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Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner returns Feb. 16

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The 21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner will take place Monday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, continuing a long-standing community tradition that raises funds for the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank.

The annual fundraiser brings together residents of all ages, from community leaders to students, united by a shared mission to support neighbors facing food insecurity.

"This night is always a powerful reminder of what our community can do when we come together," said Tanya Shearer of Empty Bowls of Cullman County. "It is a true blessing each year to see God working through so many people, using their gifts and talents to » PAGE 2



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The Wallace State Community College Art Department's Adrian Scott and Ramon Daniel, along with potters Sandra Abbott, Patti Bostick, Lynn Jetton and Marie Rhodes, donated many bowls for the 2023 Empty Bowls of Cullman County event.

Nerf war!



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The foam was flying and laughter filled the air at the Cullman OmniPlex on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, when area children participated in a "Nerf War" with members of the Cullman Police Department and Cullman Fire Rescue. The event was organized by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism and the CPD and raised funds for the CPD's annual Shop with a Cop holiday outreach.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



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Motorcyclist killed in collision with semi
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Agriplex hosts Lunch and Learn ahead of annual tree sale



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dr. Kira Sims, director of the Cullman County Extension Office, speaks to attendees at a Lunch and Learn event on Feb. 4, 2026, ahead of the annual Native Tree Sale, which is set for Saturday, Feb. 21, at the North Alabama Agriplex.
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OP-ED

Valentine's Day and love languages
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 9

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 9, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 5
- menacing; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 1235
- domestic violence; CR 1162
- theft of property; College Dr. NE
- incident exposure; CR 223
- burglary; CR 781
- harassing communications; Edmondson Rd. NE
- criminal mischief; Hughes Dr. NE
- domestic violence; CR 1651

Feb. 6
- assault; CR 1859
- menacing; CR 1664
- assault; CR 1141
- burglary; CR 1755

Feb. 7
- possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1714
- criminal mischief; CR 798
- assault; CR 38
- harassing communications; US. 31
- harassment; Ryan Rd.
- shooting into occupied dwelling; domestic violence; menacing; CR 820
- dog bite; CR 1269
- domestic violence; CR 1073

ARRESTS

Feb. 5-8

Aldridge, Dana J.; 46
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Andersen, Jessica L.; 35
- drug trafficking

Brown, Carl G.; 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Coite, William D.; 49
- FTA – driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood
- FTA – open container-alcohol in a vehicle

Cooper, Cassandra H.; 39
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

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

Jackson, Brodie; 21
- forged instrument
- theft-shoplifting, less than $500

James, Rodney L.; 35
- assault-harassment
- criminal mischief – damaged property
- criminal trespass

McAlister, Blake A.; 42
- public intoxication

McCain, Haylee D.; 31
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia
- PROBATION VIOLATION – DUIA

Mosley, James M.; 67
- public intoxication

Robertson, Alfred H.; 82
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Self, Amber L.; 40
- FTA – assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – failure to signal
- FTA – no tag-utility trailer
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Smith, Michael M.; 35
- PROBATION VIOLATION – discharging firearm into unoccupied building

Stallings, Christi L.; 46
- FTA – driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Turney, Aaron K.; 34
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – driving without drivers license
- FTA – failure to register vehicle
- FTA – operating vehicle with improper tires
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Walker, Teresa L.; 62
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- unauthorized use of a vehicle-failing to return to owner at the agreed upon time

White, Jerry E.; 59
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Wray, Michael W.; 73
- assault-shooting into occupied building
- assault-domestic-menacing-gun
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Young, Anthony D.; 60
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

Feb. 6-8

Coite, William D.; 49
- FTA – DUI

Self, Amber L.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree

Mayes, Alex J.; 27
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Ramirez, Eric I.; 29
- criminal mischief-2nd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Collision (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A motorcyclist was killed Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8, in a crash with a semi-truck at the intersection of Alabama Highway 157 and Childhaven Road in Cullman.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the victim as Christanna Nicole Anderson, 38, of Arab.

According to the Cullman Police Department, a semi-truck pulling a trailer was traveling southbound on Alabama Highway 157 and attempted to make a left turn onto County Road 1339 (Childhaven Road) when it collided with a motorcycle traveling northbound on Alabama Highway 157.

The driver of the semi-truck was not injured.

The CPD Traffic Homicide Unit and an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Trooper responded to investigate the crash.

No additional details are being released at this time.

Workshop (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Small and upcoming farmers are invited to attend a Financial Planning for Farmers Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, from 6-8 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex. The free workshop is part of the Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer series and is sponsored by the Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen.

The workshop is designed to help farmers of all experience levels better understand long-term financial planning and avoid common pitfalls that can affect the future of both their farm and family.

"This workshop will offer farmers of any operation size and experience level the opportunity to learn about planning for their financial future," said Dr. Kira Sims, director of the Cullman County Extension Office.

"The discussion will help farmers identify strategies to achieve financial goals as it relates to investing and retirement and how to avoid common mistakes."

The program will be led by Katie Brown of Edward Jones investment office. Brown brings both a financial and agricultural background, working directly with local farmers to develop investment and retirement strategies tailored to their unique needs.

"Full-time farmers don't always have access to retirement plans like people who work for companies or government," Sims added.

"Even part-time farmers or those already receiving retirement income can benefit from tips on how to strategically invest to provide a stronger financial future for their farm and family.

"Katie's experience with farmers and her understanding of agriculture allow her to provide advice best suited for this audience."

The workshop is free to attend, but registration is required. To register, visit www.aces.edu/event/financial-planning-for-farmers.

For more information, contact Dr. Kira Sims at 256-737-9386 or kira.sims@auburn.edu. The North Alabama Agriplex is located at 1714 Tally Ho St., Cullman.

Dinner (from Front)

make Empty Bowls possible."

Guests will receive a handcrafted pottery bowl created by local potters, many of whom have contributed hundreds of unique bowls specifically for the event.

The meal for the evening will feature Two Guys chili and grilled cheese sandwiches, with both dine-in and carry-out options available.

Ron Mosley Jr. of WKUL Radio will serve as master of ceremonies and will introduce the evening's musical lineup, which includes Enell Baker and Brian Westbrook & the Misfits.

In addition to the meal and entertainment, a silent auction will be held during the event. Auction items are still being accepted and may be dropped off at First United Methodist Church or Cullman Caring for Kids.

Organizers said the auction is another way for local businesses and organizations to highlight their work while directly supporting hunger relief efforts in Cullman County.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat," Shearer said, quoting Matthew 25:35. "That scripture truly reflects the heart of this event."

Tickets are $15 and include a meal and a keepsake pottery bowl. Tickets are available at Cullman Caring for Kids, Cullman First United Methodist Church or at the door the night of the event.

Leading up to the dinner, several Empty Bowls activities are scheduled throughout the week.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 10 a.m., a special storytime will be held at the downtown Cullman Public Library, featuring a reading of "The Story of Empty Bowls in Our Town" by Shearer, along with a pottery-making activity led by Christy Brock of Shop Around the Corner.

On Friday, Feb. 13, at noon, volunteers will gather at Cullman First United Methodist Church for bowl washing in preparation for the dinner.

21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner
- Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, 4-6:30 p.m.
- First United Methodist Church, 320 Third Ave. SE, Cullman
- Dine in or carry out
- Tickets ($15) available at First United Methodist Church, Cullman Caring for Kids (402 Arnold St. NE, Suite W-1, Cullman) or at the door

Sale (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Ahead of the Cullman County Natural Resources Planning Committee's highly anticipated Native Tree Sale Feb. 21, the North Alabama Agriplex recently hosted a Lunch and Learn event that offered attendees guidance on selecting, planting and caring for native trees and shrubs.

Agriplex Executive Director Rachel Dawsey said the topic has become increasingly important as development continues to reduce tree cover across the region.

"We've done this for several years because the tree sale is very popular, and a lot of people want to know what they're growing," Dawsey said. "Over the years, we've offered more and more native plants, and many people don't recognize them or understand their value."

Dawsey said many of the native species available at the tree sale serve as host plants for butterflies and other pollinators, including shrubs and trees that support caterpillars.

"A lot of our pollinators have seen a serious decline," she said. "Some species rely almost entirely on specific native plants. They're not going to survive on tropical or non-native plants brought in from other regions."

In addition to supporting wildlife, Dawsey said, native plants are better suited to north Alabama's climate, requiring less water, energy and maintenance than non-native options.

"They're adapted to our environment," she said. "You don't have to irrigate them constantly, bring them inside during winter or protect them from conditions they're already used to. That means less water, less energy and fewer resources overall."

Attendees also received information on which species will be available at the upcoming tree sale, how to properly plant them and how to care for seedlings after purchase.

"A lot of people see a bare-root seedling and think it's just a twig. There's some care involved, especially in the first 24 hours," said Dawsey. "We wanted to make sure people leave knowing how to give these trees the best chance to survive."

She emphasized the long-term investment trees represent, saying fruit-bearing native species such as persimmon trees can take several years to produce. "It's only $3 to get a tree, but it might take several years before you see your first fruit. That's why it's important to start now."

The sale will feature 12-inch bare-root native seedlings priced at $3 each and will be first-come, first-served.

The Native Tree Sale will take place Saturday, Feb. 21, at the North Alabama Agriplex. The sale will run from 9 a.m.-noon, or until inventory is sold out. Dawsey advised that the trees often sell out quickly, so it is recommended to arrive early. The North Alabama Agriplex is located at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW, Cullman.

For more information or to view the recorded presentation, visit www.facebook.com/NorthAlabamaAgriplex.

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Cullman 4-H Wildlife and Shotgun Clubs set to begin practices

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County 4-H will kick off two of its outdoor-focused programs in the coming weeks, with Wildlife and Shotgun Clubs opening registration for the season.

The 4-H Wildlife Club will begin meeting Wednesday, Feb. 25. Practices will be held Wednesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman County Extension Office, located at 402 Arnold St. NE in Cullman.

The club is open to youth ages 9-18, and participants will compete in a state contest scheduled for May 29.

The 4-H Shotgun Club will begin practices Wednesday, March 11.

Practices will be held Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. at Barrett Field, located at 228 E. Moehring Road in Cullman.

The shotgun program is also open to youth ages 9-18 and concludes with a state contest scheduled for May 22-24.

Participants in the shotgun program must provide their own firearm and bring two boxes of shells to each practice.

Both programs are open to youth ages 9-18 as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Youth must be enrolled in 4-H through the 4HOnline system in order to participate.

Each club offers hands-on instruction, skill development and competitive opportunities at the state level.

Families with questions about either program are encouraged to reach out to local 4-H staff for additional details.

How to sign up and contact information

Youth must be enrolled through 4HOnline prior to participation in either club. Registration assistance and additional program details are available through the Cullman County Extension Office.

Cullman County Extension Office
- 402 Arnold St. NE, Suite G-1
- Cullman, AL 35055
- Phone: 256-737-9386

Kerri Roberts, 4-H Extension Agent
- Phone: 256-476-7398
- Email: roberk5@aces.edu

Daphne Gilmore, 4-H Agent Assistant
- Email: dgg0014@aces.edu

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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. 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 hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
- 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.
- 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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Sunday Night Singing
Sunday, Feb. 15, at 5 p.m. with New Ground from Scottsboro. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-338-9202.

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



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Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 10, 2026

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman downs Mortimer Jordan 82-44, sets up colossal area championship vs. Jasper

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With a firm 79-44 lead and seven seconds to go in the fourth quarter of Saturday's area semifinal vs. Mortimer Jordan, Cullman's crowd wasn't satisfied just yet. "WE WANT WARREN!" rang out from the student section over and over, and Bearcats head coach Stu Stuedeman yielded. He sent 5-9 junior guard Warren Pitts onto the floor, who got set at the top of the key, caught a pass and nailed a buzzer beater from deep, sealing Cullman's 82-44 win.

The student section rushed the court, and the Bearcats' bench mobbed Pitts, who was barely visible in the rush, getting thrown around from teammate to teammate. A later addition to the roster on another high ranking Cullman team, Pitts was aware playing time would be scarce, but took on the slog of practices and a long season anyways.

"'You might not get the glory, but we want you around because we love you so much' and he's been a great kid, that was wonderful for him, a beautiful moment," Stuedeman said of Pitts' spot on the team. On the team's reaction, he added "That's a group of guys who have been through the fire this season. It's fun to play here, it's rewarding to play here, but it takes an uncommon person to play at Cullman. When they see one of their brothers who doesn't get as much shine as they get, they want them to be successful." The shot and celebration were just one of many positives for the Bearcats, who, after a tough January, are finding their form once again.

Mortimer Jordan, despite a 6-22 record coming into the game, held their own in the first quarter. Sam Dorough terrorized Blue Devil ball handlers on the perimeter, getting two steals early. One, he took to the rack himself, the other, he tossed ahead to Brooks Loftin who finished with a powerful two-handed jam. They built a 12-2 lead, capped off by a Colt Fletcher three, but Mortimer Jordan fought back, finding open men downcourt for layups when the Bearcats were in their press defense on inbound plays. Cullman got a pair of layups before the buzzer, and went into the second up 17-12.

Off another steal, Loftin threw down another dunk to kick off a back and forth second quarter where the Bearcats' strength inside was the difference.

Loftin and Dorough fought through contact in the paint on multiple occasions, finding the bucket on tough finishes or getting to the line, or both, with each finishing three-point plays at the line to stretch Cullman's lead. Despite Mortimer Jordan's best offensive quarter, scoring 16, the Bearcats went into halftime up 42-28.

Coming out of the break, Cullman built on their momentum, imposing their will on Mortimer Jordan with a 12-0 run to open the third with shots from Dorough, Bryce Burden and Costa Burks falling. On the other end, the Blue Devils got offense almost exclusively from guard RJ Hopper, who scored 11 of their 12 third quarter points. The Bearcats, almost unstoppable on offense by this point, went into the final frame leading 67-40.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman guard Warren Pitts

Cullman continued to build the lead with a 10-2 run to open the half, with Burden and Emory Bonds draining threes and Dorough finishing through contact and hitting the free throw yet again. The Blue Devils would only score four points in the fourth, and Pitts' three put a cap on the win for Cullman.

Leading the Bearcats was Sam Dorough with a game high 23 points. Complimenting him was Loftin with 14 and Gray Hopper with 14. The Blue Devils were led by Brooks Wilson's 13, followed by RJ Hopper's 11.

"I thought our guys were great, all week in practice I thought they were great, in shootaround this morning they were great and they came out with a purpose, they were really fantastic. I gotta shout out my assistants. On thursday, I missed practice, because I had a baby girl getting born- so, my assistants, in the most important practice of the year they showed up, and were fantastic. They got our guys ready, and, man, that's what a program is. We got great coaches, we got great players and we gotta keep rolling," Studeman said.

The Bearcats are yet to go a season under Studeman without winning their area, and standing in their way is another matchup with Jasper, who bested them twice in their matchups in January. The Vikings claimed the top seed in the 6A, Area 13 tournament, giving them home court advantage and a first-round bye. Their rival Bearcats, playing their best basketball in 2026 so far, will make the trek down SR-69 on tonight to play for the area title at 7 p.m.

"Let me say, Jasper beat us twice. Yeah, maybe we weren't at our best, but they beat us. So, we owe them something, but we gotta go over there and play well and take it. We can't just show up because we've got a rhythm and think we're grooving now and expect to win. That ain't how it works. They're a good basketball team, I'm ready to bring it to the square and see what we're about," an emphatic Stuedeman said.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Bearcats fall to Mortimer Jordan 52-50 in area title game



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Lady Bearcats couldn't get a shot to fall in the final moments of the 6A, Area 13 Championship, and dropped a hard-fought game to Mortimer Jordan, 52-50. Visit CullmanTribune.com for the full story or check Thursday's issue of The Cullman Tribune.

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2 for $12



MELLO YELLO, MR PIBB OR BARQ'S ROOT BEER
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Bottles
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8 Ct., 9.57 Oz.
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Cans or Bottles
$16.49 EA.

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Cans or Bottles
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$16.99 EA.

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Children and caregivers at the Feb. 5, 2026, Little Farmers Preschool Program at the North Alabama Agriplex

Agriplex's Little Farmers Preschool Program focusing on colors

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The North Alabama Agriplex's Little Farmers Preschool Program is a hands-on educational series designed for children ages 3-5, introducing young minds to agriculture through fun, interactive experiences accessible to all ages and abilities.

"Education at that age is important, and we want to bring agriculture alive for them, even though they're our youngest learners," Samantha Catland, manager of youth and kitchen programming at the North Alabama Agriplex, said.

This year, the program features monthly themes centered around colors and agriculture-related topics. Each class focuses on a different color paired with a related farm concept. January's theme was white and snow. This month's focus was pink and pigs. Remaining classes include:

- March 5: Green, salad
- April 16: Blue, water
- May 14: Purple, flowers
- Aug. 13: Red, apples
- Sept. 3: Yellow, corn
- Oct. 1: Orange, pumpkins
- Nov. 5: Brown, soil
- Dec. 3: The Rainbow

Catland said the color-based structure allows educators to revisit favorite agricultural topics while keeping lessons visually engaging for young children.

Each class includes a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to support early learning and development. Activities typically include fine-motor skill projects, cooperative play, storytime and guided listening in a group setting.

During the February session held on Thursday, Feb. 5, children created pig faces using heart-shaped pieces in recognition of Valentine's Day and built houses inspired by "The Three Little Pigs" using building blocks.

"We always try to include activities where they're copying images, working together and using their hands," Catland said.

Caregivers and guardians are encouraged to attend the program with their child, allowing families to participate together while giving children opportunities to interact independently with peers.

Catland said the goal of the program is to spark early interest in agriculture, sustainability and food systems.

"We hope they get excited about agriculture, about growing things, farm animals and sustainability," she said.

The Agriplex welcomes new families to participate and encourages attendees to invite friends, noting that recent classes have had ample space available. For more information about the Little Farmers Preschool Program and other youth offerings, visit www.agriplex.org.

The North Alabama Agriplex is located at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW, Cullman.

United Way of Cullman County seeking sponsors for Gas Card Program

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The United Way of Cullman County is seeking community partners to sponsor its Gas Card Program, an initiative designed to provide immediate transportation assistance to local households facing hardship.

Transportation challenges can prevent families from getting to work, children from making medical appointments or caregivers from being present when they are needed most.

The Gas Card Program addresses those barriers by placing fuel assistance directly into the hands of Cullman County residents who need it.

All funds raised through the program remain in Cullman County and are distributed locally.

Each gas card is valued at $10 and is designated for fuel use only.

Cards must be redeemed in person, are limited to one per household and carry no cash value. Lost or stolen cards cannot be replaced.

A $1,000 sponsorship provides 100 gas cards, helping 100 local families with immediate transportation support.

United Way officials describe the program as a simple and effective way for businesses, organizations and families to make a tangible impact in the community.

Sponsors help ensure neighbors can travel to work, attend medical appointments, meet school-related needs and respond to crisis-related situations without transportation standing in the way.

Those interested in becoming a sponsor or learning more about the Gas Card Program are encouraged to contact Taylor Johnson at tjohnson@uwaycc.org.

United Way of Cullman County emphasized that community partnerships are essential to keeping families moving forward and strengthening stability across the county.







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
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2014	**LEXUS**	**ES 350**	**JTHBK1GG0E2138045**
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2023	**FORD**	**F150 XL**	**1FTEX1CP6PKF87397**

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
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

Page 1

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.

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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

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
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
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 *
TAMELIA R. KILPATRICK LEMONS, * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 042
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Jerry W. Kilpatrick as Personal Representative of the Estate of Tamelia R. Kilpatrick Lemons, deceased, on the 9th day February, 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.

Jerry W. Kilpatrick
Personal Representative

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 841-7800
Attorney for Personal Representative

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

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

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
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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

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).

PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID

Public Works Project: Landscaping & Irrigation Bid - Lazy River at Wildwater

Owner: The City of Cullman, Alabama
204 2nd Avenue NE (Physical Address) P. O. Box 278 (Mailing Address)
Cullman, AL 35055 Cullman, AL 35056-0278

Project Manager: Kyle Clark
Parks Director of Operations
Cullman, Alabama

Invitation Date: 2/2/2026

The City of Cullman, Alabama is accepting bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of landscaping and irrigation for Lazy River at Wildwater Project. Sealed bids shall include the completed bid form, bonding as required by state law, proof of general liability and workers compensation insurance at requested coverage limits, an estimated work schedule from the start to the completion of this project, and any other requested documentation in the detailed bid specifications. In addition, an on-site visit with the project manager, Kyle Clark Parks DOO, prior to the bid opening is required to successfully submit a bid to be considered responsive on this project. Please email Wes Moore, City Clerk, at cityclerk@cullmanal.gov to obtain the detailed bid documents. Bid proposals must be submitted on the enclosed bid form with pricing as requested in the detailed bid specifications. Envelopes shall be clearly marked "Bid Enclosed" with project name, bid opening date, and Alabama General Contractor License # shown. Signed, dated, and sealed bids will be accepted until 2:00 pm local time on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Any bids received after the specified time will not be considered. Any bids received on this project from a bidder who has not completed the required on-site visit with the project manager, Kyle Clark Parks DOO, will not be considered. Any incomplete bid submitted will not be considered. Bidders may supplement the provided bid form with additional documentation but cannot replace the required bid form. All irrigation plans must be reviewed and accepted by Kyle Clark Parks DOO prior to any bid submittal. All bidders must be licensed, including but not limited to a state general contractors license, city privilege (business) license, and any other specialty license required to perform the work involved with this project, and must show evidence of such licenses with the bid submittal. All bidders must have commercial general liability coverage (no less than $2,000,000 per occurrence and $4,000,000 aggregate) and workers compensation coverage (no less than $1,000,000) and must show evidence of such insurance coverage with the bid submittal. Project must be completed by Friday, May 15, 2026, or liquidated damages will begin. The City of Cullman reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in such bids received. Proposals shall be submitted to the following address: Cullman City Hall, 204 2nd Avenue NE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Wesley Moore
Cullman City Clerk

Intro to spring cleaning

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Before we know it, spring will be upon us. As the seasons change, our preferences also change. Spring is often associated with rebirth and very commonly inspires us to refresh our surroundings. Whether that is brightening your hair, your wardrobe or digging out seasonal decorations – spring holds much opportunity.

Spring cleaning can be whatever you make it. Though if you physically cringe from the sound of it, then this is the article for you! We will focus on tips to make spring cleaning more manageable by breaking down a month's worth of paced cleaning habits. This way you are not just ready for spring cleaning, but the upkeep will be easier.

Daily
- Dishes
- Sinks
- Microwave
- Laundry
- Vacuuming
- Trash

These tasks can be done daily or as needed throughout the week. Though they shouldn't be stretched to a weekly task to avoid overload.

Weekly
- Mopping/steam mopping
- Cleaning out the fridge and any spoiled contents
- Washing bedroom linens
- Disinfecting countertops, handles, remotes or any fixtures with high weekly traffic

This is the best time to refresh any exterior cleaning!

Biweekly
- Declutter! This can be weekly depending on your preference, but realistically speaking, biweekly decluttering is just as efficient and more reasonable
- Wipe any grease off stove tops and surrounding areas
- Dust ceiling fans, light fixtures and blinds

Biweekly cleaning is best for those tasks that you don't want to do weekly but cannot push to monthly. Use this frequency for what best suits your personal preference.

Monthly
- Bathrooms! Disinfect surfaces, clean mirrors, sinks and bathtubs or showers. Don't forget to clean the shower curtains! They build up bacteria easily and need attention.
- Dust walls, picture frames, decorations, top of door frames, vents and baseboards
- Windows
- Wipe down cabinets.
- Hand vacuum furniture. Get underneath those cushions!
- Clean any tile/grout

Monthly tasks seal the deal! This is best for those tedious deep-cleaning chores you don't want to do, but desperately need to be done. Your house cleaning won't be complete without these tasks.

Feel free to adjust these cleaning habits to whatever best suits your household! This is just a rough guideline to keep your house clean and functional.

Scents
The best way to prepare for spring cleaning is changing up your fragrances. You grow accustomed to them after a certain amount of time. For spring, try flowery scents and rotate to more tropical options as we approach summer. Get a different scent for your linen spray, laundry detergent, candles, mopping liquid, perfume or even diffusers. This allows you to notice the drastic difference and keep your home smelling fresh.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 7-9

James Randy Bailey, 68
Funeral service for James Randy Bailey, 68, of Eva was at 2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Etha Cemetery, Rev. Dennis Loyd officiated. Visitation was Monday from noon-2 p.m. at the funeral home. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Bailey passed away Thursday, Febr. 5, 2026, at CRMC. He was born Sept. 11, 1957, to James Fred and Ruth Elizabeth Kimbrill Bailey. He loved motorcycles, riding them and working on them, loved woodworking, gardening, canning, sewing and was a great fixer-upper. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his son, James Randall Bailey; daughter, Tracy Gaither; sisters, Doris Walker, Wanda Bailey, Jo (Gordon) Hughes, Judy Bailey, Mary (Lester) Loyd; grandchildren, Christian Smith, Ian (Hannah) Smith, Sarah Bigham, Justice Bigham, Blake (Katilynn) Givens, James Alexander Brooks; great-grandchildren, Lydia Smith, Baylee Smith, Xavier Smith, Ella Givens, Kennedy Givens; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Glenda Jean Calvert, 87
Funeral services for Glenda Jean Calvert, 87, of Bremen were at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed the service at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation was prior to the service from noon-2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Calvert was born July 26, 1938, in Cullman, Alabama. She passed away Feb. 5, 2026, in Birmingham, Alabama at the age of 87. She leaves behind her sons, Phillip (Trisha) Calvert, Neil (Leisa) Calvert and Jeff (Angie) Calvert; grandchildren, Adam (Kristi) Calvert, Lauren (Nick) Smith, Rebekah (Carl) Harper, Tasha Smith, Colton (Courtney) Henderson, Jessica Shae Calvert, and Houston Calvert and (Hayley Barham); great grandchildren, Giancarlo Amato, Alana Smith, Alessio Amato, Cora Smith, Mia Amato, Ryder Henderson, Jacob Sharritt, Amelia Smith, Saylor Henderson, Estella Harper; sister, Faye Graves and her brother, James Stricklin; and a host of nieces and nephews. Glenda is preceded in death by her father, Clarence Stricklin; mother, Stella Stricklin; her sister, Beatrice Rivers; and her husband, Harold Melton Calvert. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Calvert family.

Juanita Martin Hipp, 87
Juanita Martin Hipp, lovingly known as "Nita," age 87, of Blountsville, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Feb. 5, 2026, with her family by her side. Nita was born on August 21, 1938, and raised in Holly Pond, Alabama, where she graduated from Holly Pond High School. From an early age, she showed the strength, determination, and warmth that would define her throughout her life. She worked for many years in accounting as a bookkeeper and data processor, a career well-suited to her sharp mind and strong work ethic. While she took pride in her work, Nita's greatest joy was always her family. She counted them as her most prized possession and loved them deeply and unconditionally. Nita was outgoing, funny, and full of life, with a quick wit. She enjoyed being with those she loved and never missed a chance to share a laugh or a story. Anyone who knew Nita knew she was strong—both physically and mentally. A true fighter, she overcame many obstacles throughout her life, including relearning how to walk after a serious car accident in 2016 that nearly claimed her life. Her perseverance and resilience were a testament to her unwavering spirit. Though she was a fighter, Nita also knew when to surrender, placing her faith and trust in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She enjoyed the simple joys of life—Alabama football, shopping for the best deals, traveling to new places, and spending quiet time reading. Yet, nothing brought her more happiness than time spent with her family. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, James H. "Bud" Hipp; her son, Martin Dewayne "Mark" Hipp; her parents, Herman and Scottie Martin; a brother, Kenneth Martin; and her beloved granny, Vasalee Crumbley Martin. She is survived by her daughter, Patti Blackstone (Bill), her son, Jay Hipp (Valerie); her grandchildren, James Hipp (Bria), Carmen Cintron (Joseph), Will Blackstone, Amelia Blackstone, Lela Hipp, and Wesley Hipp; her great-grandchildren, Paisley, Jorian, Lilly, and Verity James; brother, Quentin "Buck" Martin (Liz); sister-in-law, Martha Martin; a host of nieces and nephews; and many friends. Services will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at Holly Pond Funeral Home, with visitation from 12:30-2 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m. A graveside service and burial will follow at Rock Springs Methodist Church Cemetery in Blountsville, Alabama. Ministers officiating will be Gary McRae and Billy Vaughn. Pallbearers will be Will Blackstone, Wesley Hipp, Andrew Isom, Chris Shaver, Chad Smith, and Chad Trammell. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Lakeshore Senior Living in Guntersville, Alabama, for the love, compassion, and care shown to Nita. Special thanks are also given to the dedicated nurses and physicians at Marshall Medical Center North and the incredible medical team at UAB Hospital for their professionalism, kindness, and support during her time of need. Your care brought comfort not only to Nita but also to her family, and will always be remembered with deep appreciation. Nita's legacy of strength, faith, laughter, and love will live on through the many lives she touched. She will be dearly missed and forever cherished. Obituary provided by the Hipp family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hipp family.

Linda Marie Boike, 82
Funeral Mass for Linda Marie Boike, age 82 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church, burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church with Rosary service to follow at 7:30 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Boike passed away on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, at Huntsville Hospital. She was born, March 14, 1943, to Harry Weissend and Ruth Weissend. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Stephen Weissend, Doug Weissend and Phil Weissend. Survivors include her husband, Paul Boike; sons, Barry Boike (Latonya), David Boike (Marquita), Michael Boike (Jennifer); daughters, Jennifer Persall (Pat), Jessica Boike; grandchildren, Alex Boike (Jennifer), Brandon Boike (Miranda), Jared Boike (Ashley), Tyler Boike, Ashley Martin, Robert Boike, Jamie Persall and Dylan Boike; great grandchildren, Lily Boike, Caspian Boike, Kylee Boike, Brewer Boike, Keiton Martin, Arianna Martin and Zyra Martin; brother, Danny Weissend.

Kenneth Welton Elrod, 93
Kenneth Welton Elrod passed away on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, in Pell City, Alabama at the age of 93. He was born Feb. 23, 1932, to the late Arnie S. Elrod and Minnie LaRue Elrod. He graduated from Fairview High School in 1951. Later that year, he married his high school sweetheart, Edna Faye Pearson. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Edna Faye Elrod; his son, Michael Stephen Elrod; his parents, Arnie Elrod and Minnie Elrod; and his sister, Wanda June Elrod. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon (David) Wilson of Lincoln, Alabama; grandchildren, Autumn Wilson, Jeremy (Lindsey) Wilson, Virginia Elrod-Mangham, Michael (Kim) Elrod, and Andrea Elrod; and nine great grandchildren. After high school, he worked at DuPont and lived in Augusta, Georgia. He later moved back to Alabama and was a superintendent in construction of water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants. He worked for Steel City Construction, Rhinehart and Ward, and Advanced Tank. He enjoyed entertaining his family and friends with his stories, of which he had many. He loved baseball, Alabama football, and a good ribeye (usually the ones he grilled himself). He took pride in his always clean Chevy pick-up and John Deere lawn mower that he washed every time he cut the grass. While he was affectionately known for his stubbornness and insistence on doing things his way, he also loved a good prank and creating nicknames for every family member. One of his trademarks was his pipe smoking. He had his own special blend of tobacco, and its smell will forever serve as a reminder of him to those who loved him. Above all, he loved his family fiercely and generously and will be deeply missed. A graveside service will be Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at 11 a.m. at New Hope #2 Cemetery, Lee Witherington will be officiating.

Gary Eugene Smallwood, 78
Gary Eugene Smallwood, age 78 of Athens, formerly of Decatur, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Athen Limestone Hospital. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at the graveside of Roselawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends from noon-2 p.m. at Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home.

Timothy James Campbell, 71
A memorial service for Timothy James Campbell, 71, will be from 1-3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. The service will begin at 2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Campbell passed away Feb. 7, 2026, at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born May 13, 1954, to James Edward and Hazel Irene Raney Campbell. Tim loved to fish, golf, loved playing the guitar and spending time with his family. He was an avid Alabama football fan. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brothers and sisters. Survivors include his son, Timothy Shane (Stella) Campbell; a sister, Tina; nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
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OP-ED

The parenting books didn't tell me this

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CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Parenting books

What bothered me most of all going into parenthood was that I knew there were things I would have to learn on the spot. I knew that no matter how many parenting books I was consuming during pregnancy, I would learn things the hard way.

One night my husband was holding our son in his lap after feeding him. He noticed one of our son's toes was irritated. When he looked closer he saw a string wrapped around it, causing swelling. He brought him to me and the panic set in. There was very apparent swelling, but his toe was a slight pink, not purple.

We quickly went to work trying to remove it. After a few attempts of trying to unwrap the string by hand and failing, we got a pair of tweezers.

Trying to get the tweezers underneath the front was difficult because of the swelling so we had to go at it from the side.

We looped the tweezer under the string following the crease and cut it with a small pair of scissors from his baby grooming kit.

The hardest part of this was hearing my son's discomfort, his cries. He was cuddled immediately after and was absolutely fine. We soaked his toes in a basin of warm water and soap then applied antibiotic ointment once he was dried off.

Thankfully my husband had read an article about this happening to other babies – strings from their socks or simply hair wrapping around their toes and cutting off circulation. It never occurred to me that it could happen. I was never advised or made aware of the possibility that this could happen.

We are in colder weather so we keep socks on him all day, but take them off during changings to avoid any mess. We had just changed him before he ate and never put them back on. We often look at his feet and hands, because we adore them, but we now do it on a more frequent basis to ensure his safety.

To avoid this happening, keep an eye on those 10 fingers and 10 toes! Wash all their socks inside out and keep the baby's laundry separate from mom and dad's. It's also safe to say that checking inside any footed onesies is advised. If string or hair gets caught in the foot it can work its way around your baby's toes with the smallest amount of kicking and friction.

OP-ED

Valentine's Day and love languages

Chasady Woods
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Valentine's Day is a day to convey love and admiration. Though at any store you are almost forced to see the stuffed animals, heart-shaped candy, flowers and more things that will end up in a landfill. If you want to make this Valentine's Day more meaningful, let's discuss the five love languages to consider before buying into those displays.

Gifts
If this is your partner's love language then it's pretty self-explanatory, but try to make this gift more personable! They might not want a premade Valentine's Day gift from the store that hundreds of other people are going to get. If they enjoy bouquets, try an edible bouquet instead of flowers from the grocery store. If they enjoy coffee, don't get a mug filled with lollipops and a plushie. Pick a mug out yourself and fill it with snacks you know they enjoy. Be thoughtful!

Acts of service
Act! If your special someone loves the house to be straightened up, clean! Do the dishes after dinner. Offer up the gestures and effort that make their life easier. Perhaps even make them coffee and bring them their favorite breakfast in the morning so they can take it slow.

Words of affirmation
This is the perfect opportunity for a handwritten card! Be expressive and appreciative of your loved one. Individuals who need words of affirmation enjoy subtle reassurances often. For this occasion, write a paragraph or two that are encouraging and sweet!

Quality time
In a busy world, make time! Memories are forever the most precious gift, so don't waste any time. Clear your schedule and do something with just the two of you! Recreate your first date, watch a movie or go to your favorite restaurant. Whatever you do, just enjoy each other's presence.

Physical touch
Physical touch is affirmation in physical form. You don't have to overdo it to show physical affection. When you tell your partner to have a great day, grab their hand when you say it. When you hug them, use both arms instead of giving a side hug.

There are so many ways to show that you love someone, and it doesn't have to be limited to one day.







