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Commission chooses local company to provide water and sanitation billing services

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission at a special-called meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, unanimously approved an agreement with local company Computer Network Inc. (CNI) to provide billing services for the County's Water and Sanitation Departments.

Previously, water and sanitation charges were included in customers' bills from the Cullman Electric Cooperative. Customers will now receive a separate bill from CNI.

The commission said the change was made as part of its effort to transition billing services for the Water and Sanitation Departments. No final date has been set for the change to take place, and notifications will begin soon to those impacted.

CNI, which has been in business since 1987, provides utility billing services across Alabama and in other states. The commission said pricing for services will be based on the number of customers billed each month.

The commission also approved postponing action on an agreement with » PAGE 8

Get your roll on



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Birmingham Sushi Class was on-site Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at Goat Island Brewing in Cullman, hosting a Beginner Sushi Class. Attendees got hands-on, learning all about the perfect sushi rice, sauces, where to shop/what to buy and how to safely and confidently serve raw fish at home. By the end of the session, they were making their own sushi rolls.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



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Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

Hanceville Elementary honored as one of Alabama's Most Improved Schools » PAGE 4

Ivey signs Child Predator Death Penalty Act into law



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Child Predator Death Penalty Act into law on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026.
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'I Love You More': Book launch Saturday at Karma's Coffee House » PAGE 2

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Get to know Melissa Dew (Flourish of Cullman)



MELISSA DEW

Melissa Dew
» PAGE 5

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 13

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 13, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 9

- harassment; Commercial St. SE
- stalking; trespassing; Stricklin Rd.
- theft of property; CR 1150
- drug trafficking; CR 1605
- burglary; Arkadelphia Rd. NW

Feb. 10

- domestic violence; CR 1371
- harassment; Lipsey Ave.
- theft of property; CR 1605
- harassment; CR 656

Feb. 11

- domestic violence; Self Ave. NE
- theft of property; College Dr. NE
- domestic violence; CR 1224
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 278W

ARRESTS

Feb. 9-11

Bagwell, Terry N.; 64
- criminal trespass-enter/remain in building/fenced property
- stalking-2nd degree
- PROBATION VIOALTION – possession of drug paraphernalia
- Criminal trespass-enters/remains in/on premises

Barboza, Jr., Rafael H.; 29
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Blankenship, William T.; 47
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – improper lane usage

Cantrell, Jerimiah R.; 29
- FTA – pedestrian under the influence

Charfauros, Alesha N.; 36
- reckless endangerment
- DUI (alcohol)

Crabtree, Kevin E.; 46
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – reckless endangerment
- FTA – sale of stolen property, $1500 or more
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Curvin, Meshach J.; 30
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Enochs, Kimberly S.; 57
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Evans, Sonya W.; 54
- FTA – contributing to delinquency of minor
- FTA – failure to make child attend school

Hanners, Bobby L.; 37
- FTA – burglary-residence-force
- FTA – criminal mischief
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – auto theft

Hooks, Michael W.; 49
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Irvin, Charles J.; 35
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Johnson, Jeffrey D.; 45
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Kilpatrick, Bradyn A.; 26
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Marsh, Jr., Myron C.; 61
- FTA – assault-harassment
- FTA – criminal trespass
- FTA – sex offense-failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restriction (2 counts)

Massey, Corina L.; 25
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

McCrary, Matthew C.; 39
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – theft-truck

McKinnon, Alan D.; 69
- FTA – violation of a domestic violence protection order

Miller, Jr., Thomas P.; 35
- FTA – burglary-residence-no force

Nickles, Courtney N.; 26
- DRUG COURT SANCTION – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Price, Rickey J.; 32
- permitting dogs to run at large

Ramey, Shelton W.; 50
- drug trafficking
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Sharp, Stevie E.; 36
- criminal mischief

Shelton, Gabriel E.; 23
- assault-aggravated assault-menacing-gun
- reckless endangerment

Tucker, Daniel B.; 35
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of drug paraphernalia
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

White, Isaac S.; 29
- DRUG COURT SANCTION – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Yates, Lucindy A.; 37
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 6
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $130; Hwy. 157

Feb. 11
- organized retail theft; Dollar General; miscellaneous; $36; Town Square Sw.
- forgery; person; forged check
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $37; Olive St. SW
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; person; wallet & contents; Northcrest Dr. NW

Feb. 12
- theft of property-4th degree; person; tag; $50; Hwy. 157
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. NW
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged tire; 2nd Ave. NW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; CR 490

ARRESTS

Feb. 11-12

Barboza, Jr., Rafael H.; 29
- FTA – driving while suspended

Fulmer, Brittany N.; 36
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – attempt to elude

Crabtree, Kevin E.; 46
- FTA – harassment
- FTA – driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA – switched tag

Thomas, Donna M.; 58
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Launch (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A memoir by Cullman native Hunter Moore will debut at a community book launch on Saturday, Feb. 14, at noon at Karma's Coffee House.

Moore, who has lived with cerebral palsy since birth, worked to complete the book, titled "I Love You Moore," in memory of his late wife, Haleigh Beth Moore, who passed away in January 2025.

Because he is unable to write independently, Moore submitted portions of the manuscript over time to Taylor Johnson, owner of Salty Light Creative, who assisted in preparing the book for publication.

Johnson, a fellow West Point High School graduate, said the memoir offers a raw and vulnerable look at grief, faith and perseverance. In addition to losing his wife, Moore also lost his caregiver, making his journey through depression and healing especially difficult.

Johnson said she hopes the book will encourage others walking through illness or loss and highlight Moore's intelligence and determination. "Hunter is one of the smartest people I know," she said. "He may struggle physically, but his mind is in tip-top shape."

Johnson said she hopes the launch not only celebrates Moore's achievement, but also inspires others in the community to share their own stories.

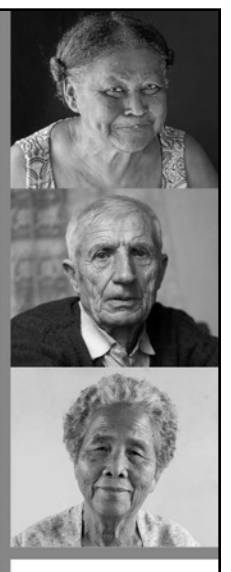
Karma's Coffee House is located at 103 First Ave. NE #140 in Cullman.

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Ivey (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday, Feb. 12, signed the Child Predator Death Penalty Act into law. One of the governor's top priorities this legislative session, the new law provides the strongest legal protection for Alabama's children from child predators.

"For too long, the most vulnerable of our society have lacked the most stringent legal protection from child predators," said Ivey. "Through the Child Predator Death Penalty Act, Alabama now joins just a handful of states imposing the toughest penalty possible for child predators. Those who target the youngest among us for the vilest crimes will soon be met with the harshest punishment under the law."

The Child Predator Death Penalty Act, sponsored by Rep. Matt Simpson, R-Daphne and Sen. April Weaver, R-Brierfield, strengthens Alabama's criminal penalties against those who are convicted of felony sexual crimes against a child. Crimes of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual assault of victims under the age of 12 would automatically become capital offenses punishable by death.

"With the signing of the Child Predator Death Penalty Act into law, Alabama has taken decisive action to ensure that the most horrific offenses committed against minors face the maximum punishment our legal system permits," said Simpson. "This law sends a clear message that we will not stand by while young lives are shattered. Those who commit such unspeakable crimes will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I am grateful to Governor Ivey for her steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to keeping our communities — and especially our children — safe."

The need for stronger punishment of child predators in Alabama was evidenced in 2025 after eight individuals were arrested and charged with rape, trafficking and sexual torture of at least 10 children held captive in Bibb County. Some of the victims were as young as three years old.

"With the signing of the Child Predator Death Penalty Act, we are putting these sick individuals on notice that a cell on death row awaits them if they abuse the most innocent and defenseless among us," said Weaver. "Alabama now has zero tolerance for those who prey on our children. I want to thank Governor Ivey for her support, as well as my colleagues in the Legislature for protecting our most vulnerable citizens."

The Child Predator Death Penalty Act becomes effective on Oct. 1, 2026.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Sunday, Feb. 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

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.

Cullman Eagle Forum Ballot Hand-Count Training
Monday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Hanceville Housing Authority, 819 Kiki Dr., Hanceville, AL 35077. alabamaeagle.org/event/hand-counting-ballots-whats-the-big-deal-cullman

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

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF MARK ALLEN BENEFIELD, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Jeanna Michelle Harris on the 28th day of January, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Jeanna Michelle Harris, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	)	IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
DEBORAH B. CRAWFORD ,	)	CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
DECEASED	)	CASE NO. PC-2026-079

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ON THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH B. CRAWFORD HAVING BEEN GRANTED TO PAUL CRAWFORD, STEPHANIE EDDLEMAN, AND KENNETH EDDLEMAN , PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE 12th DAY OF February, 2026 BY THE HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE OF CULLMAN COUNTY. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST SAID ESTATE ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT THE SAME WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW OR THE SAME WILL BE BARRED.

PAUL CRAWFORD, STEPHANIE EDDLEMAN, AND KENNETH EDDLEMAN,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ESTATE OF DEBORAH B. CRAWFORD, DECEASED.

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE:
KENNETH WELDON
1170 COUNTY ROAD 1352
VINEMONT, ALABAMA 35179

TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE: PLEASE PUBLISH THE ABOVE NOTICE FOR THREE SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN SAID NEWSPAPER.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 14, 2026

The Blooming Barista, more than traditional coffee

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Emma Thompson is a Cullman native who currently attends Wallace State Community College. Unlike most 20-year-olds, she has her own business. She is the proud owner of The Blooming Barista, established in September 2025.

The business currently doesn't have a storefront and is run out of a mobile trailer. Thompson said they are normally set up in one spot, but keep their location posted on Facebook.

"It's definitely been a learning process," she shared. "As I said, I am only 20, so it has been kind of chaotic because I am doing a lot right now. I really enjoy it."

She elaborated on the idea that led to her starting her business. "My sister and I went on a sister trip to New York and that's where we got the whole idea. We've always really loved coffee shops and all the cute, fun and girly things. We came across one that was a coffee shop with a flower shop and got the idea to combine them."

She credited her sister, Jordan Whitlock, for assisting her in her start. "My sister and her husband have owned Cullman Basketball Complex for a few years so she's more familiar with the business aspect of it."

She continued, "We've learned a lot and we're finding our groove, which is kind of why we started it early. I graduate at the end of this semester – at the end of spring, then we are going to hop in full time!"

The Blooming Barista has more to offer. Thompson explained, "We're not your traditional coffee shop; we specialize in lattes. We don't offer drip coffee unless it is for a special event.

"We like specialty lattes and to make it fun – fun flavors, foams and to make it kind of girly! Then if people want to do the flower bundle, we keep it really cute."

It offers classic flavors like vanilla, caramel and white chocolate, with sugar-free options. Then there are specialty flavors throughout the holidays. The most recent feature is the strawberry lattes for Valentine's Day. These seasonal lattes are paired with red and pink roses.

The Blooming Barista primarily use roses and baby's breath in its bouquets.

Thompson said the plan is eventually grow them herself. "I don't have my own land right now, but the vision is to grow them myself and have them out of my backyard."

Find The Blooming Barista online at Facebook/The Blooming Barista and @the-blooming_barista on Instagram.

To order online go to https://thebloomingbarista.square.site. Reach Thompson by email at thebloomingbarista@gmail.com.



EMMA THOMPSON/THE BLOOMING BARISTA

The Blooming Barista Valentine Bundle with flowers and a latte

EMA (from Front)

Brent McDonald
Contributor

The following a guest article from Cullman County EMA Specialist Brent McDonald.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Brent McDonald in 2025

In emergency management, one thing has always remained constant: the responsibility to protect people before, during and after an emergency. What has changed — dramatically over the years—is how people expect to receive information, how quickly they expect it and the ways they engage with it. To continue serving our community effectively, we must be willing to evolve alongside those expectations. At the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), adapting to the demands of today is not about chasing trends; it's about meeting people where they are and ensuring critical information is understood, trusted and acted upon.

The way our community consumes information has shifted. Traditional methods such as printed flyers, long written statements or press releases alone are no longer enough. People today rely heavily on visual media — short videos, graphics, live updates and social media platforms — to stay informed. These formats are faster, clearer and more accessible, especially during emergencies when time and attention are limited. Recognizing this reality is not an admission that old methods were ineffective; rather, it's an understanding that communication must evolve to remain effective.

I have personally has made a deliberate effort to embrace visual media and video as essential tools in our public safety mission. Through short informational videos, preparedness messaging and visual explanations of weather threats and emergency procedures, we can communicate complex information in a way that is easier to understand and retain. A well-produced video explaining severe weather safety or emergency alerts can reach more people — and make a stronger impact — than paragraphs of text ever could.

This transition would not be possible without the support provided through a recently awarded grant. That funding allows our agency to invest in the equipment, software and training needed to produce professional-quality visual content in-house. More importantly, it allows us to do so responsibly, accurately and consistently. This is not about flashy production or entertainment; it is about clarity, reliability and trust.

The impact of this grant extends far beyond the walls of our office. For Cullman County residents, it means clearer messaging during severe weather events, faster dissemination of emergency updates and improved preparedness education year-round.

Visual media helps remove confusion during stressful situations. When people can see what is happening, understand what actions to take and hear directly from their local emergency management officials, confidence increases — and that confidence saves time, resources and potentially lives.

For the county as a whole, this investment strengthens resilience. A better-informed public is a safer public. When residents understand warnings, evacuation routes, sheltering guidance and preparedness steps ahead of time, emergency response efforts become more effective. First responders can focus on urgent needs rather than correcting misunderstandings or addressing preventable risks.

Adapting to today's demands also reinforces accountability and transparency. Video communication allows the public to see the people behind the agency — the faces, voices and commitment of those working to protect them. That connection matters. Trust is built not just through action, but through communication that feels personal and honest.

Change is never just about adopting new tools; it's about mindset. At Cullman County EMA, our willingness to adapt reflects our commitment to serve the community as it is today, not as it was years ago. By embracing visual media and modern communication strategies, supported by grant funding, we are strengthening our ability to fulfill our mission and better protect the people of Cullman County — now and into the future.

Hanceville (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville Elementary School was recognized Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Alabama State Board of Education meeting for an extraordinary accomplishment – earning a place among the Top 25 Most Improved Schools in the state.

"The recognition follows a monumental achievement for Hanceville: a remarkable 16-point gain on the state report card in just one year. The significant increase reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment of the school's students, teachers, administrators and families," said a release from Cullman County Schools.

As part of the Legislative School Performance Program Award, Hanceville Elementary received an $8,000 check in recognition of its progress. The funds will support continued efforts to enhance student learning and academic success.

Congratulations to Hanceville Elementary on this outstanding achievement!







Get to know Melissa Dew (Flourish of Cullman)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

There is a sense of pride when we gather and support local nonprofits. Knowing people can be so selfless as to devote their lives to helping others inspires us to do so. Their sacrifice makes us strive to be better. This ripple effect is the backbone of prosperity. It helps our community grow, and Melissa Dew has helped Cullman to flourish.

We primarily know her as executive director of Flourish of Cullman, where Dew and her staff facilitate a support system that provides residents with differing abilities the help and assistance they may need, to live, play and work independently.

Though her roots run deeper. Dew is a friend, mother, wife and daughter. She was born May 30, 1966, in Cullman and is the middle child of nine siblings.

"My youngest sister, April, was born with cerebral palsy," she said. "That got me interested. I went to all of her events growing up and I always knew I wanted to help people. I gravitated toward being a police officer."

She was a police officer at the Cullman Police Department from 1998-1999, but after suffering an injury she attended Wallace State Community College, where she graduated in 2003.

"Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services helped me to go back to school at Wallace and get my degree in occupational therapy assistance," Dew said. "We actually have a contract with them that helps support people with disabilities to get jobs."

After she graduated she put her degree to use. "I was an occupational therapist at Encore Rehabilitation and during that time I was very involved with The Autism Society. I went and spoke to them. Some parents called me the 'autism whisperer' because I knew how to connect with their kids."

Dew established a social group within a local Methodist church and did activities with the children such as pretend birthday parties. "I put them in social activities where they could learn and go on," she said.

Because of her devotion to guiding children, Dew was awarded the 2006 Outstanding Alumni winner for the health division from Wallace State.

"I worked at Encore and became the therapy coordinator for Cullman County and city schools," she said. "I learned a lot from Encore about budgeting, so when I left I was prepared."

Dew was at a pancake breakfast for The Autism Society when she was approached about an opportunity with Triumph Services in Birmingham. When she attended, she said, the realization hit her that Cullman needed these services. That led to the establishment of Flourish of Cullman in 2016.

When it comes to Cullman as a whole, said Dew, her favorite thing is its growth. "I love the growth that we've had. The community seems to rally around different businesses to help support them. Probably over the past five or so years is where we've had the most growth in that area."

She is particularly fond of local festivals and enjoys attending them with her grandchildren.

As far as food, she advised that Chinese is her absolute favorite. Though 412 Public House is her go-to Cullman restaurant. She stated, "I have not gotten bad food there."

When she needs to destress or ground herself, she said, she loves to hike. "Hiking in Colorado has to be my favorite. It's absolutely beautiful."

Her favorite move? "Thinking In Pictures," she said, before adding enthusiastically, "Oh, and 'Peanut Butter Falcon.' I mean, come on!"

Her favorite color is green. "I love any green, but especially Flourish green," she smiled.

Her advice to Cullman? "Be a good you."



MELISSA DEW

Melissa Dew

EST. 1873
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ALABAMA
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LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to LINDA ARLENE REA, as Personal Representative of the Estate of THOMAS JOHN CHRISTENSEN, deceased, on the 28th day of January, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Linda Arlene Rea
Personal Representative

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

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to GENNIA WILHITE and BELINDA McCURRY on the 5th day of February, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

GENNIA WILHITE and BELINDA McCURRY
Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

ROBIN HENDERSON
Personal Representative

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

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

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-065

1 Page(s)

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to the undersigned, JACK BENJAMIN HESS, III, on the 5th day of February, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Dated this the 5th day of February 2026.

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

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

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF DONALD LEE NAPHY, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to YOLADA ARLENE NAPHY on the 28th day of January, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

YOLADA ARLENE NAPHY, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that *Letters of Testamentary* having been granted to JOHNATHAN GLEN DIGMAN as Personal Representative of the Estate of GLEN HARVEY DIGMAN, deceased, on the 27th day of January 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Johnathan Glen Digman
Personal Representative

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

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ZELDA P TURNER, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2026-061

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to KEVIN PARKER and CAROL MARIE BRAZIER, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of ZELDA P TURNER, deceased, on the 5th day of February, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Kevin Parker and
Carol Marie Brazier
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

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

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF PRESTON MARK THOMPSON, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Amanda Leshae Calahan on the 5th day of February, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Amanda Leshae Calahan, Personal Representative (Administrator),

TO: Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

Legal Notice

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

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

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABLE PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN

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.

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. 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.

Please contact the Cullman City Clerk's office located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 or send email to cityclerk@cullmanal.gov for additional information regarding these properties located at 658 County Road 1466, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Offers must be submitted in writing inside a sealed envelope marked "Old Evers Properties" to the City Clerk's office in Cullman City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Multiple and/or combined offers may be submitted for consideration. Potential offers for these properties will be received by the City Clerk's office until 2:00 p.m. on March 13th, 2026.

Wesley M. Moore – Cullman City Clerk

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Icicle pickles and icicle pickleballs

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I have decided, sometime in my not-as-young-as-I-once-was years, that I don't like cucumbers. Well, at least I don't like raw cucumbers. I've given them ample opportunities to prove themselves, but they've come up short. I've even tried cucumber sandwiches. Actually, I have decided the reason I do not like cucumbers, is because I have realized that cucumbers don't like me. It doesn't take me long after eating a few raw cucumbers to regret eating any cucumbers. They come back to haunt me! Now, pickled cucumbers, otherwise known simply as pickles, are a different story. I do like pickles, especially sweet pickles. I'm not sure what the pickling process does to them, but pickles don't do to me what raw cucumbers do to me.

Many years ago, I discovered a different kind of pickles that quickly became my favorite. Jean and I had a large vegetable garden back then. One year we had a bumper crop of cucumbers. I discovered that a family of two does not need a dozen hills of cucumbers. A dozen hills of watermelons is different, but not cucumbers. Actually, I don't remember exactly how many I planted that year, but I learned that cucumbers can be as prolific as rabbits.

I had already realized by then that I didn't want any more raw cucumbers, so we made pickles. We made pickles, pickles and more pickles. We probably gave you a jar or two of them. Jean tried several different recipes.

I like dill pickles, especially sliced dill pickles on a hamburger. My favorite dill pickles are those that have a pod or two of hot pepper in the jar. They have just the right kick.

My favorite kind of pickles are sweet ones, and my favorite sweet pickles are the ones called icicle pickles. Jean made those that bumper crop season. I had never had them before, but it was love at first bite.

If you've ever had an icicle pickle you may know what I'm talking about. If you haven't had one, you've missed a treat! I requested that we not give those pickles away. If that sounds selfish, it's probably because it was. I would eat those icicle pickles with anything and everything and with nothing at all.

I haven't had an icicle pickle in quite a few years, but I still remember them fondly. I thought about them just this past week.

A few years ago, I discovered another kind of pickle that has become my favorite. It is called pickleball. I like playing pickleball even more than eating pickles. Recently, it has been too cold to play. It was cold enough last week to have icicles hanging off the roof of the house.

When it's that cold and you are playing pickleball, you had better take plenty of pickleballs because in freezing-cold weather they crack when you hit them. That, however, has never stopped the avid pickleball player from playing.

I have gone snow skiing in freezing weather, and I have played pickleball in freezing weather. Last week I put on some of my old snow-skiing clothes and played pickleball in them. As I worked up a perspiration under all those ski clothes, I thought I might have icicles hanging on my body before long. I guess since I was playing pickleball in such cold weather, it made me remember those icicle pickles.

Anyway, I was reminded that we do what we really want to do, even when it's probably too cold. If what we're doing is something we should be doing, eat a pickle, and as Nike used to say, "Just do it!"

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 14, 1946

From the files of Feb. 14, 1946

HANCEVILLE HAPPENINGS
By HAZEL CARSTENSEN

Mrs. Pearl Schlaf spent Wednesday night with, Mr. and Mrs. Duff Reid in Blount Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hammonds of Decatur spent Sunday with, Mr. and Mrs. Elzy Vest and family.

Mrs. Lillie Self Vest spent Thursday in Birmingham.

Durwood Waldrop who spent 2 years in the Pacific is home with an honorable discharge.

Lieut. Dorothy Allred NCSSNR of California has returned home with a honorable discharge. Lieut. Dorothy Allred served 21 months overseas. She will spend a few days here with her mother Mrs. Jim Allred.

Mrs. Bill Clapp, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Billy Pichelmayer and Mrs. A. M. Pichelmayer attended the funeral of Mrs. Carl Sutterer in Cullman Sunday after noon.

Jimmie Paul Reid of the U. S. Navy is spending a 27 day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duff Reid in Blount Springs.

Pvt. George W. Barnett of the Marines is now stationed in Tentsen, China.

Mrs. Georgia Coburn, Mrs. J. C. Head, Mrs. M. F. King and Mrs. E. A. Mayfield of Birmingham spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smallwood spent the week-end in Tuscumbia.

I. Y. Steele and Van Gibbs spent Monday and Tuesday in Louisville, Ky.

James Wood of Birmingham spent the week end at home.

FLAT ROCK NEWS

Gee, what a rain fell at Flat Rock Friday and Saturday, Will's dipping vat is almost out of bank now.

But Will killed his hog Thursday and he had a job helping can meat this last rainy spell instead of making axe handles, he did manage to get loose and work in his black smith shop some Saturday.

A few met at Flat Rock church Sunday, February 10th for Sunday school even though the roads were bad and the wind blew hard, with a little snow and rainfall.

Mrs. Loren Mauldin is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Oscar Wooten in Birmingham, Mrs. Wooten had a heart attack.

Mrs. Elzie Mauldin is visiting in Gadsden.

John Mauldin went back to Gadsden to get his car.

Alva Phillips spent Sunday night with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Will Thomas.

Alva and his mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Phillips who used to live on Crane Hill, Rt. 1, have sold their place in Cullman County and bought in the Blooming Grove community in Walker County near Curry, Ala.

They really like their place in Walker County but Alva is still very much attached to that bunch of young folks he left at Sulphur Springs.

Eva Lee Thomas who has been doing office work for the Utopia Cleaners in Birmingham, for the past 18 months says she likes her work fine for its the kind of work she always had in mind to do, but would like to hear that the roads from Trade to Cullman could be gotten over any day, so she would have an idea when to make a trip home.



POET'S CORNER

February 14th | Randy C. Hale

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

I missed the fun at school that day.
Sick at home, I had to stay.
One of the few days I did not want to miss.
Colored sacks taped to the desk.
Our names written brightly in red hearts.
Valentine cards for all, Kool-Aid, cupcakes,
and potato chips.

That evening, my dad came home
with a small bag in his hands.
Candy was inside, and near the bottom
was a shiny yellow and orange top.

From the hands that corrected me,
work torn and callous,
came tenderness and love.
Leaving me with what would turn
out to be of valentines, my favorite one.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 14

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

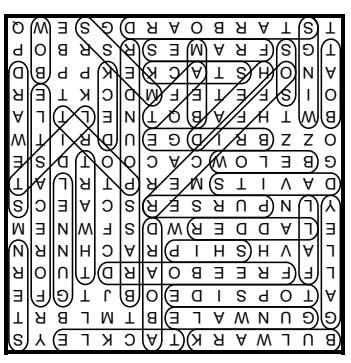
Aboard
Aft
Beam
Below
Boat
Bow
Brass Pounder
Bridge
Bulwark
Davits
Deck
Fall
Forecastle
Frames
Freeboard
Galley
Gunnel
Gunwale
Head
Ladder
List
Mess
Officer
Port
Purser
Ship
SOS
Stack
Starboard
Stern
Steward
Tackle
Thwart
Topside
Wings

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 14

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			9	2		1	8	
	8	6			1	9		
			7					4
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ANSWERS:



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





Commission (from Front)

Paymentus to provide payment processing services for water and sanitation.

Officials said final pricing is still pending and will be provided once billing data is finalized.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the commission posted on its Facebook page:

"The Cullman County (sic) Commission voted on Tuesday, February 10th, to work with a local company, CNI Solutions, to provide billing services for Cullman County Water and Sanitation Departments. This decision reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of county resources and ensuring efficient, reliable service delivery to our residents.

"This is the first step in the process, and we are working closely with Cullman Electric Cooperative to plan this transition carefully. As stewards of public services, we are dedicated to making this change as seamless as possible for all customers while maintaining the high standards of service our community expects and deserves.

"No final date has been set for the changes to take place. Notifications will begin soon to those impacted by this change. Please watch your bill, our social media, and www.co.cullman.al.us for more information. We appreciate the great working relationship that we have with the Cullman Electric Cooperative staff to help make this a smooth transition."

In other business, a $30,334 agreement with Cullman Electric Cooperative to supply electricity to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office firing range was approved. The CCSO will reimburse half of the cost, leaving the County responsible for just over $15,000.

Additional business included the commission voting to end the County's state of emergency declaration related to recent winter weather.

The next commission work session will be held Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at 4 p.m., followed by the regular commission meeting at 6 in the commission meeting room.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 12-13

Larry Eugene Terry, 76
Family graveside service for Larry Eugene Terry, 76, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m., Monday, February 16, 2026, at Cullman City Cemetery, Minister Colton Terry officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Terry passed away Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at The Folsom Center. He was born Feb. 19, 1949, to Harold and Vera Lee Terry. Larry was a lifelong floral arranger and business owner. He liked everyone he met. He had a contagious laugh and he loved his nieces, nephews and family. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Rocky Terry. Survivors include his brothers, James Lee Terry, Waymon A. "Junior" Terry (Anita); sister-in-law, Mary Terry; nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Dorothy Elizabeth Drummond, 101
Dorothy Elizabeth Drummond, age 101, of Ardmore, Alabama passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at the Elk River Health and Nursing Center of Ardmore, Tennessee. She was born April 25, 1924, to Wyatt Jackson and Effie Allred Jackson at Walter, Alabama in Cullman County. She was a 1942 graduate of Hanceville High School and a retiree of the U.S. Postal Service at Hanceville. She enjoyed working at the Post Office and was given the nickname Ms. Smiley because she always smiled when she waited on customers. After retirement she enjoyed being a homemaker. She was a proud member of Ardmore First Baptist Church and Hanceville First Baptist Church for most of her 101 years. Mrs. Drummond was predeceased by her parents, her husband Lonnie who she was married to for 52 wonderful years, her brothers, Harold Jackson and wife Marguerite, Woody Jackson and wife Jane, her sisters, Ruth Ashwander and husband Marvin, Mary Bland and husband Julian, nephew, Lewis Ashwander, Maurice Drummond and infant niece Nancy Jane Ashwander. Survivors include her son, Phillip Drummond of Ardmore, Alabama, nephews, Jimmy Jackson (Ann), Edward Jackson, Wayne Jackson, Dr. George Jackson (Cary), Mark Bland (Myra), James Drummond, nieces, Sylvia Gilmore, Margaret Rose Neely (Mike), Cindy Morton (Dr. Steve Morton), Shirley Via, Janet Jean (Royce), Marcia Tillman (Kevin), great nephews and great nieces, cousins and many friends. A visitation was held at Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home for Mrs. Drummond, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. with a memorial service that followed at 11 a.m. with Brother Alan Hughes, Rick Shannon and Marco Shaw officiating. Burial was at Shelton Grove Baptist Church cemetery in Cullman County with a service at 2:30 p.m. officiated by Kelvin Harbison, Brother Alan Hughes and Brother Rick Shannon. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to: Ardmore First Baptist Church, 26670 5th St. Ardmore, AL 35739 | Shelton Grove Baptist Church, 1615 County Road 46, Hanceville, AL 35077

Jeanette Grund, 66
Jeanette Grund was born Dec. 26, 1956, and suddenly passed away on Aug. 28, 2023, at Cullman Regional Hospital. Jeanette was always a hard-working resident of Cullman County, between her chickens and employment with American Trim. She is survived by her only daughter, Janet Fay Grund; two beloved grandchildren, Elizabeth A Phillips, Zachary H. Phillips; one brother, Harold N. Smith; niece, Tiffany L. Smith; two sisters, and a host of nieces, nephews, and family. Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband, Milton Fredrick Grund; sister, Hazel Smith; and nephew, Roman Smith.

Marcen Phillips, 90
Marcen Phillips, 90, of Hanceville went home to be with the Lord Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing Home. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Funeral service for Mr. Phillips will be at noon, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Enon Cemetery, Rev. Herman Lambert and Rev. Douglas Phillips officiating. Mr. Phillips was born June 7, 1935, to Hershel and Tilda Elizabeth Looper Phillips. He loved the Lord and witnessed to everyone he ever met and wanted everyone to be saved. He loved his family. He moved from Anderson, Indiana to Alabama in 1977 to work at Nicholson File and retired after 48 years. He was an excellent gardener, loved all wildlife and especially his peacocks. He was known for his unique vocabulary. He will be missed. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Reviel Phillips; sons-in-law, Steve Ratliff, Marshall Clarke; sisters, Gladys Wilson, Jewel Hinson. Survivors include his son, Doug (Kathy) Phillips; daughters, Debra Ratliff, Dana Clarke; brother, Roger (Frances) Phillips; sisters, Marie Cordell, Mildred (J.E.) Linder, Estelle (Charles) Tosh, Wanda (Al) Pugh; grandchildren, Matthew (Stacey) Ratliff, Clint Ratliff, Patrick Phillips, Katie (Nick) Williams, Lucas (Paula) Clarke, Marcus (Anna) Clarke, Kallie Phillips; great-grandchildren, Saige (Mariah) Ratliff, Amberlyn (Clay) Hanson, Keegan Phillips, Lake Ratliff, Liam Phillips, Addie Williams, Blakely Clarke, Carter Williams, Aubrey Clarke, Ella Williams, Lorelai Mitchell; great-great grandchildren, Greylnn Hanson, Collier Hanson, Malakai Ratliff; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Ralph Arnold Freeman, 84
Ralph Arnold Freeman, 84, of Greeneville, Tennessee, passed Feb. 12, 2026. He retired from Western Auto and Oil Express. He was a Baptist. He was a 1959 graduate of Cullman High School. Ralph was a member of Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 692 and the Elks Lodge. Survivors include his daughter: Michelle Bible and husband, Matt; son: Rodney Freeman and Shanna Evans; bonus daughter: Linda Cogdell Rector and husband, Gary; sister: Evelyn Stevens; sister-in-law: Martha Freeman both of Cullman, Alabama; grandchildren: Tyler and Alison Bible, Makenzi Bible and Corey Neece, Ainsley Freeman, Colby Freeman, McKinley Freeman, Dustin Rector, Katelynn Rector, Austin Rector and Jacinta "Jay"; great-grandchildren: James Waddle, Mauri Jo Neece, and baby girl Bible on the way; special nieces: Shawn Freeman, Renita Rigney, Shelly Klein, Amelia Sutter-Moyer, who referred to him as "the fun uncle"; brother-in-law, Eddie DeLorme and wife, Beth,; sister-in-law: Debbie Snapp; nieces: Baranda Kincaid, Tracie Tolentino; and former daughter-in-law: Michelle Freeman-Alexander. Ralph was preceded in death by his parents: Delmar and Geneva Freeman; wife: Phyllis DeLorme Freeman; wife: Betty Cogdell Freeman; brother: Harold Freeman; infant grandson: Riley Freeman; sister-in-law: Ginger DeLorme Chrietzberg; brother-in-law: Milton "Bud" Stevens; nephew: Cortney DeLorme. The family will receive friends from 2–4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, at Doughty-Stevens Funeral Home. At 7 p.m. Sunday, a Moose Memorial Service will be held. Funeral services will follow with the Rev. Joey Tillery officiating. Family and friends are asked to meet at Doughty-Stevens at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Feb. 16, to go in procession to GreeneLawn Memory Gardens for the 11 a.m. committal service. Dr. David Green will officiate. Active pallbearers will be Tyler Bible, Colby Freeman, Dustin Rector, Austin Rector, Corey Neece, and Grant Berrier. Honorary pallbearers will be Walt McQueen and Tracy Herman. The family extends a special thank you to all of Ralph's moose family for all of the love, support, and fellowship over the many years. You were all very important to him and serving the Moose Lodge was a key part of who he was. Ralph achieved the highest honor in service, the Pilgrim Degree. The family wishes to express sincere gratitude to the nursing staff of 4th floor of Johnson City Medical Center for their compassionate and caring attention to his and his family's needs during his final days.

Carolyn Annette Parker Jett, 69
Funeral services for Carolyn Annette Parker Jett, 69, of Bremen will be noon, Saturday Feb. 14 at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service at Ryan's Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10 a.m.-noon at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church. Mrs. Jett was born Sept. 27, 1956, in Cullman County, Alabama to the late Milton and Nellie Parker. She passed away Feb. 11, 2026, in Bremen, Alabama. Carolyn graduated from Cold Springs High School in May 1974. Shortly after graduation, she started her college journey at Cullman College where she earned an Associate in Arts in May 1975, followed by Southern Benedictine College, there she earned a Bachelor of Arts in May 1977. Continuing her education, she attended the University of Montevallo, earning a Master of Arts in May 1978. Lastly, she attended Sanford University and earned an Associate of Paralegal Studies in May 1981. Throughout her degrees and career, Carolyn retired as a Corporate Paralegal from Sirote and Permutt in December of 2019. Carolyn was happily married to William Jett for 41 years. Survivors include her husband, Bill Jett; children, Lindsey Jett, Austin Parker Jett; grandchildren, Parker William Jett; sister-in-law, Bobbie Faye Parker; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Jett was preceded in death by her parents, Milton and Nellie Parker; and her siblings, Tommy Parker, and Sharon Thornton. Serving as pallbearers will be Joe Boyd, Bill Boyd, Derek King, Kerry Hancock, Nathan Miller, Bruce Parker, Brad Parker, and Parker Jett, with Joe Bod and Bill Boyd as Honorary Pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, donations to Cullman Caring for Kids in Carolyn's name would be appreciated. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Jett family.

Philip Arthur Creel, 88
Philip Arthur Creel, age 88, of Cullman County, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 11, 2026, and went to be with the Lord. He was born on Dec. 24, 1937, to Calvin and Gertrude Creel. Philip was born, raised, and lived his entire life in Cullman County, a place he loved dearly and proudly called home. Philip was a devoted family man whose life was centered around those he loved. He was first married to Jean Hines Creel Jones, and together they had two beautiful daughters, Sandra Creel Hampton (Phillip Hampton), who faithfully remained by his side and cared for him in his last days, and Scherry Creel, who preceded him in death in December 1987. Philip was later married to Velma Creel, who preceded him in death. The family finds comfort in knowing they are now reunited in Heaven. Through one of his marriages, Philip was blessed with two step-daughters. Even after the passing of their mother, Virginia Hudson Creel, one daughter remained especially close to his heart, Brenda McGriff (Ronald McGriff), who continued to share a loving bond with him. He was a proud grandfather to Candice Hampton Brown (Rusty Brown) and Cory Hampton (Morgan Hampton). His greatest joy in later years came from his five great-grandchildren: Riley Brown, Ryan Brown, Reagan Brown, Creek Hampton, and Cove Hampton, who brought endless happiness to his life. Philip also leaves behind a large number of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members who loved him dearly and will cherish his memory. Philip had a special love for music. He enjoyed playing music with his friends, gathering weekly to share songs, laughter, and fellowship, times that meant so much to him and to those around him. Later in life, he and his first wife, Jean, became friends again and often attended senior events together where Philip enjoyed playing and listening to music. Philip will be remembered for his deep love for his family, his strong roots in Cullman County, and the lasting impact he made on everyone who knew him. Though he will be greatly missed, his family finds comfort in knowing he is now at peace in Heaven. Funeral services will be held at Moss Funeral Home in Cullman County, Alabama, followed by a small graveside service at Bethsadia Baptist Church, located at 1365 County Road 421, Cullman, Alabama 35057.

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