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WEATHER

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

West Point downs Priceville 65-32 to advance to Elite Eight

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County moves water and sanitation billing in-house after CEC discontinues service

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County will bring its water and sanitation billing operations in-house after Cullman Electric Cooperative informed County officials it would discontinue billing services later this year. The Tribune first reported this change earlier this month.

Around July 2025, Cullman Electric Cooperative approached the County to discuss ending its longstanding role in billing Cullman County Water and Sanitation customers.

The move prompted County leadership to begin evaluating alternative software providers and long-term cost structures.

Cullman County Administrator John Bullard said the County immediately began researching vendors capable of handling utility billing internally.

"Around July of 2025, the Cullman Electric Cooperative approached us to discuss discontinuing billing for Cullman County Water and Sanitation services," Bullard said. "This began a search for software providers to bring the billing in-

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Redstone celebrates 75 years with 'Acts of Brightness'

Chasady Woods
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Redstone Federal Credit Union is not only celebrating its 75th anniversary, but recently opened its newest branch at 1202 Second Ave. NW (U.S. Highway 31) in Cullman. The grand opening took place on Feb. 12. with a huge turnout. Many stated it was the largest they had seen from the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

To serve the community, Redstone has created the "Acts of Brightness" campaign. It launched in late January and will continue through November.

RFCU Social Media Manager Kira La Scola stated, "We want to give back to the community and the people that we serve."

Acts of Brightness is centered around aiding the community by handling expenses and lessening burden. RFCU aims to surprise Cullman residents while they shop and take care of essential needs. For example, since the credit union opened, the Brightness Crew has paid for residents' utility bills, groceries, gas and more.

The locations for these acts of brightness are not disclosed beforehand. The Brightness Crew meets before their outings to be debriefed and carpool to various locations.

On Feb. 20, the Brightness Crew set out to serve the community yet again, gathering at the branch for a briefing before going to the Shell gas station at 1408 Second Ave. SW and Warehouse Discount Groceries in the Town Square Shopping Center.

At the grocery store, the Brightness Crew set out to notify customers currently in the store to fill their carts, while other members waited at the entrance to notify staff and any customers entering the doors.

As the morning gave way to afternoon the crew took on new roles such as helping the staff bag items, helping individuals shop and covering expenses for every customer.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Redstone Federal Credit Union Brightness Crew and Warehouse Discount Groceries Town Square Manager Robert Lindsey

When asked how it felt to have his groceries paid for, Cullman's David Lane laughed, "It feels wonderful. I had just opened an account there last week."

Redstone's Acts of Brightness reached more than just shoppers present at Warehouse Discount Groceries.

Another shopper, Vicky Reynolds told The Tribune, "That was $295 worth of groceries! I was coming in here for my grandmother and my neighbor, my friend; she has children and is sick as a dog. That took a huge weight off my shoulders."

Not a single Brightness Crew member stood still during their time at the local grocery store. Several individuals and families coming in for a small grocery run left with a week's worth of food. Those shopping for dog food were supplied with enough to last for months and even employees were able to have groceries and items provided by Acts of Brightness.

Said La Scola, "It's very important to us to get into the community and see the faces that come into the branches, getting them things that they need and making people's day bright!"

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Suspect apprehended after burglary, chase; 16 stolen firearms recovered



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colton McCoy Tubbs

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Gentry says he'll call for rate hearing as power bills climb across Alabama

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CMS, CHS pageants today

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Nominations open for 2026 Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

» PAGE 6



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 20, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 17

- possession of dangerous drugs; illegal possession of prescription drugs; possession of marijuana; using false ID to avoid arrest; US. 31
- theft of property; CR 437
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1564
- possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E

Feb. 18

- possession of marijuana; Hwy. 69S
- harassment; Hwy. 157
- trespassing; CR 718
- theft of property; CR 587

ARRESTS

Feb. 16-18

Bales, Billy W.; 50
- assault-domestic-harassment-family (2 counts)

Bigbee, Travis C.; 33
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Bryant, Paul R.; 64
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Buckelew, Mikki; 58
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cooper, Patrick S.; 46
- FTA – failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restrictions (3 counts)

Donaldson, Danny R.; 38
- possession of cocaine
- possession of dangerous drugs
- using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Floyd, Keith T.; 61
- FTA – possessing forged instrument

James, Latosha M.; 43
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Johnson, Johnathan S.; 45
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Johnson, Julie K.; 27
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Jones, Christopher B.; 29
- auto theft
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Martin, Abraham J.; 48
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Martin, Dannal J.; 42
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Millican, Samantha N.; 35
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia

Moore, Rusty C.; 47
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Motsinger, Aiden D.; 18
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Olver-Astrain, Angel I.; 23
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Requena, William J.; 34
- FTA – theft-pickpocket, $500-less than $1500
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Roberts, Joshua D.; 44
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)

Seals, Sharon D.; 52
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Simpson, Sonya M.; 44
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Southworth, Jarrod B.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Vincent, Jordan V.; 33
- GJ – assault-child abuse-simple-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 18

- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications; person
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; refrigerator; $800; 3rd Ave. NE
- theft by deception; person; cash; $1,000

ARRESTS

Feb. 18-19

Chambers, Rodney A.; 45
- theft of property-4th degree

Turney, Aaron K.; 35
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts)
- FTA – insurance violation

Drummond, Andrew B.; 29
- FTA – improper lights

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Suspect (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Items allegedly recovered from the stolen vehicle

CULLMAN, Ala. — An Oakman, Alabama man was arrested Tuesday, Feb. 17, following the burglary of a pawn shop in Decatur and a high-speed pursuit down Interstate 65. The Cullman Police Department said Colton McCoy Tubbs has been charged with first-degree receiving stolen property and attempting to elude a law enforcement officer, a felony.

CPD Dispatch received an areawide BOLO that night at approximately 10:52 p.m. from the Decatur Police Department regarding a stolen 2001 red Toyota Solara that had just been used in the burglary.

"During the burglary, several firearms and a large quantity of ammunition were reported stolen," Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said.

"The BOLO advised that the vehicle was possibly traveling southbound on I-65. Dispatch relayed the information to CPD patrol officers, who began canvassing the I-65 corridor."

At approximately 10:57 p.m., Officer Joshua Spinks located a vehicle matching the BOLO description at a gas station on Alabama Highway 157 near Exit 310.

"Officer Spinks confirmed the license plate matched the stolen vehicle as it exited the gas station and attempted a traffic stop as the vehicle merged onto I-65 southbound," Duncan said.

"The driver failed to yield and fled, initiating a high-speed pursuit. The vehicle continued southbound on I-65 at a high rate of speed. Near mile marker 297, the driver abruptly stopped, exited the vehicle and fled on foot into a wooded area."

CPD officers, assisted by deputies with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, pursued the suspect into the woods and located him hiding in dense brush.

Tubbs, 35, was taken into custody without incident.

A search of the vehicle allegedly resulted in the recovery of 16 firearms stolen during the Decatur burglary. Further investigation allegedly determined the vehicle had been reported stolen earlier that day from Nashville, Tennessee.

The CPD said additional charges are expected as the investigation continues in coordination with assisting agencies.

Duncan commended Spinks for his alertness, decisive action and commitment to public safety.

"His quick recognition of the suspect vehicle and immediate response played a critical role in the successful apprehension of the suspect and the recovery of stolen firearms," Duncan said.

"I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Decatur Police Department for their assistance in this case."

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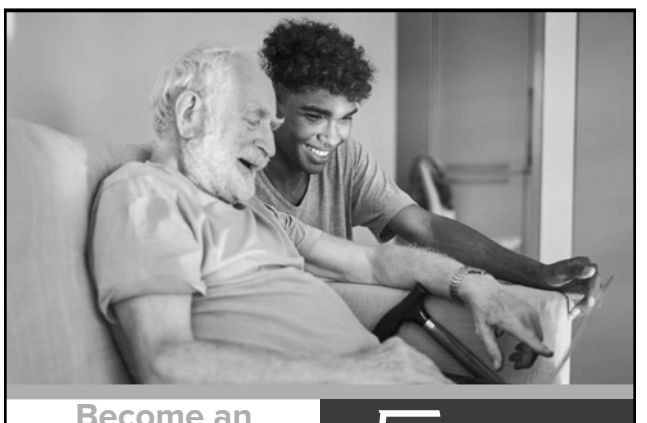
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Gentry (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, a Republican candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1, on Feb. 20, released the following statement calling for a public rate hearing to address rising utility costs across the state:

"Over the past several months, I've traveled across Alabama meeting with citizens, consumers, farmers, and small business owners. No matter where I go, from rural communities to growing cities, the message is almost universal with Republicans: the people want a public rate hearing. They want transparency. They want answers. And they want relief from some of the highest power bills in the nation.

"Alabama families are working hard, but many are feeling squeezed by rising utility costs. The people deserve the opportunity to be heard in a full, open, and transparent rate hearing. That's how accountability works. When I'm elected as the next PSC Commissioner, I will call for a public rate hearing as the first order of business.

"I've stood shoulder to shoulder with good citizens all my life to protect them from those who have bad intentions. I do not support efforts to remove Public Service Commissioners from being elected by the people. The PSC belongs to the citizens of Alabama, not political insiders. If elected, I will fight to protect the people's right to vote and to ensure their voices are heard."



CONTRIBUTED

Matt Gentry

Key dates

- Primary Election: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
- Primary Runoff Election: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 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
- 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

Cullman Lions Club Fish & Ham Dinner
Saturday, Feb. 28, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Cullman Middle School lunchroom. Cost is $15. Club supports vision, diabetes and local charities.

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, ringside $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

CORRECTIONS

In the Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, print edition of The Cullman Tribune, there were two stories with names misspelled. In "Empty Bowls feeds multitude," Carol McLee should be Carol McFee. In "Ladies' Mahjong Night Feb. 19 at Terri Pines," Lindsay Eskew should be Lindsey Eskew. We regret the errors.



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PREP BASKETBALL

Good Hope knocks off Deshler 60-50 to clinch spot in Elite Eight for third straight season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — For the sixth straight season, the Good Hope Lady Raiders and the Deshler Lady Tigers did battle in the Regional Semifinals on Tuesday night with a spot in the Elite Eight on the line. It was a tight battle in the first half, with Good Hope holding onto a slim lead at the break. Deshler took the lead in the third, but a late run by the Lady Raiders saw them claim a lead that they wouldn't relinquish the rest of the way, as they ended up defeating the Lady Tigers 60-50 to move on to the Elite Eight for the third straight season.

Lexi Marshall got the scoring started for Good Hope with a three from the right corner, the start of what would be a great night for the senior. Sophie Konrad knocked down a short jumper to give the Lady Raiders an early 5-2 lead. A Lady Tiger trey tied things up at five, and both teams would trade mini runs and baskets for the majority of the first period. Another three by Deshler gave them a 13-12 lead late in the first, but a pair of baskets in the paint by Lucie Adams and Konrad put Good Hope ahead 16-13. The Lady Tigers drilled another trey and added a free throw to give them a 17-16 lead, but Ella Gossett buried a three from the right wing to give the Lady Raiders a 19-17 lead going into the second period.

Marshall drilled her third trey of the first half from the right corner, and Ella Davis scored the next four points for Good Hope to give them a 26-22 lead. Marshall's fourth three of the game and a pair of free throws by Gossett widened the Lady Raider lead to 31-24. Two quick treys by the Lady Tigers cut it to 31-30 late in the first half, but Marshall's red-hot first half concluded with a layup, as Good Hope would take a 33-30 lead into the locker room.

Deshler started the second half on fire, going on a 10-3 run to take a 40-36 lead with 4:31 remaining in the third. It was Good Hope's turn to go on a run of their own, and Marshall got things started with her fifth three of the game, and Konrad scored three to give them a 42-40 lead. One of the biggest plays of the game came not too long after that, off of a missed shot, Konrad saved the ball from going out of bounds and the ball would end up into the hands of Davis, who got fouled. She ended up hitting both free throws, and a technical foul was called on the Lady Tigers later in the third. Adams split her free throws, and Davis split her technical free throws to put the Lady Raiders ahead, 46-40 going into the final period.

Gossett found a cutting Marshall down low for the easy layup to make it 48-40 early in the fourth. A pair of baskets by Deshler made it a 50-45 game. After another made basket by the Lady Tigers cut it to 52-47, Gossett found Marshall in the right corner for yet another three, and Gossett added two free throws to stretch Good Hope's lead to 57-48 with a little over a minute to go in the contest. Konrad's three free throws and late steal helped seal the Lady Raiders' 60-50 win over Deshler, as they will make a return trip to the Regional Finals for the third straight season.

Marshall finished with six treys en route to a 22-point night for her, and she also added six rebounds as well. Konrad put in 12 points, four rebounds, and collected four steals on the night. Gossett also ended up with 12 points, along with four assists. Davis finished with a double-double: 11 points and 13 rebounds, and she chipped in with five assists as well.

Post-game, Coach Justin Aby spoke about his pride in the way the team executed their game plan against Deshler.

"Overall, it was a complete team effort. Everything, from Gossett's defense on Reece Davis, the girls in help position, as far as on the defensive end, being prepared to help off of it. On the offensive end, we had some girls step up. Lexi was 6/10 on three-pointers. That's a really good percentage at a high level. I'm pretty sure some of them didn't touch the net. They just went straight through the basket. It was a great team win overall. I want to give a shout out to my assistant coaches. They developed a gameplan, and the girls bought into it. They bought into it, and they executed. That's something that we've been talking about the past several days on what we need to do to beat Deshler. Hats off to these girls for doing what it takes to survive and advance," Aby said.

It's become a little bit of a rivalry between the teams, and coach Aby just loves the competitiveness that both teams bring to the table. The journey to get to the Elite Eight has been hard for the Lady Raiders, but a worthy one. They will go back to the drawing board and get a game plan ready for their Elite Eight opponent, Wilson.

"There's a lot of competitiveness. The truth of the matter is it's two really good programs, and we've got to go through the same path. We're trying to compete, and make sure that it's us and not them," Aby said. "It's hard. You can talk to any basketball coach all around the state. You can't take anything for granted. I'm blessed to have some really great assistants, and I not only have some great basketball players, but even better people. I love these kids. They're good kids. It's good to see them buy into the program, having a goal, and chasing that dream. We just had a really emotional win over Deshler, so we'll have to get back to the drawing board and see what Wilson has. We're going to have to buy into the plan, execute it, and that way, we can survive another day."

Senior Lexi Marshall was excited to help the team get a big win over the Lady Tigers, and she talked about what the journey's been like to get to this point in the season. The things that her and Molly Johnson learned from the seniors before them during their deep playoff runs has helped them immensely this season.

"We hustled and did our jobs that we were practicing at practice. (Ella) Gossett had to face guard Reece, and she did really good. Our help was there, and we just came out and played our game," Marshall said. "I was just ready to play today. I was confident. The journey's been exciting. I like playing with this team, and as a senior, I want to keep going as far as I can. We're in the Elite Eight now, and I want to keep going. Having their leadership, and helping us get better every day, they helped us work, and they pushed us to get better. It meant more to us."

Lexi and junior Ella Gossett have taken away much from the coaches and the seniors before them, helping them become the players that they are today.

"It's been great having all these amazing coaches, and some of the most influential people to me were the Tetro twins. When I moved here in my eighth-grade year, I practiced with them every day, and they pushed me to be better all the time. They didn't go easy on me, and that was the best thing for me, just having them as people I can look up to. It has really helped me become a better player." Gossett said.

"The Tetro twins, Ivey Maddox, Ava, and all of them, having to guard them, and they pushed us to be better every day." Marshall said.

Good Hope will face off against Wilson in the Class 4A Regional Finals Monday night at 7:30 p.m.

PREP BASKETBALL

Faulkner connection shines as West Point downs Priceville 65-32 to advance to Elite Eight

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The No. 4 West Point Lady Warriors, riding a 27-game heater, met the no. 7 Priceville Lady Bulldogs at Tom Drake Coliseum on Thursday afternoon for a spot in the 5A Elite Eight. At the half, West Point led by nine, which they quickly stretched with a strong third quarter, running away with a 65-32 Sweet Sixteen victory.

Warriors 5-11 center Laklin Shadix met in the middle with Priceville's Abby Langlois, who has a two inch advantage in size. Shadix stepped up, playing superb defense to hold Langlois to just 6-14 from the field and recording three steals and blocks each. The Lady Bulldogs' offense is built around Langlois' interior presence, with a slow-burning offense that wears down coverage then letting the center get to work.

"Our (philosophy) is to play as fast as we can possibly play. It came down to 'who's going to impose their will first?' I think we did that, starting with the opening tip. We got that lead and they never could really get a lead to get in their 'stall' situations. Our press wasn't really effective, but it made them play fast- our speed, and it made them take shots they probably wouldn't normally take. That kind of negates their size, too, playing like that," West Point head coach John Welborn said.

The Lady Warriors' fast-paced offense especially works due to the court vision and instincts of the Faulkner twins, guards Jaelyn and Camryn.

The two both excel on defense, nabbing steals then shining on fast breaks, with each sister seeming to know where the other will be before they're there. Crafty backdoor cuts, swing passes to the outside and down court lobs from one to the other fueled a combined 35 point, 13 rebounds, eight assists and four steals from the twins.

"We've been playing with each other...well, forever, so I do feel like I know where she is all the time. It feels amazing to get this far with her," Jaelyn said, with Camryn adding "I dont think it would feel the same without her."

After holding Priceville to just 29% shooting from the field and 11.8% from three, the Lady Warriors move on to play the no. 2 Guntersville Lady Wildcats on Monday at 4 p.m. at WSCC. Guntersville is coming off a 60-36 slashing of no. 1 Scottsboro, and feature one of the top 2030 guards in the state in 5-7 Kenna'd Buie.

"We're gonna go out, we're gonna play the same basketball we have all year long. We're gonna play fast, we're gonna be tenacious, we're gonna hustle, we're gonna rebound and we're gonna do everything that we can do, just like we have all year long, we've won 28 in a row now.

"We're not going to change anything, we might tweak a few things, but we're going to play our game and, well, we're going to try and outscore them," Welborn said on their Elite Eight matchup.

West Point is headed to the Elite Eight. The No. 4 Lady Warriors, winners of 27 straight, rolled past No. 7 Priceville 65-32 Thursday afternoon at Tom Drake Coliseum in a 5A Sweet Sixteen matchup. West Point led by nine at halftime, then blew it open with a big third quarter and never looked back.

The Lady Warriors set the tone defensively, limiting Priceville's looks inside and forcing the Bulldogs to play faster than they wanted. The Faulkner twins, Jaelyn and Camryn, fueled the pace and finished with a combined 35 points, 13 rebounds, eight assists and four steals. Laklin Shadix added a strong defensive effort in the post with three steals and three blocks.

West Point advances to face No. 2 Guntersville on Monday at 4 p.m. at Wallace State.

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman collects 53-41 win over Clay-Chalkville, advances to Elite Eight for third time in five seasons

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After missing out on Regionals last season, the Cullman Bearcats made it their mission to make it back there this season. Their opponent in the NW Regionals on Thursday afternoon was the same team that eliminated the Bearcats in the Sub-Regional game last year: the Clay-Chalkville Cougars. It quickly turned into a defensive game in the first half, and was tied up at 18 at the break. Cullman went on a huge run in the third quarter to take a nine-point lead into the final period and that was the turning point in the game, as they would go on to knock off the Cougars 53-41 to make it back to the Elite Eight for the third time in five seasons.

From the jump this game was a defensive affair, with neither team hitting a basket for a little over three minutes. Brooks Loftin broke the scoreless tie with a basket down low to give Cullman a 2-0 lead. Even though the Bearcat defense held the Cougars without a field goal for almost three-and-a-half minutes, Clay-Chalkville still hit three free throws to take a 3-2 lead with 3:50 remaining in the opening period.

Sam Dorough drove to the lane and scored through contact, and he ended up hitting the free throw to put the Bearcats ahead 5-3. Clay-Chalkville drained a three from the right wing for their first basket of the game with less than three minutes to go in the first. The Cougars later added a basket in the paint to take an 8-5 lead. Loftin found Jon Luke Richter for three from the right wing to tie it up at eight going into the second quarter.

The defensive intensity by both teams continued into the second period. An early basket by Clay-Chalkville gave them a 10-8 lead. Cullman struggled to score any points against a smothering Cougar defense, until Gray Hopper knocked down a pair of free throws to tie things up at 10 with 4:33 left to go in the first half. After a short jumper by Clay-Chalkville gave them a 12-10 lead, Hopper split his free throws and later drilled a trey from the left wing to put the Bearcats up 14-12 with a little over two minutes to go in the first half. Both teams traded free throws to keep Cullman ahead 16-14. A pair of late baskets by the Cougars gave them an 18-17 lead, but Loftin split his free throws to tie it up at 18 at the half.

Clay-Chalkville knocked down a shot down low to take the early lead, but Cullman quickly caught fire on both sides of the floor. Hopper dropped in a floater, then Dorough hit a pair of free throws to give the Bearcats a 22-20 lead. Dorough collected the steal and took it coast-to-coast for the layup, then he added another layup, and Colt Fletcher drained a trey from the top of the key to widen Cullman's lead to 29-20 with 4:22 remaining in the third.

A pair of baskets by the Cougars cut it to 29-24, but Hopper put in a basket down low, and Loftin threw down a thunderous two-handed slam dunk through contact and ended up hitting the free throw to complete the three-point play that gave the Bearcats their first double-digit lead of the game at 35-24. Clay-Chalkville hit a late basket to trim it to nine at 35-26 going into the final period.

Both teams traded free throws to keep it at a nine-point game at 37-28 early in the fourth. Fletcher buried a three from the right wing to put the Bearcats up 40-28 but was hit with a technical after the play. The Cougars hit both technical free throws and later added a shot in the paint off of a turnover to make it a 40-32 game. Dorough hit a reverse layup, and Loftin laid it in to stretch Cullman's lead to 44-32 with 2:28 remaining in the contest. Clay-Chalkville drained a three to cut it to eight with less than two minutes to go in the game. Dorough knocked down a shot in the paint and split his free throws to give the Bearcats a 47-36 lead. Off of the miss on Dorough's second free throw attempt, Hopper grabbed the offensive rebound and banked in a floater to make it 49-36. Another Cougar three made it a 49-39 game, but free throws by Dorough and Hopper helped seal Cullman's 53-41 win over Clay-Chalkville, as they clinch a spot in the Elite Eight for the third time in five years.

Dorough led the Bearcats with 21 points, and 15 of those points came in the second half. Hopper put in 14 points and five rebounds, while Loftin collected nine points, eight rebounds, a steal, and four blocks.

Cullman head coach Stu Stuedeman didn't expect anything different in their game against the Cougars and credits his team for doing the little things in the second half.

"Chris Richardson's a great coach. Whenever Clay-Chalkville and Cullman get together, it's always going to be a physical, hard-fought battle. I'm really proud of our guys for staying poised and figuring it out in the second half, locking in, and doing the little things that make you successful in playoff basketball," Stuedeman said.

"When they're in your head, and you try to call plays and figure out what defenses they're in, it's not really a play-calling game. You just got to go make a play. We're sitting there, backing it out at half court, trying to figure out, Hey, should I do this? Should I do that? Just keep it simple. Throw it to the high post. Let's cut, let's go to work, and then we'll get into our flow game," Stuedeman said.

Dorough and Hopper, had big performances, and the third quarter run by the Bearcats earned some breathing room going into the final period.

"Gray Hopper's been with us for four years. He's been on varsity for four years. He's 5'10", he rebounds, he does it all for us. He makes huge shots, handles it a little bit, and he plays the point on our press. He's just an incredible person, and I've loved having him for the four years I've had them. Sam's just an exceptional high school basketball player," Stuedeman said. "In a game like that, when every possession feels like you go up four, you feel like you have a big lead. Anytime you can go on a run like that and stretch it to nine, that's back-breaking for the other team, and I'm really proud of our run," said Stuedeman.

Cullman will take on the winner of Muscle Shoals/Lee next Tuesday afternoon at 2:15 p.m.



Billing (from Front)

house, and CNI Solutions in Cullman quickly rose to the top.

"They provide billing software for utilities all across the state of Alabama, and several other states, all while being headquartered here and employing people in Cullman County."

Cullman Electric Cooperative Vice President of Member Engagement & Communications Brian Lacy confirmed the cooperative notified the County in mid-2025 that it would no longer provide billing services moving forward.

"In July of 2025, Cullman Electric Cooperative notified Cullman County that we would be discontinuing billing services for water and sanitation," Lacy said. "This decision was made after evaluating our long-term operational priorities."

Lacy said the cooperative's focus remains on its core electric service responsibilities.

"Our focus remains on providing reliable electric service to our members," Lacy said. "We worked with the County to ensure a smooth transition."

After reviewing proposals, the County selected CNI Solutions, a Cullman-based software company specializing in municipal and utility billing systems.

Under the previous arrangement, Cullman Electric Cooperative provided combined billing services, allowing customers to receive electric, water and sanitation charges on a single monthly statement.

FINANCIAL COMPARISON

County records show that in 2025, Cullman Electric Cooperative billed the County:

- Water services: $248,482
- Sanitation services: $318,055
- Total: $566,537

The rate structure under CEC was $1.10 per customer per month for the first 20,000 accounts. According to Bullard, that $1.10 rate included standard postage but did not include credit card processing fees, which were billed separately.

Under the new agreement with CNI Solutions, first-year costs include:

- Initial setup: $46,244
- Monthly recurring fee: $4,910
- Annual recurring total: $58,920
- Rate: 12 cents per active account per month
- Estimated accounts: 35,707
- Postage additional

Based on those figures, projected year-one savings are estimated at $461,373. Ongoing annual savings after implementation are estimated at approximately $507,617.

County officials emphasized those totals are preliminary and subject to adjustment pending finalization its agreement with Paymentus, which will provide payment processing services.

Bullard said an additional payment processing agreement with Paymentus is still being finalized and will be incorporated into the per-customer billing cost once complete.

"One thing that might add further clarity, is that once the payment processing agreement is finalized with Paymentus, that cost will be added on the 12 cents per customer charge," Bullard said. "I just didn't want someone to do the math on what the new services will cost, and think we are saving 98 cents per customer.

"There will still be significant savings, but we will also be taking our own payments versus paying the Electric Cooperative to do it. As soon as we get the information from Paymentus, it will be updated."

County officials said final cost comparisons will be updated once the processing agreement is executed and exact transaction fees are confirmed.

Bullard said the shift to a software-based, in-house system gives the County more direct operational control while significantly reducing long-term costs.

CNI's platform operates as a cloud-based software-as-a-service system (SaaS) and includes automated billing functions, customer portals and compatibility with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The system also integrates with Paymentus for online payment processing.

The service agreement includes 24-hour system access, seven-day backup retention and a platinum-level support structure with a two-hour response window.

The County expects the transition to be completed by June 1, 2026.

TIMELINE:
COMBINED BILLING TO IN-HOUSE SYSTEM

- 2007 — Combined electric, water and sanitation billing structure begins
- July 2025 — CEC notifies Cullman County of intent to discontinue billing services
- Late 2025 — County begins vendor search process
- Early 2026 — CNI Solutions selected
- June 1, 2026 — Target implementation date for in-house billing system

What customers need to know

- Water and sanitation services will continue uninterrupted
- Customers will receive billing through a new system once implementation is complete
- Postage was included in CEC's $1.10 per-account rate, but credit card processing fees were separate
- Payment processing fees will be finalized once the Paymentus agreement is complete
- Online payment options will be available through the new portal
- Electric service billing through CEC remains unchanged

Financial snapshot

- 2025 CEC billing total: $566,537
- 2026 CNI year-one estimated cost: $105,164
- Projected year-one savings: $461,373*
- Projected ongoing annual savings: Approximately $507,617*

*Savings estimates are preliminary and subject to adjustment pending finalization of the Paymentus payment processing agreement.

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Fame (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Senior Services is seeking nominations for outstanding individuals to be considered for induction into the 2026 Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Married couples who have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary or more and individuals who are 100 years old or older are also honored by the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame each year.

"Through this event Alabama senior citizens are formally honored and recognized for their selfless work and dedication to serving members of their community," said Department of Senior Services Commissioner Jean Brown.

"It is truly an honor to recognize a group of seniors who have contributed so much to improving the lives of older Alabamians."

Individuals and organizations interested in nominating someone for induction or submitting someone to be recognized can visit AlabamaAgeline.gov to complete a nomination or submission form.

The deadline for nominations and submissions is May 1, 2026. Inductees and award winners will be announced in August 2026.

The Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame has honored and recognized Alabamians age 60 or older for their outstanding contributions to the lives of older Alabamians in their local communities since 1983.

Visit www.alabamaageline.gov for more information on the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame or the Alabama Department of Senior Services.



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., * **CASE NO.: JU 25-246.02**
a minor, DOB: 04-16-2025 *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

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

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

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

Done this the 22nd day of January, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

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

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

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 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

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

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

Judge of Probate
1 Page(s)
Cullman County, AL

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-321

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LINDA LOU BOYLEN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Kelley Wood on the 10th day of September, 2025, 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.

Kelley Wood
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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

I had rather be busy than bored

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



For most of my life, my personal motto has been, "I had rather be busy than bored."

Honestly, I don't remember if I heard someone say it, or if I dreamed it up on my own. Either way, it fit me to a T. I have never enjoyed being idle for long. I really believe people are like automobiles; we are not meant to idle, but to be driven.

I have always had a fear of coming to a time when I have nothing to do. For most of my life, that has never been an issue. I have usually had more things to do than I had time to do them.

Since I was about 13 years old, I have never been without a job except for the first summer after Jean and I married. In my younger years, I often had more than one job and went to school, too. Before I retired from full-time work, I worried that in retirement I might be bored. That's one reason I have a woodshop.

What does a typical week look like for this retiree? First, let me state that you might not find my life to be terribly exciting, but I do usually have something to do and enjoy doing it.

Last week was a pretty typical one for me. On the first day of the week, Jean and I made the 35-minute drive to church. As I do every Sunday, I had the privilege of delivering the sermon.

Well, that is because after I retired from a lifetime of full-time ministry, I accepted another pastorate. Sunday evening, we watched the Super Bowl, but not the halftime show.

Monday morning, we attended an orientation for an upcoming trip to Spain. That afternoon I painted a wall in our kitchen and watched the Olympics that evening.

Tuesday, I played pickleball and then read and studied.

Wednesday, we went grocery shopping and then I spent more time in the study. That evening, it was back to church to teach a Bible study.

Thursday morning, I drove up to Dadeville to do a program for a senior adult group. There, I did some picking and grinning, singing, told tales, laughed, ate and then ate some more.

Thursday night we traveled to Phenix City to watch grandson Drew play soccer.

Friday, we went to the church to decorate for a banquet, then drove over to LaGrange, Georgia, to have lunch at The Lemon Tree Café. The café is housed in the old First Methodist Episcopal Church, which was constructed in 1893. The building is pretty and the food is delicious! That afternoon, we visited two antique stores in Cataula, Georgia.

Saturday morning, I played 11 games of pickleball in a mixer. I went to work in my booth at Angel's Antiques that afternoon, then we went to a Valentine banquet at church that evening.

And that, my friend, is the not-much-idle-time week for this ole retired man. I did manage to make time to pray, read, write and eat in there, too.

Unfortunately, I didn't not have any time in the woodshop, but there is always this week.

I do hope you, too, have something to do and people to do things with. An older friend of mine said after he retired and had little to do, pickleball saved his life.

Do get some rest when you need it, but don't sit down and stay there until you can't get up, please! For as long as you possibly can, keep moving, keep going, keep doing, keep serving, keep thinking, keep learning and, by all means, keep loving God and people!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 21, 1924

From the files of Feb. 21, 1924

Logan News

Logan, Feb. 19.—Jessie Gibbs was the pleasant caller of Miss Edna Graham Sunday.

Homer Pierce escorted Miss Opal Dunlap to the box supper at Emeus last Saturday night.

Miss Dunlap and her pupils cooked supper over a camp fire Wednesday night. They certainly did enjoy it. There was lots of good eats.

Roy Wood and Clyde Sharpton were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Glenn Sunday.

Bill Entrekin spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Hallie Mae Sanders.

The valentine party given by Miss Flora Woods was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Misses Lois and Maude Calvert spent the week end with relatives at Brushy Pond.

Lowell Entrekin called on Dova Mae Roden Sunday afternoon, Chesley Calvert escorted Miss Brak home from the party at Wood's Thursday night.

The sermon delivered by Rev. Parker was enjoyed by a large crowd Sunday.

Everybody come to Sunday school and preaching every third Sunday.

Miss Winnie Mickle was the guest of Miss Ella Harbison Sunday night.

Remember the singing at Logan every fourth Sunday afternoon.

East Point News

Cullman R. 2, Feb. 20.—Plowing and sowing oats is the order of the day.

Miss Odell McClendon called on Miss Luna Collier Sunday afternoon.

Ed Tompkin called on Miss Arnow Reynolds Sunday afternoon.

There will be a pie supper at East Point school house Saturday night, March 1. Everybody invited to come and bring some one with you. Pies, cakes and other refreshments will be sold. Several plays will be put on, and be sure to come and get you a pie. Come on Antioch.

Cullman R. 10 News

Cullman R. 10, Feb. 18—School is progressing nicely.

Miss Mabel Mayfield is spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. Rice.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neill spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Williams.

Clarence Moter was the pleasant caller of Miss Mabell Mayfield Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Finis Burns spent Wednesday with their parents. Miss Pearl Burns came home with them.

Don't forget the entertainment at Prospect next Friday night. Everybody is invited to come. We are expecting a nice time.

Bremen Farmer Controls Boll Weevil

Despite the very unfavorable weather conditions for poisoning the boll weevil last year, Mr. E. R. Tucker of Bremen reports that he was successful in the work. He had fourteen acres in cotton and poisoned three times and he averaged one half bale per acre. His neighbors made on an average of one bale to every four or six acres. Mr. Tucker used 225 pounds of calcium arsenate which cost him less than $50.00 and he states that his increased production due to poisoning was not less than two bales, or $300 above cost of poison and labor. He has poisoned for two years and says he would not attempt to grow cotton without poisoning the weevil. Mr. Tucker's opinion is that we wait too long to begin to apply the poison. He thinks we should make the first application about the time the first squares begin to form or probably earlier.



POET'S CORNER

Brown Thrasher | Randy C. Hale

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

Ode to the Brown Thrasher,
who sings a melody.
Perched high upon a tree limb,
performing a musical show.
Clicks and clacks, whistles and shrills
coming together with crescendos
and lyrical flow.

Called the Brown Thrasher for the
sound they make thrashing about
on the forest floor
looking for insects, nuts, and berries.
Always eating low and hiding among
the dense thickets.
But when they sing, the highest stage is taken to let their anthem ring.

Tweet Tweat Twiddle Le De!
Tweet Tweet Twiddle Le Da!
Pretty Songs they Sing!
Joyous Sounds they Bring!



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 21

C O N T R A C T O R R J V C L R E L W
G R I A P R I V I L E G E O A C K M D
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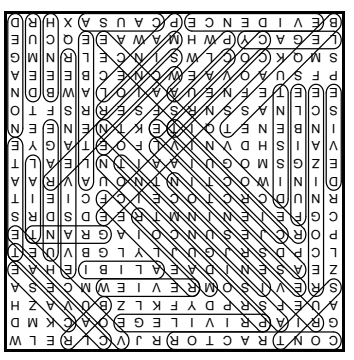
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 21

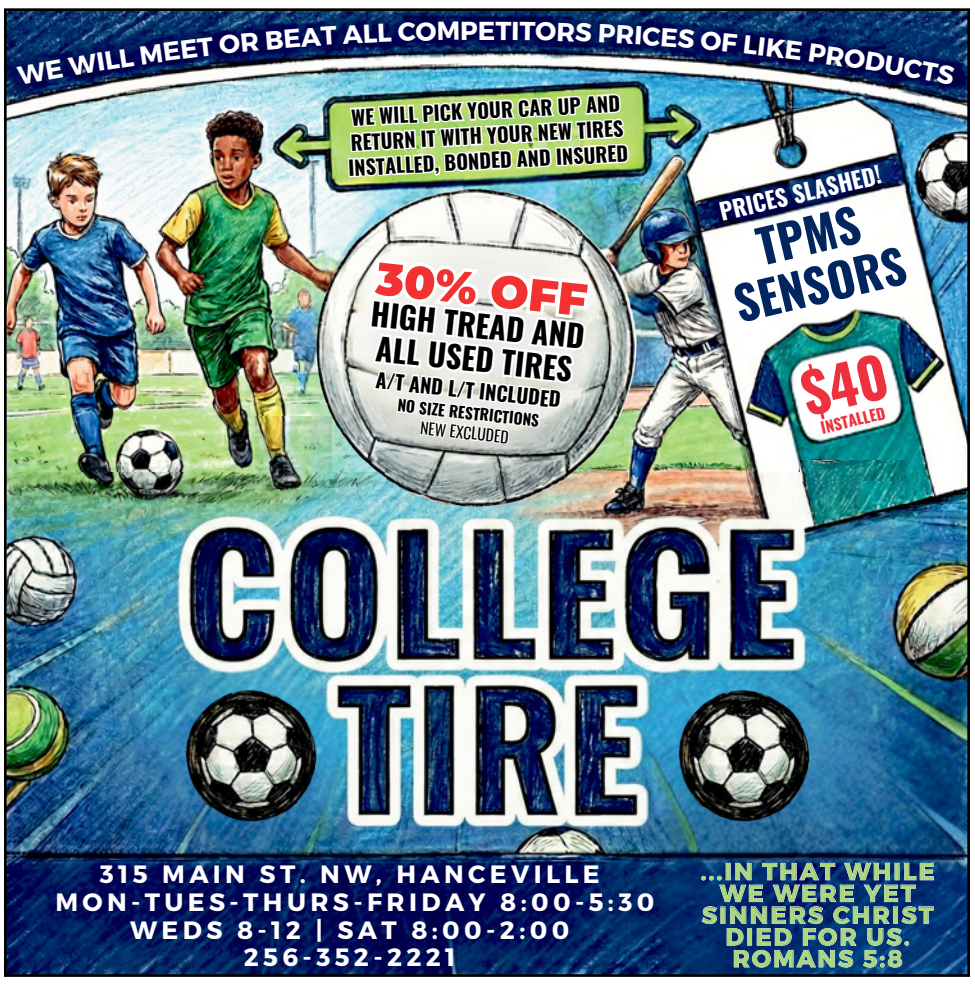
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ANSWERS:



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





CMS Miss Pioneer Pageant

Cullman Middle School's Miss Pioneer Pageant will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. in the Cullman High School auditorium. Admission is $10, and tickets can be purchased on GoFan or at the door. Admission to the Miss Pioneer Pageant also gets you an armband to attend the Cullman High School Miss Southerner and Fair Queen Representative Pageants at 7 p.m. Miss Pioneer contestants are (front row, left to right) Jillian Key, Laci Butts, (second row, left to right) Sydney Bates, River Nelson, (third row, left to right) Lakeley Medlock Anna, Claire Kahlhoff, (fourth row, left to right) Isabella Parrish, Jocie Robertson, (fifth row, left to right) Brooklyn Eddy, Ellie Frodge and (sixth row, left to right) Addison Griffin and Melia McNatt. Not pictured are Elizabeth Hunt, Berkley Oliver and Isabella Rainwater.



ROBIN COOK

Miss Pioneer contestants

CHS Miss Southerner, Fair Queen Pageants

Cullman High School's Miss Southerner and Fair Queen Pageants will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Cullman High School auditorium. Admission is $10, and tickets can be purchased on GoFan or at the door. Earlier the same day, Cullman Middle School's Miss Pioneer Pageant will take place at 1 p.m. Attendees who attend the CMS pageant will also get an armband to attend the CHS pageants. Miss Southerner contestants are (front row, left to right) Lexi Myrex, Lauren Files, Dinah Langley, Madelyn Bates, (middle row, left to right) Elizabeth Smith, Charlee Chambers, Alexis Nearen and (back row, left to right) Sadie Wood, Lillie Hogue, Mary Claire Ray and Molly Dorough. Not pictured are Sophia Lambert, Claire Martin and Mitchell Claire Olvey. Fair Queen contestants are (left to right) Elizabeth Smith and Mitchell Claire Olvey.



ROBIN COOK

Fair Queen contestants



ROBIN COOK

Miss Southerner contestants

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 19-20

William 'Frankie' Voss, 70
William "Frankie" Voss, 70, of Moulton, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at Decatur Morgan, Parkway Campus. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Fe. 22, 2026, at Lawrence Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. at the funeral home with Bro. Hollis Retherford officiating.

Lester Riley Collier, 70
Funeral service for Lester Riley Collier, 70, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Antioch Baptist Cemetery at Fairview, Bro. Samuel Tucker officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Collier passed away Feb. 19, 2026, at his residence. He was born Oct. 9, 1955, to Curtis Rayburn Collier Sr. and Dorothy Mae Bates Collier. He was a truck driver for 40 years and was the youngest driver Americold ever had. He loved like no other, never meeting a stranger. He was a minister of God's Word. Anyone that knew Riley knew he loved his girls. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Curtis Rayburn Collier, Jr.; sisters, Catherine Paulette Davis, Cynthia Young. Survivors include his wife of 49 years and the love of his life, Shirley Collier; daughters, Leslie (Douglas) Wasson, Jeannie Collier, Jainnie (Dale) Free; brother, Tim (Tammy) Collier; sister-in-law, Sandra Collier; grandchildren, Abigail (Nicholas) Mann, Nathaniel (Katelynn) Free; great-granddaughter, Gwendalen Mann; family and friends. Pallbearers will be Dale Free, Douglas Wasson, Nathaniel Free, Nicholas Mann, Tim Collier, Jeremy Collier. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Bruce Edmond Bunn, 56
Funeral service for Bruce Edmond Bunn, 56, of Crane Hill will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Livingston Chapel Cemetery, Bro. Daniel Todd officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from noon-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Bunn passed away Thursday, Feb. 19th at UAB. He was born Nov. 27, 1969, to Bruce Lynn and Esther Marie Gross Bunn. He loved hunting and fishing. He enjoyed watching tv, and he was able to fix about anything. He was Papa to his grandkids and absolutely loved them. He was preceded in death by his parents. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of almost 34 years, Melissa Bunn; sons, Bruce Bunn, Andrew ((Amanda) Bunn; daughters, Tiffany (Allen) Williams, Melany (Kyle) Morgan, Kimberly (Chazz) Wilhite, Bobby (Matthew) Lay; brothers, Erek Bunn, Jamie Bunn; sister, Lisa Bunn; fourteen precious grandchildren; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Steven James Seckfort, 73
Funeral Service for Steven James Seckfort, age 73 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Good Hope Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Seckfort passed away on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026, at Cullman Regional. He was born Sept. 23, 1952, to Charles Seckfort and Viola Young Seckfort. He was preceded in death by his Wife, Mona Seckfort, his parents and sister-in-law, Toni Seckfort. He is survived by his brother, Roger Seckfort (Janice Smith); nephew, Jeremy Seckfort (Amanda) and Adam Seckfort (Megan), great nieces and nephews, Raelyn, Knox, Asher, Peyton, Paislee, Sawyer Seckfort and Kaden Johnson.

Bunnie Cleveland Dunn, 81
Bunnie C. Dunn, 81, of Madison, Alabama passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026. He was born June 3, 1944, to Lavant and Marie Dunn of Cullman, Alabama, who preceded him in death. Surviving family members include his wife of 57 years, Nancy Trimble Dunn, sons Eric Dunn and Nathan (Suzanne) Dunn, brother Horace (Shirley) Dunn, and grandchildren Natalie Dunn, Alexander Dunn and Isaac Dunn as well as many additional family and friends. After growing up on a farm in Cullman, Mr. Dunn served in the United States Air Force for 25 years. His service included Turkey, Georgia's Warner Robins AFB, South Korea and Gunter AFB in Montgomery. After retiring from the military, he worked several years for the state of Alabama in Montgomery. Mr. Dunn faithfully served in multiple congregations in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. He was a dedicated member of Thrivent (formerly Aid Association for Lutherans) and worked through that organization to facilitate many acts of service to the community. Mr. Dunn also actively participated in prison ministry through Alabama Volunteers in Corrections. He also helped with worship services at nursing homes in the Montgomery area. He loved watching Alabama and Auburn football, Atlanta Braves baseball and many older western movies. He loved his family. And most of all, he continues his life-long love for the Lord Jesus Christ, as he now rests with God for eternity. Visitation will take place at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama, on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 1-3 p.m. with a graveside service to follow at 4 p.m. at Cullman City Cemetery. Pastor Derek Waffel of Ascension Lutheran Church, Huntsville, will be officiating. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to your church or your favorite charity. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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1901 Second Avenue Northwest
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