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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Cullman wins its fifth straight area title under Stuedeman
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Cullman City Council says $34M can be directed to Hwy. 278/St. Bernard Bridge project

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday, Feb. 9, offered its thanks to U.S. Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama for securing $13.5 million in a recently passed appropriations bill to replace the old and narrow "swayback" bridge on U.S. Highway 278 near the entrance to St. Bernard Abbey, along with its supporting infrastructure. The bridge, referred to as the St. Bernard Bridge, has for many years been a choke point on the road, as the highway expanded on either side of it.

Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Director Jamie Troutman told The Tribune that the new appropriation is added to a $20.3 million grant announced in January 2025, which was delayed » PAGE 5



CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ADERHOLT

The St. Bernard Bridge on U.S. Highway 278 near St. Bernard Abbey will be replaced in the next few years, according to the City of Cullman.

Wallace State outlines long-term campus growth, new facilities, Lions' Village housing initiative



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State's new STEM Gateway Building is now under construction.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College is in the midst of a wide-ranging campus transformation driven by long-term planning, enrollment growth and evolving workforce demands, according to President Dr. Vicki Karolewics.

Karolewics said the current wave of campus upgrades began years before enrollment reached record levels and stems from the college's ongoing institutional planning process.

Wallace State identified the need for facility improvements as many campus buildings dating back to the late 1960s approached the end of their useful life. Those needs were incorporated into the college's 10-year campus master plan, which focuses on modernizing instructional spaces and expanding capacity to support future growth.

One of the most visible outcomes of that planning is the STEM Gateway Building, now under construction.

The building will centralize first-year courses such as English, math and chemistry and will include a digital learning center, tutoring and academic support services, new Culinary Arts facilities and a campus bistro.

Additional projects include a new Advanced Automotive Technology building designed for electric vehicle training and a new facility for Precision Machining to accommodate modern equipment and growing enrollment.

"These programs have outgrown their existing spaces, and evolving workforce needs — particularly in areas such as EV repair — created an urgent need for upgraded, purpose-built facilities," Karolewics said.

The campus master plan serves as a long-range roadmap guiding decisions about renovations, replacements and new construction.

Wallace State prioritizes projects based on instructional needs, workforce trends, building conditions and projected enrollment growth. While strategic priorities are updated regularly, the planning framework typically looks a decade or more into the future.

"Our campus master plan is a long-range guide that helps us prioritize renovations, replacements and new construction based on instructional needs, workforce trends and the condition of our aging 1960s facilities," Karolewics said. "It reflects years of careful planning to modernize our campus and support the next generation of students and workforce needs."

Many current projects stem from years of planning to replace aging infrastructure and position the college to meet emerging workforce demands in fields such as advanced manufacturing and electric vehicle technology.

Those priorities were highlighted during the unveiling of nearly $49 million in capital projects, marking one of the most significant periods of facilities investment in the college's history.

Several additional projects are already moving forward. » PAGE 8

CPD chief outlines enforcement approach as Alabama medical cannabis program moves forward » PAGE 6

Man from Arab charged with trafficking fentanyl in Cullman County



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Shelton Ramey » PAGE 2

Ivey voices support for ending PSC elections; Gentry voices opposition » PAGE 5

PET OF THE WEEK

Gambino, a gentle soul with personality plus



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Gambino » PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 11

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 11, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

INCIDENTS

Feb. 5

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $61; Olive St. SW

• fraudulent use of credit/debit card; theft of property-1st degree; person; miscellaneous charges

Feb. 8

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $25; Olive St. SW

• unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; person; miscellaneous; Logan St. SW

Feb. 9

• theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; miscellaneous; $2

• theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; miscellaneous; $12

• domestic violence-3rd degree; harassing communications; person

• identity theft; person

Feb. 10

• identity theft; person

• harassment; person; Hwy. 157

• domestic violence-criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged property; 3rd St. NE

ARRESTS

Feb. 9-10

Evans, Sonya W.; 54

• FTA – insurance violation

Tucker, Daniel B.; 35

• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

• FTA – driving while revoked

Morgan, Christopher S.; 46

• stalking

• receiving stolen property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Good Hope council talks finances, more

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council at its Monday, Feb. 9, meeting discussed financial updates. The council reported that tax revenue has increased by 25% compared to the same period last year, totaling approximately $25,000 in additional revenue. Growth was attributed to strong sales from several local businesses, including Love's Truck Stop, Van's Sporting Goods and Jack's.

Council members discussed a partial payment made from the City's cash reserve to United Contractors while awaiting reimbursement funds. They also discussed changes to how interest is handled on government accounts, eliminating the need to transfer funds to maximize returns.

Work at the wastewater treatment plant is nearing completion, with only minor punch-list items remaining.

Improvements at local parks are underway, including field maintenance and pre-emergent treatments in preparation for spring.

Registration for upcoming youth baseball, softball and T-ball programs stands at 147 participants. Online signups will remain open until Feb. 16.

The council also approved Ordinance No. 004-2026, extending the City's participation in the back-to-school sales tax holiday through October 2029.

The council voted to amend the City's budget following the decision to decline a $250,000 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) sidewalk grant. The amendment was necessary to remove the grant from the budget after notifying the State of the City's decision.

In other business, the council talked about the construction of a new senior center building across from Duke's Barbershop. The facility will also serve as a 300-person storm shelter. Procedures for senior center meetings were discussed. Meetings are held twice monthly, with meals provided by the City during one session.

Council members expressed their appreciation for continued economic growth and ongoing community improvements as multiple projects near completion.

The next Good Hope City Council meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall.

Chipped EBT cards rolling out statewide

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Human Resources announced Alabama EBT cardholders will be receiving new, chip-enabled EBT cards.

After a successful pilot program in December 2025, chip-enabled EBT cards have been mailed to ALL cardholders across the state and will arrive in the coming days.

EBT cardholders will need to activate their new card when it arrives in the mail. To activate the chipped card, cardholders will now be prompted by EBT Customer Service to enter their card number, DOB, zip code, 3-digit security code and the expiration date. New cards must be activated within 180 days after issuance. After activating the new EBT card, cardholders should destroy the old card immediately.

Please note: All new cards are automatically defaulted to block out of state and online purchases. If a cardholder wishes to make a purchase outside of Alabama or online, they must first unlock their card via the ConnectEBT Mobile App, ConnectEBT website or the EBT Customer Service phone number. "I am so pleased to finally bring this instrumental change to our EBT cardholders statewide," said Commissioner Nancy Buckner. "After a successful pilot program, we have shown that these new cards are easy to use and offer much better protection for the benefits. I am pleased that with this chip technology upgrade, our clients can have more confidence that their benefits will be there when they purchase groceries. This is not the end; we will continue to work and develop new and innovative ways to better protect our clients and their benefits."

Alabama DHR also recommends all EBT clients continue locking their card through the ConnectEBT app when it is not in use. Also, it is important that cardholders do not swipe these new cards. The chip is the most secure and effective option when using the card. EBT cardholders needing assistance with the new chip-enabled EBT card should call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-997-8888.

Trafficking (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A man from Arab has been charged with trafficking fentanyl in Cullman County. Shelton Ramey, 50, was arrested Feb. 9, according to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

CCSO deputies were attempting to locate a wanted subject in the area of County Road 1605 that day. Sheriff Matt Gentry said they encountered Ramey, who was found to have an active warrant for his arrest.

"During his arrest, deputies located a small bottle in Ramey's pocket containing a suspicious liquid," Gentry said. "With assistance from investigators, the substance was tested and determined to be fentanyl, weighing approximately 17 grams."

Ramey was transported to the Cullman County Detention Center. In addition to his FTA warrant for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, he is charged with trafficking illegal drugs.

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker advised that a trafficking charge involving that amount of fentanyl carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison under Alabama law, if the person is convicted.

"I am proud of our deputies and their proactive efforts," Gentry said. "They are making record drug arrests, and many of these cases involve the most dangerous substances we face today, including fentanyl, like in this case. Their work is about protecting the people of Cullman County from drugs that can take lives in an instant."

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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
• 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.
• 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.

67th Annual Chittlin' Supper
Saturday, Feb. 28, from 4-8 p.m. in the Meek Elementary School gymnasium. We will have great food, great entertainment and political candidates from across the state. Brought to you by the Meek High School Band of Champions and the Winston County Chittlin' Eaters Association. $15 per plate. Chicken will also be available.

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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Gambino (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet Gambino, a domestic shorthair estimated to be about 3 years old, and a cat whose presence quietly fills a room. He's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

With what can only be described as personality plus, Gambino greets attention with soft purrs and gentle meows, never demanding but always hopeful. His gratitude shows in the small things, rolling onto his back, offering his pudgy face for scratches and soaking up every bit of affection like it matters, because to him, it does.

Gambino thrives on positive affirmation. Tell him he is a very good boy and he believes you, wholeheartedly. That reassurance settles him, grounds him and allows his calm, loving nature to shine through. He is content being near you, close enough to feel connected, making him an ideal companion or therapy kitty for someone who values quiet comfort over constant activity.

And yes, this sweet fellow has an impressive appetite, another endearing reminder that Gambino is fully invested in enjoying life, one meal and one gentle moment at a time.

Unassuming, grateful, and deeply affectionate, Gambino is the kind of cat who doesn't ask for much – just kindness, consistency and a place to belong.

His $100 adoption fee helps cover neutering, vaccinations, microchipping, routine veterinary care and the many unseen costs that go into preparing animals like Gambino for safe and healthy transitions into forever homes.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

If Gambino has already found his forever home by the time you call or visit, be sure to ask about his friends who are still waiting.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Bearcats lose 52-50 heartbreaker to Mortimer Jordan in 6A, Area 13 championship

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CULLMAN, Ala. — After a blow-out upset of (21-9) Jasper in the Class 6A, Area 13 semifinal, (17-12) Mortimer Jordan traveled to face off with the top-seeded Cullman Lady Bearcats on Monday night for the championship. (TAMMY) The Blue Devils offense came out hot, and both teams traded blows until the final seconds, where defensive stands and turnovers would seal a tight 52-50 victory for Mortimer Jordan.

Coming off their win over the Lady Vikings, Mortimer Jordan seemed to still be carrying momentum despite a new day and a new opponent. A pair of floaters by Kaleah Chatman and a layup from Taelyn Russell gave the Lady Blue Devils a quick 6-0 lead, but Cullman responded with a 8-2 run where the inside touch of Molly Dorough and Molly Wilson was on full display. Points in the paint were hard fought for Cullman, but necessary due to the strong perimeter defense of Mortimer Jordan. With the crowd riled up and the Lady Bearcats finding rhythm, Lady Blue Devil Kaylani Scottland snatched the energy right back, nailing two straight from beyond the arc then assisting on another from Claire Segars, quickly rebuilding a 17-8 deficit for Cullman. Dorough would sink another tough inside layup, Kadence Hanback drained a three from the corner, then Molly Wilson blocked a shot on one end and sunk a short jumper on the other, putting the Bearcats back in business. The highest scoring quarter of the night would end with Cullman trailing just 19-17.

Much like the first quarter, good looks were hard to come by for Cullman. Every single bucket was a grind, starting with a Wilson put back layup that she grabbed a rebound over three defenders to secure. The next possession, after multiple passes around the arc and nothing opening up, Hanback saw an opening and threw up a three, nailing it to take a 22-21 lead. Like they did all night, however, Mortimer Jordan responded... and quickly. Baya Roman's heater would begin here, hitting the first of her three triples in the quarter to take the lead back.

Two jumpers from Wilson kept Cullman afloat, but Roman's quick scoring led to the Blue Devils turning the pressure on on defense.

It wasn't handled well, with two possessions coming up empty due to errant passes, but they'd find the basket again on a three from seventh-grade point guard Katherine Ugarkovich. Avoiding letting it becoming a run for the Lady Bearcats, Mortimer Jordan milked the clock for nearly 40 seconds to take a 34-29 lead into halftime.

With a new energy, Cullman rattled off three straight scores, with the final being a Wilson put back after grabbing a missed free throw. The run gave the Lady Bearcats the lead once again, but they'd fail to capitalize off Mortimer Jordan misses, turning the ball over twice.

Just like in the second, Roman answered with a three, then another. An and-one make by Wilson and another three from Ugarkovich made it 41-40, but the Lady Blue Devils had an answer every single time, with a three and a free throw make by Scottland giving Mortimer Jordan a 44-42 lead heading into the final period.

Senior Rachel Hoffman would find the basket for Cullman to open the quarter, but two straight scores by Blue Devil Mattie Machen put the lead at 48-44 in favor of Mortimer Jordan. The fourth was particularly frustrating for Cullman, who was finding their way to the basket, but failing to hit their shots. Wilson was fouled under the basket on a shot attempt and made both of her free throws to make it a 48-46 deficit, spurring the Lady Bearcats to go into full court press defense, which forced a turnover as soon as the ball made its way inside the arc on the other end of the floor.

On the other end, they turned it right back over, with every possession starting to mean more as the clock hit under two minutes. After a free throw make by Mortimer Jordan, Dorough put in a tough hook shot from partially behind the basket to make it a 49-48 deficit.

Chatman was fouled, then sunk both free throws to make it a three point game. Hoffman would put in a layup under a minute to go, then Lady Blue Devil Brynlee Myrick would get fouled and sink one of her free throws. Trailing 52-50 with just seconds left, Cullman fumbled the ball in the paint, attempting to call a timeout but referees ruled a jump ball in favor of Mortimer Jordan, sealing the game.

Leading the Lady Bearcats was Wilson with 19 points, followed by Hoffman's nine and Dorough and Ugarkovich's eight.

The Lady Bearcats are six years removed from their last area title, but head coach Tammy West looks every bit of the part of the coach to get them over the hump in her first year at the helm after a 21-7 regular season. Cullman will go on to play a sub-regional game on Friday night, with the matchup to be determined after tomorrow night's games.

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman wins its fifth straight area title under Stuedeman with a tight 47-43 victory over Jasper

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JASPER, Ala. — The Cullman Bearcats traveled to rival Jasper's Carl Cannon Coliseum on Tuesday night for the 6A, Area 13 championship game, with intensity in the air from the tip. The Bearcats looked to avenge the losses and take their fifth straight area championship, the Vikings aimed to add to their sweep of the 'Cats and clinch their first area title since 2020 and the fans rode the energy of a deep cutting rivalry, all making for an incredible atmosphere. The game itself didn't disappoint, either.

Every single bucket was a grind, with both teams excelling on all levels of defense. The Vikings, with long and rangy forwards Jarrell and Braylen Johnson made driving into the paint like dribbling through turnstiles, stripping the ball almost every time it reached them. On the other end, the presence of Brooks Loftin and Sam Dorough's verticality in the paint matched it, with both slamming balls off the backboard or sending shots into the sidelines.

After a tight back and forth first half, the teams took turns stringing together mistakes leading to opposing scoring streaks, with Cullman finding themselves down seven points with under five minutes to go in the fourth quarter. They'd find a glimmer of momentum on a Colt Fletcher corner three, however, and ride it on both ends to storm back and win the area title 47-43.

"It feels amazing, we were here three weeks ago without two starters and we went on a huge run and came back down thirteen to tie it up, then we gave up an and-one and lost.

"We just didn't finish it, but we finished it tonight and I'm really proud of that. I'm really proud of our seniors' growth from that point to now and the team's growth as a whole really to get to where we are now," head coach Stu Stuedeman said after the win.

A visible area of growth in the matchup was the handling of Jarrell and Braylen Johnson on defense for Cullman. Their slashing ability was a killer in the two previous matchups, but that was absent due to stellar on-ball defense from Dorough and Emory Bonds, who stayed square with the two all night. The two also contributed to the scoreboard early, with Dorough's ball movement fueling the offense and Bonds' capitalizing off of it with three first half buckets, two of which came in the final seconds of the first half to give Cullman a 22-16 lead.

The start of the second half was shaky for the Bearcats, with Jasper coming out and snatching the momentum back for a 12-2 run to put them up 28-24.

The lone bucket in the run came from Dorough, whose matchup on both ends with Braylen Johnson got testy at times, spurring from a moment in the second quarter where the two were fighting for a loose ball. Dorough stayed focused, however, hitting a short jumper and driving through contact for an and-one make to give Cullman the lead back at 32-30 after a Gray Hopper corner three.

"We harp on them to keep that Nick Saban mentality, we focus on doing our job every second of the game. We don't get high or low, we stay the course, chop the leg and we'll eventually break it.

"That's what we did and I'm pretty proud of our senior class for steadying the ship there, because it did get a little iffy," Stuedeman said on keeping emotions level during a physical rivalry matchup.

After a 9-0 run opened the fourth for Jasper, Cullman got a jolt from Fletcher on a corner three. They slowed down, fought their way to the basket, missed more often than not but drew contact and made their free throws to go on to seal the area championship with a 15-4 run where they went 10-12 from the line.

Dorough hit six from the line in the closing moments, finishing off a game-high 14 point game for the senior.

Next, Hopper finished with 12, Loftin scored eight, Bonds had seven and Fletcher ended the night with six.

Leading Jasper was Caden Steiner with 13 points, followed by Keegan Keeton with 12 points and Jarrell Johnson with 11.

The Bearcats will move on to host a sub-regional game on Saturday, with the matchup to be announced in the coming days.

PREP BASKETBALL

Cold Springs Lady Eagles, Eagles secure Class 2A, Area 11 championships with wins over Falkville

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BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs Eagles hosted this year's Class 2A, Area 11 Tournament in both the girls' and boys' division, and both teams faced off against Falkville in their respective area championship games. In the varsity girls' game, Cold Springs got out to a double-digit lead and added to it as the game went on. Behind their balanced scoring and suffocating defense, the Lady Eagles ended up knocking off the Lady Blue Devils, 51-22, to claim this year's area championship. In the varsity boys' game, it was a tightly contested first half, as Cold Springs held a five-point lead at the break. The Eagles quickly pushed their lead out to 15 late in the fourth quarter. Despite Falkville cutting the lead down to five, Hill took over after that, as he helped Cold Springs get past the Blue Devils, 60-49, to win this year's area championship.

Cold Springs 51 – Falkville 22 (Varsity Girls Area Championship)

It only took Falkville three seconds to hit the first basket of the game. Cold Springs would respond as Hollyn Bruer split her free throws, Aleah Addison nailed a deep three from the top of the key and Bruer found Ella Dickerson down low for two points to give Cold Springs a 6-1 lead.

Addison split from the free throws, and Dickerson scored five straight points, including a three from the right wing, to widen the Lady Eagle lead to 12-4.

The Lady Blue Devils hit a basket in the paint to cut it to 12-6 late in the first quarter, but Paizley Whitlow banked in a high floater, and Bruer knocked down a trey from the right wing to put Cold Springs ahead 17-6. Falkville added a late free throw to trim it to 10 at 17-7 going into the second.

Both defenses took over in the second quarter. Another basket by the Lady Blue Devils in the paint cut it to 18-9 early in the second, but Whitlow quickly took it up the court and went coast-to-coast for the driving layup to give the Lady Eagles a 20-9 lead.

Dickerson added a driving layup of her own and later added a rebound and putback to make it 24-9, then Bruer's three from the left wing made it 27-9. Falkville got fouled while attempting a three and ended up hitting two of three to cut it to 27-11 at the half.

Cold Springs quickly added onto their lead in the second half. Off of a miss in the paint, the loose ball was gathered up by Macie Huffstutler, who found Whitlow in the right corner for a trey, to increase their lead to 30-11 early in the third quarter. Later in the third, Whitlow drove to the lane and laid it in to put the Lady Eagles ahead, 32-14.

Addison added a three from the right wing, Dickerson collected a rebound and putback, and Addison nailed a short jumper just before the buzzer to give Cold Springs a 39-16 lead going into the final period.

Falkville cut it to 39-19 early in the fourth, but Bruer found Dickerson for two points on back-to-back possessions to make it a 43-19 lead. Later in the fourth quarter, Dickerson laid it in, and Addison added a driving layup to put the Lady Eagles ahead, 48-19. Hagen Ellis' trey from the right wing put the finishing touches on a 51-22 win for Cold Springs, as they took the Class 2A, Area 11 championship.

Dickerson finished with a game-high 19 points for the Lady Eagles. Addison added 11 points. Whitlow put in 10 points, and Bruer collected eight points in the win.

Cold Springs will host the Class 2A, Area 10 runner-up, Red Bay, in their Sub-Regional game on Friday night at 6 p.m.

Cold Springs 60 – Falkville 49 (Varsity Boys Area Championship)

Breydon Hallmon got the scoring started for Cold Springs with a rebound and putback. It went back-and-forth between both teams for several possessions. A rebound and putback by Falkville gave them a 7-6 lead. Cash Dickerson drained a trey from the right corner to give the Eagles a 9-7 lead.

Later in the opening period, a three by the Blue Devils tied the game up at 11. Lindan Hill drove to the basket and laid it in to put Cold Springs ahead, 13-11, then Ayden Black and Wyatt Barker each added a free throw to keep the Eagles ahead, 15-13, going into the second.

The Eagles looked to separate themselves from the Blue Devils to start out the second quarter. Hill knocked down a short jumper, then Black laid it in twice, the second one off of a great pass by Ethan Day, and Day and Hill each hit a free throw to stretch their lead to 23-15 with a little over three minutes to go in the first half. A 7-2 run by Falkville, though, cut it to 25-22. Dickerson nailed a short jumper before the buzzer to put Cold Springs up, 27-22 at the half.

Hallmon started the second half out strong, hitting a trio of baskets, with two of them being rebounds and putbacks, as that gave the Eagles a 33-24 lead.

Later in the third, Tycen Kilgo buried a three from the left wing to widen Cold Springs' lead to 36-26 with a little over three minutes to go in the third.

Hill knocked down a shot down low and later added a pair of free throws to keep the Eagle lead at 10 at 40-30 going into the final period. That would be the start of what would be a huge second half for Hill.

A basket by the Blue Devils made it a 42-34 game early in the fourth. Hallmon banked in a hook shot, and Black banked in a floater to give Cold Springs a 46-34 lead.

Later in the fourth quarter, Dickerson knocked down a floater, and Hill scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to stretch the Eagle lead to 51-36 with 3:48 remaining in the contest.

Things quickly changed in the next 1:22, as Falkville charged right back into the game.

The Blue Devils hit a basket down low, and Cold Springs was hit with three technicals in 15 seconds.

Falkville made 5-8 from the free throw line, then added another free throw and a basket, and all of a sudden, the 15-point lead that the Eagles had was quickly swiveled down to just five at 51-46 with 2:26 remaining in the game.

Hill drove to the lane and laid it in to stop the bleeding, then later in the quarter, he scored through yet another foul and ended up completing the three-point play at the free throw line to give the Eagles a 56-47 lead.

Hill put an exclamation point on the game and the area championship with a two-handed thunderous slam, as Cold Springs ended up defeating the Blue Devils, 60-49, to win this year's Class 2A, Area 11 championship.

Hill finished with 19 points for the Eagles. Black added 13 points, while Hallmon and Dickerson each put in 10 points.

Cold Springs will host the Class 2A, Area 10 runner-up, Lamar County, in their Sub-Regional game on Saturday night at 6 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL

West Point holds off Russellville, 54-49, to take home Class 5A, Area 15 championship

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WEST POINT, Ala. — After taking home the Cullman County championship last month, the West Point Lady Warriors looked to add yet another one to their trophy case, as they faced off against the Russellville Lady Golden Tigers for the Class 5A, Area 15 championship. It was a battle from start to finish, as West Point held a double-digit lead at the half behind a big first half by Camryn Faulkner. Russellville, though, made a huge run to cut it to one multiple times, but late free throws by Jaelyn and Camryn Faulkner helped seal the Lady Warriors' 54-49 win over the Lady Golden Tigers, as they take home the area championship.

Threes by Kealie Harbison and Camryn Faulkner gave West Point an early 6-3 lead. Four straight points by Russellville gave them a 7-6 lead, but Camryn Faulkner drove to the lane and scored down low, and Caitlee Simmons drained a three from the right corner to put the Lady Warriors ahead, 11-6.

Later in the first, Laklin Shadix found Camryn Faulkner down low for a basket, and Patton Fell knocked down a three from the left corner to stretch West Point's lead to 16-9. Jaelyn Faulkner added a three of her own from the top of the key to make it a 19-11 game going into the second.

A pair of baskets by the Lady Golden Tigers cut it to 21-16 early in the second quarter. The Lady Warriors looked to make it a double-digit game, and that's exactly what they did, as Harbison and Camryn Faulkner each drained a pair of free throws, and Harbison later added a three to give them a 28-16 lead.

Camryn Faulkner kept attacking the basket, and knocked down a shot down low, then later hit a pair of free throws to widen West Point's lead to 32-18. Camryn Faulkner added one more basket to end what was a solid first half by the Lady Warriors, as they would take a 34-22 lead into the locker room.

Neither team wanted to miss a shot to start out the second half. After a Russellville made shot cut it to 38-28, Fell buried her second three of the game from the left wing, then not too long after that, Jaelyn found her sister, Camryn, down low for a basket and got fouled. Camryn completed the three-point play at the free throw line to give West Point a 44-28 lead with a little over five minutes to go in the third. It looked like the Lady Warriors had things well in hand, right? Wrong, because the Lady Golden Tigers went on a huge run to get back in the game. Five straight points trimmed it to 11 at 44-33, then a three-point play made it a 44-36 game going into what would be a wild and crazy final period.

Russellville continued their run into the fourth quarter, as a pair of baskets in the paint made it a four-point game. Laklin Shadix stopped the bleeding with a shot down low, but the Lady Golden Tigers continued to put a lot of pressure on West Point on both ends of the floor. Two more baskets in the paint, plus a free throw, and all of a sudden, the Lady Warriors' double-digit lead was now cut to just one at 46-45. Shadix hit a pair of huge shots down low to give the Lady Warriors a 50-47 lead with 45 seconds left to go in the game. Russellville knocked down a pair of shots from the free throw line to make it a one-point game. Jaelyn and Camryn Faulkner would shut the door on the Lady Golden Tigers from the charity stripe, knocking down four straight free throws, and the Lady Warriors made one more defensive stand to help seal their 54-49 win over Russellville to win the Class 5A, Area 15 championship.

Camryn Faulkner finished with 20 points for West Point. Fell ended up with 10 points. Harbison posted eight points. Jaelyn Faulkner added seven points, and Shadix put in six points.

West Point will be hosting their Sub-Regional game on Friday night and will play the loser of Sardis/Boaz.

PSC (from Front)

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A bill (HB392) sponsored by Rep. Chip Brown, R-Hollinger's Island, passed out of the Alabama House Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee Tuesday morning. The bill would change how commissioners are chosen for the Alabama Public Service Commission, a three-person board that sets utility rates across Alabama.

Currently elected, the commissioners would instead be appointed by the governor, speaker of the house and senate president pro tem, all of whom, according to reporting by WBRC, "can legally accept campaign donations from the utility companies their appointments would regulate."

According to WBRC, "The legislation is part of the three-bill-package called the 'Alabama Affordability Protection Plan,' aimed at reducing energy costs and political influence. However, this bill doesn't address rate reductions or cost controls, it only changes the APSC's governance."

Ahead of the committee meeting Tuesday morning, Gov. Kay Ivey issued the following statement supporting the bill package – HB403, HB399 and HB392.

"For Alabama to remain the best state to live, work and raise a family, we have to grow the state, while keeping our cost of living low. That certainly includes our utilities, and we are seeing discussions in states around the country about best ways to lower those bills for families. Through a package of bills, we are taking steps to protect energy costs for Alabamians, while keeping our state competitive for further economic development," she said. "In addition to maintaining Alabama's low cost-of-living and growing business and industry, I have also been proud to make strong appointments to the Public Service Commission specifically. My appointments of PSC President Cynthia Almond and PSC Commissioner Chris Beeker show what a future Administration could do to serve the people of Alabama well through this regulatory commission. I thank the Legislature for working on this very relevant issue."

Meanwhile, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, a Republican candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1, on Tuesday released a statement opposing the move:

"The Alabama Public Service Commission should remain a voice of the people.

"As an elected sheriff starting my twelfth year in office, I know personally that public officials must be held accountable to the people they serve by listening to citizens' concerns. As sheriff, I have had to notify families that their loved ones have passed away. I have sat with grieving parents whose children are addicted to drugs and tried to explain to families the randomness of why a mentally ill person chooses to kill someone decades later.

"It is a responsibility and a burden I have carried proudly as an elected official, and I have always understood that I am accountable to the citizens I serve. I was blessed to be unopposed for re-election in 2018 and 2022.

"I announced my candidacy for the Alabama Public Service Commission after hearing from people all over Alabama who want to see change at the PSC. I believe that change can occur through the current process by electing new leadership to the Commission.

"Eliminating the people's voice and changing the PSC to an appointed body removes the public from the process entirely. An elected official is far closer to the people and better able to hear their concerns than an appointed bureaucratic board.

"I fear that appointing, rather than electing, Public Service Commissioners would only make the PSC further out of touch with Alabama consumers.

"I urge Republican members of the Alabama House and Senate to vote against HB 392 and SB 268 and keep the Public Service Commission an elected body."

WBRC reported, "Alabama is one of 10 states in the country that elects energy regulators. The new legislation would require those appointed to have related experience and reflect the state's diversity.

"This bill was filed shortly after 10 people qualified to run in the upcoming primary elections for two of the three APSC seats. The timing is critical as energy and utility prices remain a key conversation across the country and state, as a WBRC investigation recently found Alabamians pay some of the highest electric bills in the country."

If passed, the changes would not take effect until December 2026, after November's General Election.

Other voices

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Cathi Bradford, president of the Cullman County Republican Women, told The Tribune: "The Republican Women voted unanimously to oppose the legislation. The Republican Party platform calls for smaller government. They need to honor that. This bill only grows government and takes away the voice of the people."

According to Alabama Political Reporter, also on Wednesday, U.S. Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Alabama voiced his support for the change, saying, in part, "You know, Alabama is one of only 10 states that elect their public service commissioners, and even with that, all three of Alabama's current commissioners have been appointed, not elected. We need to raise the bar and ensure the right, qualified people are overseeing our utilities — not politicians looking for their next job or doing political favors when they're up for reelection or election."

Project (from Front)

as it underwent a review following the change of presidential administrations. Now, almost $34 million can be directed to the project.

Mayor Woody Jacobs expressed hope that the project will create a five-lane corridor from downtown all the way to East Point, and noted, "It will be a new bridge. It will not be at that (current low) elevation; it will be elevated . . . Yes, there will be a different entrance to St. Bernard; they've had some preliminary talks with them."

He continued, "This will be a great project, but as always great projects, you know what comes in the middle: construction. You know what happens with construction? People will hate us; they'll be calling us. But the good thing is the concrete barricades will go away."

Jacobs cautioned, "As always, again, it's the speed of government." He said Alabama Department of Transportation engineers "do not have that project totally designed. They've looked at it for years," adding later, "Four years from now, maybe we'll be driving on that new pavement."

Recognitions galore

Members of the council took time during their committee presentations to offer recognition to several City employees, including:

• Police Officer Bryan Medlock for receiving the Daily Giving Hero of the Year award

• Lt. Matt Laminack for receiving the Firefighter of the Year award from Cullman VFW Post 2214

• City Records Clerk Heather Griffith for receiving her Bachelor of Science in Business Management

• Cullman Police Department for receiving AACOP Accreditation

• Terri Pines General Manager and PGA Pro Matt Livengood for being named Alabama – NW Florida PGA Merchandiser of the Year

• Taylor Yarbrough, CWAC aquatics manager, for receiving her American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Trainer (LGIT) certification

• Donnie Bryant from the Wastewater Treatment Plant on his retirement after 16 years of service

In his report, Jacobs issued a proclamation declaring February 2026 American Heart Month, and a second proclamation declaring Feb. 6, 2026 as National Wear Red Day, to "encourage all residents to learn the signs and symptoms of heart disease and stroke in women; support prevention and early detection, and join the effort to improve women's cardiovascular health through awareness, education and action."

The council passed two ordinances following second readings:

• Ordinance No. 2026-24 update City Code Chapter 10-363 - "Authority of Building Department; Duties" to read "The building department, through the building inspector, fire marshal or their designee, shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. Authorized agents of the building department are vested with the police power necessary for the purpose of issuing charges and prosecuting persons charged with violating this chapter. In carrying out its duties under this chapter, the building department shall have the following specific duties, in addition to such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the city council: (1) To receive applications and issue permits and certificates required by this chapter. (2) To make necessary inspections to see that the provisions of this article are met. (3) To enforce all laws relating to the construction, alteration, repair, installation, erection, removal, demolition, use, location, and maintenance of properties, buildings, equipment, appliances, or systems, except as may be otherwise provided for in other ordinances or regulatory measures. (4) To make investigations in connection with matters referred to in this article and render written reports on the same when requested by the proper authority, or when the city's interests so require. (5) To issue notices or orders as may be necessary to enforce compliance with this article, to remove illegal or unsafe conditions or to secure the necessary safeguards. (6) To refuse, revoke and/or withhold permits, certificates and/or licenses when violations of the provisions of this chapter are found, construction is found non-compliant with approved plans, potential nuisances and/or trespass conditions may exist."

• Ordinance No. 2026-25 to vacate and surplus properties on County Road 1466 (portions of PIN 6648, 6915, 9003, and 77318) not needed for any public or municipal purpose for their fair market values

The council passed resolutions to:

• Award the bid for a four wheel drive SUV for the Economic Development Agency to Bill Smith Buick GMC, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of $74,115.50

• Enter into a contract with JMCM Consulting for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) for grant writing and administration services for the fire department

• Enter into a contract with Sain and Associates for traffic engineering services for a traffic signal design at King Edward Street and Third Avenue Southeast

• Accept a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of $500,000 to implement the Neighborhood Improvement Project on Logan Street Southwest, Sixth Street Southwest and Austin Avenue Southwest, and to provide the matching funds of $288,767.75.

• Enter into a contract with Community Consultants to administer the CDBG Neighborhood Improvement Project on Logan Street Southwest, Sixth Street Southwest and Austin Avenue Southwest

• Enter into a contract with St. John and Associates for engineering services related to the CDBG Neighborhood Improvement Project on Logan Street Southwest, Sixth Street Southwest and Austin Avenue Southwest

• Authorize the mayor to submit an amendment request to ADECA on the County Road 222 project.

• Apply for a CDBG and an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to extend the sanitary sewer system to R.E. Garrison Trucking Company

The council approved alcohol license requests from:

• Prem Deep Corporation, dba Harry's #58 located at 2100 Main Ave. SW for a "beer off-premises" alcohol license

• Sipsey Vineyard and Winery, LLC, dba Sipsey Wines located at 112 Clark St. NE for an "off-site tasting room" alcohol license, as the business relocates its tasting room from The Flying Fifty Hotel to the Warehouse District

The council held the first reading of an ordinance to regulate the installation and operation of public electric vehicle charging stations within the city of Cullman. According to the proposed ordinance, charging stations must be located at least 50 feet from any building for safety, and will require permits before installation by qualified contractors.

The council concluded by appointing Bradley Brock and Carrie Taylor to the Downtown Design Review Board for a term expiring Jan. 22, 2030.

The Cullman City Council meets next on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at 7 p.m. in the city hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.







EDITORIAL

Valentine's Day and the performance of love

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Every Feb. 14 arrives with the same confidence, dressed in red, trailing balloons, chocolate and the unmistakable belief that it is doing the Lord's work.

It is not.

Valentine's Day does not ask how you are doing. It does not check whether love is complicated this year or whether your heart is currently being held together by duct tape and habit. It simply arrives, demands participation and charges interest if you refuse.

There is no middle ground with Valentine's Day. You are either publicly in love or privately defective. There is no room for nuance, no allowance for quiet affection, no respect for the people who love deeply but do not perform well on command.

For one day a year, affection becomes a receipt.

Flowers are no longer flowers; they are proof. Candy is no longer candy; it is currency. Dinner reservations are not about enjoying a meal together; they are about being seen enjoying a meal together.

Love is reduced to logistics, to spending brackets, to how much effort can be displayed in a six-hour window before life resumes.

If you are single, Valentine's Day becomes an exercise in polite avoidance.

You smile at coworkers' roses while silently negotiating with yourself about whether it is too early in the day to start pretending this is funny.

You tell yourself it is just another day while every advertisement within a 10-mile radius insists you are lying.

And if you are in a relationship that is struggling, Valentine's Day is worse. It takes whatever hairline cracks already exist and presses its thumb into them.

It insists that one evening should fix what weeks of silence could not. It suggests that a card might succeed where listening failed.

This holiday is not about love. It is about reassurance. About the need to prove something to someone, loudly enough that doubt cannot interrupt the evening. It is a performance masquerading as intimacy.

Real love does not need a calendar reminder. It does not peak once a year and disappear by the 15th.

It is found in ordinary moments, in quiet consistency, in choosing one another on days that do not come with balloons.

Valentine's Day tells us that love must be grand to be valid. That if it is not wrapped, photographed or publicly acknowledged, it must not exist at all.

That is the lie.

So yes, Valentine's Day misses the point, not because bitterness demands it, but because love deserves better than this annual charade. It deserves honesty instead of obligation and presence instead of presentation.

If love is real, it will survive without the spectacle. And if it is not, no amount of chocolate will save it.

Approach (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — As Alabama's medical cannabis program continues its phased rollout, questions remain for patients, caregivers and the general public about how the new law affects public safety and law enforcement at the local level.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said the Cullman Police Department has been preparing officers through training and coordination with State guidance to ensure the law is enforced fairly and professionally.

Alabama's medical cannabis program is regulated at the state level by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission, which oversees patient registration, product standards, approved forms of medical cannabis and licensing.

While the regulatory framework is set by the State, enforcement of criminal and traffic laws remains the responsibility of local law enforcement agencies.

"Our officers are receiving training on Alabama's medical cannabis laws," Duncan said. "This includes understanding approved forms of medical cannabis, legal possession limits and the documentation required for lawful use. The goal is to ensure officers can identify legal medical use while continuing to enforce the law fairly and professionally."

Carrying medical cannabis within city limits

Duncan said patients and registered caregivers should be prepared to provide documentation if they are in possession of medical cannabis.

"Patients and registered caregivers should always carry a valid medical cannabis card and keep their medication in the original packaging approved by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission," he said.

State law requires that medical cannabis products remain in approved packaging with proper labeling, allowing officers to quickly determine whether possession complies with state regulations.

Impaired driving laws remain unchanged

Duncan emphasized that medical cannabis authorization does not change how officers address impaired driving or public safety concerns.

"No. Driving while impaired remains illegal and is a serious safety concern," Duncan said. "Officers will continue to investigate impairment using observed behavior, standardized field sobriety tests and other established procedures. Authorization to use medical cannabis does not allow driving under the influence."

Officers will continue to rely on established enforcement methods regardless of whether impairment is suspected to involve alcohol, medical cannabis or another substance.

Importance of labeling and documentation

Duncan said proper labeling and documentation are critical for both patients and law enforcement.

"Proper labeling and documentation are critical for officers to quickly determine whether possession is legal under state law," he said. "Products without proper labeling or situations where documentation cannot be provided may require further investigation or enforcement action."

Medical cannabis products that do not meet state requirements, or situations where documentation cannot be produced, may lead to additional enforcement steps under existing law.

Ongoing preparation and officer familiarity

Duncan said preparation for medical cannabis enforcement is ongoing and will continue as Alabama's program moves closer to full operation.

While officers are being trained on current law and regulatory requirements, he noted that additional hands-on familiarity will be important once dispensaries are actively operating.

As part of that effort, Duncan said the department plans to follow up with Joey Robertson, owner of Wagon Trail Hemp Farms, once dispensaries are open.

"I will also follow up with Joey once the dispensaries begin operating so our officers can familiarize themselves with lawful packaging, medical cannabis cards and other key points," Duncan said.

Duncan emphasized that those follow-up efforts are intended to help officers quickly distinguish lawful medical use from situations that may require further investigation, while ensuring patients and caregivers are treated fairly and professionally under state law.

Public education and community awareness

Beyond enforcement, Duncan said public education remains an important role for the department as the program develops.

"The Cullman Police Department works with state agencies, health care providers and community partners to share accurate information about medical cannabis laws," he said.

"Our goal is to help citizens understand the law, avoid unintentional violations and ensure medical cannabis is used safely and responsibly."

State officials have acknowledged that Alabama's medical cannabis rollout has experienced delays related to licensing and ongoing administrative and legal processes.

Local law enforcement agencies, including the Cullman Police Department, are preparing based on current law and regulatory guidance, with the understanding that additional clarity may come as the program continues to take shape.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *

TED STEPHEN HALLMARK, * CASE NO.: PC2025-170

Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Brandi Nicholle Hallmark, as Personal Representative of the Estate of TED STEPHEN HALLMARK, deceased, on the 21st day of May, 2025, 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 be barred.

Brandi Nicholle Hallmark
Personal Representative

John W. Gant J.R.
Attorney for Personal Representative
420 20th Street North, Suite 1100
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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

Valentine's Day on a budget

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

Looking for ways to celebrate Valentine's Day together without breaking the bank?

Things to do

- Have a game night with board games and card games you already own
- Cook a romantic meal for your partner
- Movie night
- Coffee date at a local cafe
- Romantic walk through downtown or one of our parks
- Spend the day exploring a part of town you've never visited before
- Go on a drive and listen to music

Things to make

- Memory magazine of photos, notes, stickers and memories to put into a little flipbook
- Embroidered pillow cases with love messages, names or even a small detail from a beloved memory
- Framed photo collage
- Your partner's favorite dessert

Places to go

- Cullman Bowling Alley
- Lucy's on 3rd to share a pizza
- Coffee shops and bakeries like Karma's Coffee House or Flavors Bakery for Valentine's-themed treats
- Movie theater
- Go taste some wines at Bloom Winery

Unique, low-pressure date ideas for Valentine's Day

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

Looking for some unique ways to spend Valentine's Day this year? Here are five date ideas for you and your partner that are low pressure and different from your typical date night dinner.

$10 thrift store date challenge

Head to one of our local thrift stores, like The Foundry in Cullman or King's Thrift in Hanceville, and give each other $10. Set a timer for 20 minutes and find the most ridiculous outfit you can piece together, something that reminds you of your partner, and one item you'd actually use or love at home.

Sunset picnic with V-day treats

While the typical romantic dinner reservations are a classic, if you're looking to skip the crowd and stressful reservations, pack some items like a thermos of coffee or hot chocolate, bakery treats from somewhere local and a comfy blanket and drive to a quiet park or even your own backyard and watch the sunset together. Weather permitting, have your picnic outside and enjoy the weather or sit in your car and listen to your favorite music.

First date re-creation

For long-term couples, recreate your first date, but keep it simple. If you visit the same restaurant, order just an appetizer to share instead of a full meal. If your first date was a movie, re-watch it at home in cozy pajamas with your favorite snacks. Met at church or school? Take a walk there and reminisce. Take this time to re-live your first date and reminisce on all the meaningful moments that have made your relationship strong.

Bookstore or library blind date

Visit Books-a-Million or the library and secretly pick out a book you think your partner would love, wrap it in brown paper or swap without revealing the title. Set a timer for 30 minutes and read together at a coffee shop or at home. It's cozy, quiet and different from the typical dinner date.

Dream board date night

Get crafty! Buy a cheap posterboard or use a stack of magazines you already have. Spend the evening cutting out travel destinations, home decor ideas, future goals and dreams, and create a shared "someday" vision board. It turns Valentine's Day into a conversation about your future instead of just a one-night event.

LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 24
TO UPDATE CHAPTER 10-363 AUTHORITY OF BUILDING DEPARTMENT; DUTIES IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

SECTION I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to update section 10-363 in Chapter 10 Building Regulation, Article VI. Administration and Enforcement.

SECTION II. The following section of the City of Cullman, Chapter 10, "Building Regulation," Section 10-363, "Authority of building department; duties," of the *Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama*, is deleted in its entirety and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 10-363. Authority of building department; duties.

The building department, through the building inspector, fire marshal or their designee, shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. Authorized agents of the building department are vested with the police power necessary for the purpose of issuing charges and prosecuting persons charged with violating this chapter. In carrying out its duties under this chapter, the building department shall have the following specific duties, in addition to such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the city council:

(1) To receive applications and issue permits and certificates required by this chapter.
(2) To make necessary inspections to see that the provisions of this article are met.
(3) To enforce all laws relating to the construction, alteration, repair, installation, erection, removal, demolition, use, location, and maintenance of properties, buildings, equipment, appliances, or systems, except as may be otherwise provided for in other ordinances or regulatory measures.
(4) To make investigations in connection with matters referred to in this article and render written reports on the same when requested by the proper authority, or when the city's interests so require.
(5) To issue notices or orders as may be necessary to enforce compliance with this article, to remove illegal or unsafe conditions or to secure the necessary safeguards.
(6) To refuse, revoke and/or withhold permits, certificates and/or licenses when violations of the provisions of this chapter are found, construction is found non-compliant with approved plans, potential nuisances and/or trespass conditions may exist.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and that holding of any provision hereof to be void and invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision which might have been held invalid. This Ordinance repeals any prior Ordinance in conflict therewith.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval and publication as required by law. ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 9th day of February, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 9th day of February, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 25
TO VACATE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY PUBLIC OR MUNICIPAL PURPOSE

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

SECTION 1. The Cullman City Council hereby established and declared that the following described real property of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, to-wit:

Lot 1 - A parcel of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, of the Huntsville Meridian, Cullman County, Alabama {bearings and distances referenced to the State Plane Coordinate System, West Zone, NAD83 (2011) more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found railroad spike at the southwest corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence run South 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds East 40.00 feet along the south line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003) on the east right of way of County Road No. 1466 and the Point of Beginning; thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East 131.22 feet along the east right of way of said County Road No. 1466 to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run South 89 degrees 31 minutes 39 seconds East 375.58 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run South 00 degrees 45 minutes 20 seconds West 132.99 feet to a found 5/8" rebar on the south line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence run North 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds West 374.31 feet along the south line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter back to the Point of Beginning. Said parcel contains 1.137 acres (49,532 square feet) more or less.

Lot 2 - A parcel of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, of the Huntsville Meridian, Cullman County, Alabama {bearings and distances referenced to the State Plane Coordinate System, West Zone, NAD83 (2011) more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found railroad spike at the southwest corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence run South 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds East 40.00 feet along the south line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003) on the east right of way of County Road No. 1466; thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East 131.22 feet along the east right of way of said County Road No. 1466 to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003) and the Point of Beginning; thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East 131.22 feet along the east right of way of said County Road No. 1466 to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#002); thence run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 46 seconds East 376.85 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run South 00 degrees 45 minutes 20 seconds West 132.99 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run North 89 degrees 31 minutes 39 seconds West 375.58 feet back to the Point of Beginning. Said parcel contains 1.141 acres (49,700 square feet) more or less.

Lot 3 - A parcel of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, of the Huntsville Meridian, Cullman County, Alabama {bearings and distances referenced to the State Plane Coordinate System, West Zone, NAD83 (2011) more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found railroad spike at the southwest corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence run South 89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds East 40.00 feet along the south line of said Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003) on the east right of way of County Road No. 1466; thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East 262.44 feet along the east right of way of said County Road No. 1466 to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003) and the Point of Beginning; thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East 536.61 feet along the east right of way of said County Road No. 1466 to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run South 89 degrees 47 minutes 46 seconds East 476.31 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 488.49 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run North 89 degrees 13 minutes 38 seconds West 100.73 feet to a found 5/8" rebar; thence run South 00 degrees 45 minutes 20 seconds West 49.13 feet to a set 5/8" capped rebar (Schoel CA#003); thence run North 89 degrees 47 minutes 46 seconds West 376.85 feet back to the Point of Beginning. Said parcel contains 5.767 acres (251,195 square feet) more or less.

PROPERTY IS BEING PURCHASED IN "AS IS" CONDITION.

SECTION 2. The Cullman City Council hereby declares the above described property to be surplus and not needed by the City of Cullman for public or municipal purposes.

SECTION 3. The Cullman City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to advertise the available properties on the city's website, on the city's social media page, and in the local newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks.

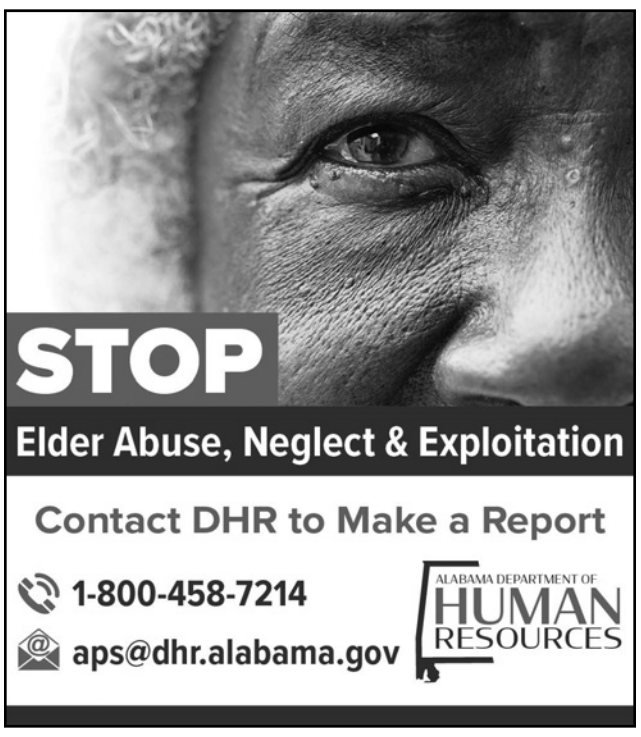
SECTION 4. The Cullman City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to sell these properties, after advertisement, for not less than their fair market values, to be determined by a licensed appraiser, plus any additional fees related to executing these transactions.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 9th day of February, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 9th day of February, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor







LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC ~~2026-~~ 2025-412

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RONALD DALE WOODARD, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to SHAWNA W. NORMAN on the 10th 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.

SHAWNA W. NORMAN
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 Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
ELTON LEON KING, * CASE NO.: PC2025-436
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Clint Jammison King, as Personal Representative of the Estate of ELTON LEON KING, deceased, on the 2nd day of February, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Clint Jammison King
Personal Representative

Rodney Edmondson
Attorney for the Petitioner
130 N. Main Street
Arab, AL 35016

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 2nd day of February, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
CIRCUIT DIVISION

STOCKTON MORTGAGE CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) **CASE NO.: 25-CV-2024-900325.00**
AMY ASKINS, her heirs and devisees, if deceased, Fictitious Party Defendants NOS. 1&2 being those persons or entities claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion or other interest in said lands 13236 S AL HWY 69 BREMEN AL 35033,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

To any and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, Remainder, Reversion, or interest in said lands, Cullman County, Alabama Parcel Identification Number 28-07-35-0-000-023.000, and or their heirs, and any and all persons, partnerships, professional associations and/or corporations who claim any right, title, interest, or ownership on or to the following described property, or any part thereof, whether such interest be present, future, contingent, reversionary, or otherwise, to wit:

A part of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 3 5, Township 1 2 South, Range 5 West and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Southwest corner of said forty ; thence North along the West line of the forty 540 feet to the North right of way line of Alabama Highway #69; thence in an Easterly direction along the North right of way line of said Highway a distance of 807 feet which is the point of beginning of the property herein conveyed; thence continuing in an Easterly direction along the North right of way line of said highway a distance of 1 65 feet; thence due North to the North line of the forty; thence West along the North line of the forty to a point due Norh of the point of beginning; thence due South to the point of beginning. The property herein described embracing 1 acre more or less.
Also, all property to the west of the above-described property which is described as the Boundary Line, referenced in that cerain Boundary Line Agreement recorded at Deed Book 665 ,Page 52, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Commonly known as: 13236 S AL HWY 69 BREMEN AL 35033

You are hereby notified that on the 16th day of September 2024, a complaint was filed by STOCKTON MORTGAGE CORPORATION as plaintiff wherein you were named defendant against the property described above and whereas it was alleged that Plaintiff owned said property being situated in the CULLMAN County, Alabama.

You are further notified that Plaintiff avers in said complaint that they claim title by reason of the following:

1. Plaintiff holds color of title to the above-described land by virtue of a Foreclosure Deed recorded August 6, 2024, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of CULLMAN County, Alabama in Bk: 758, Pg: 371.

2. Plaintiff avers that it has paid all taxes and bore all expenses. Further, Plaintiff avers it has exercised all rights and/or responsibilities to ownership with respect to said real property.

3. Plaintiff avers that it does not know of anyone or any person who may have any claim in any title to any interest in, or lien, or encumbrance on the above-described real property.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED and required to file with the clerk of the court and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney, Jonathan Glover, ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, Florida 33609, an answer to the Complaint within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this Notice, or default judgment will be entered against you.

This the 9th day of February, 2026
Lisa McDaniel
Circuit Clerk
Cullman County, Alabama.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
ANTHONY GARRETT SMITH) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 026
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Abigail Richter Estes, as Administratrix of the Estate of Anthony Garrett Smith, deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and 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.

Abigail Richter Estes

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Administratrix

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Lawrence E Gorff, Tammy Gorff to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns dated August 4, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on August 9, 2023 in Deed Book 2059, Page 131 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE by assignment to be recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 5, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 11 of Shaws Holly Estates as recorded in Slide B62A in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as **171 Turkey Hop Rd, Holly Pond, AL 35083** .

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE
as holder of said mortgage

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-06746AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jacob Whitmon Tillman, An Unmarried Man and Steven Ray Tillman, An Unmarried Man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for FAIRWAY INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION, its successors and assigns dated July 3, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on July 5, 2023 in Deed Book 2055, Page 284 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2140, Page 786 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 12, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, THENCE EAST A DISTANCE OF 1155 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 1000.3 FEET TO A POINT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 250.0 FEET TO A POINT AT A COUNTY ROAD; THENCE NORTH 40 DEGREES 05' EAST ALONG SAID ROAD A DISTANCE OF 161 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 22 DEGREES 32' WEST A DISTANCE OF 136.9 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE WEST A DISTANCE OF 51 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF NORTHWEST QUARTER, SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Said property is commonly known as **3432 County Road 216, Hanceville, AL 35077**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

February 4, 2026

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-08025AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

25-08025AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
CHRISTOPHER CARY BOSTELMAN, JR., * CASE NO.: PC2026-010
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to SONIA M. BROWDER, as Personal Representative of the Estate of CHRISTOPHER CARY BOSTELMAN, deceased, on the 27th day of January, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

SONIA M. BROWDER
Personal Representative

Laura D. Jacobs
Attorney for Petitioner
Cartron & Jacobs LLC
2310 Market Place, Suite B
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 27th day of January, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Case# PC2025-215
PB MIN Book 240 Page 232
Recorded in Above Book and
01/23/2026 4:11PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
MARGARETTE ELAINE LEE, * CASE NO.: PC2025-215
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to CHASSI LEE WADDELL, as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARGARETTE ELAINE LEE, deceased, on the 23rd day of January, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

CHASSI LEE WADDELL
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
PALMER LAW FIRM, LLC
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 23rd day of January, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by James Israel to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns dated March 31, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on April 5, 2022 in Deed Book 2008, Page 749 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2121, Page 809 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank National Association, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 12, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 2, according to the Survey of Cotton Row, as recorded in Map Book B, Page 63A in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as **123 County Road 1407, Cullman, AL 35058**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203

Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-07966AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

25-07966AL

Wallace State (from Front)

Wallace State received funding from the Alabama Legislature to support renovations to the Student Center and the Wellness Center, two of the most heavily used facilities on campus.

Both projects are currently in the planning phase, with design and scope development underway. Implementation is expected to follow once planning is complete.

Recent completed projects include upgrades to the Tom Drake Coliseum, such as new seating, flooring, acoustics and interior design, along with new turf installations for the baseball and softball fields. Those improvements represent approximately $5 million in recent capital investment.

Once renovations are complete, Karolewics said, students and community members will experience spaces that are more modern, functional and student centered.

In the Student Center, updates will include improved gathering areas, updated technology, flexible seating and refreshed spaces for student services and activities.

The goal, she said, is to create a true hub for campus life.

"The goal is to create a true 'living room' for the campus — a place to study, meet and connect," Karolewics said.

Renovations to the Wellness Center will include updated equipment, improved instructional and workout spaces and enhancements that support expanded health, fitness and community programming.

Both buildings are expected to feel brighter, more accessible and better equipped to support increased use.

New instructional facilities for machining, STEM and automotive technologies were prioritized due to workforce demand.

Wallace State works closely with industry partners, workforce councils and statewide initiatives to identify areas of job growth and labor shortages. Programs in machining, advanced manufacturing, STEM and automotive technologies consistently rank among the highest-need fields in Alabama.

The new facilities are designed to provide students with hands-on experience using industry-standard equipment and technologies.

By upgrading these spaces, the college aims to prepare students for high-wage, high-demand careers while strengthening the regional workforce pipeline.

Funding for large-scale construction projects comes from a layered strategy that includes state appropriations, federal grants and institutional resources.

Karolewics said careful sequencing and conservative budgeting allow Wallace State to modernize facilities while keeping tuition among the lowest in the region.

State leaders and Alabama's congressional delegation have played a key role in advancing the college's facilities agenda by helping secure funding for major projects without increasing costs for students.

One of the most closely watched initiatives is Lions' Village, a planned housing development designed specifically for student-parents.

Karolewics said the project addresses one of the most significant barriers facing student-parents: access to safe, affordable, family-friendly housing close to campus.

Many student parents juggle coursework, childcare, work and transportation, and housing instability often leads to stopping out before completing a degree.

"Housing was identified as a critical need because stability is directly tied to student success," Karolewics said.

The idea for student-family housing emerged years ago as faculty and staff observed an increasing number of students balancing academics with parenting responsibilities. Institutional data and national research confirmed that housing and childcare are among the most common barriers to persistence for student parents.

A typical Lions' Village home will range from 250 to 500 square feet and be designed to accommodate two to four people. The neighborhood will include on-site childcare and a dedicated tornado shelter.

Lions' Village will be located near campus, and residents will have convenient access to classes and student support services, including tutoring, the food pantry and mental health resources.

The on-site childcare center is being designed around the needs of students with nontraditional schedules, allowing parents to attend classes without childcare barriers.

Safety and emergency preparedness are also central to the project, with a dedicated storm shelter planned for residents.

Wallace State student-parents will be eligible to apply to live in Lions' Village. A formal application process will be used, and financial need may be considered if demand exceeds available units.

To measure the program's success, the college will track retention, course completion, credential attainment, housing stability, childcare utilization and student feedback.

Housing and childcare, Karolewics said, are essential to expanding access to education and strengthening the workforce, particularly for first-generation and rural students.

By removing these barriers, the college aims to help students remain enrolled, engage fully in campus life and complete programs that lead to in-demand careers.

Looking ahead, Karolewics hopes the current period of investment will be remembered for its lasting impact.

"I hope people will look back on this period as one of the most impactful in Wallace State's history — one that created spaces where students and families felt supported, inspired and empowered to succeed," she said. "I want these projects to be remembered not just for the buildings themselves, but for the generations of students whose lives they changed. Our overarching goal is to provide education that transforms lives and communities, and in doing so, we equip and empower every student to harness the power of opportunity."

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 10-11

Denise Deandra Weissend, 61
Denise Deandra Weissend, age 61, passed away in Hanceville, Alabama on Feb. 8, 2026. She was born in Cullman, Alabama on Sept.17, 1964, and made Cullman her lifetime home. Denise was a devoted mother, grandmother and sister who was known for her strength, independence, strong faith, and deep love for her family. She cared fiercely for those closest to her and took great pride in her children and grandchildren. Those who knew her will remember her as honest, determined, and deeply protective of the people she loved. She was preceded in death by her parents, Phillip C. Weissend and Mary Jane Weissend. She is survived by her children, Jacob Alexander Morrow (Heather) and Stephen Avery Morrow; her brothers, Pat Weissend (Angie) and Greg Weissend; her grandchildren, Laurel Morrow and Lennox Morrow; and her niece, Lily Weissend, and nephew, Judge Weissend. A visitation will be held on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a service celebrating Denise's life from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Mission Community Church - 1200 Welti Road SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Denise's memory to Mission Community Church. Contributions can be made online at https://missioncommunitychurchal.churchcenter.com/giving. Please select "In Memory of Denise Weissend" from the drop-down menu. Donations may also be mailed to 1200 Welti Road SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Denise will be remembered for her strength, her faith, her love for family, and the lasting impact she had on those who knew her.

Carolyn Maurice Trammell, 74
Carolyn Trammell passed away peacefully on Feb. 6, surrounded by her family. She was a devoted wife, a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and a faithful servant of the Lord. Carolyn's life was marked by generosity, humility, and a steadfast faith that could move mountains. Carolyn lived selflessly, always placing the needs of others before her own. For years she worked side by side with her husband in construction - work that would have been too hard for most men. Later she found a career in car sales where she was the top seller for many years at Cullman Dodge & Chrysler. Whether she was selling a car or singing a song with a customer, she always had a smile on her face. She worked tirelessly with quiet acts of generosity, opening her heart, table, and home to anyone in need. She believed deeply in giving all she had to those around her. Her faith was the foundation of her life. She loved the Lord with her whole heart and shared that love through gospel music - filling churches and homes with song. Whether singing or playing, her music was a testimony of her love for the Lord and a life well lived. As a wife, she was steadfast and loving. She and her husband Donald, shared 54 years of hard work, love and devotion raising a family and building a life together. As a mother and grandmother, she was nurturing, patient, and endlessly supportive. Her children and grandchildren were her greatest joy. Her legacy lives on in the values she instilled: faith, hard work, compassion, and love for others. Carolyn leaves behind her beloved husband, Donald; her children, Tammy (Tommy) Jacobs, Wayne Trammell, and Stacey (Kyle) Tankersley; her grandchildren, Tiffanie Lawrence, Trisha Phillips, Natalie Trammell, Trammell Tankersley, Tucker Tankersley, Tyler Tankersley, Chase Jacobs, and Madison Jacobs; and a host of extended family, friends, and church family who were blessed by her life. She was preceded in death by her parents Grady and Opal Gorham, and her grandson Logan Trammell. Though she will be deeply missed, we rejoice in knowing she has heard the words she lived by: "Welcome home my precious child, you've kept the faith." Her song continues in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. The family received friends for a visitation Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, in the Moss Service Funeral Home chapel from 5-8 p.m. There was a visiting period prior to the service at Missionary Grove Baptist Church the following day, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, from noon until the service time at 2 p.m. Burial to follow in the church cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Timothy James Campbell, 71
A memorial service for Timothy James Campbell, 71, was from 1-3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. The service began 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. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Kathy Ann Campbell, 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

Felica Darlene Morgan, 37
Felica Darlene Morgan, born on Oct. 29, 1988, passed away on Feb. 3, 2026, at the age of 37. A resident of Hanceville, Alabama, Felica was known for being adventurous, beloved, brave, compassionate, gentle, and hard-working. Felica was a loving daughter to her mother, Virginia Darlene Morgan, and the cherished daughter of the late Carthel Allen Morgan. She was a devoted mother to her sons, Levi Rouse, Hunter Morgan, Mikayla Leach, and Lexi Sharp. She is also survived by her sister, Shauna Aderholt (Tarita Fields), her brother, Alex Morgan, and her grandmother, Frances Basinger. Felica loved the outdoors and was always ready for anything. Her presence could always make you smile, and she deeply loved her family and boys. Felica will always be remembered for her big smile and huge heart. A graveside committal service was held at Fairview West Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Hanceville, Alabama, on Feb. 10, 2026, from 2 p.m. The family extends their gratitude to Richard Hackney and all family and friends for their thoughts, prayers and donations. In the words of her loved ones "we Love you, Felicia, and you will always be remembered. Until we meet again." To leave condolences for the Morgan family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Carthel Allen Morgan, 63
Carthel Allen Morgan, a beloved and devoted individual, passed away on Feb. 3, 2026, at the age of 63. Born on Jan. 6, 1963, Carthel was a resident of Hanceville, Alabama, where he was known for his humorous, hard-working, honest, and loyal nature. Carthel is survived by his devoted wife, Virginia Darlene Morgan, his daughter, Shauna Aderhold (Tarita Fields), and his son, Alex Morgan. He is also remembered by his sisters, Diane Morgan and Norma Jean Horton, and his brother, Charles Morgan. Carthel was a cherished grandfather to three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carthel Leon and Gertrude Banks Morgan. In his professional life, Carthel was dedicated to his work in finishing concrete. Beyond his career, he found joy in the company of his family and friends, treasuring the time spent with them. Carthel will be fondly remembered for his humor and the deep love he had for his wife, children, and grandchildren. A graveside committal service was held at Fairview West Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Hanceville, Alabama, on Feb. 10, 2026, from 2 p.m. The family extends their gratitude to Richard Hackney, as well as all friends and family, for their thoughts, and prayers during this time. In the words of his loved ones, "We love you as a father, husband, grandfather, brother, and friend." Carthel's legacy of love and laughter will continue to inspire those who knew him. To leave condolences for the Morgan family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Grady Lee Pope, Jr., 79
Grady Pope Jr., age 79, passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2026, in his home surrounded by family. He was born on Jan. 27, 1947, and lived a life marked by dedication, resilience, and love for those around him. Grady was known for his steady presence, strong work ethic, and the bold way he showed up for family. He valued hard work, and a do it yourself attitude—lessons he carried throughout his life and shared ardently with those he loved. He was fiercely dedicated to his beloved wife of forty years, Janet. A sentiment she returned that was evidenced by her devotion to him until the end. He was preceded in death by his parents Grady Lee Pope Sr., and Noreen Pope; and his sister Carolyn Yarum. Grady is survived by his wife, Janet Pope; his children, Tara Pope, Brandon (Alicia) Pope, Lainey Keller, Mollie (Zack) Dockery, Grady Lee Pope III "Trey" (Brittany); his grandchildren, Raelynn Dockery, Avery Pope, Lillie Daves, Beckett Keller, Owen Lawson, Rowan Dockery, and Journie Pope as well as many other extended family members and dear friends who will miss him deeply. He will be remembered for his love of Alabama football and Atlanta Braves baseball, rivaled only by his passion for youth sports. When his children played, he immensely enjoyed coaching and later had a passion for coaching his grandchildren from the sidelines whether they liked it or not. Affectionately known as "Grumpy" to his grandkids, he was a fierce and steady presence in their lives. Grady leaves behind a legacy of turning off lights in unoccupied rooms, not listening to the radio in the car, and generally being lovingly grumpy with a "long suffering" air of humor enjoyed by all who knew him. The family conducted a small private ceremony in his honor and appreciates the love, prayers, and support during this time. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you (loudly) support your children or grandchildren in youth sports and think of Grumpy any time you yell at a ref or ump for a bad call.

Vernon D. Brown, 68
Mr. Vernon D. Brown, 68, of Cullman passed away Jan. 31, 1926, at CRMC Hospital. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Vernon was born Aug. 28, 1957, to Joseph Leverne and Margaret Ann Holt Brown. He loved to fish, loved yard sales, playing cards, and loved spending time with his family. He was a devoted son, great brother. He loved his family, especially his great nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, a niece; brother-in-law, Michael C. Cooper. Survivors include his sister Eloise Cooper; nieces and nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Renae Posey, 55
Renae Posey, age 55 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at the Athens Limestone Hospital. She was born in Athens, Alabama on Nov. 23, 1970. The family will have a private memorial service at a later date and time. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home assisting the family.

Reverend Donald Russell Strandlund, 95
"The Church is the Church only when it exists for others; not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others." | Dietrich Bonhoeffer | Ephesians 4:4 | "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." | 1 Peter 4:11 | "Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ." | Don was born Moline, Illinois, where he was one of five children of his parents, Alexander Fie Strandlund and Ina Elizabeth Hellgren Strandlund, immigrants from Sweden. His father died when Don was only about ten years old, and his mother assumed the task of raising the children. He graduated from Moline High School (Go Maroons!) in 1948 and entered four years of service in the United State Navy in Memphis, Tennessee. A friend from Cullman, Alabama invited him to meet "a beautiful girl" during his time in Memphis, so he came to Cullman and met Mary Magdelene Wood, from Logan, Alabama. Don and Mary married in October 1950 and returned to Don's home in Moline, Illinois. This is probably when he first received the call to ordained ministry from God, possibly as portrayed in the words from Ephesians and 1 Peter above. Working in a job as a photographer part-time and now beginning a family with children, he attended Augustana College in Rock Island, IL (using the G.I. Bill) and then was accepted at the Augustana Theological Seminary after earning his bachelor's degree. During seminary, his family spent his year of internship at First Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. This was a place where all the members of his family made some of the best lifelong friends they were ever to know. Upon completion of seminary, his whole family made a long, long trip from Northwest Illinois to Seattle, Washington in June of 1961. There he was ordained with his classmates and with other nationwide seminary graduates who had earned their Master of Divinity degree. Right after that, no one will ever know how close his family came to being missionaries in Borneo! Yes, Borneo, on the equator in southeast Asia! How different that life may have been for all of his family. However, he accepted a call to Tampa, Florida, where he began, with nothing but his initiative and support from the synod, a new mission named St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The church was a house with all the walls knocked down for the sanctuary, and Don's old desk served as the altar. And, so began his ordained ministry in the church. Don was meticulous and faithful, keeping a Pastoral Record of all his years as a Lutheran minister. He kept a file drawer at his house containing every sermon he had ever written. His format from the beginning was single-sided notes on 5 1/2 X 8 1/2 paper. Bill Strandlund, his son, perused the contents of that drawer and the Pastoral Record book and had an idea. He would electronically scan all these documents and create a cataloged collection of these items to tell and share the story of his Life Ministry for all those who were touched by it. It took a great deal of time to complete it in the form Bill envisioned but complete it he did. Because there must be a statement of this man (and this woman's) legacy for responding to a calling from God. An electronic copy of all those files was given to Don's extended family members the night of his 70th Wedding Anniversary celebration with his wife, Mary. Bill believes the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer above sums it up the best and is the essence of why this husband and father made his decision to devote his life gift in this fashion. During his 40+ years of ministry, Rev. Strandlund served as Pastor, Assistant Pastor, or Interim Pastor at churches in Tampa, Florida; White Bear Lake, Minnesota; DeLand, Florida; Melbourne, Florida; St. Petersburg, Florida; Lakeland, Florida; Cullman, Alabama; Florence, Alabama; Jacksonville, Alabama; and Anniston, Alabama. Rev. Don will be remembered for his sharp wittiness and ever-present humor, telling a good joke whenever he could and always laughing and having a good time. He was especially fond of time spent with family members, and that is what he treasured the most. His unwavering faith was an example for all with whom he came in contact and the way he lived his life clearly demonstrated his faith. Don is survived by his wife of more than 75 years, Mary Magdelene Wood Strandlund; his son, William A. Strandlund (Claudia); his daughter, Christine A. Strandlund; five grandchildren: Rev. Daniel P. Strandlund (Lucy); Anna Caroline Strandlund Dudley-Robertson (Jason); Sally Culpepper Warren (Nathan); William Joseph Culpepper (Jenna); and Russell Lewis Culpepper; as well as five great-grandchildren: Augustus Lowell Warren (Gus); Abraham Banks Warren (Abe); MJ Dudley; Arliss Wilkes Freeman; and Nora Bell Culpepper. He was preceded in death by his aforementioned parents, George Washington Jones (stepfather); two brothers, Robert Lee Strandlund and Warren Truman Strandlund; and two sisters, Betty Jane Strandlund Lindberg and Dorothy Faye Strandlund Hunt. A memorial service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church 305 Arnold Street Northeast in Cullman on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at 11 a.m. Visitation with the family prior to the service will take place in the Parish Hall from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. A light reception will be held in the Parish Hall to further greet the family after internment in the columbarium. The family requests that donations be made to the Grace Episcopal Church Rector's Discretionary Fund in lieu of flowers.

Moss Service Funeral Home
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