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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

Swarming Oxford defense too much for Cullman in 68-44 6A State Championship loss

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Ivey appoints Heath Meherg 32nd Judicial Circuit district judge

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey has appointed Heath Edward Meherg of Cullman to serve as district judge in the 32nd Judicial Circuit in Cullman County. Meherg fills the vacancy left by Chad Floyd, whom Ivey appointed to the 32nd Judicial Circuit bench Feb. 5, 2026, to replace Gregory Nicholas, who retired Jan. 26, 2026.

Meherg is a graduate of The University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Birmingham School of Law and The University of Alabama School of Law.

"Heath Meherg comes to the bench with a strong legal background of nearly two decades service including municipal judge and county attorney, to representing local government, businesses and the public in private practice," said Ivey.

"He has experience in all facets of law, both criminal and civil, and will serve the people of Cullman County with the highest integrity."

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by Governor Ivey through my appointment," said Meherg.

"This opportunity to serve the people of our state and uphold the principles of justice is a privilege that I hold in the highest regard. This is an extraordinary opportunity to » PAGE 3



GRIFFITHLOWRY.COM/ATTORNEY/HEATH-E-MEHERG
Heath Meherg

City of Cullman receives Rainer Bauer Award from Alabama Germany Partnership



CITY OF CULLMAN
The City of Cullman was honored Thursday, March 5, with the Rainer Bauer Award, the highest recognition presented by the Alabama Germany Partnership (AGP), during the organization's annual meeting.

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - The City of Cullman was honored Thursday, March 5, with the Rainer Bauer Award, the highest recognition presented by the Alabama Germany Partnership (AGP), during the organization's annual meeting.

The Rainer Bauer Award recognizes individuals and organizations whose work meaningfully advances AGP's mission of strengthening educational, business, cultural and social relationships between Alabama and Germany.

Cullman was selected for its sustained, multigenerational commitment to its German heritage. From its founding by Bavarian immigrants and its longstanding relationship with Frankweiler, Germany, to the continued presence of German industry such as REHAU, the city has consistently maintained strong ties to its German roots.

Cullman's cultural initiatives, including Oktoberfest and the Cullman Christkindlmarkt, have also played a significant role in strengthening those connections.

The award was presented on behalf of AGP by Albert von Pelser, former plant manager of REHAU, who highlighted Cullman's measurable impact.

"This award recognizes sustained contributions that strengthen Alabama's connection to Germany," von Pelser said.

"Cullman has done that not only by honoring its German roots, but by maintaining relationships such as Friends of Frankweiler, supporting German-affiliated industry and producing cultural events that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. That combination of history, partnership and measurable impact is what makes this recognition well deserved."

The AGP, under the leadership of Executive Director Tine Hoemeister, works to strengthen educational, business and cultural relationships between Alabama and Germany.

Through its continued support of initiatives that promote German heritage and business connections, AGP helps highlight communities like Cullman that actively preserve and celebrate those traditions.

Cullman was founded in 1873 by German immigrant Col. John G. Cullman, and the city's German identity has long been part of its foundation. That heritage remains visible today not only through economic partnerships such as REHAU, but also through large-scale public celebrations that have grown into major tourism drivers.

Mayor Woody Jacobs said the recognition reflects years of strategic planning and community collaboration.

"Cullman's German heritage is part of who we are," Jacobs said.

"Over the past several years, we've made deliberate decisions to preserve that identity in ways that benefit our community. The growth of our festivals has created measurable economic impact while staying true to the traditions that shaped our city. We are honored to receive this recognition."

Cullman's Ok- » PAGE 3

Senior cookouts creating bonds at local senior centers



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Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry speaks to seniors at the Crane Hill Community Center at a recent community cookout at the center. » PAGE 2

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Prom fashion trends and spending



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Pink gown from First Avenue Bridals and Formals, with lily corsage » PAGE 5

Local band Key Lime Pie searching for new lead singer



KEY LIME PIE
Key Lime Pie Guitarist Max Townson and Lead Vocalist Devon Campbell » PAGE 5

Harmony School's 20th annual Southern Beauty Pageant set for April 18 » PAGE 6

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 9

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 9, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 5

- domestic violence; Commercial St. SE
- harassing communications; CR 25
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; criminal mischief; CR 1170
- theft of property; Julia Ln.
- violation of protection order; Tennessee Ave. NE
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1224

March 6

- possession of dangerous drugs; Arkadelphia Rd. NE
- possession of dangerous drugs; School House Rd.
- domestic violence; Sebastian Dr.
- harassment; CR 488
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; Commercial St. NE
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Buettner Dr.
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91
- obstructing governmental operations; resisting arrest; US. 31

March 7

- domestic violence; CR 398
- domestic violence; CR 617
- discharging firearm into vehicle; CR 1426
- domestic violence; CR 1225
- domestic violence; CR 762
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of controlled substance; CR 427

March 8

- criminal mischief; CR 234
- theft of property; CR 1225
- domestic violence; Chad Dr.
- domestic violence; CR 813
- theft of property; CR 766
- burglary; CR 698
- theft of property; CR 1565
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1742
- criminal mischief; Colony Rd.

ARRESTS

March 5-8

Abbott, Caitlin F.; 30
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Bice, Rachael J.; 49
- resisting arrest
- obstruction-governmental operations

Braswell, Kandace N.; 41
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Childers, Scotty R.; 43
- possession of dangerous drugs

Fowler, Clifton D.; 47
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Gean, Jr., Clifford W.; 29
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine
- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Gibson, Ralpheal D.; 32
- possession of dangerous drugs
- certain person forbidden pistol possession
- duty to inform law enforcement officer upon request when in possession of concealed pistol or firearm
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of methamphetamine

Gold, Thomas A.; 58
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-residence-no force (2 counts)

Hall, David R.; 70
- FTA – public intoxication

Helms, Brittany L.; 38
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Hopper, Natalie G.; 24
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hudson, Joshua D.; 42
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – resisting arrest

Jordan, Brandy M.; 40
- FTA – failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies

Keipp, Brandon G.; 22
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

McDonald, Shannon A.; 44
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

McDuffee, Michael J.; 45
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Murphy, Bama S.; 41
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Parker, Sarah J.; 57
- possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Parker, Tony G.; 59
- possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pike, Justin K.; 36
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Price, Solomon K.; 34
- obstruction-governmental operations

Price, Thomas H.; 35
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Pullium, James L.; 40
- possession of a stolen vehicle

Roper, Amanda G.; 43
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Turney, Elizabeth A.; 44
- possession of dangerous drugs

Uselton, Adam L.; 36
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Vess, David A.; 28
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-3rd degree

Weaver, Jason J.; 34
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Yarbrough, Ryan H.; 49
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 3
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Ashland Dr. SW

March 4
- identity theft; person

March 6
- organized retail theft; TJ Maxx; clothing; $1,999; Marktplatz Ctr. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $119; Olive St. SW

March 7
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '20 Chev. Equinox; $500; 2nd Ave. sW
- identity theft; person

March 8
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damage to '24 GMC Sierra; $1,200; Hwy. 278E

ARRESTS

March 6 – March 8

Richter, Morgan B.; 23
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree (3 counts)

Stewart, Joseph S.; 41
- theft of property-4th degree

Finney, Calvin L.; 49
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Gibson, Jaden D.; 21
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Gold, Dillion T.; 31
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – fail to register vehicle

Shaneyfelt, Dustin L.; 36
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hall, David R.; 70
- FTA – public intoxication

Noe, Grady T.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

Calvert, Natalie S.; 37
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incidents and arrests reported by CCSO.

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

We can protect ourselves from colorectal cancer by getting screened

Dr. Scott Harris
Contributor

We can protect ourselves from colon cancer; a cancer that affects people of all genders, races, and backgrounds. The recent deaths of well-known actors James Van Der Beek and Catherine O'Hara from colorectal cancer (CRC) are a sad reminder that this disease can affect anyone.

Screening can protect you from colon cancer by finding and removing abnormal growths, called polyps, before they become cancer --- before cancer starts. There are several ways to screen for colon cancer, and you can choose which test is best for you.

Screening tests are 1) colonoscopy every 10 years and 2) stool-based tests at home every 1-3 years, depending on the test. Talk to your doctor about what will work for you.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a time to encourage Alabamians to get screened for this disease that is the second-leading cause of death in Alabama.

While most cases affect people over age 50, there has been a disturbing increase in cases among younger people. The good news is that most CRC deaths can be prevented, and the disease is often treatable, with a five-year survival rate of 91 percent for localized cases versus 14% for late-stage cases.

If you have symptoms, don't ignore them. Symptoms may include the following:

- A change in bowel habits
- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement)
- Diarrhea, constipation or feeling that the bowel does not empty all the way
- Abdominal pain, aches or cramps that persist
- Unexplained weight loss

These symptoms might be caused by something other than cancer. The only way to determine their cause is to see your doctor. If both men and women 45 years or older had regular screening tests, medical experts believe at least 60% of deaths from this cancer could be avoided. Screening tests can detect precancerous polyps, which can then be removed.

The risks of colorectal cancer may be higher than average if:

- You are an African American, American Indian or Alaska Native
- You or a close relative has had a colorectal polyp or colorectal cancer
- You have inflammatory bowel disease
- You have a genetic syndrome, such as Lynch syndrome (hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer) or familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)

People at high risk for CRC may need earlier or more frequent screening than others. Speak with your healthcare provider about when to start screening, how often you should be tested, and screening options.

These include a colonoscopy or a take-home stool test. Read more about them at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/colon/screening-and-testing.html.

Simple lifestyle habits such as incorporating fruits and vegetables into daily meals, eating a diet low in animal fats, quitting tobacco, engaging in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily, maintaining a healthy weight and reducing alcohol consumption can also significantly reduce risk.

Visit the Alabama CRC Prevention Program for more information about CRC at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/colon/what-is.html.

Cookouts (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The Cullman County Commission on Aging said the Crane Hill Senior Center held its annual community cookout with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office recently, one of the first in a series of spring events at local senior centers.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Director Stephanie Lawson said a great meal brings people together, but the fellowship is what truly makes it special.

"The cookouts that Sheriff (Matt) Gentry has held during his time in office have always been about more than just a meal," Lawson said.

"Matt and his staff take the time to show our senior community that they are still valued, respected and important. We truly appreciate the sheriff's office for their continued support and for making moments like this possible.

"This is something that Matt has done every year since being in office, and this is his 12th year. He does this for every senior center – all seven full-time and all 10 part-time centers throughout the county."

Lawson said seniors look forward to these events.

"Matt and his staff take time to talk one on one with the participants," Lawson said. "This is his way of giving back to them and letting them know how much he loves and appreciates them. Last week was our third cookout for the year which means we have 15 more to go because he also includes the city Active Adult Center."

Public Information Officer Lt. Chad Whaley said the relationship between the CCSO and senior centers is something special.

"I have always enjoyed visiting with the fine folks who gather at these centers," Whaley said. "Their wisdom, kindness and pride in our community are a reminder of what makes Cullman County such a wonderful place to live.

"The relationship between the citizens of Cullman County and the sheriff's office is what makes our community so strong. Our seniors have helped build this county into what it is today, and they deserve to feel safe, respected and connected to their local law enforcement. Sheriff Matt Gentry has done an outstanding job building a partnership with the Commission on Aging, and those efforts have meant a great deal to many families across our county."

Said Gentry, "These meetings have allowed the citizens to avoid concerns and meet with law enforcement to solve problems," Gentry said.

"In my opinion, this is to build a bond with our community that is unbreakable and relationships that will last forever. We average 70-plus community meetings a year and I believe if all law enforcement did that it would grow the communities and law enforcement stronger together."

Lawson said Crane Hill Senior Center is one of seven full-time centers in Cullman County, and they are blessed to have Kim Overton as the center manager.

"Kim grew up in the Crane Hill area, and this place is near and dear to her heart – and it shows," Lawson said. "Kim is always in need of volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound seniors in the area. She would also love to welcome anyone age 60 or older to come spend time with them Monday through Friday for activities and lunch."

Learn more about the COA and its services or volunteer opportunities at https://co.cullman.al.us/coa/index.html or www.facebook.com/coacullman.



FACEBOOK/CULLMAN COMMISSION ON AGING

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry speaks to seniors at the Crane Hill Community Center at a recent community cookout at the center.

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Award (from Front)

toberfest, celebrated locally for nearly four decades, has expanded significantly in recent years.

The most recent event welcomed approximately 74,000 visitors from Alabama and 21 other states, making it the largest Oktoberfest in Alabama history.

Building on that momentum, city leadership made a strategic decision in 2019 to transform the winter tourism season by developing an authentic German Christmas market experience.

That effort resulted in the Cullman Christkindlmarkt, which since its full-scale launch has welcomed more than 1 million visitors from all 50 states and multiple countries.

This past season alone drew more than 415,000 guests.

Nathan Anderson, executive director of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism, said authenticity and sustainability were key priorities from the beginning.

"Our approach has been intentional — rooted in authenticity, driven by disciplined execution and mindful of long-term sustainability," Anderson said.

"At its core, however, our focus has always been on serving our community well. We set out to honor our heritage in a way that creates opportunity for local businesses, strengthens tourism and builds pride among our residents.

"The success of these events belongs to the community, and this recognition reflects that shared effort."

The success of both festivals has strengthened Cullman's tourism profile while reinforcing the city's historic identity.

What began as heritage celebrations has evolved into a nationally recognized model for cultural programming in a mid-sized community.

Council President Kim Hall said the award reflects both recent achievements and the long-standing foundation that has shaped Cullman's identity.

"This recognition is an incredible honor for our entire community," Hall said.

"Cullman's international story began in 1873, and it continues today through strong economic partnerships, cultural preservation and strategic growth.

"Receiving the Rainer Bauer Award affirms that honoring our heritage and investing intentionally in our future can go hand in hand.

"This award belongs to generations of leaders, businesses and citizens who have strengthened our connection to Germany while building a thriving, forward-focused city."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Wednesday, March 11 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, March 13 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, March 15 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

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

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

Meherg (from Front)

contribute to the administration of justice in our great state.

"I am truly humbled by this appointment and look forward to serving."



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Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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PREP BASKETBALL

Swarming Oxford defense too much for Cullman in 68-44 6A State Championship loss

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – An improbable run by the Bearcats came to an end on Saturday.

With the 6A State Championship on the line, Cullman faced off against no. 1 Oxford at Legacy Arena. The Yellow Jackets looked the part of a no. 1 team from the start, with their swarming defense, shifty backcourt and overwhelming athleticism earning them an early lead. Cullman struck back with a strong second quarter, but Oxford rebounded. They'd build on their lead after the break, and despite a cleaner second half from Cullman, the Bearcats fell 68-44, earning 6A state runner-up honors.

In the loss, the Bearcats turned the ball over 26 times and allowed Oxford to shoot 52% on the afternoon, with 31 Yellow Jacket points coming off turnovers.

"I liked our game plan going in. I thought if we could take care of the ball, we'd have a really good chance to do it, but we had 26 turnovers. And it's really hard to win a championship game when you have 26 turnovers," Cullman head coach Stu Stuedeman said after the game.

The onslaught of turnovers started early. Cullman senior Gray Hopper went back and forth with Oxford in the opening moments, hitting a fadeaway jumper and a layup, but Oxford's energy broke free soon after. Yellow Jacket guard Jalen Alexander, the eventual State Tournament MVP, scored on three straight possessions starting with a deep three from the top of the arc.

The Bearcats, quickly in an 18-4 hole, gave up the ball on five times in a row, with the landslide coming to a halt with an Owen Graves three. Oxford's Chris Latson put an exclamation point on the 22-7 lead with a jam, keeping all the energy on the Yellow Jackets' sideline.

Against the tide of momentum, Cullman largely returned to form in the second quarter.

Sam Dorough opened the frame with a steal that led to a Colt Fletcher layup, then Everett Swindall drained a three from the corner to make it 22-12. The Bearcats still struggled to generate offensive rhythm, but their defense clamped down on Oxford, holding the Yellow Jackets scoreless for the first six-and-a-half minutes of the quarter.

A couple more Dorough scores made it 22-16, and it felt like another Cullman comeback was in the works. Oxford flipped the script, however, with a chaotic final 60 seconds. Marcus Perry threw down a vicious dunk, then Alexander picked a ball off and returned it for another jam, snatching momentum back and taking a 27-16 lead into halftime.

Still riding that energy, Oxford came out strong in the second half, giving Cullman a "nightmare start" to the third quarter, in Stuedeman's words. The Bearcats turned the ball over twice out of the gate, with the Yellow Jackets capitalizing with three straight layups to stretch their lead. Loftin and Hopper responded with a dunk and a three-pointer, but Oxford went on a 10-0 run late to eventually take a 47-27 lead into the final frame.

The Bearcats played their best offensive quarter of the game in the fourth, shooting 6-9 from the floor, but they were unable to slow down the Yellow Jackets. Oxford went on to seal a 68-44 win to take the state title.

After the game, Stuedeman credited Oxford head coach Joel Van Meter, saying "That dude's a grinder. He works so hard. He's a great coach, and he's been at it for so long and he's been so close and he finally got there. I like talking basketball with him, I love how his team has always played, how he always works and I'm just so proud for him, because there's so many great coaches who coach for so long, and do a lot of really good things, but don't win it."

Leading the Bearcats in scoring was Gray Hopper with 12 points along with two assists. Dorough, despite shooting 2-7, scored eight, grabbed two rebounds and recorded four steals. Both were selected to the All-Tournament team.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Gray Hopper

Before the press conference could conclude after the game, Stuedeman grabbed the microphone to recognize the two. "I've had Gray Hopper for three years and I've had Sam Dorough for three years, and not pencilling them in the scorebook is going to hurt. What they left here is incredible. You know, it's still a shock for Cullman to be in the Final Four... these guys are great basketball players, but they're better people. They work hard every day, and they've just inspired another group of little kids to want to play basketball at a place like Cullman," Stuedeman said. He added, "As long as we have players like Brooks Loftin, Sam Dorough, Max Brooks, Owen Graves, Colt Fletcher and the rest of those kids in the locker room- as long as we get those type of kids, we will be here year in and year out, or have a chance to be."

PREP BASEBALL

Moody's offense rolls as Blue Devils collect 10-2 win over Fairview

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BOAZ, Ala. – After picking up a huge county win at home against West Point on Friday night, the Fairview Aggies hit the road for a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon against the Boaz Pirates and the Moody Blue Devils. The Aggies dropped the first game to the Pirates, 11-7, and in their second game of the day against Moody, Fairview got out to an early lead. Moody, though, took over after that, scoring the final 10 runs of the game, as they would go on to knock off the Aggies, 10-2.

Fairview got things going offensively in their opening at-bats. Camden Cullen got hit by the pitch to lead off the game, then Conner Scott hit a single to center field to put runners on first and second with nobody out. A walk loaded the bases, and Cullen scored on a double play ball to give the Aggies the early lead. Three pitches later, Scott scored on a wild pitch to make it 2-0. Moody, though, countered in their half.

The Blue Devils took advantage of some sloppy Fairview defense to tie the game up at two, and an RBI double later that inning gave them a 3-2 lead. Moody added to their lead in the bottom of the second, as an RBI groundout, an RBI single, and a two-run home run pushed their lead to 7-2. The Blue Devils hit a pair of RBI singles in the bottom of the fifth and drove in a run on a fielder's choice in the sixth to put the finishing touches on a 10-2 win over Fairview.

Scott collected the only hit of the game for the Aggies, and he, along with Cullen, scored both runs in the game for Fairview (7-5).

The Aggies' road trip will continue next Monday afternoon, as they will go to Cold Springs.

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Scores and stats for March 7, 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BASEBALL

• Boaz 11, Fairview 7 – Batting: J. Robertson 1-4 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: T. Isbell 5.0 IP, 5 ER, 2 K

• Boaz 11, Fairview 7 - Batting: T. Isbell 2-3 (2B x2) Pitching: T. Isbell 5.0 IP, 5 ER, 2 K

• Moody 10, Fairview 2 - Batting: C. Scott 1-3 Pitching: H. Barron 2.0 IP, 3 ER, 2 K

• Good Hope 7, New Hope 2 – Batting: C. Kilpatrick 2-3 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: M. Johnson 3.2 IP, 0 ER, 2 K

• Albertville 10, West Point 7 - Batting: L. Campbell 2-3 (2B), 3 RBI Pitching: C. Howard 3.2 IP, 0 ER, 6 K

• Austin 6, West Point 2 - Batting: B. Freeman 3-4 (2B x2), RBI Pitching: B. Freeman 5.2 IP, 6 ER, 5 K

SOFTBALL

• Cold Springs 4, Southeastern 2 – Batting: K. Light 1-2 (3B), 2 RBI Pitching: P. Kennedy 4.0 IP, ER, 6 K, W

• Cold Springs 22, Gaston 4 – Batting: S. Ingram 3-4 (2B), 3 RBI – A. Freeman 2-3 (HR), 4 RBI Pitching: 2.0 IP, ER, 3 K

• Meek 2, Hanceville 1 – Batting: C. Daugherty (Meek) 1-3, RBI – K. Farr (Hance.) 1-3 (3B), RBI Pitching: S. Farley (Meek) 5.0 IP, ER, 8 K

• Priceville 4, Hanceville 3 – Batting: I. Spinks 1-3 (2B), 2 RBI – K. Pipkin 1-3 (2B), 1 RBI Pitching: I. Spinks 4.0 IP, ER, 2 K

• Meek 9, Falkville 1 - Batting: J. Williams 1-2, 2 RBI Pitching: S. Farley 5.0 IP, 0 ER, 9 K, W

• Meek 9, Dora 0 - Batting: M. Sandlin 2-2 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: S. Farley 3.0 IP, 0 ER, 3 K, W

Cold Springs (from Front)

Stephanie Blair
Contributor

BREMEN, Ala. — Cold Springs High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter had an outstanding showing at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference held in Montgomery March 5–6, 2026. The group brought home six gold medals and two silver medals, showcasing the dedication, talent and hard work of the students.

Leading the way were Aiden Freeman and Baylee Perdue, who earned first place in Chapter Project Portfolio, Level 3. Baylee Dye and Mimzy Mavers also captured first place in Chapter Project Display, Level 3, while Izzy Howell placed first in Chapter Project Display, Level 2.

These first-place winners have qualified to advance to the FCCLA National Leadership Conference, where they will compete against top students from across the country.

Additional top finishers included Maddie Davis, who placed third in Fashion Construction, Level 3; Ruthy Boggan, who earned fourth place in Fashion Design, Level 3; and Baylee McKendree, who placed fifth in Entrepreneurship, Level 3.

In addition to individual accomplishments, the Cold Springs FCCLA chapter received two prestigious honors: the Golden Chapter Award and the Families First Award, recognizing the chapter's strong leadership, service and commitment to family and community involvement.

Cold Springs FCCLA members continue to demonstrate excellence through leadership, service projects and career-focused competitions, preparing students for future success. The chapter is proud of its students and looks forward to cheering on the national qualifiers as they represent Cold Springs at the national level this summer.


STEPHANIE BLAIR

First row, left to right, are Aiden Freeman, Baylee Perdue and Baylee Dye. Second row, left to right, are Maddie Davis and Baylee McKendree. Third row, left to right, are Ruthy Boggan, Izzy Howell and Mimzy Mavers. Fourth row, left to right, are Advisor Stephanie Blair and Kinsley Smith.

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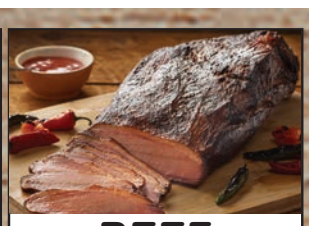
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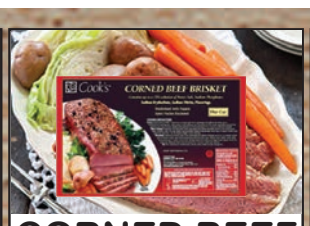
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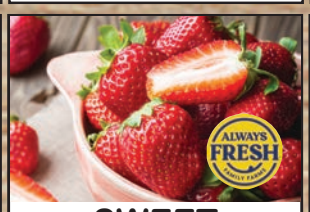
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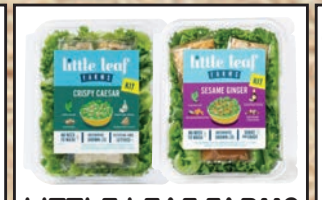
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Grown
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Selected Varieties
2 for $5



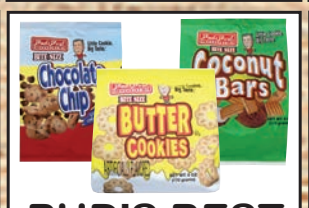
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Selected Varieties
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Selected Varieties
2 for $5



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5 Oz. Can
In Water or Oil
5 for $5



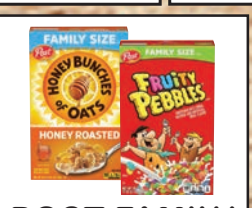
HUNT'S PASTA SAUCE
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



KNORR PASTA OR RICE SIDES
4-5.7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



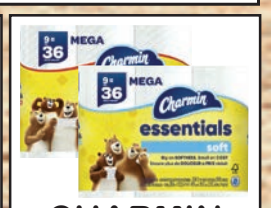
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12 Pk.
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12 Pk.
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24 Ct. Blueberry
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$7.89 EA.

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42 Oz.
Assorted Flavors
$9.99 EA.

FRIED CHICKEN
Fresh 8 Piece
Bone-In
$8.99 EA.

Prom fashion trends and spending

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Prom season is upon us, and the experience continues to evolve as trends, technology and spending habits change over the years.

Sonya White, owner of First Avenue Bridals and Formals, said the formalwear industry has seen major shifts during her decades in business.

White opened the shop in 1987 and said prom styles tend to change every few years.

"In the beginning, you still had grandmothers making prom dresses at home," she said. "Now, almost everyone buys their dresses."

In recent years, White said, many students also browse online or through social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok for inspiration rather than traditional fashion magazines. Spending expectations have also increased.

White said that when she moved into her current location in 2009, most prom dresses ranged from $300 to $400.

Today, many dresses begin around that price, with some students spending significantly more.

"We do have kids come in that spend $800 or $900 on a prom dress," White said. "That just didn't happen before."

White said families should also consider additional costs associated with prom, including hair styling, makeup and spray tans.

Accessories such as earrings, bracelets and necklace sets typically range from about $20 to $40.

While fashion trends continue to change, White said the most important factor when choosing a dress is finding a style that fits well and makes the student feel confident.

First Avenue Bridals and Formals carries a wide range of styles and sizes, including ball gowns, which White said remain popular despite changing trends.

"Prom is kind of your last chance to wear a ball gown," she said. "You really don't get many opportunities to dress like that again."

White said students can reduce stress and find the best selection by shopping early.

New inventory typically arrives between November and January, with many customers beginning their search months before prom season.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/avenue.bridals.2025.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Pink gown from First Avenue Bridals and Formals, with lily corsage

Milkweed, Monarchs and more

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Milkweed may have "weed" in the name, but it is an essential native wildflower. It can commonly be mistaken for a weed because it grows among them along roads, in pastures or fields. As we near spring and the time for grass to be cut, consider sparing this friend of our ecosystem.

Monarch butterflies typically come out of hibernation during February, laying eggs March to April. After four days these eggs hatch into larvae! Though, do you know where they lay their eggs? If you guessed milkweed, you'd be correct! Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed so when the larvae, or caterpillars, hatch they can eat the flower to grow!

After two weeks the caterpillar will fully mature and attach itself to a leaf or stem of the milkweed. It forms a chrysalis around itself to experience metamorphosis for 10 days before becoming a butterfly! A Monarch appears that is just as beautiful as the milkweed that aided its arrival.

The importance of milkweed doesn't stop there! Orioles and Goldfinches use milkweed for their nests! While Goldfinches use the silky, white hairs attached to seeds in their nests for insulation, Orioles use the milkweed fiber to weave their nests. Milkweeds also invite ladybugs! They help gardeners by eating common threats such as mites. These garden pests suck out chlorophyll from plants causing yellow white, or brown spots on leaves.

This spring, be mindful of the sanctuary that nature has set in place to protect the order of things despite us!



PIXABAY

Monarch butterfly

Local band Key Lime Pie searching for new lead singer



KEY LIME PIE

Key Lime Pie Guitarist Max Townson and Lead Vocalist Devon Campbell

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

Key Lime Pie, a local, genre-blending band known for its energetic performances and wide-ranging setlist, has recently announced it will begin auditions for a new lead vocalist.

Lead guitarist Max Townson said the band performs music spanning several decades and genres to appeal to a wide audience. "We mostly lean toward '90s songs, but we play music from different eras so there's something for everyone," Townson said.

The group hopes to find a versatile vocalist who is comfortable performing a variety of styles.

Just as important, Townson said, is finding someone who fits the band's personality and dynamic.

"We're looking for someone engaging and fun who works well with us," Townson said. "We're all good friends, so we want someone we can hang out with and just vibe with."

Those interested in auditioning can contact the band through Instagram at @keylimepietheband, where three songs will be posted for potential singers to learn and submit as part of the audition process.

Key Lime Pie will perform its next show on May 22 at Ethos Brewing, marking Key Lime's current vocalist, Devon Campbell's, final performance with the band. Townson said the show will give fans and potential vocalists a chance to see the band's style firsthand.





Harmony School's 20th annual Southern Beauty Pageant set for April 18

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

LOGAN, Ala. — Harmony School is preparing to host its annual Southern Beauty pageant, a tradition that has supported the school since 2007.

Pageant organizer Heather Lynn said the event began the same year the school opened and serves as a fundraiser benefiting Harmony School's general fund.

"We began Harmony's Southern Beauty in 2007, which was the school's first year open. This year will mark the 20th annual pageant."

The pageant, set for Saturday, April 18, is open to the public and welcomes contestants from birth to age 18.

Registration for contestants ages birth to 6 begins at noon, while contestants ages 7-18 will register at 2 p.m.

Participants will compete for overall winner and three alternates, as well as awards for Best Dressed, Most Beautiful and Photogenic.

Lynn said the variety of categories helps create a positive and encouraging environment for participants.

"These categories allow girls to shine in different ways," she said. "It becomes more about celebration and encouragement rather than just a single win."

Proceeds from the pageant will help cover school expenses and directly support students.

Lynn said the event is designed to be welcoming for both beginners and experienced contestants.

"It's not just about competition," she said. "It's about building confidence, making memories and celebrating each child's unique personality and beauty."

For more information, call 256-747-1427 or visit www.facebook.com/hmycboe.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage 106 13th Street SW Cullman, Al 35055 to satisfy a lien on March 25th 2026, at Time 10:00 A.M. at Storagetreasures.com : Unit #1220 Nicole West, Unit #1080 Nicole West, Unit #1128 Jake Butler, Unit# D102 Virgilia Woodard

NOTICE OF PUBLICSALE: The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by legacy Self Storage 106 13th Street SW Cullman, Al 35055 to satisfy a lien on March 25th 2026, at Time 10:00 A.M. at Storagetreasures.com : Unit# 1086 Candace Burgess, Unit# 41 Jeremy Hopper, Unit# 47 Kristen Shedd, Unit# 423 Joseph Eason, Unit# 23 Starla Hodo,

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
DAVID TALLEY, * CASE NO.: PC2025-465
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Anna Cluxton, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DAVID TALLEY, deceased, on the 20th day of February 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Anna Cluxton
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
Attorney for the Petitioner
407 2nd Ave SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 20th day of February, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
NEDRA JOYCE BLACKWOOD SMITH, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-057**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Kenneth W. Smith, Jr. as Personal Representative of the Estate of Nedra Joyce Blackwood Smith 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 will be barred.

Kenneth W. Smith, Jr.
Personal Representative

Atty for Estate:
Thomas E. Drake, II
419 Second Avenue SW STE A
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone (256) 739-9445

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

RICHARD LEWIS LeCROY, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-100

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF RICHARD LEWIS LeCROY, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Donald Brandon LeCroy on the 16th day of March, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Donald Brandon LeCroy, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
GEORGE CARROL COLE) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 091
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Deborah Kay Cole Busby, as Administratrix of the Estate of George Carrol Cole, deceased, on the 6th day of March, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Deborah Kay Cole Busby
Deborah Kay Cole Busby

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Administratrix

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:

VIN#KL7CJKSB9HB147242 2017 Chevrolet Trax

If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JOSEPH WAYNE THOMPSON, * CASE NO.: PC2024-423
Deceased. *

AMENDED
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Billy J. Smith, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOSEPH WAYNE THOMPSON, deceased, on the 4th day of March, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Amended to correct the date

Billy J. Smith
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
Attorney for the Petitioner
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 4th day of March, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Case# PC2026-043
PB MIN Book:241 Page:192
Recorded in Above Book and Page
02/27/2026 2:07PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
) **Case Number: PC2026-043**
KENNETH DELMER RODEN,)
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Kenneth Delmer Roden, Deceased

Letters Of Administration, 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, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Stacey Lynn Long
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO PUBLISHER:

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DELBA M. BRIGHT, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-094**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Elaine Murphree Simpson as Personal Representative of the Estate of Delba M. Bright deceased, on the 6th 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 will be barred.

Elaine Murphree Simpson
Personal Representative

Atty for Estate:
Perry D. Knight
412 First Avenue SE Suite 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone (256) 734-4090

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF:
J.L.S.
D.O.B. 1/3/2013

Case# PC2025-316
PB MIN Book:241 Page:329
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/05/2026 2:29PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
WJC

CASE NO: PC 2025-316

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR

TO: ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE CHILD BORN TO KARI SUMMER MAY, KNOWN AS J.L.S.

The Petition to Change Name of Minor was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Kari Summer May, Biological Mother. If you should contest, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with said petitioner, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 5th DAY OF March, 2026.

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

Pro Se

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
CYNTHIA C. RYAN, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-037**
Deceased. *

Case# PC2026-037
PB MIL Book:136 Page:675
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/05/2026 1:17PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
KAR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to C. BLAKE WEST as Personal Representative of the Estate of CYNTHIA C. RYAN 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 will be barred.

C. Blake West
Personal Representative

Atty for Estate:
C. Blake West
412 4th Avenue SW STE 270
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone (256) 798-0320

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
KATHRYN HAYS JUNKINS, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-060**
Deceased. *

Probate
County, AL
KAR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to LAURA PARKER aka LAURA NICOLE CAMPBELL, as Personal Representative of the Estate of KATHRYN HAYS JUNKINS, deceased, on the 5th day of March, 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.

Laura Parker aka
Laura Nicole Campbell
Personal Representative

Michael J. Baggett
Attorney for Estate
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
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

Upcoming lunar events

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Pink Moon - April 1, 2026
The Lenten Moon, Paschal Full Moon or the last Full Moon of winter. It has many names, but "pink" is not entirely accurate. This name comes from the early blooming flower called "pink moss phlox" keying the moon's name. April Fools!

Viewing will be best after sunset on Wednesday, April 1, at roughly 7:44 p.m. through 9:12 p.m.

Flower Moon - May 1, 2026
The name comes from the common phrase, "April showers bring May flowers." In May, flower growth is very common across North America as we leap through spring and prepare for summer!

On Friday, May 1, 2026, the Flower Moon will reach its peak at 11:56 a.m.

Blue Moon - May 31, 2026
Not to be confused with a certain alcoholic beverage! This moon gets its name from the phrase, "Once in a blue moon." There is typically one full moon every month, though every two to three years there are two full moons in a calendar month. A Blue Moon is when two full moons happen in one month.

Early birds - viewing will be best Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 3:45 a.m.

Stay tuned for more as we approach summer!



PIXABAY

OP-ED

Coast Guard acquisition of Birmingham-Southern College signals opportunity

Dr. Nicole Jones Wadsworth

The closure of Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) left a significant void in West Birmingham. For decades, the 192-acre campus served as an educational and cultural hub. Its vacancy represented a loss of activity and uncertainty for the surrounding community and local economy.

The recent purchase of the campus by the United States Coast Guard marks a strategic turning point. The Coast Guard plans to repurpose the site as a national training center, which will subsequently transform a period of uncertainty into a long-term federal investment that promises meaningful economic and community benefits.

From an economic perspective, the project brings immediate and sustained advantages.

The establishment of a federal training center generates numerous employment opportunities from instructors and administrative staff to support and maintenance personnel. In addition, trainees and personnel will contribute to local commerce by supporting restaurants, retail, housing, and service industries throughout Jefferson County.

Beyond job creation, the adaptive reuse project revitalizes a critical property in West Birmingham. Large vacant institutional sites can depress neighborhoods and deter private investment. By activating the campus, the Coast Guard preserves infrastructure, stabilizes surrounding property values, and signals confidence to local businesses and real estate investors. The acquisition also strengthens Alabama's role in national security and federal operations. With a growing presence in our state, the Coast Guard training center underscores Alabama's capacity to support major federal missions. This translates into predictable federal investment, thus positioning Jefferson County and Alabama to benefit from long-term economic stability and strategic importance.

The Coast Guard's purchase of the Birmingham-Southern campus represents an investment in economic growth and community revitalization. Their presence further positions Alabama as a leader and supporter of the Department of Defense (DoD). For Jefferson County and Alabama, this project provides a model of how federal resources, when strategically deployed, can create lasting economic and social value.

Nicole Jones Wadsworth is a career site selector and commercial real estate developer and a Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Alabama.

Obituary Announcements: March 7-9

Barbara Annette Looney, 56
Funeral Service for Barbara Annette Looney, age 56 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at East Point Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Looney passed away on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at her residence. She was born, Sept. 13, 1969, to Wayne Fillmore and Barbara Miller Fillmore. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Jerry Looney; sisters Diana Gordon and Julie Downs; brother, John Fillmore; nieces and nephews, Beth Newman, Sarah Gordon, Keifer Fillmore, Harley Carter, Ava Rose Downs and Stella Downs.

Garlon Wayne Williams, 78
A visitation for Garlon Williams, 78, of Bremen will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday March 9th at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Williams was born on Aug. 26, 1947, in Cullman, Alabama to Frank Williams and Jeanette Turner. He passed away on March 5, 2026, at his home in Bremen, Alabama. Mr. Williams was a well-known mechanic and respected dozer and tractor mechanic. Those who knew him understood that if a machine had a problem, he was the man who could figure it out. His knowledge, skill, and hands-on experience earned him the trust of countless people who depended on his work. Mr. Williams was also a simple man who believed in doing things his own way. He lived his life the way he wanted—honest, hardworking, and without pretense. Beyond his work, Mr. Williams will be remembered as a man who valued independence, hard work, and living life on his own terms. His presence, knowledge, and the mark he left on those who knew him will not be forgotten. Mr. Williams is survived by his son, Darrell (Shelly) Williams; grandson Cameron (Skyler) Williams; and niece Debbie Williams Thomas. Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his father Frank Williams, mother Jeanette Turner, and brother Ottis (Edith) Williams. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Williams family.

Shirley Regina Richards, 72
Shirley Regina Pair Richards, of Hanceville, died Wednesday, March 4, 2026. She is survived by her husband, Cecil Lavern Richards; sons: Shawn Lavern Richards and Tony Ray (Bridgett) Richards; daughter, Cheryl Murphey; sister, Margie Hill; 10 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and a host of other family members and friends. The family received friends on Monday, March 9, 2026, from 5-7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The celebration of Shirley's life will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Valley View Baptist Church in Arkadelphia. Burial will follow in Valley View Cemetery. To leave condolences for the family, please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

James Richard Fowler, Jr., 65
James Richard Fowler Jr. passed away on March 5, 2026, at the age of 65. Born on Sept. 15, 1960, in Alabama, James was a resident of Joppa, Alabama. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 2nd Ave North West, Cullman, AL 35055, on March 10, 2026, from noon-2 p.m., followed by the Funeral Service at Moss-Service Funeral Home on March 10, 2026, from 2-3 p.m. A Committal Service will take place at Etha Baptist Church, 8417 County Road 1545, Cullman, AL 35058, US, on March 10, 2026, from 3-3:30 p.m.

Imogene Rusk, 92
Imogene Rusk age 92 of Cullman passed away on March 6, 2026, at Woodland Village Healthcare Center. Imogene is survived by her son, ONeal Rusk (Lana); her daughter, Carol Tekulve (Danny); granddaughters, Mindy Strange (John) and Stacey Sivley (Tim); grandson, Brian Tekulve (Anna); great grandsons, Mason Strange, Emory Tekulve and Ellis Tekulve; her sister, Mary Ann Lee; and her sister-in-law, Martha Bagwell. Imogene was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Jewel Bagwell; her husband, James Rusk; her grandson, Michael Rusk; and her brothers, Hollis Bagwell and James Bagwell. A funeral Service for Mrs. Rusk will be held Wednesday March 11, 2026, and 1 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Mrs. Rusk family will receive friend from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Internment will follow at Emeus Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers; Tim Sivley, Brian Tekulve, Bill Bagwell, Jim Alldredge, David Bagwell and Garrett Bagwell. The Rusk family would like to thank the woodland Village Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center for the excellent care they provided Mrs. Rusk for the last three years. To leave condolences for the Rusk family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Michael Timothy White, 69
Michael Timothy White, 69, of Cullman, passed away March 6, 2026, at home surrounded by loving family. He was born December 14, 1956, in Akron, Ohio to Roland Earl and Jettie Pope White. Michael's family describes him as an amazing nurturer and fierce protector. A patriarch offering guidance to several generations. He was area manager at Ready Mix USA/DCA where his finishers and employees were his priorities. Michael's passions in life included music, Harley riding, boating, camping, and any time spent with friends and family. Michael was preceded in death by his father, mother, and brother-in-law, Charles Overstreet. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Belinda Simmons White, Sisters: Brenda Overstreet and Sherri (Byron) Hale, Brother: John White and three generations of nieces and nephews that he considered his own. Graveside Services for Michael, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at Valley Spring Cemetery with Rev. Samuel Tucker officiating; burial at Valley Spring Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10:30 p.m. - 12 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130

Spring weather: Be prepared

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — As winter turns to spring and temperatures begin to warm across north Alabama, residents enter a time of year marked by rapidly changing and occasionally severe weather. Spring's shifting temperatures often create the perfect environment for thunderstorms, heavy rainfall and the potential for severe weather, including damaging winds and tornadoes.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rain clouds in Cullman County

Alabama is prone to unpredictable weather patterns because of its location between warm, humid air from the Gulf and cooler air systems moving across the country. When systems combine, storms can develop suddenly and intensify rapidly.

Because conditions can change rapidly, weather experts encourage residents to stay informed about forecasts and have multiple ways to receive weather alerts. A NOAA weather radio, smartphone alerts and local news updates can help ensure people receive warnings even if storms occur overnight.

It is also recommended to review safety plans before severe weather strikes. Residents should identify a safe place in their home, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

Families are encouraged to keep emergency supplies nearby, including flashlights, batteries and a charged phone.

Spring storms are common across the region, but preparation can make a significant difference when severe weather develops. Staying informed and having a plan in place helps ensure families can respond quickly and safely when storms move through the area.



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