

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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WORKING FOR YOU!



SENATOR
GARLAN
GUDGER
PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
314 2ND AVE. SE, CULLMAN 35055

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Brightstar Sterling, Donald Hugh Allbritten, Lillian Anne Posey, Rodney Allen Bailey, Master Sergeant Michael Keller, Edna Mae Smith, Barbara Jean Richardson, James Chesley Glover, Dwight Stancil, Juanita Joyce Latta, Jewel Dean Gay, Sue Ann Brannon

» PAGE 2

WEATHER

71 45

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3

Games
» PAGE 7

–SPORTS–

Cullman County baseball and softball team guides
» PAGE 4

Former Cullman County Sheriff's Office employee charged with soliciting a child

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Former Cullman County Sheriff's Office employee Elijah David Page, 21, of Cullman, was arrested in Fyffe, Alabama, by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the CCSO. He is charged with electronic solicitation of a child and traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act.

According to court records, between Dec. 1, 2025, and Jan. 30, 2026, Page allegedly sent videos showing his (sexual organ) to a 14-year-old female victim, received videos of the victim nude, communicated sexually explicit messages to the victim and agreed to meet the victim in Fort Payne on or about Jan. 3, 2026, for the purpose of sexual conduct.

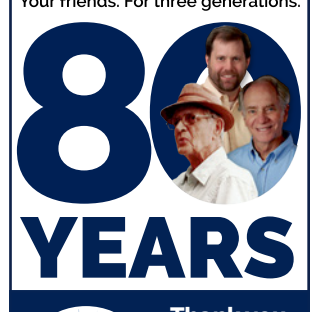
Court records further allege that Page actually traveled from Cullman » PAGE 3



DEKALB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Elijah David Page

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY
Your agents. Your neighbors. Your friends. For three generations.



80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

Happy 100th Birthday, Louise Carr!

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Surrounded by friends, family and members of the community she has called home for most of her life, Louise Carr celebrated her 100th birthday on Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Holly Pond Senior Center.

The day was filled with laughter, well wishes and the click of dominoes, a fitting tribute to Carr, who continues to dominate at the game after all these years. Carr was the picture of celebration, dressed for the occasion in a royal tiara and cape, as guests enjoyed a fruit-covered birthday cake and spent the afternoon together in her honor.

Several members of the community and local government officials attended the milestone celebration, including Randall Shedd, who shared a special birthday message from Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, recognizing Carr's century of life and her contributions to the community.

Born in Cullman County, about 4 miles from Holly Pond at her family home, Carr is the daughter of Lonnie and Nina Mae Bice and granddaughter of Alice and William Bice. Carr married her husband in 1947 at 21. He worked in the steel industry with U.S. Steel and American Bridge. The couple shared more than five decades of marriage before his passing in 2000. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family and hard work. Carr worked for the railroad and at the Oneida Sewing Plant, and she also owned and operated a chicken farm. She is the proud mother of one son, Harold Carr. Her family has since grown to include grandchildren Bradley Carr and Holly Dutton, as well as great-grandchildren Jackson Dutton and Addie Dutton.

Throughout her life, Carr has also enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint, crafts and puzzles. Though she has also lived in Birmingham, Detroit and Cullman, Holly Pond has always remained home. She has been a member of the Holly Pond Senior Center since 2004, where she remains an active and beloved presence.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Louise Carr is seen at her 100th birthday celebration on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, at the Holly Pond Senior Center.

Cullman recognized as Tree City USA for 38th consecutive year, receives Growth Award

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman was recently recognized as a Tree City USA community for the 38th consecutive year and received the prestigious Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. The national recognition honors Cullman's continued commitment to planting, growing and maintaining trees throughout the community.

A ceremony was held outside Cullman City Hall on Feb. 27 to mark the designation and observe Arbor Week, Feb. 22-28, the » PAGE 6

Library seeking volunteers » PAGE 8

Vinemont High crowns 2026 Miss Vinemont, 2026 Miss Vinemont Fair Queen



STUDYVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right are 2026 Miss Vinemont Makenna Howard and 2026 Miss Vinemont Fair Queen Jenny Price. » PAGE 5

2026 Junior Miss Vinemont Pageant



HOLLY JOHNSON

Left to right are Eighth-grade Queen Ella Howard, Seventh-grade Queen Paizlee Skye Jarrett, Sixth-grade Queen Kya Johnson and People's Choice winner Kaidence Henderson. » PAGE 5

Good Hope High pageants set for March 21



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2026 Good Hope Fair Queen Representative Pageant contestants are Sammie Johns, Kloe White and Aby Black (not pictured). » PAGE 5



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 27

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 27, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 23

- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65SB MM 305
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 616
- theft of property; Chad Dr.
- burglary; Commercial St. NE
- criminal mischief; CR 1809

Feb. 24

- possession of synthetic narcotic; unlawful possession of hemp product; possession of dangerous drugs; CR 897
- burglary; CR 1462
- robbery; theft of property; criminal mischief; CR 616
- theft of property; Summit Rd.
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; theft of property; CR 1807
- domestic violence; CR 1659
- theft of property; CR 874

Feb. 25

- domestic violence; CR 1062
- possession of controlled substance; Hwy. 278E
- theft of property; CR 463
- menacing; CR 337
- theft of property; CR 1512
- domestic violence; CR 1770
- violation of protection order; Magnolia Ve. NW
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N

ARRESTS

Feb. 23-25

Bates, Davian L.; 30
- burglary-non-residence-force
- burglary-residence-force
- theft-from public building

Boyd, Lacie M.; 29
- FTA – burglary-residence-no force
- FTA – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous
- attempting to elude a police officer
- resisting arrest
- obstruction-governmental operations
- FTA – fail stop sign

Connell, Monica D.; 48
- negotiating worthless instrument

Cox, Cordarius J.; 26
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property, $1500 or more
- FTA – DUI (controlled substances)
- FTA – drunk/addict in possession of a firearm

Dingler, Brandy M.; 34
- FTA – possession of synthetic narcotic-no drugs seized

Eddleman, Dustin S.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- attempting to elude a police officer
- tampering with physical evidence
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Fulenwider, Alisha N.; 36
- assault-harassment

Hester, Christopher L.; 51
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Irving, Nevaeh K.; 23
- FTA – obstructing criminal investigation

Knott, Darwin, 75
- assault-aggravated assault-menacing-gun

Logan, Angela D.; 41
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Lynn, Brent T.; 36
- possession of methamphetamine

McDonald, Steven S.; 40
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Moreno, Jr., Jonathan S.; 31
- PROBATION REVOKED – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Olvera-Astrain, Angel I.; 23
- possession of methamphetamine

Peak, Karyssa D.; 19
- theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Penn, Crystal W.; 43
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – exceeding reasonable road speed
- FTA – run red light

Pitt, Jr., Mark C.; 42
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sanford, Breana M.; 38
- FTA – assault-aggravated assault family-knife

Smith, Cameron L.; 36
- assault-aggravated assault-a to m aggravated assault (attempted murder)

Smith, Daniel S.; 31
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Speakman, Tyler L.; 31
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of synthetic narcotic

Suhy, Dusty M.; 44
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Tankersley, James A.; 47
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Tanner, Kilea N.; 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of synthetic narcotic
- sale of possession of unlawful hemp products

Tucker, Lisa M.; 46
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-residence-force

Weigelt, Jason A.; 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of synthetic narcotic
- sale of possession of unlawful hemp products

Wimmer, Darryl R.; 63
- criminal mischief-damaged property
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- robbery-carjacking-injury or deadly weapon
- auto theft

Wynn, Gregory P.; 50
- PROBATION VIOLATION – buying/receiving stolen property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 25
- Theft of property-1st degree; person; '12 Chev. Malibu; $4,000; Hwy. 157
- retail theft of property-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $752; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $47; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Feb. 25-26

Barton, Marcie L.; 54
- theft of property-4th degree

Weeks, Shannon L.; 43
- FTA – public intoxication

Yates, Robert A.; 21
- theft of property-4th degree

Clay, Jeffery L.; 51
- organized retail theft

Garner, Elizabeth J.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree

Blevins, Dustin K.; 37
- FTA – criminal mischief-3rd degree

Bolte, Destin M.; 26
- DUI

Diego, Juan; 21
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 26-27

Brightstar Sterling, 67
Brightstar Sterling, 67, of Arab passed away Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Brightstar was born April 27, 1958, to Gradus Clarence and Mary Magdalene Hafer Holmes. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed bingo and gaming. She enjoyed powwows and anything Native American. She loved to make beadwork, belts, bracelets, etc. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bobby Redhawk Sterling; brothers, Howard Luther Holmes, Roy Holmes, Eugene Holmes, John Luther 'J.W' Holmes; daughter, April Renee Bates. Survivors include her sons, Bobby Sterling Jr. (Samantha), Bengie Trussell (Wendy), Mikie Trussell; sisters, Betty Early, Cookie Day, Christine Needham, Penny Haynes (Danny); grandchildren, Nicholas Trussell, Gabby Trussell, Tiffany Sterling, Jasmine Sterling, Nathaniel Trussell, Tyler Trussell, Emma Guffey; great-grandchildren, Owen Trussell, Piper Trussell, Theodore Trussell; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Donald Hugh Allbritten, 74
Donald Hugh Allbritten, born on Aug. 31, 1951, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. A Celebration of Life service will be held in his honor on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Donald was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Family was at the center of his life, and the love he gave will continue to be felt by all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those who had the blessing of loving him. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Patricia Ann Roberts Allbritten, who passed away in July 2018. Their love and life together remain a cherished part of his family's story. Donald is survived by his three children: Zena Genae Allbritten Brazier and her husband, Michael; Kevin Wade Allbritten and his wife, Oury; and Shauna Leigh Allbritten Vance and her husband, Shane. He is also survived by his eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was also joyfully anticipating the arrival of his fifth great-grandchild, expected to be due within a month — a blessing he looked forward to with great love. Donald's life was marked by strength, love, and devotion to his family. The legacy he leaves behind is one of love, resilience, and deep connection. His memory will be treasured always.

Lillian Anne Posey, 81
Lillian Anne Posey, age 81 of Pelham, born Dec. 1, 1944, to Ernest and Madelon (McBroom) Speer in Miami, Florida, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing & Rehab. A Funeral Service for Anne will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Pastor Justin Johnson, grandson, officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon– 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Donald Wayne Posey; brother, Ernie Speer and sister, Elaine Byrd. Survivors include her daughter, Lisa Johnson (Alan); son, Keith Posey (Donna); grandchildren, Justin Johnson (Meng) and Adam Johnson; great grandchildren, Jayden Johnson, Micah Johnson, Oliver Johnson and River Johnson; sisters, Judi Paulson (Ray)and Joyce Pugh (Eric); brother, Chris Speer (Darlene); sister in law, Brenda Posey Farley (James) and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends. On July 4, 1963, she married the love of her life, beginning a partnership that spanned 40 years until his passing. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and adventure, sharing a love of travel and treasured time with those they held dear. Their bond was one of devotion and joy, and her love for him remained a cherished part of her story. She found joy in life's simple and beautiful moments - the sound of the ocean at the beach, the flutter of hummingbirds outside her window, and quiet afternoons spent knitting or watching her favorite Hallmark movies. She loved traveling, cheering on her Crimson Tide, and participating in Bible studies that deepened her faith. Her greatest joy, however, was her family. She was a constant source of encouragement, always offering kind words, steady support, and unwavering love.

Rodney Allen Bailey, 52
Rodney Allen Bailey, age 52 of Cullman, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at his residence. He was born June 3, 1973, to Oscar Bailey, Sr. and Rita Mae Doss. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. He was preceded in death by his father; grandson, Ryker Turney; and grandparents, Coarage and Clara Twilley. Survivors include his daughters, Bridgette (Aaron) Turney, Caitlyn (Hunter) Wright; grandchildren, Kinsley and Elovn; brothers, Oscar Bailey, Jr., Tim Bailey, uncles, Larry and Drennan Twilley. Memorial service will be held at a later date.

Master Sergeant Michael Keller, 62
Master Sergeant Michael Keller, U.S. Army (RET) passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at the age of 62 leaving behind a legacy of honor, strength, and unwavering devotion to both his country and family. Master Sgt. Michael Wayne Keller 62, of Cullman, beloved husband and father was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby Wayne Keller and Peggy Lynelle (Godfrey) Keller, his brother, Jimmy Rogers Keller, and Steve Jackson. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Tammy Annette Yarbrough Keller, two sons, Nicholas Isaac, Dawson Elijah (Devyn), daughter, Monika Elizabeth Keller. Nine grandchildren, Zander, Zakry, Zoey, Beckett, PJ, Francine, Brentley, Kinsley, and Paisley. One great grandchild, Baylor. He honorably served in the United States Army for 25 years, retiring after a distinguished career marked by dedication and integrity. His service was a source of immense pride, and he carried the Army's seven core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and personal courage throughout his life. Beyond his military accomplishments, MSgt. Keller was a deeply devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was married to the love of his life, Tammy Keller for 43 beautiful years. Together they built a life rooted in laughter, commitment, strength, and unconditional love. He was a proud father of three children, Nik, Monika, and Dawson, and found great joy in his six grandchildren and one great-grandchild, who brought endless light and laughter to his life. He shared an especially special bond with his only daughter — a relationship built on love, pride, guidance, and a connection that will remain unbreakable. He will be remembered for his strong sense of duty, quiet strength, steady presence, and the deep love he had for his family and his country. His legacy lives on through the generations he helped shape and the lives he touched with his wisdom and devotion. The visitation will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, from 6-8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel.

Edna Mae Smith, 100
Edna Mae Smith, 100, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 24, 2026. Born May 13, 1925, in Alabama, Edna was an adventurous, beloved, and cherished woman whose life was marked by compassionate faith, devoted love, and a gentle, steady strength. She will be remembered as hard-working and honest, humorous and inspirational, kind-hearted and loyal, patient and resilient, selfless and thoughtful—truly wise in the quiet ways that matter most. Edna was the daughter of Thomas Jackson and Martha Matilda Weathers Wisner, both of whom preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her siblings: Arnold Wisner, Willie Wisner Lee, Ambus J Wisner, Willis Wisner, Virna Wisner, and Rachel Mary Wisner. In 1943, during World War II, Edna married her first husband, Arthur Burks, who also preceded her in death. Together they welcomed their only child in 1950, a son, Jeff Burks, who remained her pride and joy. Edna was a devoted housewife and mother, a generous and gentle presence in her home, and a steadfast member of Boyles Baptist Church. She served as Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, reflecting her faithful commitment and thoughtful leadership. After the Arthur's passing, she later married her second husband, Arlin Smith, who also preceded her in death, and moved to Jacksonville, Florida. There, she worked as a cook and became affectionately known as "the biscuit lady," a title that captured both her skill and her warm, giving nature. A farmer's daughter, she was baptized in a creek—an early reflection of the faithful spirit that remained central throughout her life. Edna's love for the Lord shaped her days and her relationships. She was a founding member of Temple Baptist Church and poured herself into the life of the church with a loyal, selfless heart. She loved choirs and sang in many, including Sacred Harp, and most recently sang as an alto in a senior choir. She was also involved in youth ministries at Boyles Baptist Church, offering encouragement with the same compassionate steadiness that defined her life. An adventurous spirit accompanied Edna's deep roots. She loved to travel and visited Israel, Europe, and Hawaii—experiences she treasured and carried with her as part of a life lived fully and gratefully. Edna is survived by her son, Jeff Burks (Judy); her granddaughter, Rachel Fuchs (Bert); her grandson, T.J. Burks; and her great-grandchildren, Wolf and Anja Fuchs. Those who knew Edna will remember not only her devoted and generous care for others, but also the simple, sincere question she so often asked—words that expressed her faith and her heartfelt concern for every soul she met: "Do you know my Lord and Savior Jesus? If not, I can help you. Do you have a church? If not, I recommend Temple Baptist." Visitation will be held at Temple Baptist Church, 30 County Road 1184, Cullman, AL 35057, US, on March 3, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A celebration of life funeral service will be held at Temple Baptist Church, 30 County Road 1184, Cullman, AL 35057, US, on March 3, 2026, from 1 p.m. Graveside services will be held at Jefferson Memorial Trussville, Alabama, 1591 Gadsden Highway, Birmingham, AL 35235, US, on March 3, 2026. To leave condolences for the Smith family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Barbara Jean Richardson, 91
Barbara Jean Richardson, 91, was born Dec. 7, 1934, in San Fransciso, California, and passed away on February 25, 2026, at 8:34 p.m. Barbara was a celebratory and uplifting presence to those who knew her, and she made her home in Cullman, Alabama. Born in San Francisco, Barbara grew up in Northern California, carrying with her a bright spirit and a steady love for community and connection that would follow her throughout her life. Barbara embraced life with energy and enthusiasm, finding joy in local sports and especially in tennis, golf, and bowling. She generously volunteered at the East Elementary School Library, and she worked at First state bank, Food world, and Terri pines. An avid bridge player, Barbara was always looking for a group to make a game—bringing people together with warmth, laughter, and friendly competition. Barbara met her husband while he was attending San Jose State University. She later moved to Cullman from Muncie, IN. with her young family when Donald transferred to Cullman Products in 1961—building a life rooted in family, friendship, and the everyday moments that become cherished memories. Barbara is survived by her son, Mark Richardson; her daughter, Laura Taylor; her sister, Lynn Whitaker; and 7 Grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and many friends. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Everett and Thelma Silva Wantland; her husband, Donald Richardson; her daughter, Cathy Richardson Barnes Dansby; her sister, Beverly Holte; and her brother, Kenny Wantland. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on March 2, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Celebration of Life will follow at Moss-Service Funeral Home on March 2, 2026, beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a Committal Service Cullman City Cemetery, Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

James Chesley Glover, 82
Funeral service for James Chesley Glover, 82, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Jones Chapel Cemetery, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from noon-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family Mr. Glover passed away Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born Dec. 19, 1943, to Enus Asbury "Berry" and Avie Luella White Glover. Chesley grew up on a farm and when he was younger and able, he loved to squirrel and quail hunt, loved to fish, make a garden. Chesley touched a lot of people's lives over the years. He never said anything bad about anyone. He would go out of his way to help someone. He loved his family and especially his grandchildren and he never let his family down. He was a hard working man. He was a supervisor for many years with All South Contractors and always worked so hard the workers couldn't stay up with him. He will certainly be missed. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter-in-law, Brenda Glover; brother, John Wesley Glover; sisters, Bernice Harding, Barbara Chaffin, Pauline Burks, infant sister, infant brother and a baby sister, Earline Glover. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Vivian Glover; sons, Billy Ray Glover (Tilisa Johnson), James Berry Glover; daughter, Tracie (Jeff) Nail; grandchildren, Nicholas (Marissa) Nail, Nathan (Sage) Nail, Dakota Glover, Karissa Glover, Kaitlyn Glover; great-grandchild, Asher Marchese; and a host of family and friends. Friends may sign the guestbook online at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Dwight Stancil, 79
Funeral Mass for Dwight Stancil, age 79 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church with Father John O'Donnell, OSB and Father Patrick Egan, OSB, officiating; burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church, with Rosary Prayer service to follow at 7:30 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Stancil passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at his residence. He was born, May 9, 1946, to Eric Stancil and Carmon Nail Stancil. He was preceded in death by his parents and mother-in-law, Ruth Muldner Hoffman. Survivors include his wife, Elaine Hoffman Stancil: daughters, Melinda Cleghorn and Yvonne Stancil; grandsons, Spencer Hale, Grayson Webster (Kelsee) and Jake Cleghorn; granddaughter, Magan Judy (Cole); great granddaughters, Olivia Webster and Carter Webster and sister-in-law, Janet Brown (Clifton) and numerous family and friends. Dwight loved his wife of 60 years, his daughters, his grandchildren and his great granddaughters. His passions were bass fishing and Alabama Football. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart School. (205 Third Ave., SE, Cullman, AL 35055) or the charity of your choice.

Juanita Joyce Latta, 86
A graveside service for Juanita Joyce Latta, 86, of Hanceville will be 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at Holly Pond Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1-2:30 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Latta was born March 3, 1939, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Sidney and Bernice Quick. She passed away Feb. 24, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Mrs. Latta is survived by her children, Linda Fox (Daryl), Sharon Latta Goble, Karen Latta Burgett (Scott), Dudley "Earl" Latta; grandchildren, Sean Nowak (Miyo), Sarah Fox, Corey Gobble, Matthew Gobble (Haley Harper), Dylan Burgett (Emily), Eli Hosmer, Elyssa Hosmer; 5 great grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Latta was preceded in death by her husband, Dudley Latta. Serving as pallbearers will be Earl Latta, Daryl Fox, Sean Nowak, Jae Hurt, Chris Quick, and Dylan Burgett. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Latta family.

Jewel Dean Gay, 77
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Jewel Dean Gay – a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend whose love knew no limits. Dean was the very definition of selfless. Her family was her world, and she poured every ounce of her strength, kindness, and love into caring for those around her. She consistently placed the needs of others before her own, never asking for recognition, only hoping that everyone she loved felt safe, supported, and cherished. She was a loving and faithful wife to Willmac Gay for 57 wonderful years. Their marriage was a beautiful example of commitment, devotion, and enduring love. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family, and unwavering support for one another. Dean was a member of Flint Creek Baptist Church. In recent years, she enjoyed worshiping in person and online with her church family at Mt. Olive Church. Dean is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Willmac; her parents, A.C. and Viola Fortenberry; and siblings, Ruby Williams, Melvin Fortenberry, and Sue Horton. Her children survive her: Angie (Marty) Hardman, Phillip (Che) Gay, and Candi (David) Martin; Nothing brought Dean more happiness than time spent with her grandchildren: Lilly Hardman, Sophi Hardman, Paci Martin, Parker Martin, Presli Martin, Carter Gay, Preston Gay, Grayson Gay, Sarah Flores, Ava Flores, and Reed Flores. Their laughter filled her heart, and she treasured every hug, every story, and every milestone. She created memories that will live on in their hearts forever. She is also survived by her sisters: Betty Ann Sweatman and Shirlene Goode; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends. The family will receive friends on Sunday, March 1, 2026, beginning at 2 p.m. at Mt. Olive Church. The celebration of Dean's life will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Mt. Olive Church. Burial will follow the service in Flint Creek Cemetery. To leave condolences for the family, please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Sue Ann Brannon, 81
Sue Ann Warren Brannon, 81, of Vinemont passed away Feb. 20, 2026, at Huntsville Hospital. A Celebration of Life will be held March 22, 2026, from 1-3 p.m. at West Point Town Hall. Cullman Funeral Home was honored to serve the family. Sue was born Aug. 20, 1944, to Ezra Lee Warren and Kitty Katherine Steed Warren. She was loved by many. She worked many years at Woodland Village Nursing Home as Laundry Supervisor. Later in life she enjoyed more than anything else was spending time with her family, especially her grandkids and great-grands. She got great joy taking the grands fishing, yard sales and to visit her family in Tennessee. She also got great joy watching her great-grands laugh, run, and play. Sue was originally from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. She had two brothers, Ralph and Bill Warren; four sisters, Faye, Betty, Janette, Bobby Jean. She was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Eugene Brannon. She is survived by her children Mark Brannon, Sandy Craft, Lori Guess (Kenneth); nine great-grandchildren; six grands, Justin Craft (Haley). Presley and Gunner (children), Jake Little (Veronica) Brennon (child), Dylan Guess (Chelsea) children, Maddie, Ben; Patience (Bryce) Thornton; children, Evie, Myra, Vivian and Maverik; Aubrey Guess, Stephanie Brannon. Family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Moss Service Funeral Home
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Soliciting (from Front)

County to Fort Payne to meet the victim and engage in sexual conduct.

Both charges are felonies. The DCSO website says Page was booked Feb. 24, 2026, and is being held without bond.

ABC 33/40 reported: "Page was taken into custody in DeKalb County by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) with assistance from CCSO.

Page worked as a non-APOST detention deputy and was terminated while still on his probationary period.

"CCSO says they will continue providing support to DCSO Sheriff Nick Weldon and his investigators as needed as they move forward with the case."

The Tribune requested a statement from the CCSO, but did not receive one.

The department told ABC 33/40: "The Cullman County Sheriff's Office holds its employees to the highest standards of conduct and will continue to act in the best interest of the citizens we serve."

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Signs of spring

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

In Alabama, spring can feel like a year-round delicacy since the state is known for its warmer climate. December through February are colder, though as we approach true Southern spring there are a few indicators that go beyond having to take your cardigan off around lunch.

One of my favorite signs are the blooming daffodils! It's always a treat to see the yellow flowers that appear almost overnight. The name is said to come from the Dutch phrase "affo dyle," that refers to "that which comes early" since they appear in early spring.

They are sometimes referred to as "Ghost Gardens" or "Ghost Flowers" because they were planted by someone and will continue to bloom despite that person's absence.

When you see daffodils in random places they are a reminder of those forgotten gardens, homes and people.

Another sign of spring in the south is dogwood trees! They can blossom in pink, white or red – Cornus Florida (white flowering dogwood trees), Cornus Florida Rubra (pink flowering dogwood trees) or Cornus sericea (red flowering dogwood trees).

Many Christian stories have suggested the dogwood tree was used to make the cross that Jesus was crucified on and they now appear smaller so that they cannot be used in that way again. They also bloom relatively close to Easter and its flowers showcase a cross-like bloom.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Sunday, March 1 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
• February is Love Your Library Month, and we are having a BOOK SALE the entire month. The proceeds assist our children's program. The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
• Tuesday, 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!

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, 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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PREP SOFTBALL

A team-by-team guide as Cullman County softball gets underway

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With winter sports and weather leaving us, Cullman County softball has returned. Teams like Good Hope are looking to back up a great season, while young teams like Hanceville and Holly Pond are looking to build a foundation for the future. Here's a team-by-team guide as the season begins.

COLD SPRINGS LADY EAGLES (2A)
- 2025 record: 12-23-2
- Head Coach: Paige Adams

First Five:
- 2/19 @ West Point (L, 0-6)
- 2/21 @ Hayden (CANC)
- 2/21 @ West Point (CANC)
- 3/2 vs. Holly Pond
- 3/3 @ Addison

Roster Outlook:
"We're senior-heavy, we've got six seniors who bring a lot to the table. We've got some juniors, then we've got a lot of younger girls that are really, really talented all the way down to the seventh grade. This year, for us, I think our pitching staff is as good as it's been since I've been there, with Addie (Kilgo) and two more seniors with her and then we've got a freshman that comes in that throws it really hard. For us, we're just trying to build this program up and these girls have bought in. So, I'm excited, obviously I don't want to be out there with them just yet, but when I do get out there I'm excited for what's to come," Paige Adams said.

FAIRVIEW LADY AGGIES (4A)
- 2025 record: 17-14
- Head Coach: Brian Simmons

First five:
- 2/24 vs. Holly Pond (W, 17-0)
- 2/25 @ Vinemont (L, 7-6)
- 3/2 vs. West Point
- 3/3 @ Falkville
- 3/6 @ Ohatchee

Roster outlook:
"We have one senior, Angelina (Jaimes), but we lost seven seniors and eight or nine girls overall. We're extremely young. What I like about it is, we have a lot of talent with those young girls, so already this year we've had a couple games where we had to start seventh graders, a couple eighth graders and they've done really well. Our outlook, for me- because we have 26 kids and 25 of them are coming back next year, so I think this group is going to be really strong. I told them 'we're going to take some bumps early because we're trying to figure out some new positions and different girls, who's going to fit what right now?.' Once we get that figured out I think we could solidify and be a really good team- this year, we don't have to wait -going forward, in the next few years I think we're going to be really solid. This is far and away one of the most fun groups I've been around," Simmons said.

GOOD HOPE LADY RAIDERS (4A)
- 2025 record: 26-13-1
- Head Coach: Phillip Keef

First five:
- 2/19 vs. Cordova (W, 10-1)
- 2/20 @ Corner (L, 17-2)
- 2/20 @ Cullman (L, 6-0)
- 2/20 vs. Oak Grove (W, 7-4)
- 2/24 @ Jasper (L, 4-0)

Roster outlook:
"We're fortunate to have these three seniors here (Campbell Koch, Lizzy Steed, Molly Benefield). In years gone by, we've had zero seniors. These three and Molly Johnson have all played for me for... I can't remember softball without them, to be honest. They do a good job of leading and setting the standard. Our strengths...? Strength of schedule, if they had such a thing. We pride ourselves on doing the little things correctly, day in and day out," said Keef.

HANCEVILLE LADY BULLDOGS (5A)
- 2025 record: 15-19-1
- Head Coach: Kim Lewis

First five:
- 2/24 vs. Meek (L, 10-9)
- 2/26 vs. Ashbury
- 2/27 @ Ohatchee
- 2/27 @ Ragland
- 2/28 vs. Scottsboro

Roster outlook:
"I have a lot of different puzzle pieces, I have injured girls that have just been released as of two days ago, so I'm having to plug and play and kind of get used to the girls and how they respond to me on the field during competition. We've had one game so far, so we're a little slow to start but we're going to come out swinging, I was really proud of how they hit the other night, as a team they had a .447 batting average, we had some defensive errors that caused us to lose our game, but I'm excited to see the girls perform and compete," said Lewis.

HOLLY POND LADY BRONCOS (3A)
- 2025 record: 2-20
- Head Coach: Zack Qualls

First five:
- 2/24 vs. Fairview (L, 17-0)
- 2/27 @ Pennington
- 2/28 @ Oneonta
- 3/5 vs. Vinemont
- 3/6 @ Appalachian

Roster outlook:
"We've got a mixture of girls, with no JV team, we've got everything from seventh graders to twelfth graders playing at the varsity level. I've really been impressed by those young girls, it's tough to be an underclassmen and show up to practice every day, but like Maggie (Nail) talked about earlier, we focus on leadership, focus on growing the younger players and helping become the type of people we want to produce at Holly Pond. We're focusing on building those fundamental skills still. A lot of our offseason, we focused on hitting, body control, getting in shape, as far as being able to improve our base run times. Also, just fielding the ball. It's been wet and cold, and our girls have been out in it. With no indoor facility to do field work, we've been out in the weather. So we've acclimated to that and I think that's an advantage for us. It's a group of hard workers, our goal is to keep on chopping and keep getting better," Qualls said.

VINEMONT LADY EAGLES (3A)
- 2025 record: 11-10
- Head Coach: Samantha Wisenant

First five:
- 2/19 @ Brindlee Mtn. (CANC)
- 2/24 vs. Falkville (W, 5-3)
- 2/25 vs. Fairview (W, 7-6)
- 2/26 @ Addison (CANC)
- 3/5 @ Holly Pond

Roster outlook:
"One of the main things I'd like to see be better than last year is our mental toughness and our overall focus of 'We have a full seven innings, we need to play those full seven innings to the best of our ability.' I've already seen that at practice and in our last two games, so I'm pretty excited, I think they've already stepped into that and I think that's goint to be a game changer this year," Wisenant said.

WEST POINT LADY WARRIORS (5A)
- 2025 record: 13-23
- Head Coach: Carson Gibson

First five:
- 2/19 vs. Brewer (W, 4-1)
- 2/19 vs. Cold Springs (W, 6-0)
- 2/21 vs. Cold Springs (CANC)
- 2/24 @ Hayden (L, 6-1)
- 2/25 @ Corner (L, 22-8)

Season outlook:
- "As far as our strengths, we're led by two great seniors who know exactly how to lead a team. Our weakness is probably that we're young, but that doesn't mean we're not going to be good or to be able to compete every time we step on the chalk," Gibson said.

PREP BASEBALL

A team-by-team guide as Cullman County baseball gets underway

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With winter sports coming to an end, Cullman County baseball is back. From a seasoned Fairview squad looking to defend their 2025 County Tournament Championship, to a young Holly Pond team looking to make the leap, here's a team-by-team guide as the season gets underway:

COLD SPRINGS EAGLES (2A)
- 2025 record: 11-16
- Head Coach: Brendan Voce

First five:
- 2/24 vs. Locust Fork (W, 20-0)
- 2/28 vs. West Point
- 2/28 vs. Hanceville
- 3/2 vs. Vinemont
- 3/9 vs. Fairview

Roster outlook:
"We're still kind of learning, we played a game on Tuesday and that was the first time we'd been together this season. We got to practice yesterday. We lost three seniors off last year's team that are going to be hard to replace. We've got a lot of young guys that are going to step up this season and have an opportunity to fill those roles for us," said Voce.

FAIRVIEW AGGIES (4A)
- 2025 record: 15-18
- Head Coach: Nick Dumas

First five:
- 2/19 @ Corner (L, 6-0)
- 2/20 vs. Hueytown (L, 9-5)
- 2/20 vs. John Carroll (W, 12-9)
- 2/23 vs. Hanceville (W, 16-0)
- 2/24 @ West Morgan (W, 11-2)

Roster outlook:
"We're kind of young, we have one senior, a lot of juniors. I would say, and this is my fourth year, that this is the most talented group that I've had, top-to-bottom. Even with just one senior, we have a lot of guys who have experience playing at the varsity level. From that aspect I think we'll be okay even just having one senior. As far as the outlook, we're very optimistic about our team and our chances this year. I scheduled hard like I do every year, we try to play as many tough, quality playoff-type teams as we can just so we see that competition, so when we get to the playoffs it's not something we haven't seen yet. In our first three games of the year with Hueytown, Corner and John Carroll, the pitchers that we saw are probably better than any pitcher we'll see in our area this year. Playing those types of teams, record-wise, may not show up but it'll help us at the end of the season as far as making a deep push in the playoffs," said Dumas.

GOOD HOPE RAIDERS (4A)
- 2025 record: 13-9
- Head Coach: Noah Holder

First five:
- 2/20 vs. West Point (L, 15-10)
- 2/26 vs. Hanceville (CANC)
- 3/2 @ North Jackson
- 3/5 vs. Vinemont
- 3/10 vs. Fairview

Roster outlook:
"This is the first group that I feel like I've been a part of their life and growing up. I see it as a roster built around a great senior core. My JV team, that roster is set up with great, athletic underclassmen that have been looking up to these guys (seniors) since they were little. A lot of them are just little brothers of these guys, so they have great leadership already," said Holder.

HANCEVILLE BULLDOGS (5A)
- 2025 Record: 10-13
- Head Coach: Keith Twitty

First five:
- 2/23 @ Fairview (L, 16-0)
- 2/26 @ Good Hope (CANC)
- 2/28 @ West Point
- 2/28 @ Cold Springs
- 3/2 vs. Falkville

Roster outlook:
"We've got a lot of arms in the rotation, so we don't want to overdo it early in the year. We look at the season as our area tournament and matchups, that's where we want to be able to peak at the right time, so we're going to get guys a lot of reps at different positions so that when it matters, we'll be ready," Twitty said.

HOLLY POND BRONCOS (3A)
- 2025 record: 7-22
- Head Coach: Todd Carter

First five:
- 2/19 @ Cold Springs (CANC)
- 2/21 vs. East Limestone (L, 5-3)
- 2/24 vs. Addison (L, 20-1)
- 2/26 @ Geraldine (CANC)
- 2/28 vs. Susan Moore

Roster outlook:
"Much different than last year, I feel. I feel like these guys are grasping more of the things we're trying to implement as coaches. I have three seniors, and one of them's injured. They are pitchers that can contribute, and I'm trying to turn a fourth one into a pitcher. He has interest in learning to pitch and that's beneficial to us because we'd have two right-handed pitchers and two left-handed pitchers as seniors. It means a lot when young players see a senior in front of them that's representing them and are there to help them out. As much as we can, we want to try to get them involved. For our freshmen playing in positions in the field, to see those guys in front of them (add pitching), it could be very beneficial," said Carter.

VINEMONT EAGLES (3A)
- 2025 record: 27-12 (Area Champions, Elite Eight)
- Head Coach: Jason Veres (11th Season)

First five:
- 2/19 vs. Brewer (L, 9-0)
- 2/24 vs. Susan Moore (W, 11-0)
- 2/27 @ Fairview
- 2/28 vs. Southeastern
- 2/28 vs. Elkmont

Roster outlook:
"Graduating eight is never fun, these two guys right here were everyday starters last year, and they've done a great job of stepping up. We've pulled a lot of guys to the side and said, 'Hey, we don't have any leaders around here anymore, we need people to step up and lead vocally, by example,' and these guys have done that. They hold their teammates accountable when they see them slacking off, and I think we're in a time right now where we're trying to find our identity again. I told them the other night after the game, I'm looking at who's coming up to bat because I don't know the lineup as I used to because I ran the same lineup out there for about three years. It's a lot of new faces and a lot of new guys stepping into larger roles, leadership roles and they've handled it well so far," Veres said.

WEST POINT WARRIORS (5A)
- 2025 record: 13-19
- Head Coach: Tyler Morgan

First five:
- 2/19 vs. West Morgan (W, 13-2)
- 2/20 @ Good Hope (W, 15-10)
- 2/24 vs. Jasper (L, 5-2)
- 2/26 @ Hayden (CANC)
- 2/28 @ Cold Springs

Roster outlook:
"I feel like we have a lot more depth than we've had in the past and that helps us out especially at the varsity level. In the past we've had to pray that nobody gets hurt, depth-wise. I feel like we have some guys who can step into roles that we need them to step into. Weaknesses, maybe we run into a depth problem on the mound at times, but we've got some young guys who are coming along that'll be able to pitch in and help. I feel really good about how we're constructed this year, we've got these three guys right here (Charlie Ashley, Cooper Howard, Boston Freeman) who are helping build the chemistry of the group and getting everybody bought in," Morgan said.




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Vinemont High (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

VINEMONT, Ala. — Vinemont High School recently crowned 2026 Miss Vinemont and 2026 Miss Vinemont Fair Queen.

Makenna Howard was crowned 2026 Miss Vinemont.

Miss Vinemont Pageant winners
- Queen- Makenna Howard
- 1st Alternate- Jenny Price
- 2nd Alternate- Krimson Gingrich
- 3rd Alternate- Kylie Metzger
- People's Choice- Ella Payne
- Miss Photogenic- Kadence Mika
- Miss Congeniality- Jenny Price
- Miss Academic- Krimson Gingrich
- Prettiest Smile- Lily Powell
- Best Dressed- Kyleigh Gossett

Jenny Price was crowned 2026 Miss Vinemont Fair Queen. She will represent Vinemont High School in the Cullman County Fair Queen Pageant in October.

Miss Vinemont Fair Queen Pageant winners
- Queen/Representative- Jenny Price
- 1st Alternate- Kadence Mika



STUDYVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right are Kyleigh Gossett, Lily Powell, Krimson Gingrich, Makenna Howard, Jenny Price, Kadence Mika, Kylie Metzger and Ella Payne.



STUDYVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right are 2026 Miss Vinemont Makenna Howard and 2026 Miss Vinemont Fair Queen Jenny Price.

Junior Miss Vinemont (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

VINEMONT, Ala. — Vinemont Middle School recently crowned winners in its 2026 Junior Miss Vinemont Pageant.

Eighth-grade winners
- Prettiest Smile - Emory Norris
- Best Dressed - Ella Howard
- Miss Academic - Hagen Young
- Miss Congeniality - Hagen Young
- Miss Photogenic - Brianna Burgess
- 2nd Alternate - Brianna Burgess
- 1st Alternate - Hagen Young
- Queen - Ella Howard

Seventh-grade winners
- Prettiest Smile - Paizlee Skye Jarrett
- Best Dressed - Aubrey Norris
- Miss Academic - Aubrey Norris
- Miss Congeniality - Paizlee Skye Jarrett
- Miss Photogenic - Paizlee Skye Jarrett
- 2nd Alternate - Blakelyn Waple
- 1st Alternate - Aubrey Norris
- Queen - Paizlee Skye Jarrett

Sixth-grade winners
- Prettiest Smile - Macie Speakman
- Best Dressed - Aubrey Beckman
- Miss Academic - Harper Walton
- Miss Congeniality - Harper Walton
- Miss Photogenic - Kya Johnson
- 2nd Alternate - Aubrey Beckman
- 1st Alternate - Harper Walton
- Queen - Kya Johnson

People's Choice winner
- Kaidence Henderson



HOLLY JOHNSON

Left to right are Eighth-grade Queen Ella Howard, Seventh-grade Queen Paizlee Skye Jarrett, Sixth-grade Queen Kya Johnson and People's Choice winner Kaidence Henderson.

Good Hope (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope High School will hold its pageants on Saturday, March 21, in the school gymnasium. The 2026 Good Hope Fair Queen Representative Pageant will begin at 3 p.m., followed by the 2026 Miss Heritage Princess Pageant (ninth and 10th graders) and 2026 Miss Heritage Pageant (11th and 12th graders) at 4.

There is a $10 entry fee. People's Choice is $1 per vote at the door.



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2026 Miss Heritage Pageant contestants are, from left to right (front) Lily Vaught, Cahaba Falls, Kloe White, Lauren Falls, (back) McKenzie McDonald, Cotton Calvert, Sammie Johns and (not pictured) Aby Black and Kloe Thurman.



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2026 Miss Heritage Princess Pageant contestants are, from left to right, (front) Kenzlee Barbee, Ella Quinn, Tori Williamson, Chloe Campbell, Enslee Woods, Layla Franks, (back) Brooklyn Shaw, Mary Lambert, Mary Grace Dickey and Lena Elliott.



AMANDA WILLIAMS

2026 Good Hope Fair Queen Representative Pageant contestants are Sammie Johns, Kloe White and Aby Black (not pictured).

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Tree City USA (from Front)

last full week of the month. During the ceremony, Mary Claire Smith of the Alabama Forestry Service presented the Tree City USA flag and materials, as well as the Growth Award materials, to the City.

Cullman is the only city in north Alabama to receive the Growth Award and one of only a few cities statewide to earn that distinction.

Mayor Woody Jacobs reflected on the milestone.

"We're proud to have been a Tree City USA for 38 straight years, and God willing, we'll make it to 40 and beyond," Jacobs said.

"Planting and caring for trees is something this city has taken seriously for decades. Sometimes we do have to remove trees, whether for safety, disease or construction, but we always make it a priority to plant more than we take out. That's part of being good stewards of our community."

As part of the ceremony, Jacobs presented certificates to students from East Elementary, Cullman Christian and Sacred Heart who participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Kenzie Lee and Elaina Sanders of East Elementary, Elizabeth Haynes of Cullman Christian and Tommy Keough of Sacred Heart.

Second place winners, who each received $25, were Emmerich Schumacher of East Elementary, Olivia Laney of Cullman Christian and Kayla Lam of Sacred Heart. First-place winners, each receiving $50, were Eden Conn of East Elementary, Jasmine Hampton of Cullman Christian and Ella Grey of Sacred Heart.

Eden Conn of East Elementary was named the overall winner. Cullman Tree Commission Chairman Barry Slatton presented Conn with a special tree-themed quilt.

"It's the goal of the Tree Commission to help educate young people about the importance of trees and the role they play in our community," Slatton said.

"When students take part in activities like the poster contest, they're learning that trees are not just part of the landscape, they're part of our quality of life."

Others attending the ceremony included members of the Cullman Tree Commission and the Cullman City Council, City Arborist Shane Bivins, as well as school officials and parents. To conclude the ceremony, the new Tree City USA flag was raised in front of Cullman City Hall, where it will be displayed throughout the year.

For more information about Arbor Day, Tree City USA and the Growth Award program, visit the Arbor Day Foundation website at www.arborday.org.

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LEGALS

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 PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KENNETH F. JONES, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-066**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JENNIFER ANN HALE, as Personal Representative of the Estate of KENNETH F. JONES, deceased, on the 27th 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.

Jennifer Ann Hale
Personal Representative

Michael L. Thornton
Attorney for Estate
Law Offices of O'Neal, Thornton & Battles, LLC
200 Second Avenue SE
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

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 Inez Chambers and Leonard Ray Chambers A/K/A Ray Chambers, wife and husband, Kim Brown F/K/A Kim Chambers, a married woman and Gene Brown, her husband to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated April 8, 2016; said mortgage being recorded on April 22, 2016 in Deed Book 1785, Page 938 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 392, Page 559 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., 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 April 9, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

BEGINNING AT THE CENTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 33 MINUTES EAST 408.12 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 20 DEGREES 27 MINUTES EAST 377.82 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A PUBLIC ROAD AND THE WEST MARGIN OF U.S. HIGHWAY 231 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING FOR THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE SOUTH 9 DEGREES 55 MINUTES EAST 420 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 28 MINUTES WEST 155 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE JOSEPH MASON LOT; THENCE NORTH 9 DEGREES 55 MINUTES WEST 420 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH MARGIN OF A PUBLIC ROAD; THENCE NORTH 83 DEGREES 28 MINUTES EAST 155 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said property is commonly known as **800 County Road 1838, Arab, AL 35016**.

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. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

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

February 26, 2026

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.
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. 24-06044AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
02/28/2026,03/07/2026,03/14/2026

24-06044AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-321

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Good Hope Planning Commission of the City of Good Hope, will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman, AL 35057. At this time anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Proposed Ordinance No. 005-2026 (set forth in full below) to Re-Zone said property from B2 w/ restrictive access to GB, will be given an opportunity to be heard.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 005-2026
TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN
PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO: 005-2026
RE-ZONE PARCEL FROM B2 w/ restrictive access TO GB

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

WHEREAS, this ordinance is enacted pursuant to the Act and the city's general jurisdictional power and land use authority, it is therefore, provided:

For the purpose ofrezoning the below parcel of property from B2 w/ restrictive access located in the corporate limits of the City of Good Hope, Cullman County, Alabama to GB (General Business)

3.4 Acres - Property Located at 416 Speegle Road

Subject to any rights-of-ways and/or easements of record. Less and Except all that part of the above described property that lies within the right of way of Speegle Rd & Mize Road N

Situated within the city limits of Good Hope, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, heretofore designated as B2 District on the Zoning Map of the City of Good Hope, Alabama, and is hereby changed from B2 to GB. You may review map at Good Hope City Hall.

2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for three consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage as required by State of Alabama Law within the municipality, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and published in three places within the city limits of Good Hope and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being published on or about March 147, 2026 in the Cullman Tribune and by posting in three places.
3. That a final public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 23rd day of March, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.
4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for Cullman County, Alabama.
5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Good Hope, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.
6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.
7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Christie Chamblee, City Clerk

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of) CASE NO. PC-2025-329
MYRA S. WARD,)
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Co-Letters Testamentary having been granted to Carolyn Ward Blankenship, and Ralph Stephen Ward, also known as Steve Ward, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Myra S. Ward, deceased, on the 24th 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.

Carolyn Ward Blankenship
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Myra S. Ward, deceased

Ralph Stephen Ward,
also known as Steve Ward
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Myra S. Ward, deceased

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Myra S. Ward, deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256) 739-3970

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DONNA D. RAKESTRAW, DECEASED * **CASE NO.** PC2026-096

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 27th day of February, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court 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 be barred.

All claims must be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

DEREK RAKESTRAW
Personal Representative

Hugh C. Harris
Nancy F. McClellan
BLAND, HARRIS & McCLELLAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Estate of JANNIE D. QUATTLEBAUM
401 Second Avenue, SW, Suite 103
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-038

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LOIS MARIE SPEAKE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Todd Adkinson on the 27th 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.

Todd Adkinson
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

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

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Is your Christmas tree still up?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last week I was listening to a Christian radio program when the host of the show asked the radio audience, "Is your Christmas tree still up?" He and his co-host went on to discuss when the appropriate time is to take down the tree. He also went on to confess that his tree was still up.

Many leave their trees up until the New Year and some do not take theirs down before Jan. 6. That is, of course, the day known as Epiphany. It is also, as the song says, the 12th day of Christmas. A centuries old tradition believed it to be an inauspicious beginning to the year to take down Christmas decorations before Epiphany Eve.

When I heard the question by the radio host, we were safely beyond the New Year or the 12th day of Christmas. I think it was Feb. 19. That would have been almost two months after Christmas Day.

Amazingly, quiet a few listeners called in to say, "Yes. My tree is still up." Some even said that they leave theirs up all year long. We have a tree in the fellowship hall of our church that stays up year-round, but I hesitate to call it a Christmas tree. Okay, it is a Christmas tree for a couple of months.

During those months it has Christmas decorations on it. During the other seasons or holidays of the year, the decorations are changed and it becomes an Easter tree, an Independence Day tree or a Thanksgiving tree.

Some have said they don't undecorate their tree but just move it out of sight. Some cover it and store it in the attic or in a shed or garage with all the decorations kept in place.

The following Christmas, they simply uncover it and bring it back in. Hey, sounds like an easy way to save ourselves time, work and money. That reminds me of a couple of occasions when I was a boy. I decided rather than undress for bed I would just sleep in my clothes and be ready to roll out of bed and go the next morning.

When Mama said, "Your clothes look like you slept in them," and I answered, "That's because I did," my brilliant plan quickly came unraveled. I also had to unravel my outfit and put on a clean one.

When I was growing up, our tree never stayed up past the New Year. I think Mama believed if it stayed in the house past the New Year that the New Year wouldn't come.

Actually, I believe she was afraid if it stayed up too long, that our house might not stay up long because it might burn down. You see, we always had a live tree.

It was usually a cedar that we had gone out into our woods and cut. We also had a live fire in a coal heater. When that live tree became a dead tree, that along with our live fire was a dangerous combination.

So, we cut down our tree and brought it in a few days before Christmas, and it usually came back down the day after Christmas.

At some point in the year, we become closer to the next Christmas than we are to the last one.

When that becomes the case, if your tree is still up, you don't have to say, "I haven't taken my tree down yet." You could just say, "I already have my Christmas tree up." Hey, if the stores keep moving the start of the season back, you'll be right on time! Have a Merry March!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Feb. 28, 1952

From the files of Feb. 28, 1952

To and Fro

A couple of couples here have sent their reservations for the Rotary International Convention in Mexico City, Mexico this year. They are Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Griffin and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hyatt. Mr. Hyatt is the newly elected president of the Cullman Rotary Club and will be installed July 1st.

A Cullman High student has been declared one of fifteen national winners in the Quill and Scroll "Political Quiz for 1952 Contest". This student, Henry Frank Arnold, Jr., was presented a creative writing award at assembly program at CHS Monday morning by Principal Allen Hyatt for the Quill and Scroll, an international honor society for high school journalists. A further elimination in the contest will be made in September when these fifteen winners take part in Part II of the Quiz. The final winner will receive a scholarship.

"Curiosity may have killed the cat, but Wallace Hathcock's inquisitive nature has put him well on the way to becoming one of the best sweet potato growers in the South", thus begins a feature article in the February issue of "Farm and Ranch" magazine. The article is illustrated with several pictures of Mr. Hathcock and his potato beds and house out on Rt. 6, Cullman.

The Tribune has been informed by Winton M. Blount, president of the Eisenhower state organization, that Alabama leaders for the General's presidential candidacy, are interested in organizing an Eisenhower for President Club in Cullman. Included in his letter to The Tribune was this message, "We are ready to come there and go over the situation with people interested locally at any time."

Now a senior clerk in headquarters at Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina is Cpl. Betty Jane Glascock, who enlisted in the Air Force last September. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Glascock.

Here for a visit with Cullman Republicans last Friday was Curtis Adkins, Alabama G.O.P. National Committeeman. Mr. Adkins, is a former probate judge of St. Clair County. He was elected in 1928, same year that the late Homer F. Mitchell was elected by a Republican majority for his first term as probate judge of Cullman County.

Guest speaker at the meeting of the Cullman County Chapter American Red Cross directors last Thursday afternoon was Paul M. Moore of Atlanta. Local people attending the meeting, which was held at the Cullman Health Center, were W. O. Buettner, T. A. Robinson, Wallace Green, Ruffin A. A. Powndra, Henry F. Arnold, James Moultrie, Allen Hyatt, Dr. M. S. Whiteside, Dr. E. B. Barnes, Rev. F. J. Mehrtes, and Mesdames F. M. Howell, Wilbur Green, J. M. Oldacre, Ila Dean Gilbert and Ethel Morrison.

South Walter News

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Burks of Cullman spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Guthrie and attended church at Pilgrim's Rest.

Mrs. Alice Ladwig and son, Charles, and Mrs. Mary Grimmett of Steppville spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Felix Foust and Talmage.



POET'S CORNER

This Book Is Mine | Randy C. Hale

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

Inside the cover of this old book
are the words, This book belongs to:
someone I never met who writes
their name in blue cursive.

In this book, intentional marks
are placed, words are underlined,
and personal notes are made about
poems that touched them.

The previous owner, possibly dead,
left this book behind, somehow
ending here in this used bookstore.

On paper with a yellow tinge, our lives
remotely meet.
Inside is a faded receipt for shoe inserts
and a postcard from a friend who simply
says,

"Having a great time in Cozumel!
Wish you were here."

The postcard marks the page of a
poem, perhaps returned to many
times. And, written with the same
hand on this tattered page are the
words below this poem of romance:

"If only this could be me."

Bringing kinship in a tarnished chain
a book soon to be mine.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 28

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

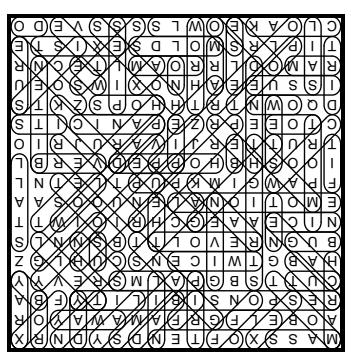
Acts
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 28

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

ANSWERS:



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





Library seeking volunteers

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library System is seeking volunteers, saying they play a vital role in keeping local libraries running efficiently.

CCPLS Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore said the library is always recruiting volunteers, as schedules and life circumstances change.

"The library always needs volunteers," she said. "We are grateful to be part of a community that always shows up to support us in various ways, and this is one of the big ways people can help."

Volunteers assist with several essential functions, including shelving books, organizing materials, supporting programs and helping keep the library accessible for patrons. Even a small time commitment can make a significant difference.

"If someone can commit to one or two hours per week, that can help the library immensely," Creekmore said.

The library works with volunteers to create efficient schedules that fit their availability. Adults and students are welcome to apply, though volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

For those unable to commit to a regular weekly schedule, Creekmore suggested joining the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County, which offers opportunities to assist with special events and programs on an occasional basis.

Creekmore said volunteers support everything from pulling released books for patrons to helping direct children during story time and setting up for guest speakers. "Volunteers are essential for keeping a library operating efficiently. They give our staff members time back and keep the library running. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community and invest in the library's future. The best way to learn what your community needs is to serve its people," she said.

Community members interested in volunteering can contact the Cullman County Public Library System for more information. Call 256-734-2720 or email cullmanpubliclibrary@gmail.com.