yourself in that position, stop spending your time, energy and mental power trying to solve a puzzle that was never meant to be fair.

Do not ask yourself how you could have fixed it. Do not rewrite your words or soften your needs. It would not have changed the ending. At best, it would have only delayed the inevitable.

For those of us who live with depression, self-doubt, self-loathing or a deep lack of self-esteem, this is where the danger lies. Vulnerability without boundaries does not attract healing. It attracts people who sense your willingness to overextend, to excuse harm and to accept crumbs as connection.

These are the users, the abusers, the emotional vultures. They do not always look cruel. Often they look charming, wounded or in need. They fill you with reassurance, promises and carefully chosen words until they get what they want.

It may last a week, a month or even decades, but the cost is always the same. You slowly disappear while trying to keep them comfortable.

This is why I no longer believe a relationship should be the goal when you are at war with yourself.

Loneliness is painful, but being depleted by someone who never truly sees you is worse. No human being can bring you peace if you do not first learn how to protect it.

Raising your level of self-respect is not about becoming cold or guarded. It is about recognizing that consistency matters. Effort matters. Presence matters. If someone cannot meet you there, that is not a challenge to overcome. It is information.

Peace is not found in fixing other people or earning their attention. It is found in learning when to walk away without explanation and without apology. When you finally do that, you are not losing anyone. You are reclaiming yourself.

Thatcher (from Front)

Dr. Nicole Jones Wadsworth

At a Lieutenant Governor political forum in Hoover last month, one of the moderators posed a simple question: name your favorite historical figure. Without a moment's pause, I responded with Margaret Thatcher.

Margaret Thatcher had the courage to lead with conviction, stand firm under immense pressure, and fundamentally reshape her country by refusing to apologize for strong principles or tough decisions. She understood a timeless concept: leadership is measured by courage.

Margaret Thatcher did not rise to power because the path was easy. Thatcher rose because she believed her country was worth fighting for. In the face of criticism, doubt, and enormous pressure, she stood steady. She carried the weight of responsibility with grace and resolve, and she reminded the world that strength means you have the willingness to do what is right when it would be easier to do nothing.

She believed in the dignity of work, in the power of freedom, and in the truth that ordinary people—families, workers, small business owners—are the real heart of a nation. Margaret Thatcher spoke for those who simply wanted a chance to build a better life, and she refused to let government or fear stand in the way of that opportunity.

As I seek to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, I am inspired by those same principles. Alabama is filled with hardworking people who love their communities, raise their children with faith, and deserve leaders who will fight for their future. Like Thatcher, I believe leadership means standing firm, speaking frankly, and serving with purpose.

My commitment is to Build a Better Alabama through thoughtful policy and responsible governance. As Lieutenant Governor, I will use my influence to advocate for job creation and retention, pathways to employment, dependable infrastructure, rural healthcare access, and public safety support—all issues I have worked with extensively throughout my career in business. These are real solutions that can stifle generational poverty. These are covenants to the next generation so that our children and grandchildren inherit an Alabama that is stronger, safer, and full of opportunity.

This election cycle, for once, let's put the career political games aside. Your vote represents the kind of state we want to leave behind. It is about choosing courage over complacency, conviction over convenience, and service over self.

I am asking you to stand with me. Believe what Alabama can become. Help us build a future worthy of the 5.1 million residents who call our state home.

The Republican primary is Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and I, Nicole Jones Wadsworth, would be honored to earn your vote for Lieutenant Governor. Together, we can Build a Better Alabama.

Dr. Nicole Jones Wadsworth
Candidate for Lt. Governor of Alabama

Workers (from Front)

Matt Gentry
Contributor

I have spent my life serving the people of Alabama, from joining the US Marine Corps at 18 years old, to serving the last 27 years in law enforcement as a deputy sheriff, with the last 11 years as Sheriff of Cullman County. The one thing I know for certain is this: the backbone of our state is our people. Hardworking men and women who keep the lights on, the trains running, and the wheels of industry turning.

As I run for the Alabama Public Service Commission, I want to be clear about why I am in this race. I am running to protect good-paying Alabama jobs.

Across our state, linemen brave storms to restore power so families do not go without electricity.

Men and women work in power plants, gas companies, rail yards, and coal mines, doing the work that keeps Alabama moving. These are skilled workers who ask for very little, just fairness and the chance to earn an honest living.

But those jobs are under threat.

Leftover energy policies from the Biden regime, pushed by radical environmental groups, do not reflect reality here in Alabama.

These policies threaten not just utility workers, but entire communities that depend on those jobs. Coal miners, electricians, truckers, manufacturers, welders, and countless others all feel the impact.

This is not just about shutting down a plant. When Alabama businesses are forced to move to "green mandates" without realistic planning, everyone suffers. After four years of Biden's policies of heavy-handed government intervention, costly mandates, and favoritism toward the "green" energy sector, President Donald Trump has brought back common sense and is treating our domestic energy resources as the strategic assets they are.

That same common sense guided me as Sheriff of Cullman County. When "liberal" policies tied the hands of law enforcement and made it easier for violent and repeat offenders to return to our streets, I fought back against these liberal national groups like the SPLC and others.

Our county was tied up in a federal lawsuit that restricted how bail could be set, allowing repeat offenders to be released quickly. After years of legal battles, the injunction was lifted, and law enforcement once again had the tools needed to protect our communities.

Standing up for workers and standing up for public safety go hand in hand. Families cannot thrive when jobs disappear, and they cannot thrive when communities are unsafe.

As Public Service Commissioner, I will fight for the men and women who built Alabama's energy infrastructure and who maintain it every single day. I will make sure decisions are based on reality, not ideology, and that Alabama families come before bureaucrats in Washington.

The future of Alabama depends on strong infrastructure, strong families, and strong jobs. I have spent my career standing up for citizens and for those who may not have a voice.

Let us protect what works, fix what doesn't, and make sure Alabama is never left behind in the name of so-called progress.

I will be your voice. The Citizens' Voice.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry
Candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1