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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

Addison earns first Elite Eight berth since 1972 with 47-40 win over Marion Co.
» PAGE 4

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CPD officer charged with domestic violence

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Police Department Officer Roy Leon Bates, 52, is facing a third-degree domestic violence charge.

According to Police Chief Joey Duncan, officers were dispatched to a home on Scenic Drive on Monday, Feb. 16, 2026, at approximately 6:45 p.m.

"An investigation was conducted, and based on the evidence observed, probable cause was established," Duncan said.

Bates is charged with third-degree domestic violence. He was transported to the Morgan County Jail.

Bates is employed with the CPD as a lake patrol officer.

"He has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal investigation," Duncan said.



MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Officer Roy Bates

Empty Bowls feeds multitude



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Carol McLee served the community at the 21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner on Feb. 16, 2026.

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — First United Methodist Church hosted the 21st annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner Monday, Feb. 16. The crowd enjoyed hot chili and grilled cheese sandwiches, live music and more.

The fundraising event for the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank is an annual favorite.

This year, Ron Mosely Jr. from WKUL Radio 92.1 was the special guest emcee, introducing musicians prior to their performances.

As Brian Westbrook & the Misfits played, a passerby exclaimed, "I feel like I'm in revival!"

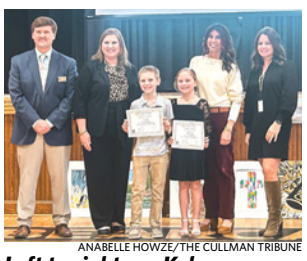
"It's very community based," Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter said of the event.

The "empty bowls" (handmade pottery bowls) given out to attendees are not only meant to be a reminder of those less fortunate in the world, but also to showcase the talent of local potters, including Sandra Heaven, Joyce Butler, Marie Rhodes, Dorothy Stroud, Mary Ellen Pinion, Lynn Jetton, Patti Bostick, Jeanie Rhodes, Anita Ballew, Ramon Daniel and Carolyn Taylor.

Attendees were fed, and the Bible verse of the night was Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."

Berlin council discusses bids, farmers market and more
» PAGE 2

City school board recognizes students, employees



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Kyle Kallhoff, Melanie Harris, Jesse and Kayleigh Tanner, Lea Casey and Cheryl Harbison.
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Ladies' Mahjong Night Feb. 19 at Terri Pines
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Damon West inspires students with 'Be a Coffee Bean' message
» PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Max



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Max
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 18, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 12
- theft of property; CR 689
- burglary; CR 703
- theft of property; CR 263
- domestic violence; CR 689

Feb. 13
- possession of drug paraphernalia; resisting arrest; CR 671
- theft of property; Hwy. 69N
- domestic violence; CR 1485
- domestic violence; resisting arrest; CR 1678
- burglary; CR 2110

Feb. 14
- menacing; I65NB MM 303
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- possession of marijuana; CR 1127

Feb. 15
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 715
- theft of property; CR 46
- criminal mischief; CR 1728
- burglary; criminal mischief; CR 25
- possession of marijuana; Lick Creek Rd.
- violation of protection order; Cherokee Ave. SW

Feb. 16
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 565
- domestic violence; CR 648
- theft of property; CR 312
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69N
- domestic violence; CR 1850
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- harassing communications; 3rd St. SE Garden City

ARRESTS

Feb. 12-15

Anders, Tyra S.; 34
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Barbee, Joshua B.; 35
- assault-domestic-menacing-strong arm

Bishop, Kenedi S.; 31
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Bowden, Crystal R.; 42
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Carr, Takyla A.; 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- resisting arrest

Eidson III, Roger D.; 43
- FTA – knowing that he does not have the consent of the owner, he takes, operates, exercises control over or otherwise uses a propelled vehicle
- FTA – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle

Guthrie, Chadwick D.; 48
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Hawkins, Brayden C.; 25
- PROBATION REVOKED – buying/receiving stolen property

Lackey, Christopher G.; 47
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

McAlister, Blake A.; 42
- assault-simple assault

McGhee, Steven L.; 69
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Nichols, Charles L.; 62
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Parson, Joey R.; 52
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Ramey, Shelton W.; 50
- PROBATION REVOKED – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Ray, Jarred C.; 22
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Riggs, Timothy R.; 38
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- resisting arrest

Spain, Dalton L.; 23
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Terry, Adam W.; 52
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)
- disorderly conduct

Williams, Walter A.; 38
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – public intoxication

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 12
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $49; Olive St. SW

Feb. 17
- theft of property-1st degree; Havoline Oil Express Lube; cash; 2nd Ave. SW
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '19 Ford Mustang; $1,000; Tally Ho St.

ARRESTS

Feb. 16-17

Reese, Lawanda M.; 49
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle
- theft of property-4th degree

Bates, Roy L.; 52
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Hill, David A.; 23
- GJ – theft of property-1st degree

Tubbs, Colton M.; 35
- attempt to elude
- receiving stolen property-1st degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Berlin (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — The Berlin Town Council at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 16, discussed bids, the Berlin Farmers Market and more.

The meeting began with council members discussing bids for mowing, bushhogging and maintenance of Town property.

There were three bidders and members motioned to award Laney Services for mowing, K&M Field Services LLC for cleaning and Branch Construction for bushhogging. All three were approved.

Mayor Patrick Bates moved on to public comments. Republican candidate for Cullman County Sheriff Tim Creel, along with his wife, Amanda, were in attendance. Creel stood and thanked the council for having him.

"I know Berlin," he started.

Creel went on to say that he has nine grandchildren and eight of them live in the county. He advised that he wants to be more thorough in his term.

On the topic of terms, he said, "I am a firm believer in term limits."

He expressed the need for a drug unit, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) taskforce and more.

Following public comments, Bates told the council they need to revisit the Rogers Group proposal for the Berlin Farmers Market, saying "We still have it and it is still valid. They will pave and stripe that parking lot for $92,924."

Councilman Keith Hardman asked about flume being constructed for better drainage in addition to the asphalt.

"I've already talked to the engineer about that months ago and, when this auction came up, he said the flume could be a significant fraction of this."

Councilman Don Bates motioned to approve the proposal for Rogers Group and Councilman Don Gunter seconded.

The mayor advised that Rogers Group stated completion of the parking lot would take 45 calendar days.

Since the work would begin the first week of March, there were some concerns with time considering the Berlin Farmers Market will open in mid-April.

The council said the Berlin Farmers Market 2026 Growers Meeting will take place on Friday, March 20, at Berlin Town Hall at 1 p.m.

For additional information, contact Berlin Town Clerk Kierstyn Montgomery at 256-736-3138 or clerk@berlinal.gov.

The next Berlin Town Council meeting will be Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall.

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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. 20 – 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.
- Saturday, Feb. 21 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
- Sunday, Feb. 22 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
- February is Love Your Library Month, and we are having a BOOK SALE the entire month. The proceeds assist our children's program. The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. North Alabama Agriplex storytime "Freddie the Fish" and book club led by Briana Taylor
- Tuesday, March 3, at 11 a.m. Spanish class with Alejandra Pena, a 16-year veteran in Spanish instruction with a bachelor's in bilingual education
- Wednesday, March 4, at 10 a.m. Summer with the Cullman Soil and Water District will read Dr. Seuss' "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?"
- Wednesday, March 11, at 10 a.m. Storytime
- Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hanceville Irish Festival and BOOK SALE
- Tuesday, March 17, at 11 a.m. Spanish class
- Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m. Storytime
- Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m. Book club
- Wednesday, March 25, at 10 a.m. Lisa L. Ellard, MSN CRNP, RN instructor, Department of Nursing Education at Wallace State Community College, will present a program on first aid for children
- Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m. Poetry Night is back! Calling all amateurs, song writers, performers to share their talents with us!

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

WWA Wyld Wrestling Alliance Event to Support Cullman County Relay For Life
Saturday, April 11, at noon at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. Doors open at noon. Bell time 6 p.m. General admission is $10, ring-side $15 and kids 5 and younger get in free. Get ready to rumble for a cause! The Cullman County Relay For Life Team Sassy Ladies is teaming up with WWA Wyld Wrestling Alliance for a high-energy fundraiser you won't want to miss! These wrestlers know a thing or two about strength, grit and fighting back — and together, we're channeling that same power straight into our mission to kick cancer's butt. Live music, wrestling and food.

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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Mahjong (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Terri Pines is inviting women of all ages to gather for Ladies' Mahjong Night on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 at its restaurant, The Veranda.

The event began after several members expressed interest in learning the game. Lindsay Eskew, who organizes the event, said she took an online class through Oh My Mahjong before purchasing several game sets and launching the first sessions in January 2025. About 16 women signed up for the initial class.

Since then, the gathering has become a monthly, beginner-friendly event. Eskew said she opted to teach the class herself after discovering that hiring a certified instructor would significantly increase participants' costs. Each session costs $30 per person and includes a buffet-style dinner that varies by month and has featured options such as Chinese cuisine, fajitas and Greek dishes. Participants may attend as a full table or sign up individually. Organizers pair newcomers with more experienced players, and beginners are often encouraged to observe before joining a game to become more comfortable with the rules.

Eskew said the event has helped foster community among women at Terri Pines, particularly in a space traditionally centered around golf, which tends to draw more male participation. The Mahjong nights attract women aged 20s to 60s.

Mahjong has seen a rise in popularity across the United States, with themed retreats and cruises dedicated to the game. Eskew said the monthly event allows local players to learn and enjoy the game close to home. In addition to the monthly gathering, private and small-group lessons are available for those who prefer a more personalized introduction to the game. Ladies' Mahjong Night is held at The Veranda at Terri Pines.

For more information or to register, interested participants can contact Terri Pines directly at 256-739-0738.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Meek Lady Tigers earn Elite Eight appearance with 63-51 win over Brilliant at Regionals

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Meek Lady Tigers faced off with the 25-8 Brilliant Lady Tigers in the first game of the AHSAA Northwest Regionals on Tuesday morning at Tom Drake Coliseum. While Brilliant's roster had an advantage in age and experience, the young Lady Tigers pulled off an impressive 63-51 win to advance to the Elite Eight.

Harden, at just 13 years old and 5-foot-8 is already one of Meek's most consistent scorers, and was tasked with guarding Brilliant's strongest player and best scorer, 5-11 senior Hadlee Sanderson.

Sanderson got hers, putting up a game-high 25 points and adding five boards, three assists and two steals, but Harden's tough on-ball defense held her to just 9-27 shooting (33.33%) from the field, including 1-7 (14%) from three.

"I've been playing basketball since I was four years old, and always being a strong defensive player, I've been working on my offense, but I always played defense against the bigger girls in AAU," Harden said, adding "Also, my team cheers me on while I have to guard their best scorers which is very helpful because even when I do mess up they're really encouraging."

In addition to her defensive stature, the Lady Tigers had plenty to cheer for on the offensive end for Harden, too.

She'd score 23 points total, shooting an efficient 7-11 (63%) from the floor and 2-3 (66.66%) from deep, adding nine rebounds, two assists and one steal and block each.

After the game went into halftime deadlocked at 29, Harden's all-around game was helped by Addie Cate Henderson and Zoe Hearn's effort to pull away late. Henderson would finish the game with 11 points, and Hearn put up 14, but the trio of young Tigers emerged especially in their perimeter defense.

Taking care of business on their end, Meek went 4-9 from the floor in the fourth, and held Brilliant to just two field goals on ten attempts late. While Brilliant's Brooke O'Mary became a threat late, picking pockets and making tough, driving layups to finish with 18 points, Meek would seal the game, fittingly, with a pair of Zarah Harden free throws.

"I'm just really proud of how well we came out and executed our game plan. They fought minute by minute. We talked in the locker room about trying to not win the game all at once, but to take it minute by minute, focus on the next moment, focus on the next play. I'm just proud of how hard they played.

"They didn't quit, you know, when they made mistakes they didn't lay down. They got right back at it the next play," head coach Britney Williams said.

The Meek Lady Tigers advance to play the winner of Athens Bible vs. Marion County.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Meek's Zarah Harden and head coach Britney Williams celebrating at the buzzer

PREP BASKETBALL

Addison overcomes shooting woes, earns first Elite Eight berth since 1972 with 47-40 win over Marion Co.

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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After their Winston County rival Meek was knocked out of the playoffs, the Addison Bulldogs took the court at Tom Drake Coliseum to face Marion County on Tuesday afternoon. The Bulldogs struggled with shot selection, went down early, failed to hit a single three-pointer and suffered a 16-6 turnover margin. Despite that, rebounding, stellar defense and a willingness to drive through contact led to the Bulldogs pulling off a gritty 47-40 win over the Red Raiders to advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in 54 years.

"Well I was Born in '72, so it puts it into perspective. You know, Addison's had a lot of great athletics programs, so getting to the Elite Eight in basketball, as a first year head coach you couldn't ask for a better administration. You couldn't ask for a better team. They set their mind on making it to Wallace, they set their mind to go as far as they can. I don't know that there's a limit to how far they can go," first year head coach Chris Lane said.

In the first quarter, the crowd was treated to a back-and-forth battle, with Marion's Samuel Taylor opening the game with a corner three, then dishing a feed to Philip Wilson for a mid-range jumper. Addison would strike back with a coast to coast layup from Joey Wilson and a pair of free throws from Elijah Roberts. Wilson and Taylor would both put in buckets for the Raiders, with Kiah Lake answering with two tough put back layups to put the Bulldogs ahead 11-9 at the end of the first.

Despite the lead, the Bulldogs shot just 4-14 in the first, with Marion's defense forcing some tough shots and the Bulldogs opting to shoot through contact far too often. That trend would continue in the second for Addison, with the Bulldogs shooting 0-6 from the floor.

The shots through contact still weren't falling, but they did often draw free throws which gave them all five of their second quarter points. On the other end, Marion County was beginning to heat up, with three straight scores from Wilson leading them to a 21-16 lead at halftime.

Out of the break, the Bulldogs got smarter, taking better shots and finding ways to finish through contact when they needed to. Roberts and Joey Wilson opened the half with driving layups, then Roberts hit a mid-range fadeaway to tie the game up at 23. The Raiders came out firing, too, and would get an and-one and a pair of threes from Taylor to put them ahead 34-35, threatening to run away with the game. A late third quarter run fueled by the interior defense of Lake made it manageable for Addison, who trailed just 34-31 heading into the final frame.

The streak would continue for the Bulldogs, who went on to open the fourth with three straight baskets from Lake, Roberts and Wilson to take a 37-34 lead. Marion threatened late, bringing it within three, but had to resort to intentional fouls with just under a minute to go. With the game on the line, Scout Flynn went to the charity stripe twice and with all the pressure of the game on his shoulders, he sank four free throws to put it out of reach, sealing Addison's trip to the Elite Eight to face Hubbertville.

Roberts led Addison in scoring with 16, earning a double-double alongside his 10 rebounds, three assists and three steals. Lake also finished with a 13-point 10-rebound double-double in addition to two steals and a block.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison's Kiah Lake celebrating the Bulldogs' victory

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Eagles avenge '25 playoff loss to Decatur Heritage with a 57-14 thrashing to advance to Elite Eight

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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Cold Springs Lady Eagles met the Decatur Heritage Lady Eagles in the final girls matchup of Tuesday night at Tom Drake Coliseum.

After Cold Springs' 61-41 loss to Decatur Heritage in the 2025 Elite Eight, head coach Paige Adams admitted there was a chip on their shoulder, which was clear on the floor.

In an unbelievable performance, Cold Springs shot 44.7% from the floor and 42% from deep, as well as forcing more turnovers (19) then they allowed points on the way to a 57-14 rout of Decatur Heritage.

"I think we came out and played with no fear, we had a lot of veterans on the floor from last year who knew what that felt like to be put out by this team, so we had a little vengeance out for them. We were very prepared, and we executed well," Adams said.

Leading the charge was Lady Eagles star Ella Dickerson, who scored 22 points, grabbed eight rebounds and recorded two steals.

Aleah Addison tacked on 16 points, and Hollyn Bruer recorded six points along with a stellar seven assists, with the Lady Eagles' veteran players putting the game comfortably out of reach by halftime.

With that, Adams used the closing minutes of each half to give hard playoff experience to some of her underclassman, like eighth grader Kotie Calvert and future Lady Eagle sharpshooter Hagen Ellis, a ninth grader.

"They're the future of the program, and they look up to these girls right here.

"They've been there, they've set the stage but it's important for them because we rely heavily on an eighth grader and a freshman off the bench.

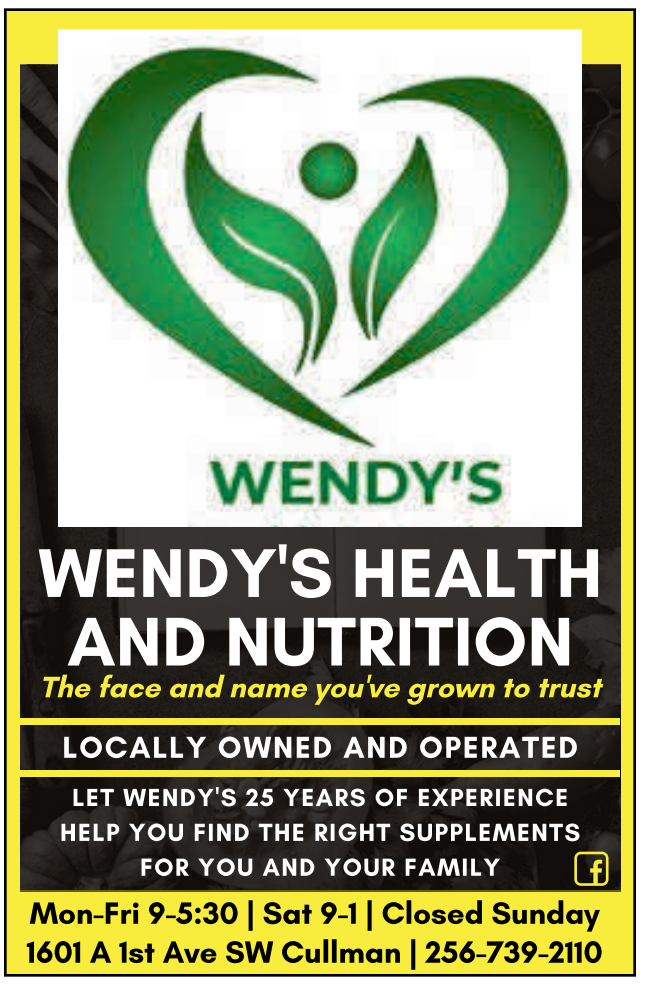
"So, getting their feet wet and not letting the spotlight get to them- they're the most cool, calm and collected kids you'll ever meet. It's exciting for me, for the future to know they already have this experience under their belt moving forward," Adams said on getting to play her underclassmen.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Ella Dickerson







PREP BASKETBALL

Cold Springs knocks off Decatur Heritage in overtime, clinches spot in Elite Eight for first time in 30 years

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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Day one of the 2026 NW Regionals at Wallace State Community College concluded with a top 10 matchup in the varsity boys division between Decatur Heritage and Cold Springs. Four quarters wasn't enough to decide a winner in this contest, so it would be decided in overtime. Some big shots by Ayden Black and some clutch free throws by Cash Dickerson in overtime helped Cold Springs knock off top-ranked Decatur Heritage, 65-58, to move on to the Elite Eight for the first time since the 1995-96 season.

Breydon Hallmon hit a pair of early baskets down low to give Cold Springs an early 4-3 lead. Later in the quarter, Lindan Hill collected a rebound and putback and later added a driving layup off of a Decatur Heritage turnover to put the Eagles ahead, 8-5. Decatur Heritage responded with a trio of treys to grab a 14-8 lead. Cash Dickerson drilled a three from the top of the key to cut it to 14-11 with a little over two minutes to go in the first quarter. Hill collected the steal and took it coast-to-coast for the make and the foul. He ended up hitting the free throw to complete the three-point play, as that cut it to 15-14. A late basket by Decatur Heritage gave them a 17-14 lead going into the second.

Hill put the offensive rebound back up and in to make it a 17-16 game early in the second. Decatur Heritage responded with eight straight points to grab a 25-16 lead. Cold Springs answered right back with a run of their own. Ethan Day found Dickerson down low for two, then Dickerson connected with Hill for two, and Wyatt Barker added a basket down low to trim it to three at 25-22. A Decatur Heritage three gave them a 28-22 lead, but Barker split his free throws to cut it to 28-23, then Hallmon put in the final basket of the first half down low to make it a 28-25 game at the half.

Cold Springs got off to an electrifying start to the second half. Their opening possession saw Day connect with Hill for a two-handed thunderous slam, then Hill tipped the ball in and Ayden Black found Dickerson in the right wing for three to give the Eagles a 32-28 lead. Later in the third, Dickerson split his free throws and knocked down a floater after collecting the steal to put Cold Springs ahead, 35-30. Decatur Heritage drained a three to cut it to 35-34 late in the third. Dickerson knocked down a pair of free throws, Ayden Black found Hill down low for two, and Hill added a pair of free throws to give the Eagles a 41-38 lead. A pair of late free throws by Decatur Heritage made it a 41-40 game going into the final period.

Dickerson dropped in a floater, and Hallmon laid it in to put Cold Springs ahead, 45-40. Black drove to the lane and laid it in to widen the Eagle lead to 47-40 with a little over five minutes to go in the contest. Decatur Heritage went on a 7-1 run to cut it to 48-47 at the midway point of the fourth quarter. A rebound and putback by Hallmon and a short jumper by Day gave Cold Springs a 52-49 lead with less than two minutes to go in regulation. A trey by Decatur Heritage tied the game up at 52, and neither team was able to break the tie before the end of regulation, so the game would be decided in overtime.

Decatur Heritage took the lead in overtime on a short jumper. Hallmon collected a rebound and putback, then he found Ayden Black at the top of the key for three to give the Eagles a 57-54 lead. Later in overtime, Black banked in a trey from the left corner to make it a 60-56 game. A rebound and putback by Decatur Heritage cut it to 60-58, but Dickerson hit five out of six free throws to help seal Cold Springs' 65-58 thrilling win in overtime over Decatur Heritage, as they move on to the Elite Eight for the first time in 30 years.

Dickerson finished with 21 points for the Eagles. Hill wasn't too far behind with 19 points. Hallmon put in 12 points, and Black ended up with eight points.

Coach Drew Adams was proud of the way that his team fought against a really good Decatur Heritage squad. He loved getting that first win in the Sweet 16 under his belt, and he also loved how much the younger players have grown from this playoff experience so far.

"Decatur Heritage is really, really good. They have three really good players on that team. I didn't know how this game was going to go. I knew our guys were tough, but to get up, then to see them tie the game up, and to just gut it out in overtime, that shows incredible toughness. I'm so proud of them," Adams said. "This is a first time for me too. I've been fortunate to have been in Sweet 16s, but this is the first one I've ever gotten. It's a testament to our seniors, Ayden and Tycen, and then our young dudes, we had 10th graders and an eighth grader out there, battling it out against a team that's generally in the Final Four every year. I'm so proud of their toughness."

The Eagles will face off against Red Bay next Monday morning at 10:45 a.m., and coach Adams knows it will take a lot to get past the Tigers next Monday.

"Red Bay's really good. They might have the best big in Class 2A. He's an absolute stud. They're extremely well-coached. Their coach does a great job with them, and their guard play is really good. We respect the crap out of them, but we didn't get to enjoy the Sub-Region win because we only had two days to prep instead of six days. We'll enjoy this win for 24 hours, and we'll get to work." Adams said.

Junior Breydon Hallmon was happy to see his team get a big win against a very good Decatur Heritage team, and he has enjoyed making history alongside some great teammates.

"We had a lot of outside influences in the game, the kids telling us we were going to lose, and all around the county. Everybody doubted us, but we gutted it out, because we got here. We clicked. We were working as a team, and you can do anything as a team. We got (Lindan) Hill and (Cash) Dickerson. They're the greatest teammates I've ever had," Hallmon said. "Our record doesn't show it, but we've had many ups and downs and playing down to teams. When we played Jasper before the area tournament got underway, we got drilled, and we realized how bad we really were. It gave us something to work towards, for moments like this. It's amazing making history like that. You don't ever realize it, but each step that we take, we make history. It's just been a blessing."

Hallmon is so proud to see how far the younger players have come this season, and the team will look to use this as momentum going into their matchup against Red Bay next Monday.

"It's been a blessing playing alongside Lindan and Cash. It's been a blessing teaching them. I'm only a year or two ahead of them, and Cash is in eighth grade. Lindan's in 10th. They're like my little brothers. I get to help them and coach them up. Sometimes, we lose our heads, but we get right back in it. Lindan has improved so much. Wyatt Barker's like my little brother as well. We play the same position, we're the same size, we love battling day in and day out in practice. It's fun having a guy that's the same size as you, and Wyatt has busted my tail every day at practice. He plays his role, and he understands what he has to do when he goes in," Hallmon said. "We just beat a really good Decatur Heritage team. Red Bay's really, really good. If we keep this momentum that we have going right now, I think we have a chance to knock them off."

Sophomore Lindan Hill soaked up so much from playing in the Sweet 16 for the first time. He has enjoyed playing with his teammates in his first full year up on varsity, and they will have to play that same way next week against the Tigers.

"We played our butts off. They had the lead at the beginning of the third, and I caught a lob coming out of the locker room. That kind of set us up on our run, and we ended up getting up by five or six. They're an amazing team. They just kept battling back and battling back. I'm just so blessed to have my boys. This is a surreal experience that not many people get to enjoy, and I'm loving every second of it," Hill said. "This team has a bunch of great guys. We hold each other accountable, and we love each other so much. We think so highly of each other, and I'm so blessed to be a part of it. I love my boys, and just being able to help out this team is the greatest accomplishment I'll ever have. We were pretty good underdogs in this game, and we came in, and we beat Decatur Heritage. If we just play how we did tonight, we'll have a chance to make it to the Final Four."

Eighth grader Cash Dickerson took away so much from playing in the Sweet 16 for the first time. He's had a blast playing with some great teammates, and they will get prepared for Red Bay next week.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cold Springs' Lindan Hill

"Coach Adams put us on this court multiple times this season, so we're really used to it by now. I've played in big games for most of my life coming up through basketball. This one meant a little bit more, though, because this is my first time playing in the playoffs. This was great. We've got a bunch of guys out here that really believe in each other, and when you've got that, you've got nothing to worry about," Dickerson said. "We just have to trust in each other. We got down late. We went up. They got down, and they sent it to overtime. We just trusted our guys to hit shots for us. Ayden hit the three in the corner. He hit back-to-back, and that's just who he is. We trust that. It's been great. We love each other. We're here for each other, no matter what, and win or lose, we're just here for each other."

Cash added, "We've got a tough team next week, so we're going to prepare, just like we always do, go hard with them, and just come out here and play ball on Monday."

PREP BASKETBALL

Mars Hill's Belle Hill, No. 1 recruit in the AL class of '28, drops 41 as Holly Pond falls to the Panthers 68-38

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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Holly Pond Broncos opened up day two of the NW Regionals with a 9 a.m. matchup against the no. 2-ranked Mars Hill Panthers on Wednesday morning with a trip to the Elite Eight on the line.

The Panthers, led by the 2028 no. 1 girls basketball recruit in the state in Belle Hill, got out to a quick lead and more than doubled up the Broncos in paint points and second chance points on the way to a 68-38 win.

The Broncos struggled to contain Hill, who holds offers from Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn and Michigan State among many other top programs.

She'd go on to score 41 points, grab 14 rebounds, dish two assists and notch four blocks and steals each.

She got out to a hot start, scoring six in the Panthers 10-0 run to open the game. The Lady Broncos finally found their first bucket on a mid-range jumper from Ava Thomas.

After another bucket from Hill, who muscled her way through the Broncos interior defense, Holly Pond got a three to fall from Maggie Nail and a layup from Thomas that bounced in at the buzzer to make it a 16-7 Mars Hill lead at the end of the first.

After starting to settle down, make better reads and take open shots when they seldom came, the Broncos found some offensive rhythm in the second.

A three and a driving lay from Thomas got points on the board, but Holly Pond was still unable to slow down Hill, who scored 11 straight for the Panthers to stretch the lead to 29-15 mid-way through the second.

A three from Madison Butts and a pair of free throws and a jumper from Sadie Nail closed out the half for Holly Pond, who went into the break trailing 34-19.

The entirety of the second half went much like the second, with Holly Pond finding buckets on occasion, namely from Thomas and Maggie Nail, but responding runs by Hill all but nullified them. In the end, the Lady Broncos fell 68-38 in the Sweet Sixteen match, ending their season after a 13-15 campaign.

Leading Holly Pond was Thomas with 14 points, and six rebounds, followed by Maggie Nail with nine points, four rebounds and three assists.

PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont fights back, but comes up short in 47-45 loss to Lauderdale Co. in the Sweet Sixteen

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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Vinemont Lady Eagles, on the cusp of their first Elite Eight appearance since 1995, met defending 3A State Champion Lauderdale Co. Lady Tigers on Wednesday afternoon at Tom Drake Coliseum. The Lady Tigers got off to a hot start, but Vinemont stormed back to take the lead before halftime. After trading scoring runs, Lauderdale Co. would hang on to win a 47-45 thriller, ending Vinemont's spectacular season that saw them win their area for the first time in two decades.

A slow start fueled by forced shots, turnovers and stifling perimeter defense put the Lady Eagles in 17-6 a hole in the first quarter. It's a situation Vinemont has been in often this season, and they responded in true Lady Eagle fashion.

After an Ansley Shelton driving layup put Lauderdale up 11 just seconds into the second, Addison Holcomb finished through contact to light the fuse for a Lady Eagle offensive explosion. Reagan Robinson forced turnovers, hit jumpers and made free throws and Caroline Miller and Arleigh Thomason drained threes in what would end as a 19-2 Vinemont run to put them ahead 26-20 heading into halftime.

The Lady Tigers, coming out of the break, would counter with a 10-0 opening run where Vinemont struggled to get their feet back under them, with forced and unforced turnovers stunting their offense as well as Robinson struggling to get shots to fall. Tiger guard Madison Mobley, who went into the half with two points, would start her second half-heater with a pair of layups and center Emory Owens wore down the interior, fighting her way to a pair of buckets.

Trailing 30-26, Vinemont found a spark from Thomason, who nailed a three from the top of the key, then stole a pass which led to Vayda Yarbrough getting to the line to tie it up at 30. Owens and Robinson traded buckets, then Mobley put in a layup at the buzzer to give the Tigers a slight 34-32 lead heading into the final frame.

Mobley stayed hot, nailing a corner three to open the fourth, then hit another after a pair of Robinson free throw makes, threatening to run away with the win.

With the season on the line, Yarbrough stepped up for the Lady Eagles with Robinson and Miller struggling. She'd drain a three from the top of the arc then hit a layup on the next possession to make it just a 40-39 deficit.

The Tigers grabbed momentum back with a short jumper from Ansley Shelton, then Mobley would drain yet another three to stretch the lead. Robinson shook off her shooting struggles and tied it up with a pair of driving layups, but after a Mobley mid-range jumper, the Eagles were unable to get one last shot to fall, sealing a 47-45 Lauderdale Co. win.

Robinson, despite shooting 6-21, led Vinemont with 19 points, grabbed eight boards, recorded four assists and stole nine passes. Holcomb scored nine, nearly notching a double-double alongside her ten rebounds.

Board (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City School Board opened its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at East Elementary School by recognizing employees and students for their achievements.

Lexi Collins, a paraprofessional who joined East Elementary this school year and works with special education students, was recognized for her hard work and impact.

The board also recognized certified employee Ms. Faulk, who began teaching at East Elementary in 1990. After teaching third grade for 12 years and fourth grade for 16 years, she transitioned six years ago into a reading, math and intervention role.

East Elementary students Jesse and Kayleigh Tanner were also celebrated for their artwork featured in the 2026 State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit. Jesse Tanner earned second place in the third- and fourth-grade two-dimensional division for his painting, "My Best Friend." Kayleigh Tanner was named Best of Show in the elementary two-dimensional acrylic division for her piece, "My Favorite Place."

The December 2025 financial report was presented, marking the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. Revenues were reported at 32% and expenditures at 26.25%, figures that are typical for this time of year due to the collection of ad valorem taxes. The system reported a $13.9 million fund balance and approximately four months of reserves in the general fund. December sales tax collections were up 6% compared to the previous year, but January and February collections are trending lower. Ad valorem tax revenue is up 3%, which the board said may help offset any sales tax declines.

Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff also recognized several schools honored at a recent Alabama State Board of Education meeting in Montgomery. The counseling programs at Cullman City Primary School, West Elementary, Cullman Middle School and Cullman High School were named Programs of Distinction. He noted that February is National School Counseling Month and Career and Technical Education Month, highlighting the district's career-tech offerings and the ongoing construction of a $13.5 million facility at Cullman High School.

Kallhoff encouraged families to prioritize attendance as students prepare for the upcoming ACT and ACAP state assessments.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, at 5 p.m. at the district's main office.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Left to right are Kyle Kallhoff, Melanie Harris, Jesse and Kayleigh Tanner, Lea Casey and Cheryl Harbison.

Max (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — Max is a 4-year-old German Shepherd with medium energy and a presence that immediately puts you at ease. He's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

This unassuming fellow has manners and a kind soul. He respects your personal space and carries himself with quiet confidence. When you offer him a treat, he will ever so gently take it from your hand – a small gesture that says so much about his temperament.

Max is not pushy. He is not chaotic. He is steady. He would make the perfect therapy or companion dog for someone looking for loyalty without overwhelming energy. He thrives in calm connection and simple companionship.

His adoption fee has been reduced to just $35. He is already neutered, which makes this an incredible opportunity, but it is not indicative of his worth. Max is priceless in heart and character. His fee helps cover vaccinations, microchipping, routine veterinary care and the many unseen costs that go into preparing animals like Max 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 Max happens to be adopted by the time you call or visit, please take a moment to meet the many other dogs waiting for their forever homes. There is always another soul hoping for someone just like you.

A praise report: Last week's Pet of the Week Gambino has been adopted! "Thank you, LORD. We are grateful for Your hand on this shelter and all you provide!" said a shelter volunteer.



Obituary Announcements: Feb. 17-18

Linda Myrick Stewart, 77
Celebration of Life visitation for Linda Kay Myrick Stewart, age 77 of Cullman, will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Stewart passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, at UAB Hospital surrounded by friends and family. Born on Jan. 29, 1949, Linda was a kind-hearted, hard working individual. She was known for her patience and being a devoted mother. She enjoyed Alabama football, casino trips with her friends and always had a book in her hand. Linda was a cherished soul and her memory will continue to bring smiles to all that new her. She was a loving mother to her sons, Shane (Lisa Hanes) Stewart, Shawn Stewart, Patrick (Chasity) Stewart, and Brian Stewart. Linda was a proud grandmother and enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow; Zoe Stewart, Jorja Stewart, Lexi Stewart, Courtney Stewart, Cheyanne Martinez & Savannah Barnett. Blessed with a special friend, Peggy (Jimmy) Lynn and family; her bonus grandchildren, Morgan, Billy, Timmy, Whitney, Aaron, Jaxon, Jrake, Jetson, Harley and Carley. Linda's family extended to; brother, Bruce Myrick; and nephew, Johnny Myrick. She was predeceased by parents, John Ellis and Fannie Ethel (Herndon) Myrick; husband, Charles Stewart; brother, Ralph Myrick and sister, Carolyn Myrick.

Wesley Gene (Wes) Yeager, 46
Funeral Service for Wesley Gene (Wes) Yeager, age 46 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. He will lie in state from noon–2 p.m. on Wednesday at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Shane Hicks will be officiating. Burial will be at Concord Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Yeager passed away on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026, at his residence. He was born July 6, 1979, to Walter Eugene Yeager and Shearld Thomas. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Eugene Yeager; grandparents, Harold and Vercie Yeager and Norman and Aileen Smith; stepbrothers, Eli Thomas & Nathan Thomas; uncles, Jimmy Yeager and Jerry Yeager. Harold Smith, Darrell Smith and Gearld Smith. Survivors include his mother, Shearld Thomas (Jeff); brothers, Christopher Yeager and Michael Yeager; girlfriend, Marie Norris; stepmother, Jill Green; stepbrother, Rocky Wren; stepsister, Mahalla Wren and a host of aunts and uncles, extended family and friends. Wesley Yeager was very loved in his community. He was the one to make anyone laugh at any moment. His heart was made of gold and he lived to help people any chance he could. The way Wesley enjoyed helping those around him is something that truly touched everyone in his path. Wesley loved and trusted in the Lord. His family was the most valuable thing to him on earth. He cherished every moment with his family and extended families and friends. Wesley was always the first to arrive and the last to leave any family function. His hard work and dedication to serving those around him will live on forever. Wesley's memory will live on in the laughter he shared, the kindness he showed, and the countless lives he touched. Though he will be deeply missed, his family finds comfort in knowing his legacy of love, faith, and generosity will continue through all who knew him. 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Margaret Merrell Gorham, 76
Graveside Service for Margaret Merrell Gorham, age 76 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, at Welti Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Gorham passed away on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, at Cullman Regional. She was born, May 12, 1949, to Aubrey Thompson and Margaret Alred Thompson. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her wife of 35 years, Kelly Gorham Collins; daughter, Lindsay (Garry) Spore; son, Billy (Andrea) Collins; grandchildren, Daulton (Macy) Spore, Zachary (Kailey) Merrell, Hunter (Kyndal) Vessels, Peyton Spore, Rowan Collins and Tadan Collins. Margaret taught in Killeen, Texas for 33 years. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was also a member of the Cullman Moose Lodge.

Sandra Sloan, 79
Celebration of Life service for Sandra Sloan, age 79 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Jim Taylor officiating. Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Sloan passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, at her residence. She was born, Dec. 5, 1946, to Earl Wilkey and Maxine Wilkey. She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Bob Sloan. Survivors include her daughters, Stephanie (Steve) Wright, Laura (Julie) Sloan, and Wendy Steele; grandchildren, James (Ivy) Wright, Jacob Wright, Brittany Bassett, Elizabeth (Tyler) Donovan; great grandchildren, Stella Wright, Savannah Bassett, Charlie Bassett, Grayson Bassett, Ethan Real, Zachary Real, Whyitt Donovan, Sophia Donovan; sisters, Susan (Manny) Vallin, Barbara (Buddy) Sisson, Leanne (David) Smith; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Juanita Jackson, 84
Funeral services for Juanita Jackson, 84, of Hanceville will be 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Burial will follow the service at Colony Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, Feb. 20, from 5-7 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. IN LOVING MEMORY OF MS. JUANITA JACKSON On Feb. 13, 2026, our beloved Ms. Juanita Jackson left this earthly life to return to the open arms of her creator. Juanita Jackson was born Aug. 11, 1941, in Brownsville, Tennessee to the late Percy and Jannie Jones. In her later life she became a resident of Detroit, Michigan where she met her late husband, Rufus Jackson. She also began her career as a cosmetologist. Rufus and Juanita became the proud parents of three sons. After retiring both Rufus and Juanita became residents of Hanceville, Alabama. Juanita was known for her gentle, sweet, caring nature and hospitality. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers Davis and John Jones, and granddaughter Shawndrea Lathan and great granddaughter Dejaye Johnson. Juanita is survived by her three sons LaMarr Jones (Patty), Shawn Jones (Comedia), and Rufus Jones. One daughter, Tammi Johnson (David) Two brothers, James Jones, and Percy Jones Jr. One sister Roberta Bells. Fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, and nephews. For 84 years Juanita lived a life marked by strength, convictions, and deep love for her family. She was a woman of steady courage and undeniable presence—a true Leo in spirit. Juanita carried herself with confidence and dignity. When she entered a room, you felt her strength before she even spoke. Yet behind that strength was a nurturing heart. Juanita loved fiercely. She protected her family. She guided us. She disciplined us in her own way—not out of harshness, but out of hope. She saw who we could become, and she refused to let us settle for less. (THAT'S OUR MOMMA) The Bible says in Proverbs 31:25, "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." That scripture reflects Juanita's life. She endured challenges with grace. She faced adversity with resilience. Even when life tested her, she remained firm in her faith and unwavering in her commitment to her family.

Sue Rice Evans, 87
Sue Rice Evans, 87 years old from Hanceville, Alabama, died on Feb. 15, 2025, at home. Funeral services will be at Moss Service Funeral Home at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, with Revered Danny Freeman officiating. The family will welcome friends and family from noon–2 p.m. Burial will take place at Union Hill Cemetery in Hanceville. Sue was registered nurse. She loved to cook and was known for feeding her community. She loved to read and tried her hand at sewing once she retired. She was an active member of the Cullman County Democrats and was a beat committee chairperson at her voting precinct for 50 plus years. She was a member of Union Hill Church of Christ. Sue was born April 28, 1938, to Fannie Moody Rice and Elbert Rice. Sue was predeceased by her parents; husband, Daniel Evans; brother, Marion Rice; son, Blake Evans and grandson, Colton Evans (son of Brant Evans and Beth Evans). Sue is survived by Sheila Miller Evans (widow of Blake Evans); son Brant Evans and his children Jesse Evans and Garrett Evans; son Drew Evans and his wife Leann Lamar Evans and their children Lauren Grace Evans and Landon Evans; daughter Brooke Evans Freeman and her husband Brent Freeman and their son Luke Freeman. She is also survived by her goddaughter, April White Bloomingburg. Pallbearers are Drew Evans, Brant Evans, Brent Freeman, Jesse Evans, Garrett Evans and Landon Evans.

Terri Anne Wix, 63
Terri Wix, a beloved, hard-working, and resilient woman, passed away on Feb. 16, 2026, at the age of 63. Born on Aug. 14, 1962, Terri was a cherished resident of Cullman, Alabama. Terri is survived by her devoted husband, Anthony Wix. She leaves behind her loving children, Brian (Judith) Erwin, and Amanda (Alex) Ayers. Terri was also a proud grandmother to her granddaughters, Addison, River, and Rylee. Her sister, Susan Sims, and step-son, Aaron Wix, also mourn her passing. Terri was preceded in death by her parents, A B and Sue Owens, her first husband, Rickey Erwin, and her brother, Ronnie Owens. Terri Wix will be remembered for her dedication to her family and her enduring spirit. There will be a Memorial Service for Mrs. Terri at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at Bethlehem Methodist Church, 2830 Beech Grove Rd., Hanceville, AL, 35077. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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

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Damon West inspires students with 'Be a Coffee Bean' message

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Recently, Cullman County Schools students in grades 7-12 had the opportunity to hear from nationally recognized speaker Damon West as he delivered his powerful message, "Be a Coffee Bean."

West encouraged students to reflect on how they respond to challenges and adversity, sharing how individuals can choose to rise above difficult circumstances and positively impact the environment around them. Through personal stories and meaningful lessons, students were challenged to live with resilience, character and purpose.

"CCBOE is proud to offer opportunities like this for our students, bringing in speakers and experiences that inspire growth, leadership and positive decision-making both inside and outside the classroom," the district said.

"The message of being a 'coffee bean' — transforming the world around you rather than being changed by it — will continue to resonate with students long after these two impactful days."



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Damon West speaks to Cullman County Schools students.

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LEGALS

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 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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT

STATE OF ALABAMA *
* CASE NO. PC 2025-412
CULLMAN COUNTY *

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

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

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 comer 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 McSwain
Circuit Clerk
Cullman County, Alabama.

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