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WORKING FOR YOU!



SENATOR GARLAN GUDGER

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

ALDOT: Project to improve Hanceville intersection starts

Staff Reports
Contributor

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — A project to improve Alabama Highway 91 at U.S. Highway 31 in Hanceville began this week.

The project includes widening to add a left turn lane on Highway 91 northbound and relocation and replacement of the signal pole on the southwest corner of the intersection. It also includes upgrading the signal pole to a mast arm pole matching the pole on the northeast corner.

The $749,325 project with contractor Rogers » PAGE 3



ALDOT

An ATRIP-II project will improve the intersection of Alabama Highway 91 and U.S. Highway 31 by adding a turn lane and upgrading the signal pole on the southwest corner of the intersection to a mast arm pole like the one seen in the background.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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WEATHER
78 59
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY CLOUDY THEN SHOWERS LIKELY

Arrests and Incidents
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Community Calendar
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- PREP BASKETBALL -

CHAMPS!

No. 4 Lady Raiders take down no. 1 Plainview 59-54 to win the 4A State Title



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope celebrating their 2026 4A State Championship

» PAGE 4

Library receives $4K Pizza Hut Foundation grant



CULLMAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Left to right are Beth Blodgett, Bridgett Aaron, Mark Williams, Shelby Creekmore, Mike Mihalik, Amber Thornton and Ashley Newton. » PAGE 5

CRG on protecting children from online predators » PAGE 5

Ivey signs law opening classroom doors to Alabama veterans



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Governor Ivey signs SB149 on March 3, 2026, with Sen. Matt Woods, R-Jasper (right) and Rep. Rick Rehm, R-Dothan (left). » PAGE 3

Cullman County Schools to host career fair March 19 » PAGE 6

Wallace State Theatre to present 'Xanadu' March 13-15 » PAGE 6



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Big Boom Coffee Company

» PAGE 8

7 93888 98541 4

PREP BASKETBALL

No. 1 North Sand Mtn.'s defense stifles no. 10 Cold Springs, takes 2A State Championship 41-28

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — While a bright future lays ahead, the Cold Springs Lady Eagles fell just short of glory in 2025-26.

On Friday morning, Cold Springs faced off with the number one-ranked 2A team in the state in North Sand Mountain with the State Championship title on the line. The Lady Bison's speed was overwhelming from the jump, and helped build a lead early, eventually taking a 24-13 lead into the break. In the second half, while Cold Springs found discipline and some momentum, the Lady Bison pulled away late to seal a 41-28 victory to » PAGE 4



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Ella Dickerson

Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 6

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 6, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 2

- possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB 299 Exit
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 216
- harassment; Sunnyside Dr. SW
- domestic violence; CR 401
- domestic violence; CR 1145
- possession of dangerous drugs with intent to sell; CR 1865
- theft of property; CR 1078
- possession of dangerous drugs; tampering with physical evidence; I65NB 299 Exit

March 3

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana-2nd degree; possession of drug paraphernalia; School House Rd.
- theft of property; CR 164
- stolen vehicle; CR 1435
- criminal mischief; CR 1141
- criminal mischief; CR 1605
- domestic violence; CR 1114
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 278E

March 4

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1251
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession of dangerous drugs; I65NB MM 310
- harassment; harassing communications; trespass; CR 489
- harassment; College Dr. NE
- burglary; CR 346
- domestic violence; interference with a domestic violence emergency call; CR 1339
- harassment; CR 1564

ARRESTS

March 2-4

Aldridge, Ronnie B.; 43
- FTA – damaged property-destruction of property by prisoner
- FTA – public intoxication

Arsenault, Forest O.; 39
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Barnett, Loyd J.; 49
- FTA – retail theft-3rd degree
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – speed above 70 MPH-interstate highway

Bell, Leslie H.; 49
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Black. Shannon I.; 40
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Boatright, Jr., Joshua A.; 47
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Bolte, Destiny M.; 26
- DUI (alcohol)

Bright, John S.; 55
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine

Brock, Amanda G.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Chambers, Jason W.; 53
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications

Dingler, Brandy M. 34
- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- possession of dangerous drugs
- tampering with physical evidence

Farmer, Rachel N.; 34
- PROBATION VIOLATION – fraudulent use credit/debit card

Freeman, Shane A.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs
- attempting to elude a police officer

Hilleland, Jonathan R.; 30
- sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old-forcible fondling

Holcomb, Harley S.; 27
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – auto theft

Hudson, Danny R.; 46
- possession of dangerous drugs

Jesch, Jennifer L.; 57
- unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc., of wine or alcohol generally

Judkins, Shannon R.; 52
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Randolph, Finis J.; 56
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Roden II, Mark C.; 32
- unauthorized use of auto-no force (joyriding)

Tucker, Jenna A.; 33
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Winston, Jennifer D.; 42
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant

Yates, Logan B.; 24
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- FTA – driving while license suspended

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 4
- unauthorized use of vehicle; person

March 5
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; person; pistols; $700; 2nd Ave. NW
- identity theft; person

ARRESTS

March 4-5

Freeman, Shane A.; 34
- FTA – no trailer tag
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – improper lights
- FTA – insurance violation

Yates, Logan B.; 24
- FTA – driving while suspended
- FTA – expired tag

Abbott, Caitlin F.; 30
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Weaver, Jason J.; 34
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Samz, Ann M.; 57
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Good Hope Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2026 @ 6:00 pm and then the City Council of the City of Good Hope will hold a public hearing on March 23, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Good Hope City Hall, 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman, AL 35055. At this time anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 005-2026 will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Christie Chamblee, City Clerk

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-105

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PEGGY LOVE CAYLOR, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Arnold Wyatt Caylor and Karen Caylor Woods on the 4th day of March, 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.

Arnold Wyatt Caylor and Karen Caylor Woods
Co-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 Attorneys, LLC
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 MARION LOUISE MCDANIEL, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2026-064**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Rebbecca S. Underwood, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Marion Louise McDaniel, deceased, on the 5th day of March, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

DONE this the 5th day of March, 2026.

Rebbecca S. Underwood
Personal Representative

Alexander M. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
PO Box 8
121 1st Avenue East
Oneonta, AL 35121
(205) 625-5505

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

Ivey (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey on March 3, 2026, signed Senate Bill 149, one of her legislative priorities, into law, creating a new pathway for military veterans to serve Alabama students in the classroom.

"Service is woven into the fabric of who we are as a state and as a nation, and by signing this bill into law, we are ensuring opportunity follows sacrifice," said Ivey.

"Our veterans have already answered the brave call to serve our country. Now, as America nears its 250th year, we are creating a pathway for our heroes to answer a new call – guiding students, filling critical teacher shortages and continuing their mission of service right here at home. This is good for our veterans, and it is especially good for our young people who will learn from their leadership and example."

Sponsored by Sen. Matt Woods, R-Jasper and Rep. Rick Rehm, R-Dothan, the new law allows the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to issue temporary teaching certificates to eligible veterans who would otherwise need at least a bachelor's degree.

"Today marks a major step forward not only for our veterans, but also for Alabama's entire education system," said Woods. "By signing SB149 into law, we are building a pathway for our veterans to bring their leadership, experience and real-world knowledge back into our communities.

"This legislation ensures the next generation will learn from some of the very best our nation has to offer. I'm grateful to Governor Ivey for her steadfast support of both our veterans and our students."

Under the new law, ALSDE will issue a Military Veteran Temporary Teaching Certificate to applicants who:

- Document 48 months of active-duty military service with an honorable discharge or medical separation
- Pass a background check
- Are recommended for certification by a local superintendent of education or private K-12 school administrator
- Have completed 60 college credits with a minimum GPA of 2.5/4.0
- Obtain a passing score on the Praxis test of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program

"The final passage of the Military Veteran Temporary Teaching Certificate is a meaningful step forward for both our students and those who have served our country," said Rehm.

"Veterans bring proven leadership, accountability and a mission-driven mindset to the classroom. By creating this pathway, we are strengthening our teacher pipeline while honoring the service and sacrifice of our military men and women. I am grateful for Governor Ivey's partnership in continuing to make Alabama a national leader in supporting veterans."

The certificate would be nonrenewable and only valid for five years. Ivey's office said the governor has the goal of making Alabama the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation.

SB149 takes effect Oct. 1, 2026.

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Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

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 8 – 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, 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!

Hanceville Lions Club Bingo and Hot Dog Night
Saturday, March 7, at the Hanceville Civic Center. Doors open 5 p.m. Bingo starts 6. Supports our community in mission areas. $15 at door. $12 pre-buy. You get two hot dogs with trimmings and two Bingo cards.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church. 1310 Saint Joseph Dr. NW in Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

Hanceville Irish Festival
Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Hanceville. For more information visit www.facebook.com/hancevilleirishfest.

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

Project (from Front)

Group is funded through the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program-II (ATRIP-II) project. The City of Hanceville provided partial funding.

Initial work includes drilling for the new signal pole site and excavation in preparation for the widening on Highway 91 northbound.

ALDOT said it anticipates completion this summer.

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PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Scores and stats for March 5, 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BASEBALL

• Fairview 4, West Point 3 – Batting: L. Wright (Fair.) 0-2, Walk-off sacrifice fly) – D. Cleghorn (West.) 2-3, 1 RBI Pitching: C. Cullen 3.2 IP, 3 ER, 3 K, W

• Good Hope 4, Vinemont 3 – Batting: A. Lay (Good.) 1-3, 2 RBI – T. Mauter (Vine.) 4-4 Pitching: C. Rutherford 5.0 IP, 1 ER, 12 K, W

• Hanceville 9, Meek 5 – Batting: C. Whatley (Hance.) 2-5, 2 RBI – C. Belcher (Hance.) 1-4, 2 RBI Pitching: H. Black 7.0 IP, 4 ER, 11 K, W

• Holly Pond 16, Brindlee Mtn. 1 – Batting: Tu. Dunn 3-3, 2 RBI – Ty Dunn 2-3, 2 RBIPitching: T. Harrison 4.2 IP, 0 ER, 7 K, W

SOFTBALL

• Cullman 7, Brewer 6 – Batting: D. Bates 4-5, 2 RBI (Game-winning single in 9th) Pitching: D. Bates 2.0 IP, 0 ER, 4 K, W

• Meek 12, Hanceville 3 – Batting: C. Daugherty (Meek) 2-4, 2 RBI – A. Miles (Meek) 1-4, 2 RBI Pitching: S. Farley 7.0 IP, 2 ER, 10 K, W

• Vinemont 10, Holly Pond 0 – Batting: T. Vines (Vine.) 3-4, 2 RBI – B. Basinger (Vine.) 2-3 Pitching: T. Vines 5.0 IP, 0 ER, 8 K, W

• West Point 11, Danville 2 – Batting: M. Echols 3-3, 3 RBI – B. McSwain 3-4, 2 RBI Pitching: K. Jones 7.0 IP, 2 ER, 12 K, W

PREP SOFTBALL

Bates' game-winning RBI single puts Cullman over Brewer in 7-6 extra-innings win

Sammy Confer
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CULLMAN, Ala. — After dropping their last game at Athens, the Cullman Lady Bearcats looked to bounce back at home against Brewer on Thursday afternoon.

It was a pitcher's duel for most of the game. A strong fifth inning by Cullman gave them a 5-1 lead, but a rally by Brewer in the top of the seventh tied things up at five and eventually sent the game into extra innings. Both teams traded runs to start out extra innings, then a game-winning RBI single off the bat of Dracen Bates gave the Lady Bearcats a 7-6 win over the Lady Patriots.

Kynlei Storey got the start for the Lady Bearcats and quickly found herself in an early jam, as a pair of singles put runners on first and second with two outs. Storey struck out the next batter to get out of the inning unscathed. Her teammates gave her some early run support in their half.

Hattie Graham got hit by the pitch with one out, and Samantha Johnson followed that up with a single to left field to put runners on first and second with one out. A fielder's choice put runners at the corners with two outs, and Dracen Bates hit an RBI single to left field to give Cullman a 1-0 lead.

The Lady Patriots tied the game up at one on an RBI single in the top of the second, but the Lady Bearcats broke the tie in their half. Leighton McGriff led off the inning with a single then moved up to second on a fielder's choice. Allie Johnson lined the first pitch she saw into center field for an RBI double to put Cullman ahead, 2-1.

Both pitchers, though, quickly settled down after that, as a combined three batters reached base for the next 2 1/2 innings. The Lady Bearcats added to their lead in the bottom of the fifth.

Johnson lined a single to center field to lead off the inning but was forced out on a fielder's choice by Reese Hopper.

Bates lined a double to left field to move Hopper over to third with one out, then Storey helped out her own cause by lining an RBI double to center field to make it 3-1.

McGriff drove in a run on a ground ball, then Haylee Little hit the first pitch she saw into left field for an RBI single to stretch their lead to 5-1.

The score remained the same going into the top of the seventh inning. Storey got two quick outs to lead off the inning and was one out away from ending the game. Brewer, though, had other plans, as back-to-back singles, followed by a passed ball three pitches later, put runners on second and third.

A two-run double was followed by an RBI single, and all of a sudden, Cullman's lead was cut to 5-4. A single put runners at first and second, then a costly error by the Lady Bearcats allowed the Lady Patriots to tie the game up at five. Cullman couldn't win it in their half, so the game would be decided in extra innings.

Brewer didn't waste any time breaking the tie in extra innings, as an RBI single on just the second pitch of their at-bat gave them a 6-5 lead. The Lady Bearcats looked to respond in their half.

A sacrifice bunt by Johnson moved Little over to third to lead off their half, then two pitches later, Abby Maples tied the game up at six on a sacrifice fly. It would stay tied up at six going into the ninth inning. Bates collected a pair of strikeouts in a scoreless top of the ninth. The Lady Bearcats looked to end things in their half. A one-out double by Hopper put runners on second and third with one out, and Bates' game-winning RBI single brought home Graham to give Cullman a thrilling 7-6 win over the Lady Patriots.

Bates had a huge night at the plate for the Lady Bearcats, collecting four hits and a pair of RBIs. Storey (two hits), Johnson (two hits), McGriff (one hit), Little (one hit), and Maples all collected an RBI in the win for Cullman (12-2).

The Lady Bearcats will host Jasper in a huge area game next Tuesday afternoon.

Champs (from Front)

Lucas Gray
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Defense wins championships." It's an adage that dates back to the great Paul Bryant, and one that holds true today.

The no. 4 Good Hope Lady Raiders met with no. 1 Plainview in the 4A State Championship on Friday afternoon at Legacy Arena with all the glory on the line. After jumping out to an early lead and trading runs, the Raiders clamped down in the final moments, fended off any comeback efforts and sealed a second 4A State Championship in three years.

In the win, the Raiders held Plainview to just 32.7% shooting from the floor, forced 12 turnovers and outscored the Lady Bears 32-8 in the paint.

"This group of girls, I love them. I do. They battle, they play hard, they play the game the right way and I'm proud of them. Their hard work paid off," Good Hope head coach Justin Aby said after the win.

The Raiders came well prepared, obvious from the 11-0 run they built just minutes into the game. With Sophie Konrad's endless scoring motor, ball movement fueled by Ella Gossett and an interior force on both ends in Ella Davis, Good Hope was a well-oiled machine. No. 1-ranked Plainview, despite being punched in the mouth early, showed their worth. Or rather, Bears guard Piper Anderson did. In the face of the Raiders' onslaught, Anderson took matters into her own hands, draining three straight threes after hitting a layup to will Plainview back into the game. At the end of one, Anderson's streak made it a 15-14 Good Hope lead.

Finding their legs again, the Raiders picked apart Plainview in the second. Davis and Konrad continued to find their way into the paint for buckets while Good Hope's defense only allowed two buckets the entire period. Going ito the half, the Raiders led 24-19.

The pace picked up after the break. The third quarter was back-and-forth for a few minutes, but then it seemed like the dam broke for Plainview after Good Hope went up 28-22 on a pair of Marshall free throws.

A driving lay through contact from AnnaLee Shrader got the Bears going, who then got two deep threes from Jaxson Bruce and Sawyer Kate Hulgan to fall. Then a layup from Shrader made it a 32-all game. The Raiders' Davis had none of it, seeming to shift into another gear on both ends.

The 5-9 sophomore swatted shots, picked off passes and torched the Bears' defense with spin moves she'd turn into up-and-under layups. It was an unparalleled heater in a game of mostly defense. When the dust settled, Davis had scored 11 straight to put the Raiders back up 41-32 heading into the final frame.

"It's just a lot of confidence that my teammates and my coaches have put into me, and I couldn't have done it without any of my teammates sharing the ball with me," Davis said humbly about the run.

In the fourth quarter, Good Hope's defense rode the momentum of the scoring run. Despite playing nearly perfect defense, Plainview got some shots to fall. With just four minutes to go, Marshall dished a beautiful pass to Gossett to put the Raiders up 46-38, but the Bears just wouldn't go away. They had responses for every Good Hope score to keep it close, but in the end, with the state on the line, it came down to Gossett to seal the game at the charity stripe. She'd hit both shots on two straight trips, sealing a 59-54 win and the State Championship.

"I've been here before. I know what the environment is like, how loud it is, and in that moment, everything just goes silent and I know I've got to make them. And thats what I did," Gossett said.

Gossett, a junior, was part of the 23-24 state championship team with the legendary Tetro twins. On the growing fraternity of scrappy Good Hope point giuards, Gossett said, "I didn't go to Good Hope my whole life. I moved here from Cullman High School because I saw how good this program was and I wanted to be better. I knew they would make me better and that's exactly what they did. They (The Tetros) pushed me every day in practice and, those girls were not easy to guard. Thye were some of the fastest people, and I'm just so grateful for them and how they pushed me. I've got to give a lot of credit to them."

Leading the Raiders was Davis with 18 points and five rebounds. Lucie Adams had a stellar effort as well, recording a double-double with 11 points and 17 rebounds.

Cold Springs (from Front)

win the 2A girls state title.

The Bison's mission on defense was clear: to take Ella Dickerson out of the game on offense. It was reminiscent of the late-1980s Pistons' "Jordan rules," as every time the Cold Springs star touched the ball, she was mobbed. Two, sometimes three defenders pulled off their assignments to poke the ball away from Dickerson, who only got two shots off in the first half.

With Dickerson unable to play a role on offense, the Bison thrived. Star point guard Kayden Reyes, the eventual State Tournament MVP, got scoring going with a layup. North Sand's defense forced seven first quarter turnovers, which they thrived off of in the open court on offense. Reyes and Abby Shaffer took turns dealing blows, building an early 9-0 lead for the Bison. After another bucket by Reyes, Cold Springs found the hoop finally found the hoop with under a minute to go in the first, with Paizley Whitlow getting set and draining a three off a pick from Dickerson. Later, Whitlow put back a missed shot to get the Eagles their second basket, making it a 14-5 score at the end of one, with Cold Springs only hitting 2-14 from the floor.

In the second, the Bison's defense tightened up, only allowing the Eagles four shot attempts. Contrasting the first quarter, the Eagles started hitting the good looks they seldom found. Macie Huffstutler picked a pass and took it back for a lay, Hollyn Bruer shook a defender for a hook shot and Aleah Addison found the bucket off a steal from Huffstutler. They'd go 3-4 from the floor, but were unable to keep up with North Sand's speed on offense. Shaffer gave Cold Springs trouble, scoring five in the period to help build the Bison's 24-13 halftime lead.

"We weren't hitting our shots. We couldn't make anything... we were getting shots and I just think once we had that talk, we came together and said 'focus on defense and the offense will come. Then we started focusing on boxing out and rebounding to try and get the ball, try to feed into our offense," Bruer said on their halftime adjustments.

In the third quarter, those adjustments were apparent. Cold Springs was playing with a new energy, one that got them off to a 7-2 start to the third quarter to make it a 20-26 game after layups from Huffstutler and Addison came off of steals forced by the Eagles. With both defenses playing so tight, the game got messy in the third, both teams had players hitting the deck to fight for loose balls, and there was a period of no scoring that lasted almost two minutes. After a beautiful feed from Reyes to Shaffer broke the ice, Dickerson finally found a FG with a three pointer to make it a five-point, 28-23 deficit for Cold Springs at the end of the third.

The final frame saw the hopes of a comeback extinguished, as the Bison returned to form with two quick layups from Shaffer and Reyes. They'd get momentum back on their side, and ride it to the end of the game, with Reyes sealing a 41-28 win and the 2A girls State Championship with a pair of free throws.

"What a game. I don't think many people expected us to be here, playing the number one team. I felt like we battled, and I felt like it was a really fun 2A Girls State Championship," Cold Springs head coach Paige Adams said after the game.

It's been an incredible first season at the helm for Adams, who took over the program after the departure of her former head coach, the legendary Tammy West. After the game, Eagles' star Ella Dickerson told the press "she's been the best coach this year. Stepping in, she brought it into perspective, she brought so much joy, so much energy to practice every single day. She pushed every single one of us to be better every day. We knew every day, walking into practice and leaving practice that she was our number one fan, she believed in us more than anybody else."

While key players like Dickerson, Bruer and Whitlow will move on this offseason, the future of the Eagles couldn't be in better hands.

Leading the Eagles in scoring was, despite a tough day, Dickerson, who had seven points, three rebounds, two steals and a block. Behind her, both Bruer and Addison score six.

Dickerson and Whitlow were both named to the All-Tournament team.



Grant (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library received a $4,000 Slice of Literacy Grant from the Pizza Hut Foundation to support local literacy initiatives and expand educational programming. Library officials said the funding will help expand the library's STEAM program, which focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and math.

"We are very appreciative of the Pizza Hut Foundation and our local Pizza Hut team for their support in making our community better," said Cullman County Public Library System Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore. "We are excited to use these funds to purchase equipment and materials for our STEAM program."

Creekmore said the funding will allow the library to expand an already successful program and foster a love of learning among students.

Many of the students who participate in the library's STEAM program are homeschooled and may not otherwise have access to certain technology or resources.

The grant will aid in continuing to promote literacy and learning opportunities for students throughout Cullman County.

The Slice of Literacy Grant supports the Pizza Hut Foundation's goal to grow the reach of the Pizza Hut Book It! reading program through additional literacy-focused efforts.

The Book It! program, which has encouraged young readers for more than 40 years, promotes literacy nationwide through customer donations and partnerships with local organizations.

CRG (from Front)

Chasady Woods
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GARDENDALE, Ala. — Josh Moody is the chief executive officer of Covenant Rescue Group. It is a nonprofit based out of Gardendale that fights against human trafficking, child exploitation and other related crimes. Moody and others involved receive law enforcement training to better serve in protecting the community.

It recently aided several agencies in an operation that resulted in five arrests. The suspects were all charged with two counts of first-degree human trafficking, one count of electronic solicitation of a child and one count of traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act.

It released the following statement online: "We are grateful for the dedicated law enforcement agencies who work to protect the most vulnerable. CRG remains committed to standing beside agencies across the country with training, technology, and operational support to combat human trafficking and child exploitation."

When asked about the most common social media platforms predators use to gain access to children and what parents should be aware of, Moody stated, "We've got a specific curriculum built for students, parents, teachers and administrators. Those curriculums warn parents what to look for within kids' phones and how there are ways to hide apps. We will talk about, a lot of the time, how these individuals approach you online. Whether it's through Instagram, TikTok messages or whatever the case may be."

He advised that a large part of CRG's curriculum is based on what to expect with advances through online messaging.

"In this day and age the best thing to do, which isn't very feasible anymore – but kids don't need to have a phone. Our CEO, Jared Hudson, stated, 'If a parent gives a child access to a phone, they're giving that child access to the world and they're giving the world access to them.'"

He went on to explain that he could give five instances where friends of his have had adults online attempt to message their children. Whether that was by predators or those attempting "sextortion."

Sextortion targets children and teens and takes place when they are threatened and even coerced into sending explicit images online.

Use the following link of information given by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to learn more. www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/scams-and-safety/common-frauds-and-scams/sextortion

Moody advised that in order to protect your children you have to monitor the things that they are doing online. Read text messages, stay up to date on ways children or teens can hide messages, monitor game chats such as Discord or built-in game chats. If your child has an online presence- do your due diligence.

CRG recommends downloading an app called "Bark." This app allows you to monitor your child's activity on their phone in real time. This app gives parents access to over 30-plus apps, social media, texts and emails. This not only protectors your children from predators, but also provides them safety against other online dangers such as bullying and adult content.

Visit https://bark.us to see the functionality of the app and how to use it.

Moody advised that some parents may say this is an invasion of their children's privacy. He advised that it is not. "That's the best way you're going to protect your child and know what they're doing online at all times."

Warning signs of children being exploited:

- Distancing or withdrawal
- Cutting ties with friends or family
- Staying in their room more with their device
- Rapid change in demeanor such as guilt or anxiety
- Overnight difference in personality

"Having good communication and relationship with your child is going to protect them. If they feel like they can come talk to you, that's going to help a lot," he said.

Recently, Cullman County sheriff candidates publicly announced that they would not attend a political forum scheduled for March 21, 2026, at the Brandin' Iron in West Point when it was brought to their attention that the organizer of the forum was a registered sex offender.

Chad Whaley stated online, "Protecting our children is not political — it is a moral responsibility."

Tim Creel responded, "I stand firmly and unequivocally against crimes targeting children. Protecting children is not a political talking point for me; it is a moral line that will never be crossed."

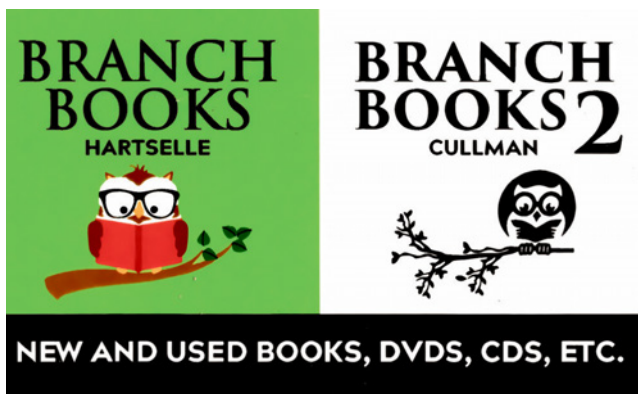
When Moody was asked about the importance of crimes against children not being viewed as a political agenda he said, "I would agree 100%. In 2004, when Governor (Kay) Ivey passed the Sound of Freedom Act for the state of Alabama. That act gave Alabama some of the strictest human trafficking laws in the country. When they voted on that bill it passed 102-0. That shows you that it's not a Democrat, Republican, conservative or liberal issue. It's hard to argue the safety of our kids. Everyone agrees our kids should be protected from this."

He added, "Throughout scripture God tells us over and over again to protect those that are vulnerable, protect those who can't protect themselves. Protect them and be their defender. Morally and legally we have an obligation to protect our kids, 100%."

If you are interested in upcoming curriculums or have additional questions, reach out to admin@covenantrescue.org













EDITORIAL

It's time for a moratorium on campaign promises

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Election season produces a familiar pattern.

Bold promises. Absolute declarations. Assurances that sweeping change will occur the moment one candidate takes office.

Then governance begins. And reality intrudes.

At every level of government, candidates speak as if election equals authority. But in most offices, authority is shared. It is negotiated. It is procedural. It is dependent on votes beyond one person.

A single council member does not control annexation policy alone. A single commissioner does not unilaterally halt development. A single legislator does not pass a bill by force of personality.

Government is collaborative by design.

That makes campaign promises especially important to examine. Not because change is impossible, but because implementation requires more than rhetoric.

Voters should ask simple questions during every election:

- How will you accomplish this?
- Who must vote with you?
- Do you already have support from current officeholders?
- What procedural steps are required?

If those answers are vague, the promise likely is as well.

In the most recent local election cycle, one of the loudest rallying cries centered around halting new annexations and pausing housing approvals until infrastructure concerns were addressed.

That message resonated with voters worried about growth outpacing roads, utilities and planning.

Yet governing requires more than a campaign slogan. It requires coalition support, formal motions, planning commission coordination, engineering updates and majority votes.

When annexations continue without a clearly communicated infrastructure strategy, voters are left to reconcile campaign rhetoric with governing reality.

This is not about whether annexation is right or wrong. It is about whether campaign promises align with the structural authority of the office being sought.

The disconnect is not unique to one race or one community. It happens at every level of government. Candidates describe sweeping authority that does not exist in isolation. Once elected, they discover that votes must be counted, alliances must be formed and procedures must be followed.

Some adapt. Some recalibrate. Some quietly move on from their earlier declarations.

That is why voters must move beyond applause lines.

Before believing any promise, especially one delivered with absolute certainty, consider the mechanics behind it. Consider the structure of the office. Consider whether the candidate has articulated a governing pathway or merely a governing desire.

And always take notice when someone is willing to spend far more money seeking an office than the office itself pays.

Ambition is not disqualifying. But unchecked ambition combined with unrealistic promises deserves scrutiny.

Elections are not auditions for rhetoric. They are decisions about stewardship.

If voters demand implementation plans instead of slogans, campaigns may finally begin to reflect the reality of how government actually works.



Wallace State Theatre to present 'Xanadu' March 13-15

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Roll into the disco era with Wallace State Community College's Theatre program as it presents "Xanadu" March 13-15 at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 13-14 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15.

The Tony Award-nominated musical features the original hit score composed by pop-rock legends, Jeff Lynne and John Farrar and is based on the Universal Pictures cult classic movie of the same title, which starred Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly.

"'Xanadu' is a musical that I have wanted to direct since it was adapted for the stage in 2007," said Wallace State Theatre Director Angela Green. "I remember when the movie version starring Olivia Newton-John came out in 1980. I was 8 years old and roller-skated around my garage to the soundtrack. My sister and I still each have a copy of the vinyl record album. It is such a fond memory of my childhood, and I am so happy that the students have embraced this show and have come to love it as much as I do."

"Xanadu" follows the journey of a magical and beautiful Greek muse, Kira, who descends from the heavens of Mount Olympus to Venice Beach, California, in 1980 on a quest to inspire a struggling artist, Sonny, to achieve the greatest artistic creation of all time: the first roller disco. But, when Kira falls into forbidden love with the mortal Sonny, her jealous sisters take advantage of the situation, and chaos abounds.

Sophomore Em Sharp, who plays Calliope, said her favorite scene in the play is the strange magic scene. "I get to be a little weird," she said of the scene where she and another character possess the two main characters. "It's a little evil, a little witchy. It's really fun."

The cast and crew include Jordyn Mason as Kira and Slade Turbyfield as Sonny. Reggie Warren portrays Danny, the role played by Gene Kelly in the original movie. Other cast include Alli Bess Chenault as Melpomene; Em Sharp as Calliope; Brooke Cochran as Thalia, Aphrodite and Siren; ReAnna Rusk as Euterpe, Hera and Siren, Yvonne Wakaimba as Erato, Hera and Siren; Rebekah Clas as Terpsicore and Siren; Trae Baker and Zeus; Jay Lee as Hermes and Centaur; Jake Myers as Medusa; Eli Bard and Cyclops; and Ariel Jacobs as Cupid and Eros.

The Greek Chorus is made up of Eli Baird, Bella Baker, Cade Reid, Halen Talley, Trae Barker, Ashley Barker, Jay Lee, Ariel Jacobs, Jake Myers CJ Stroud and Illora Goodwin.

The Andrew Sisters include Tehauny Cleghorn, Angela Green and Tiffany Richter.

Live music will be provided by Dale Moore and Duke Cleghorn on keyboard, Evan Bradford on drums, Julian Skinner on bass guitar and Todd Graveman on guitar.

The production team includes Green as director, Conner Carter as vocal director, Tahauny Cleghorn and Green as choreographers, Cade Reid as assistant director, Jake Myers as dramaturg, Ella Gibb and Vella Richter as stage managers, Gibbs on costumes and makeup, Allie Bess Chenault with props and publicity poster, Lana Gibson as scenic artist, Mark Eccleston for set design, Aaron Johnston for lighting design and Wes Clabo for sound design.

Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children younger than 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.wallace-state-theatre-xanadu.cheddarup.com, at the door or through www.wallacestate.edu/fpa.

Other performances planned by Wallace State Fine and Performing arts this spring include:

- "The Great American Road Trip," March 27-29
- Solo & Chamber Ensemble Recital, April 9
- Big Band Dance, April 17
- Spring Under the Stars and Stripes, April 23
- Broadway Night, April 30
- "I Am a Pilgrim," July 23-25

Wallace State announces Back on Track initiative

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College said it is excited to announce the launch of Back on Track, an initiative to build pathways from low-wage jobs to family-sustaining careers. Beginning in 2026, WSCC will partner with the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement, WestEd's Center for Economic Mobility and a cohort of eight colleges to launch three new pathways designed to meet regional labor market needs while helping young people advance in their careers. By 2029, WSCC will graduate two cohorts of students from the new pathways while building capacity to scale project impact to other programs across the institution.

The project is designed to address the urgent challenge of helping working young adults advance from unstable service sector jobs to living-wage careers.

"This project represents a critical opportunity to reimagine how community colleges can serve young people who are working but trapped in unstable, low-wage employment," said WSCC President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "By creating stronger bridges between where students are and where they want to be, we can help transform lives and communities."

"I'm very excited to serve as WSCC's team lead for the Back on Track Initiative," said Dr. Jim Malone, dean of Health Sciences.

"Through the examination of granular local labor market data and a focus on educational pathways, the project purposefully connects adults with programs that will help advance their current careers, their future career trajectories and their salaries."

The new pathways being developed include one with a focus on health science, one for early childhood to elementary education and another that can help advance frontline workers to supervisory positions.

Expected outcomes include improved employment stability for graduates and field-tested models that can be scaled nationally.

For more information about Back on Track at WSCC, contact Dr. Jim Malone at james.malone@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-8309.

Cullman County Schools to host career fair March 19

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools will host its annual career fair later this month, offering prospective employees the opportunity to meet with school leaders and learn more about working in the district.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, from 2-5 p.m. at Desperation Church, located at 510 Fifth St. SW in Cullman.

Principals and representatives from all 29 schools in the Cullman County Schools system will be present, along with representatives from district departments seeking employees in several support roles.

Organizers said attendees may have the opportunity to interview and potentially receive job offers during the event.

Available positions include certified teachers, instructional aides, cafeteria workers, support personnel, clerical staff, bus drivers and maintenance personnel.

"We believe that all children can learn and be successful in a safe learning environment in which a highly effective educator provides exceptional educational experiences," said Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette.

According to the school system, the district serves students from pre-K through 12th grade across 29 schools. Cullman County Schools currently serves 9,605 students and employs approximately 1,208 staff members while operating a fleet of 109 buses.

School officials encourage anyone interested in joining the system to attend the event and speak directly with school administrators and department representatives.

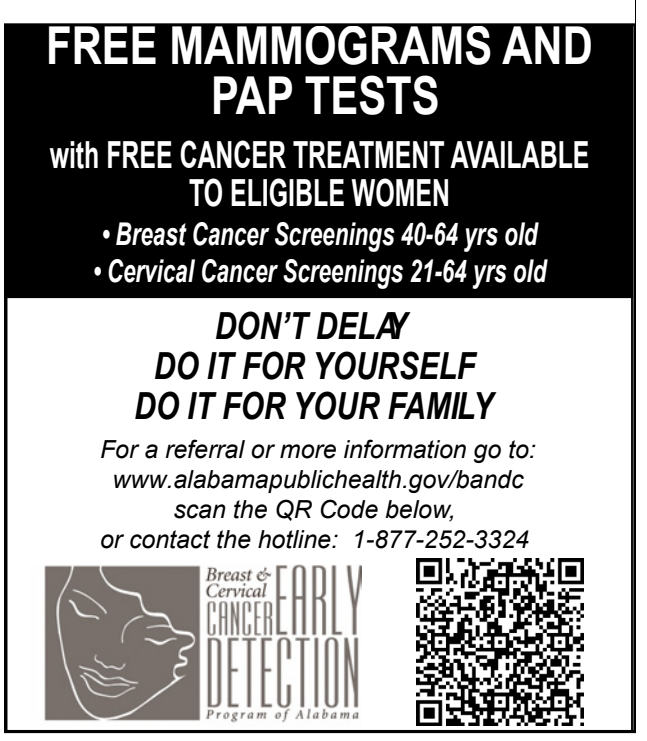
Cullman County Schools said the career fair provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about available positions and discover how they can become part of the team serving students across Cullman County.

"Please stop by and see us on March 19 and find out how you can be a part of the CCBOE team that gets to serve the students of Cullman County," he said.

For more information about Cullman County Schools or employment opportunities, visit www.ccboe.org or call 256-734-2933.







BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

What it was, was soccer

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Seventy-two years ago, Capital Records released a recording of a young Andy Griffith. He recorded under the name Deacon Andy Griffith. Side A of the record contained a comedy monologue that was almost six minutes long. It became Griffith's first big hit.

Griffith played the part of a naïve country boy who stumbled upon a college football game by accident. He had never seen one before, so he had no idea what was going on or any understanding of the objective of the game. Deacon Griffith described the football game as some kind of a contest between two teams, played on a cow pasture with white stripes painted all across it. They fought one another all afternoon for possession of an oblong little pumpkin that appeared to be so tough no one could have eaten it anyway. The game was controlled by several men in convict suits.

The title of that breakout hit monologue was, "What It Was, Was Football." Although it was a hit before I had even hit the ground for the first time, years later, I must have listened to it a hundred times.

I probably would be embarrassed to say how many football games I have watched in my lifetime. I'm old enough to have seen the very first Super Bowl, even though it wasn't called that at the time. I do know a little more about football that Deacon Griffith did. A few years ago, on a mission trip to Asuncion, Paraguay, I attempted to tell the church there a football story.

My translator looked at me and said, "They call soccer football. They will think you are talking about soccer."

I saw my first live soccer game there. They actually invited me to play with them, but after they watched me "trying" to play, they invited me to sit on the sideline and watch. The game made about as much sense to me as football had to Andy.

Plainview High School, when I was growing up there in the 60s and 70s, had football and basketball. The closest thing we had to soccer was playground kickball. I don't know much about soccer, but I'm learning.

Drew, my grandson, has played soccer almost as long as he's been in school. He is now a junior at Glenwood High School, where he plays on the varsity team. Obviously, I have now been to quite a few soccer games. I still don't know what they are doing!

In spite of what they call it in Latin America, soccer is not American football. They play on a field, but there are no yard lines and no first downs. It truly is football in the sense that it is played almost entirely with their feet. The only player who can catch the ball is the goalie. The only time they can throw the ball is to put it in play. Even that has to be with both hands and overhead. This may be where the phrase, "Look Mom, no hands," originated! They can and do hit the ball with their head or chest. They have referees, but they don't wear stripes. They call offsides, but I don't know where the line is. I do know when they score...usually.

Yes, I am a proud grandfather. I love watching my little buddy, who is now taller than me, race up and down that field at speeds I can only dream about. Even if I don't understand everything he is doing out there, I do love watching him do it! I think he is a winger, and I am winging it, but I'm definitely a fan now. Grands will do that!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: March 7, 1940

From the files of March 7, 1940

Vinemont News
By Freda Duke

Mrs. H. D. Linton was honored at a handkerchief shower at the home of Miss Freda Duke on Tuesday, February 27th. Those attending were the honoree, Mesdames Winfred Robison, Robert Linton, and James Robison. Due to the bad weather many of those invited could not attend but sent lovely gift handkerchiefs.

The honoree was lovely in a wine rose suit with white satin blouse. The hostess wore a brown printed afternoon dress.

The people of Vinemont are indeed pleased to have as new neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Wilhite and Mr. and Mrs. Purvis Wilhite who have moved into the beautiful G. C. Burks place.

The Rev. L. P. Whaley is able to be up after a very prolonged illness.

The T. E. L. Class of the Baptist church met with Mrs. A. Dickinson Monday, February 26th to quilt a quilt for the Rescue Home of New Orleans.

The W. M. S. will hold its day of prayer at the Baptist Church Friday, March 8th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Linton have moved from Vinemont to their new home in Cullman.

Miss Freda Duke was in Birmingham over the week end, attending the funeral of her cousin, Mr. Tom Banker.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Dunkin and Mr. Windell Dunkin were the week end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dunkin.

Mr. and Mrs. James Curtis and son Jimmy of Battle Ground and Rev. Walter Rector were the Sunday night dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Bynum.

The Study Club met with Mrs. Earl McCalman Tuesday, March 5, and after a short business session, Mrs. McCalman served delightful refreshments to the following members: Mesdames Robert Linton, Walter Rector, J. T. Jones, James Robison, Winfred Robison, Alton Linton, Tom Chandler, W. B. Bradford, R. L. Dunkin, V. Coppock, Miss Gertrude Dickinson and Mrs. P. B. Burks of Cullman.

Mrs. W. P. Duke, Jr., and children are spending this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rosco Wilhite.

Everyone in Vinemont is expecting company since the roads have become passable again. We would enjoy company so much after these weeks of isolation.

Rock Springs News

Several of Rock Springs community attended the funeral of James Mead, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mead. He died in a Birmingham hospital on Wednesday and was laid to rest on Thursday at Mt. Hebron. Surviving are his parents, nine brothers and four sisters.

Miss Christine Bussy, who has been seriously ill with pneumonia for several days is improving.

Misses Mary Sue Blake, and Wanda Neal, spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith and family.

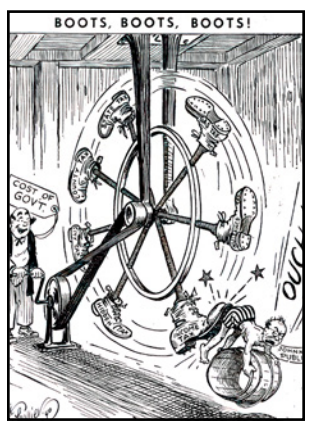
Mr. and Mrs. John Self of Birmingham spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Neal called on Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Williams on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Ray Tramel was the Sunday dinner guest of his cousin, Mr. Bill Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Roberts spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucious Benson and children, of Birmingham, spent the week



end with their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth McCutcheon and family.

Miss Sovola Smith was the Sunday dinner guest of Miss Fannie Blake.

Mr. J. B. Neal, of near Holly Pond, spent Sunday with his cousin, Mr. Newman Craft.

POET'S CORNER

It Takes a Life to Heal | Randy C. Hale

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

Grief is a passion that endures,
a pain that lifts its wings at times.
Yet it flies only a short distance,
returning to trumpet its reprise.

Evening always settles
some time every day.
Light sinks from shining corners,
voices speak in subtle ways.

And ignore him if you wish,
distract your thoughts
to other things.
But ever with the knowledge
that within you sorrow sings.

One day death shall find you;
only then this specter gives.
Away with his blinking beacon,
no more pain, the wound has healed.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MARCH 7

A	P	Z	E	S	W	B	G	O	T	H	Y	B	B	A	S	I	L	H
C	A	R	A	W	A	Y	U	D	R	A	G	O	N	S	H	E	A	D
O	P	R	N	E	T	A	P	R	B	P	N	P	A	R	S	L	E	Y
N	R	A	I	E	E	T	Y	U	D	I	I	R	S	I	M	P	L	E
I	I	M	S	T	R	M	H	U	R	O	G	N	L	O	V	A	G	E
T	K	P	E	H	C	L	C	E	Q	S	C	H	E	R	V	I	L	B
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A	S	O	R	R	E	L	O	T	M	L	M	A	R	J	O	R	A	M
H	U	N	B	B	S	V	B	A	T	F	E	N	N	E	L	N	G	N
F	C	K	L	A	S	X	Y	G	D	U	R	B	S	E	S	J	I	T
M	C	H	I	L	L	I	F	A	J	I	C	E	O	S	D	M	N	U
I	O	R	E	Y	A	M	B	R	A	J	V	E	Y	R	U	X	G	R
N	R	T	S	A	G	E	E	L	B	O	E	R	Z	C	E	V	E	M
T	Y	N	H	S	R	V	G	I	L	V	H	S	E	N	N	A	R	E
M	A	C	E	Y	I	E	C	C	I	A	N	G	E	L	I	C	A	R
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G	L	X	U	E	N	E	M	D	P	O	T	H	E	R	B	M	E	Y
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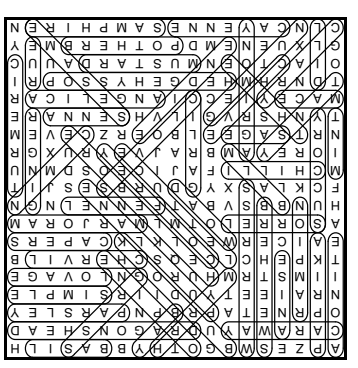
Aconite
Agrimony
Angelica
Anise
Balm
Basil
Bay
Burdock
Capers
Caraway
Cayenne
Chervil
Chilli
Chive
Clary
Cloves
Comfrey
Cumin
Dill
Dragon's head
Endive
Fennel
Garlic
Ginger
Grass
Hedge hyssop
Hellebore
Lettuce
Lovage
Mace
Marjoram
Mint
Mustard
Myrrh
Nutmeg
Orpine
Paprika
Parsley
Pot herb
Purslane
Rampion
Rue
Sage
Samphire
Senna
Sesame
Simple
Sorrel
Succory
Sweet herb
Tansy
Thyme
Turmeric
Watercress
Woad

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MARCH 7

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



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

Small Business Spotlight: Big Boom Coffee Company

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. — Cathie Hodges recently opened her coffee shop, Big Boom Coffee Company. The soft opening was March 4, and it will remain open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. until further notice.

The store brews its Big Boom Coffee Signature Roast and also has a breakfast and lunch menu. It offers drip coffees, Americanos, espressos, lattes, mochas, cappuccinos, frappes, teas and loaded teas.

In a rush and can't walk inside? No problem! Big Boom Coffee has a drive-through.

The shop is located on 181 Alabama Highway 69 S, Suite B, Hanceville, AL 35077, though Hodges advises, "That's a Hanceville address, however we are in the town of Dodge City off Exit 299 next to the Dollar General."

Hodges explained that a lot of consideration, thoughtfulness and prayer went into the name "Big Boom Coffee Company". It has its own coffee label, but its roaster is Toomers Coffee Roasters in Opelika.

"Big Boom Coffee Company profits go to our nonprofit organization, which is called 'Just Go Global Missions," she said.

"We focus and concentrate efforts in local missions and community assistance – helping each other in the community. Also, globally, Uganda, Ecuador and other countries."

Hodges credits her husband Jimmy Hodges, her family, her in-laws Jimmie and Iris Hodges, and John Riley, as well as Christina Jones and Casey Young at Peoples Bank for helping make the process opening easy.

"For us, everything we do is for God. We see Big Boom



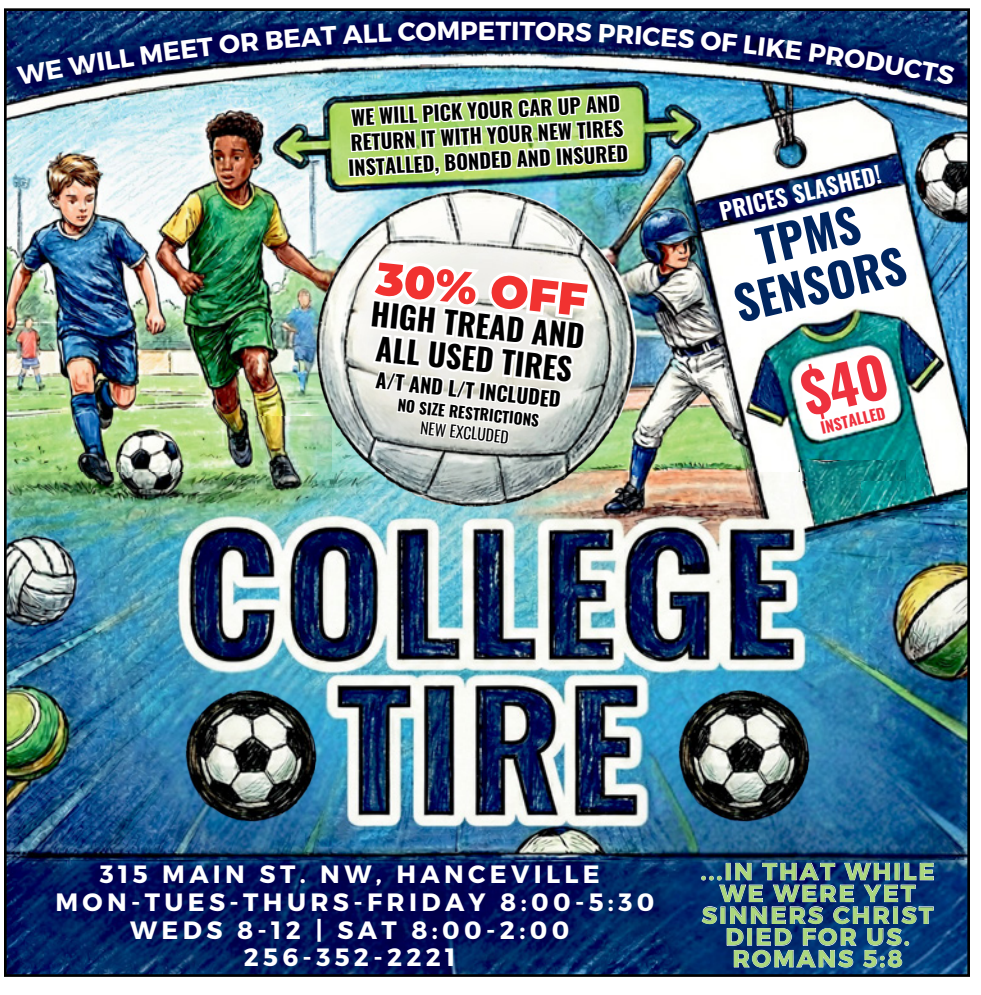
CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Big Boom Coffee Company tea latte foam art

Coffee Company as a ministry where coffee and our food is our conduit," she said. "This is about touching the community, serving people and pleasing God."

She credited General Manager Holly Woods for helping get Big Boom Coffee Company where it is today, and said the crew has also helped tremendously.

Visit bigboomcoffee.com or call 256-887-1025 for more information.



Obituary Announcements: March 5-6

Gary Edward Davis, 64
Funeral Service for Gary Edward Davis, age 64 of Cullman, were at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Dr. Tim Lipsey officiating; burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Visitation was from 9-11 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Gary Edward Davis, 64, passed away on March 3, 2026, just days before his 65th birthday. He was born on March 18, 1961. Gary was a devoted father, grandfather, son, and friend. He was a proud and loving "PawPaw" whose greatest joy in life was his family. His strength, steady presence, and deep love for those closest to him will be remembered always. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Davis; his beloved wife, Tammy Davis (McKenzie); his son, Jake Davis, and his grandson, Kolt Davis. Gary is survived by his loving mother, Rheta Davis (Harris); his brother, Robert Davis; his sons, Josh Davis and wife Brittany Davis (Speegle), and Luke Davis and wife Juliana Davis (Black). He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Jaxson Robertson, Harper Robertson, Frankie Davis, Millie Davis, Emma Bryan, Ella Bryan, and McKenzie Davis. He is also survived by a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, extended family members, and friends who will miss him dearly. Gary's legacy lives on in the lives of his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered for his love, his resilience, and the pride he took in being a father and PawPaw. His family finds comfort knowing he is reunited with those who went before him. He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Betty Kilgo Smith, 82
Funeral Service for Betty Kilgo Smith, age 82 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with John (Appleseed) McKoy and Shane Rusk officiating; burial at Etha Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Smith passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at her residence. She was born July 29, 1943, to Woodrow Kilgo and Gracie Brown Kilgo. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Thomas Smith; sons, Terry Smith and Tommy (T-Tom) Smith; daughter, Tracie Corbitt and her siblings, Dean Davis, Opal Clements, Jean Morris, Marie Glover, Martha Leipert, Oather Kilgo and Jack Kilgo. Survivors include her daughters, Michelle Rusk (Doyle) and Lisa Cox (Allen); sons, Mike (Carol) Smith and Rodger Cofer (LeAnna); daughter-in-law, Valerie Smith; son-in-law Stanley Corbitt; grandchildren, Tristan Cox (Nikki), Shane Rusk (Jasmine), Kristi Moore (Trent), Terry Smith (Kristen), Skyler Cox (Kaylin), Amanda Blackwell (Tyler), Alysha Taylor (Tim), Lora Bell (Shawn), Faith Cofer, Adam Cofer (Paige), Gary Smith (Hope), Samuel Corbitt, Trystan Vardaman; 21 great Grands; sisters, Carolyn McKoy (John), Francis Craddock (Jerry),Sister-in-laws, Joan Dunn (Donald), Mary Ruth Smith and Ruby Smith; a host of cousins, nieces and nephews, family and friends.

Mitford "Mickey" Ray Megginson, Jr., 82
Mitford Ray "Mickey" Megginson, Jr., age 82, passed peacefully at home on March 4, 2026, just two days after celebrating his birthday. Born on March 2, 1944, he was the son of Mitford Ray Megginson, Sr. and Cleo Ruth Megginson. Mickey lived a life defined by faith, music, education, and a deep love for his family. A proud graduate of Fairhope High School, he pursued higher education with enthusiasm, earning multiple degrees from McNeese State University and the University of South Alabama. Yet he always said he was most proud to be a graduate of Louisiana State University. During his time at LSU, he played in the famed marching band and delighted in reminding his family—many of whom were Auburn fans—that he was, and always would be, a loyal LSU Tiger. Music was both Mickey's calling and his gift to the world. Throughout his life, he faithfully served as a minister of music and as a high school music teacher in churches and schools across the South. Through his passion for music and his commitment to ministry, he inspired countless students, church members, and friends. Whether behind a piano, leading a choir, or teaching a young musician, Mickey shared not only his talent but his joy, kindness, and unwavering faith. He was preceded in death by his parents and by his sister, Terry Megginson-Walton. Mickey is survived by his loving wife, Charlene Megginson; his daughters, Kris (Roger) Holmes and Kellie (Adam) Britton; and his beloved grandchildren, Colton (Chloe) Holmes, Savannah-Grace (Scott) Strickland, Olivia Britton, and Zeke Britton. He was also the proud great-grandfather of Noah, Eliza, and Georgia Holmes, and Scarlett Grace Strickland. He is also survived by his brother Reverend Michael Megginson (Sally) and sister, Elizabeth Megginson and host of nieces and nephews. His family was the greatest joy of his life, and he treasured every moment spent with them. A Celebration of Life service will be held at St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church on Saturday, March 7, at noon. Rev. Kevin Johnson will officiate. The family will receive friends at the church beginning at 11 a.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church Children's Department. But, most importantly, they ask that those who knew and loved Mickey honor his memory by sharing music, kindness, and generosity with others—just as he faithfully did throughout his life. His song may have ended on earth, but the music he shared and the lives he touched will continue to echo for generations.

Barbara Ann Friedrich, 72
Barbara Ann Friedrich was born on Oct. 22, 1953, and passed away on March 4, 2026, at the age of 72. A beloved and cherished woman, Barbara was known for being compassionate, devoted, faithful, and gentle, with a hard-working spirit, patient strength, wise counsel, and a thoughtful way of caring for others. Barbara resided in Cullman, Alabama. Barbara earned a Master's degree before beginning her career in the Department of Human Resources. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Werner Friedrich; her parents, Willie O and Lillie Thompson Blackwood; her son, Matthew Richard Friedrich; her sister, Doris Screws; her brother, Larry Blackwood; and her grandparents, Willie and Ettiebell Blackwood & Virgil and Minnie Thompson. Barbara is survived by her son, Patrick Dee Friedrich; her sister, Joyce Nix (Charles); her grandchildren, Gabriel (Jewel) Friedrich and Lucas Friedrich; along with three great grandchildren and a host of extended family and friends. A Celebration of life memorial visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on March 15, 2026, from 2-3 p.m., followed by a Celebration of life memorial service at Moss-Service Funeral Home on March 15, 2026, at 3 p.m. Barbara will be laid to rest in Cullman City Cemetery. To leave condolences for the Friedrich family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Cathy Marie Kilgo, 62
Cathy Marie Kilgo age 62 of Warrior, Alabama passed away March 5, 2026. She was born Feb. 19, 1964, in Alabama. Cathy is preceded in death by her father Dalton James Wright; sister Wanda Sue Wright and Joyce Ann Goodno; and baby brother Mark Anthony Wright. Cathy is survived by her husband of 45 years Michael Keith Kilgo; mother Shelly Wright; older brothers Timmy and Jimmy Wright; children Wesley (Rhonda) Kilgo and Amber (Michael) Payne; grandchildren Blake, Danielle and Dustin Payne, and Whitley and Barrett Kilgo; and great-grandchildren Selena Castro, Carter Payne, Easton Castro, Paisley Payne, Kinsley Payne, Jaylen Lowe and Riley Lowe. Cathy was a strong, independent woman. She was lively, fun and quick witted best reflected in her time spent with her grandchildren. Cathy was a military wife and always had a job no matter where the service took Michael and their family. She wore many hats from different roles in the education system in Germany, Colorado, Virginia and Alabama; to working as a florist at the Redstone Arsenal and even at one point electronic repairs. During her time working in Colorado, she cared for mentally challenged individuals in the school system. In addition to her many jobs, most importantly she was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was above all devoted to her family, but in addition her care extended to the families of the soldiers led by Michael. She was dependable, resilient and on top of all of her areas of service took the time to coach her children's t-ball team. Cathy loved crafts of any kind, namely making jewelry. She also thoroughly enjoyed ocean views and time spent walking up and down the beach. She would find a way to spend there by any means necessary. Cathy was a bright and loving individual and will be deeply missed by her family and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. Funeral services celebrating Cathy's life will be held Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Berlin, Alabama. The family will receive friends for a visitation Wednesday, March 11, 2026, from 5-8 p.m. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Donna Freeman Laratta, 73
Donna Freeman Laratta, age 73 of Jasper, passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at HarborChase of Jasper. The family will receive friends on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Collins-Burke Funeral Home, funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. in the Collins-Burke Chapel. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery. Thomas Martin will officiate. Mrs. Laratta was preceded in death by her Mother-Emmalene Freeman; Father-George Coleman Freeman; Husband-Frank Laratta; Sister-Samantha Bullard. She is survived by her Daughter-Amanda Hancock (Kerry); Brother-Robert Freeman (Susan); Grandchildren-Emma Jewell (Tristin) and Claire Hancock. Pallbearers will be Kerry Hancock, Shane Hancock, Tristin Jewell, Brent Hand, Nathan Miller and Adam Knight.

Carlton Jimmy Bates, 79
Funeral service with military honors for Mr. Carlton Jimmy Bates, 79, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Bethsadia Baptist Church with interment in the adjoining cemetery, Rev. Brian Calvert officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 1-2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Bates passed away Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing and Rehab. He was born June 7, 1947, to Feltus Carl and Lois Genett Thompson Bates. He was a minister of the Gospel and his first church was in 1980 and was Beech Grove Baptist Church with many others to follow. He and his wife, Sandra were house parents for the Cullman Girls' Home. He loved bowling, camping, yardwork and really loved gospel music. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Sandra Bates; three brothers, Elwin Bates, Sherrell Bates, Douglas Bates; sisters-in-law, Lynn Bates, Jeanie Bates. Survivors include his daughters, Amanda Horton, Kim Bryant, Kristen Bates; brother, Kevin Bates; sister, Audrey Bates; grandchildren, Ashley Ralph (Chris), Kelly Tully (Adam), Eren Horton (Salma), Ryne Bryant (Madison), McKenna Bryant, Abram Clouse, Archer Clouse, great-grandchildren, Drew Ralph, Adora Ralph, Vera Hall, Valyn Hall, Allden Tully; and, a host of great-great grandchildren; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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