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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Abney, Hanceville roll past J.B. Pennington 62-33 to move on to 3A, Area 11 semifinals

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Chad Floyd appointed as Cullman County circuit court judge

Staff Reports
Contributed

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County District Court Judge Chad Floyd has been appointed to the 32nd Judicial Circuit bench. Floyd was appointed circuit court judge by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey to fill the vacancy left by Judge Greg Nicholas, who retired Jan. 26, 2026. His appointment is effective Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

"Chad Floyd has forged a distinguished record as district judge in Cullman County since I first appointed him to that position in 2020," said Ivey. "He possesses a strong depth of knowledge of the law combined with six years' proven judicial experience. I am therefore pleased to appoint him to the Cullman County Circuit Court."

In a prepared statement, Floyd shared, "Effective February 5, 2026, I am » PAGE 3



CONTRIBUTED
Judge Chad Floyd

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Troutman named director of Cullman Economic Development Agency

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council tapped Jamie Troutman as interim director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) at its January meeting. The action followed the resignation of longtime director Dale Greer on Jan. 12, 2026. Troutman will be named the director at the council's first meeting in February.

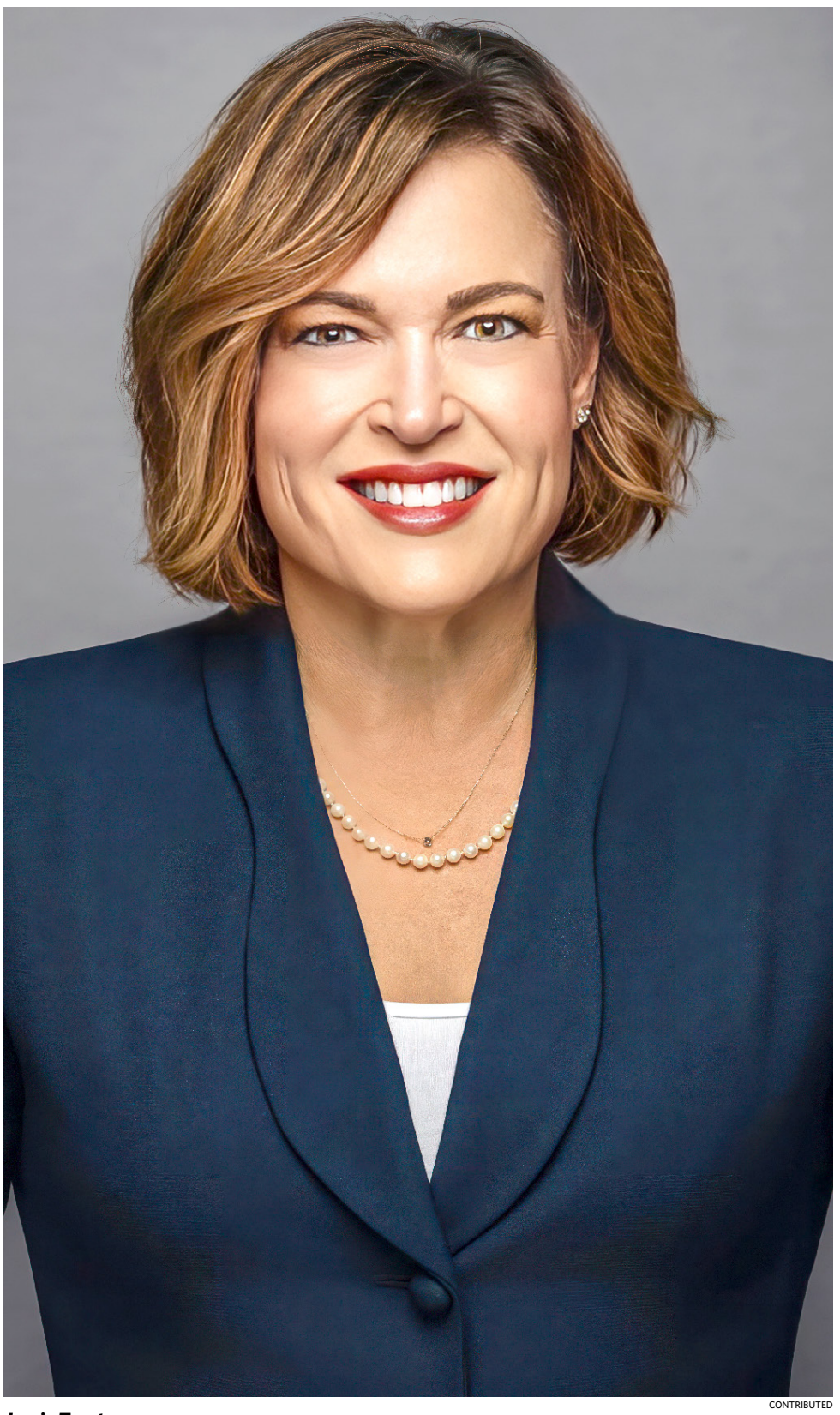
Troutman previously served as assistant director and worked alongside Greer for many years. During that time, she played a key role in recruitment efforts, governmental affairs and long-term strategic initiatives at the local, state and national levels. Her selection reflects continuity within the agency as it moves forward.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said Troutman's experience working alongside longtime economic development leaders has positioned her well for the transition.

"Economic development is largely based on building and maintaining relationships with people and agencies that are value-added partners and a crucial part in driving positive economic growth in communities," Jacobs said. "Jamie has learned under two great individuals in this profession, two individuals who were second to none in creating lasting relationships, and two individuals who were Cullman first: Peggy Smith and Dale Greer."

Jacobs said Troutman has consistently stepped into leadership roles and expanded her responsibilities over time.

"Jamie has put » PAGE 5



CONTRIBUTED
Jamie Troutman

State surplus property auction begins online today

» PAGE 2

Aderholt nominates Vinemont's Kate Seidel to attend US Military Academy (West Point)



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Kate Seidel attends Indian Springs School and is a resident of Vinemont.
» PAGE 8

Cullman artist Howard King's work on display in Alabama State House



MOUNTAIN VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL
One of Howard King's three wood-turned pieces on display in the Alabama State House.
» PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 6

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 5, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 2

- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Commercial St. NW
- domestic violence; obstructing governmental operations; resisting arrests; Lipsey Ave.
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; Main St. NE
- theft of property; CR 222
- harassment; CR 109
- theft of property; 2nd Ave. NW
- harassment; CR 1605
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM 299

Feb. 3

- theft of property; CR 623
- theft of property; CR 1624

Feb. 4

- possession of marijuana; I65SB MM 308
- harassment; College Dr. NE
- burglary; CR 1716
- theft of property; CR 149
- trespassing; CR 1735
- possession of marijuana; High School Rd.
- domestic violence; CR 160
- theft of property; Cullman Shopping Center
- violation of protection order; Lipsey Ave.
- domestic violence; CR 606

ARRESTS

Feb. 2-4

Adams, Wyatt J.; 18

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

Atchley, Brenda G.; 59

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Bair, Angela; 46

- harassing communications
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – discharging firearm into unoccupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile

Bauer, Paci C.; 21

- FTA – resisting arrest

Beasley, Steven J.; 47

- illegal possession/use of a credit/debit car
- theft of lost property, $500-less than $1500
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card

Brown, Martin; 55

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Coleman, Tyler M.; 25

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Downing, Hollie R.; 34

- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Gaddis, Jennifer A.; 41

- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – sex offense - exposure or lewd act in public
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – resisting arrest
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – assault-harassment (simple assault)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – failure disorderly persons to disperse
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – public intoxication
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia

Holcomb, Terry J.; 68

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- resisting arrest
- obstruction-governmental operations
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Jackson, Brodie; 21

- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Jones, Braxton C.; 24

- FTA – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500

Maze, Joshua N.; 39

- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Miller, Leroy S.; 49

- GJ – failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/ or comply with residential restrictions

Patterson, Christopher C.; 47

- FTA – assault-harassment

Raines, Brian A.; 38

- PROBATION VIOLATION – attempting to elude police officer

Raney, Maggie K.; 30

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

Reno, Mark D.; 63

- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Shirley, Austin L.; 31

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Sledge, Ja'mel L.; 24

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

Smith, Danny R.; 54

- FTA – open container - alcohol in a vehicle
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – improper lights

Smith, John D.; 48

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property, $1500 or more

Thompson, Destiny K.; 28

- FTA – driving without drivers license
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – tampering with physical evidence

Watts, James Z.; 42

- Criminal mischief – damage to business property
- possession of burglars tools
- attempt to commit a crime-class C felony

INCIDENTS

Feb. 4

- retail theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $401; Hwy. 157
- theft of lost property; identity theft; person; phone, cash
- theft of property; person; cash; 4th St. SW

Feb. 5

- harassment; person; Clark St. SE
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '25 Jeep Grand Cherokee; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Feb. 4

Bauer, Paci C.; 21

- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree (2 counts)

Miller, Leroy S.; 49

- FTA – fail to register vehicle

Price, Kevonta D.; 30

- theft of property-2nd degree
- identity theft
- financial exploitation of the elderly-2nd degree

McLeod, John L.; 30

- DUI
- certain person forbidden to possess firearm

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Cullman City Schools celebrates Career & Technical Education Month

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — February is Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Cullman City Schools said it is proud to celebrate the growth, innovation and impact of its CTE programs that are preparing students for success in college, careers and life.

Over the past five years, said the system, Cullman City Schools has made significant investments in CTE through expanded programs, increased human capital and beginning the construction of a $13.5 million state-of-the-art CTE/STEM wing on the campus of Cullman High School.

"These investments have transformed CTE programs at both Cullman Middle School and Cullman High School into a rigorous, progressive and essential component of the school system," said a media release.

"Students in Cullman City Schools are earning industry-recognized credentials and gaining real-world skills in high-demand fields such as Animal Science, Engineering, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Marketing, Teaching & Training, Food, Wellness & Dietetics and Health Science. These opportunities allow students to graduate with a competitive edge and a clear pathway to the workforce or postsecondary education."

Cullman City Schools is also proud to be one of several public school systems in north Alabama offering robust CTE opportunities that are not available through nonpublic school programs. In addition to on-campus offerings, Cullman City Schools partners with Cullman County Schools to send students to the Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA), allowing access to specialized CTE programs not offered on the Cullman High School campus.

The system also partners with the Academy for Craft Training in Decatur, which provides students with unique, career-launching opportunities, including Hands-On Learning via training with real tools and equipment; Job Placement via students graduating with job offers; No College Debt to allow students to start careers debt-free; High-Paying Careers with students earning competitive wages from day one; and Real-World Experience via internships with top employers.

Through collaboration with Alabama's K–12 Career and Technical Education System, Cullman City Schools offers a uniquely blended public/private model that jumpstarts careers through local internships and job placements.

"Under the direction of Lindsay Brannon, director of academic affairs, and with the hard work of our CTE teachers, our CTE programs have strengthened tremendously in the last five years," Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff noted, praising the progress and leadership behind the programs. "I am excited about the opportunities our graduates will have, not only in north Alabama, but anywhere they decide to establish roots."

For more information on enrolling in Cullman City Schools or learning more about CTE programs, visit www.cullmancats.net.

Auction (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A wide array of items from trucks, boats and bicycles to electronics, fitness equipment and office furniture will be up for bid starting Saturday, Feb. 7, in the latest online state surplus property auction.

The Surplus Property Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs will hold the auction from 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, until 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. To find out how to become a qualified bidder, visit https://adeca.alabama.gov/publicauctions. Starting on Saturday, all auction items will be listed here www.govdeals.com/alabama-surplus.

In addition to property no longer needed by state and federal agencies, ADECA acquires items abandoned voluntarily at several airports in the Southeast.

Public viewing and inspections of the auction inventory will be available at the Surplus Property Division's Distribution Center in Montgomery at 4590 Mobile Highway from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, to Friday, Feb. 13. Photos of some of the items being listed are available at https://www.flickr.com/photos/adeca/albums/72177720331815322.

ADECA holds online public auctions periodically each year, but surplus items are available at any time to municipal and county governments, state agencies and qualified nonprofit organizations.

All items are sold as is without guarantees. All sales are final upon pickup and removal of the property.

In addition to the surplus property auctions, ADECA administers a variety of grant programs for law enforcement, victim services, economic development, energy conservation, water resource management, broadband expansion and recreation development.

For more information about the online auction, visit www.adeca.alabama.gov/surplus or call 334-284-0577.









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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
• 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.
• Wednesday, Feb. 11 – 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. 13 – 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. 15 – 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.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
February is Love Your Library Month, and we are having a BOOK SALE the entire month. The proceeds assist our children's program. 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. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
• Saturday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m. Adult Book Club information meeting; Adult Book Club meetings begin in March, one Saturday a month, with refreshments and snacks provided by HanceVegas Coffee Shop
• 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 "Freddie the Fish" and book club led by Briana Taylor
• Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hanceville Irish Festival and BOOK SALE
• Wednesday, March 25, at 10 a.m. Wallace State Nursing will read during storytime and there will be a first aid program

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.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

Floyd (from Front)

honored to accept Governor Ivey's appointment to the Circuit Bench following the retirement of Hon. Gregory A. Nicholas. I am humbled by the confidence that Governor Ivey has placed in me and look forward to embracing this opportunity.

"Judge Nicholas has honorably served the people of Cullman County since 2006. I am pleased to follow him in this position and having served as a District Court Judge in Cullman County since March 2020, I feel well prepared to serve in this new role. I acknowledge God's blessings upon me and my family and look forward to serving in this role with great anticipation."

Floyd was appointed Cullman County district judge by Ivey in March 2020, and subsequently elected to the position in November 2022.

Prior to taking the bench in 2020, Floyd served as the Cullman County attorney for the Cullman County Commission for five years. Before that, he was in private practice focusing on criminal, civil and juvenile litigation for 11 years.

Floyd and his wife of 25 years, Amanda Rodgers Floyd, have three children. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business and the Mississippi College School of Law, licensed in both Alabama and Mississippi.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Abney, Hanceville roll past J.B. Pennington 62-33 to move on to 3A, Area 11 semifinals

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Class 3A, Area 11 tournament got underway on Thursday night as the Hanceville Bulldogs hosted the J.B. Pennington Tigers. The winner of that game would play the host of the area tournament, Vinemont, on Saturday night. It would be all Hanceville from the opening tip, as they got out to a quick double-digit lead and ended up rolling past J.B. Pennington, 62-33, to move on to the next round.

Hanceville didn't waste any time getting on the scoreboard, then building an early lead on top of that. Sam Abney found Drake Bentley down low for an easy basket to put the Bulldogs on the scoreboard first only six seconds into the game.

They were just getting started, though, as Abney drained a three, Nick Davis hit a pair of layups, and Bentley brought the crowd to their feet with a one-handed slam to put the Bulldogs ahead 11-0. After being held scoreless for a little over six minutes, J.B. Pennington knocked down a short jumper to get on the scoreboard. Abney drilled a pair of treys to widen Hanceville's lead to 17-4. A pair of threes by the Tigers cut it to 17-10, but Abney added a pair of free throws to end the first quarter for the Bulldogs, as they went into the second period up, 19-10.

It was all Hanceville from start to finish in the second quarter. Shawn Pilman knocked down a short jumper from just inside the free throw line, and Xavier Malcom drained a trey from the left wing to give the Bulldogs a 24-10 lead. A 5-0 run by J.B. Pennington cut it to 24-15, but the trio of Davis, Abney, and A.J. Carnathan took over after that.

Davis buried a three from the left corner, then Abney got fouled after hitting a three from the left corner as well and ended up hitting the free throw, and Carnathan knocked down a short jumper to stretch Hanceville's lead to 33-15. Davis put in a basket in the paint, Carnathan hit a pair of free throws, and Abney finished what ended up being a strong first half for the senior with two more threes to put the Bulldogs ahead, 43-18, at the break.

Hanceville continued to add onto their lead in the second half. Pilman knocked down a basket down low, Bentley scored five straight points, and Abney hit a shot in the paint to give the Bulldogs a 52-22 lead. Kade Schulz knocked down a three, and Bentley collected a steal and a layup to put them ahead, 58-25, going into the final period.

The hot clock was in effect for the entire fourth quarter, and Javus Leusby hit a pair of baskets in the paint to put the finishing touches on a 62-33 win for Hanceville. The Bulldog defense held the Tiger offense to just nine made field goals for the entire game.

Abney led the way for the Bulldogs with a game-high 23 points. Bentley added 11 points, and Davis posted nine points.

Hanceville now has a date with the host of the area tournament, Vinemont, on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m.

Scores from around Cullman

- (Varsity Girls 3A, Area 11 Quarterfinal) Hanceville 41, J.B. Pennington 33

Shallow patterns should shine at Bassmaster Elite at Lake Martin

Mandy Pascal
B.A.S.S.

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala. — A welcome warmup should have the bass moving towards prespawn staging areas for the 2026 Lippert Bassmaster Elite at Lake Martin, according to 2025 Turtlebox Bassmaster Opens presented by Battery Tender Division I champion Lucas Lindsay. The difference between a middle of the pack finish and a great finish, however, will be two or three quality largemouth bites.

"There will be a push to prespawn staging areas," the Auburn, Ala., native said. "We'll be dealing with a Lake Martin with a lot of clear water. Catching a 4-pounder each day of the tournament will be paramount and getting above 12 and 13 pounds will be incredibly important."

Tournament days are scheduled for Feb. 12-15 with daily takeoffs and weigh-ins taking place at Wind Creek State Park in Alexander City. The Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series pros will launch at 7 a.m. CT each day and return for weigh-in at 3 p.m.

The full field of 101 anglers will compete the first two days of the tournament before the Top 50 advances to Semifinal Saturday. Only the Top 10 anglers after three days of competition will fish on Championship Sunday and fight for a coveted blue trophy and the $100,000 first-place prize.

An impoundment on the Tallapoosa River, Lake Martin spreads across 44,000 acres and includes over 750 miles of shoreline, making it one of the largest man-made lakes in the country.

Spotted bass dominate the fishery, but largemouth are still plentiful. Finding quality largemouth is more difficult than it may seem, however.

"There are so many largemouth but finding one over the 2-pound range is kind of difficult," Lindsay said. "There's a lot of healthy spotted bass in there over 2 and 2 1/2 pounds."

The Elite Series last visited the fishery in 2018, an early February event won by Takahiro Omori with 59 pounds, 8 ounces.

In that event, Omori caught over 18 pounds the first day before backing it up with 14-9, 12-13 and 14-0. Lindsay said he can envision a similar scenario playing out this go-round.

"Historically, Lake Martin has been a relatively tough fishery," he said. "You have a ton of spotted bass and your kicker is going to be a largemouth most of the time.

"I think there will be a lot more that plays around midlake this time around. We have learned so much more about these bass."

Forward-facing sonar will be allowed in this tournament, which will unlock an offshore bite for suspended spotted bass. Those bass will largely be chasing threadfin shad, but there is a small population of blueback herring that could factor if an angler can find them.

Still, that pattern has a definitive ceiling on weight, and it is only about 10 pounds.

Anglers wanting to seriously contend for a victory will need to venture towards the bank and hunt the largemouth and spotted bass that feed on bluegill and crawfish or switch back and forth between patterns.

A multitude of docks line the shores of Lake Martin, a piece of cover Lindsay believes will draw plenty of attention from the Elite Series anglers.

"Big fish live shallow year-round in that place. We are going to see a lot of dock fishing, whether that is floats or brush on docks or just the bass suspended on the posts," he said.

"That is where you will find your better largemouth and even some bigger spotted bass.

"Something that wasn't as popular back (in 2018) was big swimbaits," Lindsay added. "Skipping something like a Berkley Cull Shad under docks or a Berkley Chop Block is going to be common."

Shallow brush and rock also draw heat, which will attract prespawners looking to warm up their eggs. Water clarity is an important piece of the equation on Lake Martin. Most of the reservoir is clear, although one end of the lake leans clearer than the other.

That will make a big difference in water temperature and how the bass react to lures.

"The water will heat up quicker in the (dingier) water than in the clearer water," Lindsay said. "The bass will be way ahead in the pattern in places like Wind Creek, Elkahatchee Creek and Madwin Creek. In places like Parker Creek or Kowaliga Creek, there's ultra clear water. Without wind, it is hard to mask your boat and sonar."

Along with swimbaits, Lindsay believes Neko-rigged worms, shaky heads and jigs will be common baits on the decks of those who make the Top 10.

"I think there will be guys who catch some that they will be looking at, not necessarily on the bed, but roaming down the bank," Lindsay added.

Bassmaster LIVE will be available all four days of the event, starting on Bassmaster.com and Roku Feb. 12 and Feb. 13. FS1 will host the morning session on Feb. 14 and Feb. 15. from 8-11 a.m. ET before heading to Bassmaster.com.

All weigh-ins will be available live on Bassmaster.com starting at 4 p.m. ET.

The tournament is being hosted by Explore Lake Martin and Tallapoosa County Tourism.

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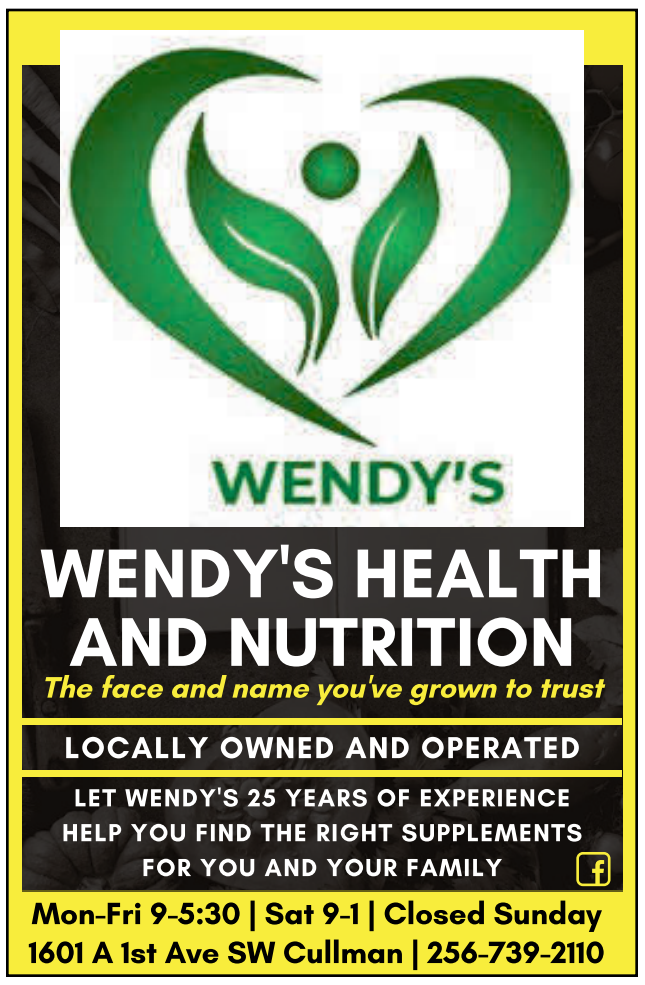
About B.A.S.S.

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it.

Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., the organization's fully integrated media platforms include the industry's leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events.

For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.

The Bassmaster Tournament Trail includes the most prestigious events at each level of competition, including the Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series, Turtlebox Bassmaster Opens Series presented by Battery Tender, Nitro Boats Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier Series presented by Lowrance, Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Strike King Bassmaster High School Series, Tackle Warehouse Bassmaster Junior Series, TNT Fireworks Bassmaster Team Championship, Newport Bassmaster Kayak Series presented by Native Watercraft, Bassmaster College Kayak Series, Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter and the ultimate celebration of competitive fishing, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour.







Troutman (from Front)

herself in leadership roles and succeeded each time," he said. "Recently, she has been focused in more so of a role of a governmental liaison between those in Montgomery and D.C., where the money is."

He said Troutman has also prioritized support for existing local business and industry.

"She has also made it a priority to support local business and industry," Jacobs said. "This is also another pillar of economic development and success, recruiting and retention and expansion."

Jacobs said Cullman's continued economic performance reflects those efforts.

"Cullman is consistently in the top five micropolitans in the U.S., it has strong ties in Montgomery and D.C. and it has a strong workforce," he said.

"Jamie has been integral in all of that and knows that everything is running like a well-oiled machine. She has prepared herself through experience."

From the City's perspective, Jacobs said CEDA plays a critical role in maintaining long-term stability.

"CEDA plays an integral role in retaining current business and industry," he said. "Our industries employ thousands of local citizens and those from surrounding counties. Those people are the ones spending money in our community."

Jacobs said recruitment must remain intentional.

"It's also important to be looking to recruit new business and industry that will provide high-paying jobs and not saturate the current market we have here in Cullman," he said.

He said strong leadership at CEDA depends on relationship building, humility and honesty.

"This role is based on relationships made and relationships maintained," Jacobs said. "You have to be people-first driven, outgoing and confident. Humility is also an important quality. You have to be humble enough to sometimes say, 'I don't know, but let me look into that and get back with you.'"

Jacobs said continuity has played a key role in Cullman's long-term success.

"Continuity in leadership plays a vital role in our continued success," he said. "You need leadership that knows Cullman, knows its people and understands what makes it unique."

He compared the transition to a winning sports culture.

"When one man goes out, it's the next man up," Jacobs said. "Winning cultures don't see a drop in talent or knowledge."

Greer said Troutman's leadership qualities were evident long before she was chosen for the role.

"Jamie is extremely task oriented and focused on detail," Greer said. "She has a keen ability to grasp opportunities for personal and professional growth. When a door opens, she rarely misses an improvement chance. She has 25 years of service to the Cullman community and is in tune to needs and how to achieve goals."

Greer said Troutman's responsibilities steadily expanded over time, particularly in governmental affairs.

"She focused a lot on governmental affairs on the local, state and national level," he said. "Those relationships translated into successful grant opportunities for our community and legislation that benefitted Cullman and Alabama."

He said Troutman also played a central role in coordinating advocacy efforts.

"She serves on the Chamber Government Affairs Committee coordinating the Montgomery Drive-In and Washington Fly-In and charting a course under community consensus."

Greer said Troutman's leadership experience extends beyond Cullman.

"Her service as president of the Economic Development Association of Alabama and participation in Leadership Alabama afforded her great personal development and leadership skills," he said.

As she steps into the director's role, Greer said those skills remain essential.

"Continue focusing on the relationships, networking and partnerships that are critical to any successful community economic development program," he said.

Troutman said her path into economic development began before her return to Cullman.

"While in college, I did an internship in the PR/Media office at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center," Troutman said. "I met so many people while working in Huntsville and accepted a job after graduating college with a public relations and media contractor at Marshall Space Flight Center."

She said that experience led to a position with the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

"That job introduced me to the world of economic development," she said.

After a brief time away, Troutman said she and her husband decided to return home.

"A friend told me there was an opening at the Cullman Economic Development Agency and put me in touch with Dale Greer," she said. "Dale somehow convinced Peggy Smith to interview me, and the rest is history."

Troutman said the field appealed to her because of its lasting impact.

"I love the economic development field because it is something different every day and it is rewarding work that matters," she said. "Very few careers offer the visible, long-term impact that you get with economic development."

As her role expanded, Troutman said, hands-on recruitment work shaped her understanding of Cullman's competitive position.

"Participating in industrial site development and recruitment helped me learn about so many aspects of our community," she said. "It also deepened my understanding of how Cullman competes statewide and regionally."

She said patience and persistence are critical.

"Things do not happen overnight," Troutman said. "They are made to happen."

One of the most formative projects of her career, Troutman said, was the recruitment of Topre America Corporation.

"Cullman was competing with about four other locations," she said. "I spent many late nights researching and comparing Cullman to the other communities."

Months later, she said, the impact became personal.

"I was driving through Baileyton and saw someone in a Topre uniform walking to their mailbox," Troutman said. "That moment made me understand the importance of what we do."

Troutman said years of collaboration have shaped her leadership style.

"I do not have all the answers, but I do know who to call to get those answers," she said.

"Strong relationships help move projects forward."

She said early coordination remains critical.

"Bringing partners to the table at the beginning of a project helps identify challenges before they become obstacles," she said.

Troutman said working alongside Greer reinforced the value of steady leadership.

"Effective economic development leadership isn't about quick wins," she said. "It's about credibility and collaboration over time."

She also credited Smith as a lasting influence.

"Sometimes when I'm facing a situation, I think, 'What would Peggy Smith do?'" Troutman said.

Looking ahead, Troutman said, alignment remains the focus.

"You cannot have recruitment, workforce and infrastructure without each other," she said.

She said success must be viewed differently in the current climate.

"Cullman has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state," Troutman said. "We have to focus on existing industry and diversification."

As she begins her tenure as director of CEDA, Troutman said the role represents a commitment to the community.

"It is an honor to serve as director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency. I believe deeply in Cullman, its people and its potential."

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LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 22
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Cullman Christian School, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:

PPIN: 11877. Parcel No. : 17-05-22-4-001-001.000. Property Address: 1803 Beech Avenue SE.

Legal Description: Lot #2 of the Re-subdivision of Golden Rod Broilers Property, as shown and known on the recorded plat filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama on March 8, 1990, in Plat Record B-98AA.

within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as M-1 Manufacturing District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from M-1 Manufacturing District to B-3 Business District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.

SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 12th day of January, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 27th day of January, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 27th day of January, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

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 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

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

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Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
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STATE OF ALABAMA *
* IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY *
* CASE NO. PC 2026-065

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JACK BENJAMIN HESS, JR., DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to the undersigned, JACK BENJAMIN HESS, III, on the 5th day of February, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, 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.

Dated this the 5th day of February 2026.

JACK BENJAMIN HESS, III
Personal Representative of the Estate of Jack Benjamin Hess, Jr., Deceased

PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-058

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOHNNY RAY GIVENS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to GENNIA WILHITE and BELINDA McCURRY on the 5th day of February, 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.

GENNIA WILHITE and BELINDA McCURRY
Personal Representatives

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 Personal Representatives
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

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
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Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
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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 *
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 27th 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 RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ZELDA P TURNER, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-061**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to KEVIN PARKER and CAROL MARIE BRAZIER, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of ZELDA P TURNER, deceased, on the 5th day of February, 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.

Kevin Parker and
Carol Marie Brazier
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue Southeast
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

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

PRESTON MARK THOMPSON, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-063

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF PRESTON MARK THOMPSON, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Amanda Leshae Calahan on the 5th day of February, 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.

Amanda Leshae Calahan, Personal Representative (Administrator),

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 & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
sherry@smithandsmithllp.com

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The Lunch Box Museum

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



What kind of lunchbox did you have when you were growing up? Perhaps, I should have said lunchboxes, because you may have had more than one. I don't remember having one at all. I do remember lunchboxes of all sorts and kinds from my childhood, but the only one I had was not a box but a brown-paper bag. My dad talked about taking his lunch to school in a syrup can. If you are around my age, you probably heard that same story from your dad. He may have also told you how he had to walk to school through the snow...and uphill both going and coming.

When I was in the sixth grade, my school tore down, or moved out, our old lunchroom to make room for a new cafeteria.

That year, we either had to purchase a sandwich at school or take our own lunch. That was the year I employed the brown-paper sacks. No, not for the reason you may be thinking. Mine usually contained a banana sandwich, which would turn dark by lunchtime, or a tuna-salad sandwich I hoped didn't turn anything before lunch!

If you had a lunchbox, you were fortunate. If you had several, perhaps even a new one every year, you were really blessed. What if you had 5,000 of them? Allen Woodall, of Columbus, Georgia, does indeed have somewhere around 5,000 lunchboxes. In fact, his world-famous Lunch Box Museum houses the largest collection in the world.

His collection began more than 40 years ago when he purchased two lunchboxes. One featured the Green Hornet and the other one Dick Tracy.

Since that simple beginning, Mr. Woodall developed a hobby of collecting vintage lunchboxes. His hobby eventually evolved into a public museum. The collection includes the likes of The Beatles, Charlies Angels and Batman and Robin. There are lunchboxes with sports figures, actors, cartoon characters, dinosaurs and just about everything else you can imagine.

The museum has been written up in The Smithsonian Magazine and featured on numerous television programs, including CBS' "Sunday Morning" and PBS' "Simply Southern."

Several weeks ago, Jean and I stumbled across the museum while visiting River City Antiques. We went there in search of antiques but discovered The Lunch Box Museum, as well as a treasure trove of small museums all under the same roof.

While shopping there, we met Mr. Woodall's granddaughter, Kaitlynn Etheridge, who helps manage the store and museums. Upon learning that I build cigar-box instruments, she asked if I would build one out of one of their lunchboxes.

I gladly accepted her invitation. While it was not the original Dick Tracy lunchbox with which her grandfather started his collection, she entrusted me with a duplicate of that one. I even topped off the instrument with colored strings to match the box. We returned this past week to deliver the finished project. It is now the newest addition to The Lunch Box Museum. You can also find one of my handbuilt cigar box guitars or dulitars in The Folk Art Museum there.

The Lunch Box Museum is a must visit. It is one of seven museums there, including the Hatcher Family Cola Museum, Tom Huston Peanut Museum, Georgia Radio Museum, an Antique Car Museum, The Chero-Cola Museum and The Folk Art Museum.

For one low price, and a good portion of a day, you can tour them all. You can even stroke the yellow house cat, or maybe I should say the museum cat. You can then take a short drive down the street for scrumptious fried catfish and hushpuppies at Rosehill Seafood. It's a fun day!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com.

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 7, 1963

From the files of Feb. 7, 1963

NEW PROSPECT NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Campbell and family of Birmingham visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Campbell, over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Anderton of Arkadelphia visited Saturday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Cone.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Shelton of Beech Grove visited Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker and Judy.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Sapp and family of Garden City visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sapp and Betty.

Mr. and Mrs. Willies Knight and family visited her parents over the week end, Mr. and Mrs. Suggs of Ashland.

Mr. and Mrs. Lavon Cone of Crane Hill visited Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Cone.

The Hanceville Bulldogs won the County Tournament Saturday night by beating Cold Springs at Cold Springs and it was a well played game by Cold Springs. The score was 44 to 38. The Hanceville Bulldogs won the County Trophy and also won the Ray Brown Trophy for Sportsmanship.

LOGAN NEWS

Billy Joe Brown from Fairview visited Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Gammon and daughters Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Mavis Brown visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gammon and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Gammon, Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Still spent the week end with Mrs. Tom Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Harbison and children of Gardendale spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Tucker.

Opal Couch and sister, Mrs. Alma Pirkle, of West Point spent Tuesday and Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Ragland of Battleground.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindy McKoy visited Mr. and Mrs. Grady McKoy Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Otey drove to Cullman Saturday to shop.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Gammon and Martha, and James Bagwell visited Mrs. Ada Martin Sunday afternoon.

ADDISON NEWS
By C. E. BRANNON, SR.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Parris of Helican have returned to Wauchula, Fla., where he was formerly employed.

Lloyd Brannon and family of Jones Chapel have the flu this week.

Reba Joyce Hood visited Joyce Brannon Sunday.

The Gurney Yates' family from Moulton visited her Sunday.

Rev. Joe Hudson of Jasper preached at Nesmith Baptist Church Sunday morning.

Juanita Blackwood is back in school following an illness.

Mrs. Fay Boyd is ill at her home.

I. E. Brannon and family of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., visited relatives here last week end.

C. E. Brannon was honored with a surprise birthday dinner at his home on January 31.

Miss Glora Ann Woulden was honored with a bridal shower at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oral Privett Saturday.

Mrs. Euchol Brannon and Mrs. Junior Brannon were in Cullman Tuesday.



POET'S CORNER

Woodrow's Big Day | By: Randy C. Hale

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

In my backyard, residing deep in a hole,
is a groundhog I call Woodrow.
And today is his biggest day, for he predicts the future of winter , they say.

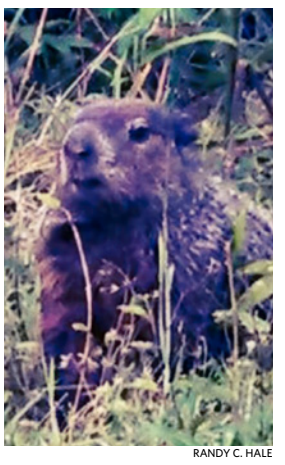
So, I made my way out to his home
in the cold, 19 degrees, as the morning arose.
And I said to old Woodrow,
"What's it gonna to be?"
"Will winter soon be over?"
"Will there be an early spring?"

But the old Woodchuck wouldn't come
to his door. He said? "Go Away!"
"Don't come back anymore!"
"But Woodrow," I said,
"This is your job."
"Give me a reading, and I will move on."

But Woodrow refused and said with
a snear. "Winter's not over, now get out
of here!"

So, no prediction I must report.
The Groundhog is balking,
Won't come to the door.
He's not making an entrance
out of his hole.
He thinks I'm crazy and told me so.

So hold onto your sweaters, your coats,
and your gloves. Don't put up your boggins, and prepare for a snow.
Old Woodrow all nestled and snug in his bed.
He's not coming out, more winter's ahead.



RANDY C. HALE

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 7

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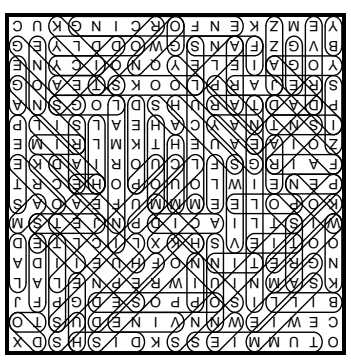
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 7

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Seidel (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, on Thursday, Feb. 5, announced the nominations of several exceptional students from Alabama's 4th Congressional District to attend the United States service academies. Among them is Vinemont resident Kate Seidel, daughter of Dr. Steven Seidel. She attends Indian Springs School in Pelham.

"Each of these young leaders has shown remarkable academic achievement, leadership and commitment to service," said Aderholt.

"I'm proud to nominate them for admission to our nation's service academies and wish them continued success as they pursue lives of honor and duty."

Aderholt submitted nominations for the following students:

U.S. Military Academy (West Point)

- Kate Seidel, daughter of Dr. Steven Seidel — Indian Springs School, Vinemont resident
- Anglin Young, son of Brett and Laura Young — Northridge High School, Tuscaloosa
- Cooper Scott, son of Chuck and Beth Rigsby — Albertville High School, Albertville

U.S. Naval Academy

- Ferrin Thorne, daughter of Derek Thorne and Valerie Thorne — Tuscaloosa County High School, Northport
- Eleanor Little, daughter of Justin and Ashley Little — Homeschool, Northport

U.S. Air Force Academy

- Anglin Young

Aderholt nominated Young to both the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) and the U.S. Air Force Academy, and he has already received acceptance notifications from both — a testament to his accomplishments and dedication.

Service academy nominations are highly competitive and reflect excellence in academics, character, leadership and a desire to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Students interested in applying for a future nomination may contact Aderholt's office or visit aderholt.house.gov for more information.

King (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Mountain Valley Arts Council volunteers have installed the 2026 exhibit of local artists' artwork in Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth's office suite in Montgomery, where it will be appreciated by hundreds of legislators and visitors through May 2026. The exhibit includes the work of Howard King from Cullman.

"This exhibit is the eighth thanks to Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth and his former Secretary of Staff Judy Miller of Arab," the MVAC said in a media release. "This exhibit is shortened since the State House will be razed later this year."

The exhibit is especially diverse with the five different art mediums.

Featured MVAC artists include Elizabeth Brown of Guntersville, with a stained glass piece called "Tennessee River Valley;" Emily Busby of Guntersville, with a ceramic bowl; Howard King of Cullman, with three wood-turned pieces called "The Soul of Wood," "Pyro Opus 33" and "Pyro Opus 34;" Becky H. Scheinert of Warrenton, with "Stars & Stripes" collage; and MJ Venrick of Albertville, with a large acrylic painting, "Lay Lady Lay Lake," that is in the waiting area, an abstract acrylic called "A Light in My Heart" and ink and watercolor called "Dragonfly," which was purchased as the exhibit was going up.

The office staff commented that the art is a constant source of conversation by visitors and raises MVAC artists' visibility.

A large oil painting (from an earlier exhibit) by Marty Bibee, formerly of Guntersville, is permanently on exhibit in Ainsworth's personal office.



MOUNTAIN VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL

Howard King, of Cullman, has three wood-turned pieces on display in the Alabama State House. They are called "The Soul of Wood," "Pyro Opus 33" and "Pyro Opus 34."

Each artist receives a certificate commemorating his or her artwork's exhibit.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 5-6

Irma Sue Holland, 83
Irma Sue Holland, age 83, of Decatur, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. She was born on June 21, 1942, in Trinity, Alabama. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home Chapel, with Brother Doug Colwell officiating. Irma will be laid to rest at Roselawn Cemetery in Decatur. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until the time of service on Saturday.

Carol Denise Nixon, 67
A Celebration of Life Service for Carol Denise Nixon, 67, of Vinemont will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at Longview Church of God. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Carol passed away Feb. 4th, 2026, at UAB Hospital. She was born May 11, 1958, to Howard Preston and Treva Jean Speegle Clayton. She retired from the United States Navy after 20 years and served another 20 years in the civil service. She loved the outdoors, gardening and her flowers. She loved summertime and the beach. Carol was a loving daughter, sister, mother and grandmother. She was very outgoing and friendly. She was preceded in death by her father. Left to cherish her memory are her mother; son, Robert (Kelsey) Nixon; daughter, Melanie Nemrouri; brothers, Charles (Pam) Clayton, Michael Clayton; sister, Michaelle (Herschell) Basinger; grandchildren, Henry, Brooks, Ella Nixon, Zahra, Layla, Tariq, Zayd; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Ricki 'Rick' Allan Blakely, 70
Ricki "Rick" Allan Blakely age 70 of Arab, Alabama passed away Feb. 2, 2026. He was born Sept. 15, 1955, in Gadsden, Alabama. Rick was preceded in death by his father Vernon Alvis Blakely; mother Iva June Allen Blakely; and grandson, Nathan James Watson. Rick is survived by his daughters Aly (Joey) Watson and Andrea Blakely; former wife, Patsy Sharpton Blakely; sister Charlotte Blakely; niece Katie (Jeremy) Stidham; nephew Andy Weldon; grandchildren Blakely Creel, Hadley Creel, Dayton Creel and Lucas Watson; and step-Grandchildren Elizabeth Watson and Micah Watson. The family will receive friends for a visitation Saturday Feb. 7, 2026, from 1-2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. He will be laid to rest at Fairview Methodist Cemetery following the visitation.

Benjamin Burton Slayton, 86
Benjamin Burton Slayton, age 86, of Cullman County, Alabama passed away February 4th, 2026, at his home. Everyone who loved him, knew him as "Benny." Benny was born on Feb. 13, 1939, in Tulare, California. He was in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. When Benny left the service, he married his beautiful wife, Patsy and started a family. Benny worked and lived in Hanford, California most of his life. He retired from working at Pirelli Tire Company where he worked for many years. Benny and his wife, Patsy moved from Hanford, California to Cullman County Alabama in 2008. While living in Alabama, he loved to hunt, fish, watch Alabama football and make lots of banana bread. Benny was also a member of the DAV Chapter 101 in Cullman. Benny is survived by his daughters, Gayla Chapman (Glen Chapman) of Grover Beach California and Tammy Franks (Neville Franks) of Cullman County Alabama; his sisters, Mary Henderson (Doug Henderson) and Bobby Lee Slayton; his brothers, Gerald Slayton (Beverly Slayton) and Lucky Slayton (Pat Slayton); grandchildren, Blake Slayton, Blaine Slayton, Sarah Renner, Rebecca KillamHull, Jessica Chapman, Hannah Chapman, Deanna Chapman, Shae-lynn Chapman, Trista Franks, Keighley Bryant, and Liberty Franks; ten great-grandchildren and multiple nieces and nephews. Benny is preceded in death by his wife, Patsy Slayton; his son, Jimmy Slayton and his sisters, Jeanette Long and Johnny Rae Lallement. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at noon at VFW building in Cullman, 112 Veterans Drive, SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Carol Dianne Moser, 76
A memorial service for Carol Dianne Moser, 76, of Hanceville is incomplete at this time and will be announced at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Moser passed away Feb. 2, 2026, at her residence. She was born Nov. 25, 1949, to Pearson and Corene Baker Sanford. She is survived by her husband, Joe Moser; daughter, LaCosta McNabb; son, Joseph Moser; grandchildren, Havyn (Destiny) Bright, Brannon (AnnaLee) Bright, Makenna Bright, Kinsley McNabb, Alex Moser, Aiden Moser, Cheyenne Moser; great-grandchildren Cianna Bright, Riplee Howell; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Sondra W. Nassetta, 75
Funeral Mass for Sondra W Nassetta, age 75 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church; Visitation will be from 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church and Rosary prayer service to follow at 7:30 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Nassetta passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Cullman Regional. She was born Friday, April 7, 1950, to Verlon E. Waters and MaryAnna G. Waters. She was preceded in death by her parents Survivors include her husband, Peter Nassetta; sons, David A. Nassetta (Clancy) and Patrick C. Nassetta (Lauren); grandchildren, Lillian M. Nassetta, Sam Nassetta, Tallulah Nassetta, Davis Nassetta, Carolyn Nassetta; brother, Michael D. Waters (Brenda); sister-in-law, Pam Patrick (Rich LaFranchise); brother-in-law, Rick Nassetta (Debbie) and sister-in law, Karen Basilica (John).

Connie Louise Massey, 75
Memorial Service for Connie Louise Massey, age 75 of Vinemont, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Keith Warden officiating; Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Massey passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at Huntsville Hospital. She was born Feb. 16, 1950, to Robert A. Collins and Minnie Collins. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Donald E. Massey and grandson, Sean Payne. Survivors include her daughter Heather Payne; sister, Ann Burleson and her brother, Mark Collins (Dana) and a host of family and friends.

Moss Service Funeral Home
1901 Second Avenue Northwest
734-1821 Service You Can Count On

Cullman Marble & Granite Co.
"Memorials of Quality Since 1910" 734-2353

FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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