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WEATHER
70 46
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY SUNNY

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CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

–SPORTS–
OmniSports Academy launches Rec+ Flag Football League
» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

West Point, Premier Bank partner up with $50K on playground expansion project

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — The West Point Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, March 16, highlighting a community partnership that will support a major addition to the town's recreational space.

The council entered into a $50,000 matching agreement with Premier Bank of the South to fund a playground expansion » PAGE 2



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Amy Hogue presents the West Point Town Council with the $25,000 check from Premier Bank for the upcoming playground expansion.

Cullman City School Board approves contracts for 2 principals, recognizes students, faculty, staff



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman High School Theatre program was recognized for achievements at the State Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival.

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City School Board at its March 17 meeting approved two principal contracts and recognized outstanding students and faculty.

The board approved a three-year contract for Allison Tuggle to continue serving as principal of Cullman High School. In a statement, the board said Tuggle will remain in her leadership role, continuing to guide the high school in academics, student achievement and school culture.

Dr. Elizabeth Shaddix also received a three-year contract to continue serving as principal of Cullman City Primary School. Under her leadership, the school will continue its focus on early learning excellence and supporting the district's youngest learners, said the board in the same statement.

"These leadership decisions position CHS and CCPS well for the future," said Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff. "Both of these administrators bring valuable experience and leadership to our district, and their unique strengths will help us continue providing a high-quality education for our youngest and our oldest students."

Two retirements were on the agenda: Kristy Liverett, special education teacher at Cullman Middle School, effective June 1, 2026, and Dr. Jay Page, principal at West Elementary School, effective June 30, 2026. Look for a separate feature about Dr. Page soon.

The board also recognized faculty and staff members from CHS. Erica Ball was praised for her dedication to students and leadership within the school's special education department, and support staff member M'kori Johnson was also recognized for her daily contributions to the school community, being a friendly and encouraging presence to all.

CHS Student of the Month Reese » PAGE 3



Area sophomores explore possibilities at WSCC Showcase event



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Students explore different programs at Wallace State Community College's Showcase event on March 17, 2026. » PAGE 4

County Commission hears about upgraded Visit Cullman website

» PAGE 5

Cullman's Got Talent auditions set for April 25 at Wallace State

» PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK
Meet Minerva



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Minerva » PAGE 7



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 17

- identity theft; person

ARRESTS

March 16-17

England, William P.; 61
- theft of property-4th degree

Livingston, Matthew T.; 35
- DUI

Walling, Clinton H.; 53
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Project (from Front)

at the fields by West Point Town Hall, with $25,000 contributed by the Town of West Point and $25,000 donated by Premier Bank. Amy Hogue presented the check to the council during the meeting.

Mayor Timmy Smith expressed his appreciation for the partnership.

"They are a real asset to us as a town. They have donated $25,000 to the new playground expansion. They were so gracious. Thank you very much," Smith said.

Council members also addressed several items of old business during the meeting. The council approved the finalization of a land purchase totaling $300,000, with half of the cost to be financed and the remaining portion paid upfront.

Updates were also provided regarding ongoing efforts to improve the town's sewer system. An audit of portions of the system is currently underway, with a team expected to present its findings and project recommendations to the council by the end of April.

In addition, the council discussed potential safety improvements for crosswalks near the football field. Options under consideration include the installation of lighted signage, speed bumps and rumble strips to enhance pedestrian safety in the area.

The next meeting of the West Point Town Council will be held on Monday, April 20, at 6 p.m. at West Point Town Hall, located at 3990 County Road 1141 in Cullman.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Friday, March 20 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, March 21 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, March 22 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
• 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.
• 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!

Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry
• Friday, March 20. Join us for a great night of food and fellowship at the Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church – everyone is welcome! Enjoy a delicious meal with your choice of fried or baked fish, French fries, coleslaw, hush puppies, a drink and dessert – all for just $12 per plate. Dinner served from 5-7 p.m. Shadow Stations at 7 p.m., presented by our SHS students. Dinner will be held in the Family Life Center located behind the church at 205 Third St. SE in Cullman.
• Come out, bring your family and friends, and support a great cause while enjoying a meaningful and powerful Stations of the Cross during Lent!

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

Hanceville Civitan Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Egg Hunt begins promptly at noon. Bring the whole family out for an afternoon packed with games, activities and plenty of Easter fun for all ages. There will be something for everyone to enjoy! Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend this exciting community event – we can't wait to see you there! If you attended Night to Shine, we would absolutely love to see you at this special event as well! Come join us for another wonderful day of fun, fellowship and community. We can't wait to see your smiling faces again!

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Spring Revival
Monday-Friday, April 6-10, at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Bro. Jared Dixon. The Dixons will be singing. Everyone is invited. The church is located on U. S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501. If you can't come, please pray for us.

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

Board (from Front)

Hopper was recognized in absentia for academic achievement, leadership and positive impact on campus.

Administrators described Hopper as a strong student, athlete and peer who consistently supports classmates.

The board celebrated the CHS Theatre program, which earned "Best in Show" at the State Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival. The program will represent Alabama at the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

Students also received multiple individual awards, including honors in musical theater and playwriting, as well as All-State All-Star cast selections.

Two students were recognized as winners in the Governor's App Challenge. Henry Hackbarth and John Harding developed apps focused on teaching American history. Both advanced through regional competition and will compete at the state level in April.

The January financial report showed revenues at approximately 45% and expenditures at 33% of the annual budget, with the higher revenue percentage reflecting early receipt of property tax funds. The system reported a fund balance of about $16.4 million, representing a 4.72-month reserve.

Board members approved several additional action items, including a job description for a career technical education instructor, demolition approval for the Thomas property and updates to textbook and career technical education policies.

The board approved rejecting a bid on the soccer field house project at CHS after exceeding budget expectations. Officials said they will work with stakeholders to revise the project scope before moving forward.

The board also approved multiple consent agenda items, including travel agreements, purchasing partnerships and student program approvals, as well as the system's personnel report.

Kallhoff recognized National School Social Work Week and highlighted the contributions of the district's social worker as well as the boys' basketball team's appearance in the state championship game and announced an upcoming job fair taking place at Cullman Middle School.

The next Cullman City School Board meeting is scheduled for April 21, at 5 p.m. at the central office.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2026

OmniSports Academy launches Rec+ Flag Football League

Jordan Meggs
CPRST

CULLMAN, Ala. — OmniSports Academy (OSA), a program of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST), has announced the launch of its Rec+ Flag Football League, a new competitive tier within its established recreational program that will give Cullman's top young athletes the opportunity to compete at the regional and state level for the first time.

The Rec+ model builds on the success of Cullman's popular Recreational Flag Football program by identifying top players from each age division who wish to extend their season and represent Cullman in the Alabama Youth Football League (AYFL) against teams from across north Alabama.

As part of the initiative, OmniSports Academy is partnering with Cullman Football Academy (CFA) — one of the region's most respected full-contact youth football organizations — to field a Rec+ OSA Flag Team and further strengthen Cullman's youth football pipeline.

"Our flag football program has experienced incredible growth, and with that growth came a natural demand for the next level of competition," said Nathan Anderson, executive director of CPRST. "Our athletics team, led by Ashley Morton, launched the Rec+ initiative, allowing us to build on the fun, accessible environment our recreational league provides while giving players who want more competition the chance to represent Cullman on a regional and state stage.

"Every player will still participate in the recreational league they were drafted into, and the Rec+ team will be selected from that group to train together and compete in additional AYFL events. What makes this opportunity especially meaningful is the collaboration with Cullman Football Academy, a program that has long set the standard for youth football development in our community and has helped prepare generations of young athletes for middle school and high school football."

"Flag football is opening the door for more kids to fall in love with the game," said David Brown, longtime organizer with Cullman Football Academy.

"Not every child starts with full-contact football, but flag football builds the skills, confidence and passion that can lead them there. Having our programs working together creates a natural pathway for young athletes and ultimately strengthens football throughout our community."

The program has also received strong support from Cullman High School Head Football Coach Trent Walker, who sees the collaboration as an important step in continuing the tradition of football excellence in Cullman.



CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

Youth flag football players

"The flag football program Nathan and his team at CPRST have built is one of the most exciting youth development opportunities I've seen for the sport. What David Brown and Cullman Football Academy have built over the years is something this community can be incredibly proud of — their program has developed outstanding young athletes and prepared players who eventually come through Cullman High School. Seeing these programs working together and our flag players competing on a regional and state stage is something our entire community should celebrate."

According to Anderson, the Rec+ program reflects CPRST's broader mission to expand opportunities for youth athletics while strengthening collaboration across Cullman's football community.

"Coach Walker and David pour so much into the young people of this community, and both hold incredibly high standards — not just about winning, but about player development and helping young men grow with character and purpose," Anderson said. "Coach Walker's genuine interest in supporting youth programs across Cullman is a big reason this partnership is possible and so special. When you have leadership at every level unified around a shared vision for the youth of this community, great things are going to happen."



NATHAN BATES

Cullman's varsity tennis teams

PREP TENNIS

Cullman boys and girls top Gardendale 8-1

Nathan Bates
Cullman High School Tennis

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bearcats Varsity Tennis teams faced the Gardendale Rockets Tuesday in a 6A, Section 7 matchup.

The CHS Boys and Girl's teams both came away with impressive 8-1 victories.

The Bearcats are back in action again this Thursday at home against Lauderdale County and on the road for two matches on Saturday against Albertville and Sardis.

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Scores and stats for March 17, 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BASEBALL

- Lynn 3, Addison 2 – Batting: S. Talley 1-1 (HR), RBI – C. Lane 2-4 (2B) Pitching: K. Lake 6.0 IP, 2 ER, 3 K

- Brooks 6, Fairview 2 – Batting: C. Scott 3-3 – J. Robertson 1-4, RBI Pitching: J. Robertson 6.0 IP, 2 ER, 2 K

- Good Hope 22, Danville 3 – Batting: C. Rutherford 2-3 (2B, 3B), 2 RBI Pitching: M. Johnson 2.0 IP, 0 ER, 3 K

- Pennington 20, Holly Pond 5 – Batting: M. Brown 1-3, RBI – Ty Dunn 1-2, 2 RBI Pitching: S. Hunt 4.0 IP, 4 ER, 4 K

- Oakman 15, Meek 5 – Batting: A. Benson 2-2 (HR), 2 RBI Pitching: T. Thomas 2.0 IP, 0 ER, 2 K

- Cordova 10, Vinemont 0 – Batting: (Vine. was no-hit) Pitching: C. Drummond 3.0 IP, 4 ER, 5 K

- West Point 8, Lawrence Co. 0 – Batting: D. Crow 2-4, 2 RBI Pitching: B. Freeman 7.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 14 K, W

SOFTBALL

- Meek 2, Addison 1 – Batting: A. Williams (Meek) 1-3 (HR), RBI – S. Farley (Meek) 1-3 (2B), RBI Pitching: S. Farley 7.0 IP, 0 ER, 13 K, W

- Sumiton Christian 9, Cold Springs 4 – Batting: S. Ingram 1-3 Pitching: P. Kennedy 6.0 IP, 8 ER, K

- Mortimer Jordan 14, Cullman 9 – Batting: D. Bates 1-3 (HR), 2 RBI – R. Hopper 1-3 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: D. Bates 4.2 IP, 2 ER, K

- Good Hope 8, Danville 1 – Batting: M. Benefield 3-4 (HR x2), 6 RBI Pitching: M. Benefield 7.0 IP, 0 ER, 6 K, W

- Russellville 2, West Point 1 – Batting: K. Jones 1-4 (HR), RBI Pitching: K. Jones 8.0 IP, ER, 4 K

Event (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Cullman County sophomores got a firsthand look at future career possibilities during Wallace State Community College's annual Showcase event on Tuesday, March 17.

The event is a partnership between Wallace State and Cullman County Schools, designed to introduce 10th-grade students to campus and academic and technical programs before they begin their junior year.

"This gives them an opportunity to see what all we have to offer before their 10th-grade year ends," said Lauren Wilson, director of Dual Enrollment at Wallace State.

"Even if they choose not to do Dual Enrollment, it still gives them an idea of the programs available right here in their own county."

During the Showcase, students rotated through a wide range of program areas, including all health sciences, applied technologies and academic pathways. Representatives from each department were present, greeting the students and answering any questions, providing demonstrations and sharing information about potential careers.

Hands-on experiences are a major component to the event and help make it memorable and successful. In the nursing simulation center, students can interact with medical equipment used in fields such as radiology, dental hygiene and physical therapy.

Applied technology programs such as welding, automotive technology, machining and robotics also offer live demonstrations and interactive opportunities.

"I think a lot of times, especially at this age, students may not know exactly what a program does.

"This lets them see the equipment, watch demonstrations and really picture themselves in that field," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, the event often has a huge impact on shaping students' future decisions about the pathway they choose.

"A lot of our students who decide to come here for Dual Enrollment say this day helped them choose their path," she said.

"They remember what they saw and experienced, and that's what leads them to pursue a specific program."

The Showcase also demonstrates how Wallace State's programs align with workforce needs across the state. Wilson acknowledged a growing demand for healthcare workers as populations age and a continued need in technical fields such as automotive and machine tool technology.

"We have industries right here in Cullman County and nearby areas like Huntsville that are constantly asking for workers," she said. "Our goal is to connect students with those opportunities and help place them in jobs after graduation."

Students who discover an interest during the event are encouraged to follow up with their respective school counselors to help guide them through the Dual Enrollment application process and connect them with Wallace State staff to begin planning for fall classes.



Wallace State inducts students into honor societies

Special to The Cullman Tribune



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State students recently participated in induction ceremonies for Phi Theta Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Nearly 100 students have been inducted into honor societies since the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year at Wallace State Community College.

Phi Theta Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta and Sigma Kappa Delta have all welcomed students to their organizations, with Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) inducting 71, Mu Alpha Theta (MAT) 19 and Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) 15.

"We are incredibly proud of the students who have earned induction into Sigma Kappa Delta, Mu Alpha Theta, and Phi Theta Kappa this year," said Kristen Holmes, Wallace State vice president for students. "Their dedication, discipline and commitment to academic excellence distinguish them among their peers. These honor societies recognize not only exceptional achievement in the classroom, but also leadership, service, intellectual curiosity and a willingness to engage deeply in scholarly pursuits. We look forward to seeing the many ways these students will contribute to their communities and chosen fields in the years ahead."

Phi Theta Kappa

Wallace State's Alpha Chi Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is extended by invitation only. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in an associate-degree program, have completed at least 12 hours of college-level course work leading to an associate degree, have a grade point average of 3.5 or better, exhibit good moral character and possess recognized leadership qualities.

The members of Alpha Chi Tau participate in mentoring programs with at-risk students in area high schools, tutorial relationships with Wallace State students, community-service projects in Cullman County and in neighboring counties and programs sponsored by Wallace State and other institutions to promote academic enrichment.

Membership also opens opportunity for PTK scholarships as the student moves on to four-year universities. Students are inducted twice a year, during the spring and fall semesters. PTK members are eligible for commencement honors during the college's annual graduation ceremonies.

Students inducted into Phi Theta Kappa include:

- Altoona: Linda Andrews
- Arley: Brooke Ary-Maze
- Ashville: Katharina Chamberlin, Kristi Hale
- Baileyton: Bethany McNiel
- Bessemer: Lilianna Sanchez
- Birmingham: Ariel Ernest, Brittany Givan
- Blountsville: Malachi Chamblee, Karlie Fore
- Childersburg: Heavenly Lawson
- Cleveland: Elizabeth Culpepper, Liletzy Valdez
- Cordova: Katrina Thompson
- Cullman: Andrea Austin, Kristin Barnett, Ava Bell, Ashlyn Danecker, Colton Echols, Rebecca Fox, Matthew Hawley, Hank Hudson, Joel Jr Jasso-Robledo, David Miller, Alexander Najera, Emma Ray, Hannah Rhodes, Abby Southeard, Allie Stewart, Anna Strane
- Decatur: Nadia Paradise
- Eva: Blaire Drummond, Brooke Drummond
- Falkville: Hailey Carrington
- Fayette: Brandon Sanford
- Gadsden: Mallory Brooks
- Gardendale: Reese Heron, Allison Jacks
- Guntersville: Isabella Agabin-Koller, Nayeli Escobedo
- Hanceville: Jaretzy Abad, Paige Trent
- Hazel Green: Bryleigh Holman
- Helena: Edna Mitchell
- Holly Pond: Tessa Jones
- Horton: America Benitez Garcia
- Huntsville: Bethany Abbott, Catherine Raby
- Jasper: Ellise Davis, Gavin Slaten
- Lynn: Dawson Duboise
- Morris: Leah Graves
- Oneonta: Britlyn Bryson, Lyla Cleveland, Eduardo Gonzalez, Gavin Green, Erika Hernandez
- Owens Cross Roads: Jax Bartlett
- Russellville: Madilyn Calderon
- Somerville: Anita Jacobs
- Trussville: Anna Avram
- Vinemont: Annaliese Dunn, Nolan Dyer
- Warrior: Madison Gibbs, Carson McPherson
- Wilmer: Darcy Alford
- Savannah, Ga.: Ephraim Nkongho
- Dexter, Mo.: Alyssa Warren
- Jackson, Tenn.: Amanda Sellers
- Lawrenceburg, Tenn.: Wesley Seymore
- Pulaski, Tenn.: Kenlee Hall

Mu Alpha Theta

Mu Alpha Theta (MAT) is a mathematics honor society for community colleges. MAT provides members with various avenues to showcase their mathematical knowledge and talents, while providing opportunities to learn from and interact with members across the United States.

To qualify for membership in MAT, students must have completed Math 112 or higher with a GPA of 3.0 in the qualifying math class or classes.

Students inducted into Mu Alpha Theta include:

- Alabaster: Alecia Cruse
- Bessemer: Bridgette Jones
- Birmingham: Annie Cheatwood
- Boaz: Pamela Tidmore
- Cleveland: Ellee Culpepper
- Cullman: Ava Bell, Reese Fox, Benjamin Turner
- Falkville: Hailey Carrington
- Gardendale: Allison Jacks
- Harvest: Priscila Pulido
- Huntsville: Catherine Raby
- Jasper: Amya Guadalupe Cruz, Gavin Slaten
- Morris: Kaitlyn Ferino
- Piedmont: Chloe Rule
- Vinemont: Anna Dunn
- Wetumpka: Austin Holley
- Wilsonville: Madelyn Adams

Sigma Kappa Delta

Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) is the National English Honor Society for two-year colleges. Wallace State's Theta Delta Chapter was established in 2007. SKD provides the exceptional student with a variety of opportunities for advancing the study of language and literature, for developing skills in creative and analytical writing, for meeting outstanding scholars and professionals in the discipline of English and for obtaining scholarships.

Students invited to join SKD are required to have a minimum overall GPA of 3.3, have completed one college English course with a grade not lower than a B, and have completed at least 12 college credit hours.

Students inducted into Sigma Kappa Delta include:

- Alabaster: Alecia Cruse
- Attalla: Amelia Fowler
- Birmingham: Annie Kay Cheatwood
- Bremen: Brady Phillips
- Cleveland: Ellee Culpepper
- Cullman: Kristin Barnett, Ava Bell, Evan Cherry, Anna Strane
- Gardendale: Nicholas Clark
- Guntersville: Nayeli Escobedo
- Odenville: Jennifer Michelle Couch
- Piedmont: Chloe Rule
- Vinemont: Anna Dunn
- Winfield: Matthew May

Commission (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission began its March 17 meeting with Cullman County Tourism Bureau Executive Director Harmony Heard, who gave an overview of the newly launched Visit Cullman website (www.VisitCullman.com), designed to promote the county as a travel destination.

Heard said the website features curated itineraries and experiences, including categories such as weekend trips, festivals, downtown activities, faith-based tourism, Smith Lake trips and agritourism. The goal is to encourage visitors to stay longer, spend more locally and explore a wider range of attractions.

The Visit Cullman Savings Pass (https://go.visitcullman.com) was introduced as a free digital pass offering discounts at participating local businesses. The pass is available via download and is intended to increase visitor spending at restaurants, shops and other locations around the county. A monthly newsletter and expanded event listings are also planned to improve community participation and awareness.

The commission approved its consent agenda, which included surplus items from the county garage to be auctioned. Commissioners also approved a proclamation designating April 2026 as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Two sanitation employees were recognized for their service, including Aaron Skinner, who is retiring after 10 years, and Randy Williams, who is retiring after eight years.

Additional approved items included the reappointment of Phillip Hicks to the Walter Water Authority Board for a six-year term. The commission authorized A Little Something Extra ice cream truck to operate in the county's south parking lot on Wednesdays from April through October. Commissioners also approved revisions to county personnel policies regarding take-home vehicles.

They entered into agreements with Paymentus to provide payment services for Cullman County Water and Sanitation billing. The commission also agreed to allow use of an access road and authorized design work on parking lot security structures.

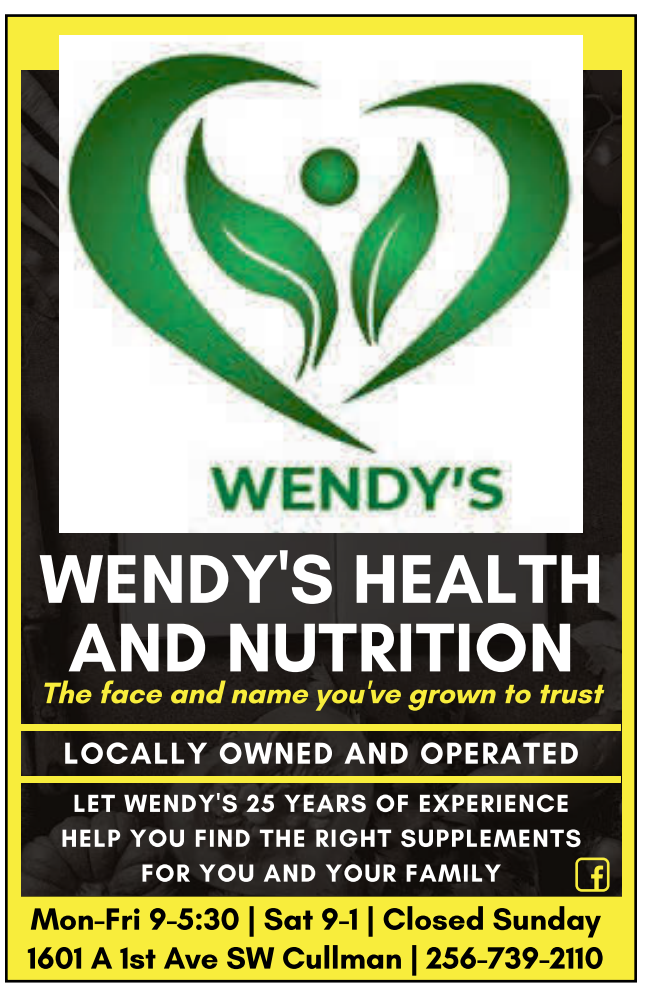
The commission approved both financial and infrastructure measures including the final payment of $574,680 to John Deere Financial for the motor graders. A utility agreement with Cullman Electric Cooperative will bring three-phase electrical service to the Cullman Regional Airport.

The commission also approved a $25,000 software purchase for the revenue department and a $5,150 contract for courthouse cleaning.

Approved subdivision-related items included proposed plats for KB Haven and Hines Estates subdivisions. The commission also approved a resubdivision in Lakeshore Acres. Maintenance bond adjustments and a bond release were approved for the Chaney Branch Farms subdivision following completion of road work.

The commission also accepted multiple bid extensions and awards to support county operations, including contracts for guardrail, pipe and herbicides, asphalt materials, equipment, indigent burial services and a vehicle purchase.

The next Cullman County Commission work session is scheduled for April 21 at 4 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6 in the commission meeting room.





Cullman's Got Talent auditions set for April 25 at Wallace State

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The spotlight will soon shine on local performers as the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County prepare to host the inaugural Cullman's Got Talent, a community talent competition benefiting the Cullman County Public Library System.

Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wallace State Community College Burrow Center, located at 801 Main St. NW in Hanceville.

Organizers say the competition is open to performers of all ages and a wide variety of talents. Singers, dancers, comedians, jugglers, magicians, small bands and other unique acts are encouraged to audition.

"Cullman...are you ready for it?" organizers said in a promotional announcement for the event.

"The spotlight is on for the very first Cullman's Got Talent. We're searching for amazing talent of all ages."

Participants will have up to 15 minutes per act during auditions, which includes both setup and performance time.

Preregistration is required for those planning to audition.

The competition will award cash prizes to the top three performers.

Organizers are encouraging anyone who believes they have a talent that can "wow the crowd" to sign up and take part in the inaugural event.

Those interested in participating can register at https://form.jotform.com/260534360747054.

Audition details

- Cullman's Got Talent auditions
- Saturday, April 25
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wallace State Community College Burrow Center
- 801 Main St. NW
Hanceville, AL 35077

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Obituary Announcements: March 17-18

James Arthur Amos, 79
Mr. James Arthur Amos, 79, of Cullman passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Amos was born Sept. 23, 1946, to Arthur and Elizabeth Cox Amos. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Michael Amos. Those left to cherish his memory are his sons, Stuart Amos and Steven Amos; his granddaughter, Haleigh Amos Velbis; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Betty Ann Morris, 89
Funeral Service for Betty Ann (Griffin) Morris, will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Jimmy Cadle officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Betty Ann (Griffin) Morris, 89, of Vinemont, passed away on March 15, 2026, surrounded by her family. The youngest of 10 children, she was born in Greenville, Mississippi, on Dec. 12, 1936, to Allie Sewell and Otto Parks Griffin, a sharecropper. Betty moved with her family to Cullman County at age 6. She married Jack Maurice Morris on April 17, 1954, and they remained devoted to one another throughout their 72 years of marriage. The family moved to Michigan in 1964 where Jack worked at General Motors in Flint and the family lived in Flushing, Michigan until Jack retired and he and Betty moved to Vinemont, Alabama in 1991 to run the family farm. Betty was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Known for her kindness, generosity and great sense of humor, she was deeply devoted to her family. She was also energetic and a hard worker who excelled in many roles throughout her life, including bank repo agent. She was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed quilting and crocheting. She was preceded in death by her parents and granddaughter, Jacki Morris. Betty is survived by her husband, Jack; her daughters, Deborah Morris, Vicki Berryhill (Mike) and Nancy Johnson (Mark); her sons, Richard Morris (Debbie) and Brian "Keith" Morris; grandchildren, Todd Gooch (Jamie), Krisi Frederick (Sam), Cameron Berryhill (Emily), Corey Morris, Samantha Morris, Hollen Monfils (Cody), Taylor Johnson, Emily Witt and 17 great grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Karen Sue Holt, 77
Funeral service for Karen Sue Holt, age 77, of Cullman, will be Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Bro. John Garrison officiating. Visitation will be held prior to the service at the funeral home from noon-1 p.m. Burial will be at Flint Creek Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Karen was born on July 15, 1948. She passed from this life at Cullman Regional Medical Center on Friday, March 13, 2026. She is preceded in death by her mother, Beatrice Panell; husband, James Holt; granddaughter, Gracie Nicole Holt; four sisters; one brother; one son-in-law, Justin Philyaw. She is survived by her three children, James Holt (April), Shannon Taylor (Wade), and Laura Philyaw; grandchildren, Hunter Walker (R.J. Looney), Avory Taylor (Iran Perez), Tori Philyaw, Ryan Holt, Peyton Holt, Ashtin Hipp (Shanon); great-grandchildren, Taylor Walker and Rylan Hipp; and a host of nieces and nephews and friends. Serving as pallbearers are Audy Mitchell, Ryan Holt, Heath Taylor, Iran Perez, R.J. Looney, and Wade Taylor.

Max Elwin Heatherly, 83
Funeral service for Max Elwin Heatherly, age 83 of Joppa, will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Justen Staton officiating; Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Heatherly passed away on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Woodland Village Health Care. He was born, July 12, 1942, to Limas Edward Heatherly and Nettie Kilgo Heatherly. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, James Fred Heatherly and Larry Heatherly. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Sue Heatherly; sons, Wade Heatherly and Warren (Shonna) Heatherly; grandchildren, Zach (Kelci), Dylan (Clarissa), Ramsey (Christina); great grandchildren, Reese, Josie, Clover and Remington; sisters, Kathy (John) Johnson, Jan (Roger) Larson and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Christene Margaret Fine LeCroy, 94
With deep love and gratitude for a life devoted to caring for others, the family of Christene Fine LeCroy regretfully announces her passing after a long and meaningful life. She was known by many names—Mom, Stepmom, Granny, Nanny, sister, and friend—and each name reflected the love she gave so freely to the people around her. Christine raised three children and several grandchildren, devoting her life to making sure they always felt cared for, safe, and loved. Later in life, through her marriage to Gean, she was blessed with two bonus kids, whom she welcomed warmly into her family. Whether through a warm meal, a listening ear, or simply her steady presence, she spent her life taking care of others. She loved flowers, plants, and gardening, and took great joy in watching things grow. She was also an avid seamstress and quilter, creating a special quilt for each member of her family. These quilts are treasured possessions today, each stitch a reminder of the love and care she poured into her family. Her kitchen was another place where her love was felt. She was known for her chocolate pies, chicken and dumplings, chicken and dressing, and her famous party punch. Everything she made seemed to taste better because it was prepared with love. Some of her favorite foods were sweets—she especially loved donuts, milkshakes, and anything chocolate. She grew up in difficult times and was only able to attend school through the 11th grade when the boll weevil devastated the cotton crops her family grew. She loved telling stories from her childhood, like playing paper dolls with her sister, decorating a Christmas tree with handmade decorations, and being crowned Harvest Carnival Queen during her 10th-grade year. Though she never had the opportunity to pursue formal education beyond that, she dreamed of becoming a nurse. In many ways, she fulfilled that dream through the care she gave throughout her life. She was a natural caregiver and looked after countless family members and loved ones whenever they were in need. She was fortunate to experience great love in her life. First and foremost she loved her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When she was 15 she met her next love, Paul, and was his bread maker for nearly 50 years. Though she missed him dearly after his passing, she was later blessed to find love again with Gean, and they shared nearly 20 years of marriage together. In the final weeks of her life, it was difficult for her to transition from being the one who cared for everyone else to the one receiving care. She looked forward to meeting Jesus and being reunited with those who went before her, including her daughter Judy, her son-in-law Dale, her beloved husbands Paul and Gean, her brothers and sisters, her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, in-laws, her granddaughter Amy, as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Though we would have loved to keep her with us forever, she leaves behind a legacy of love in the family she cherished so deeply. She is survived by her sister and best friend, four children, ten grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, along with many extended family members and friends whose lives were touched by her kindness. Her quilts, her recipes, her stories, and her love will remain woven into the hearts of her family for generations to come. She was a devoted member of Fairview West Baptist Church where she served faithfully for over 70 years. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Fairview West Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. She loved us a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck, and that love will stay with us always.

Gwen Dean 'Nana', 75
Gwen Dean "Nana", 75, of Decatur, Alabama gained her heavenly wings on March 14, 2026. Mrs. Dean was born on April 28, 1950, in Mobile, Alabama, to Joseph O'Neal Cardwell and Billie Jean Cardwell. Mrs. Dean is survived by her husband of 57 years, Allen Dean. Gwen loved her husband so much. He was truly her hero and took great care of her in her final years on earth. She is also survived by two daughters Angie Casciano (Nick) and Robyn Penuelas (Juan), granddaughters Ashtyn and Isabella Casciano, brothers Joe Cardwell (Paula) and Alan Cardwell (Sheila) and numerous nieces and nephews. Other special family friends include Tony Locklear (Velissa) and Susette Hale (Tony). Mrs. Dean is preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Billie Cardwell and nieces Anna Catherine Cardwell and Jonna Barrier. Gwen was known as "Nana" to many people. She loved her two granddaughters to the moon and back. Ashtyn and Isabella were the loves of her life. Gwen loved to travel to Rosemary Beach and Disney with her family. She traveled to 49 states with her dear friend Teresa Goode after teaching together for many years. Gwen Dean was a beloved teacher, mentor, and role model who dedicated 37 years to educating and inspiring students at Neel Elementary and Danville Middle School. Gwen was known for her passion for learning, patience, and unwavering support for her students. She left a lasting impact on countless young lives. Funeral services for Mrs. Dean will be March 18, 2026, at the Annunciation of the Lord Catholic Church at 3 p.m. Visitation will be at the Church at 2 p.m. Pallbearers will be Juan Penuelas, Josh Cardwell, Caleb Cardwell, Tony Locklear, Tony Hale, and Brad Keenum. Honorary Pallbearers include: Nick Casciano, Mark Dean, Randy Dean, David Dean, and Lyle Cardwell. Burial will be at Roselawn Cemetery. The family would like to give special thanks to the nurses at Hospice of the Valley and the nurses and staff at Westminster Assisted Living Facility for their support and great care given to the family during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of The Valley of Decatur Alabama. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home directing.

Judy Carol Bailey, 70
Funeral service for Judy Carol Bailey, 70, of Cullman will be at noon Friday, March 20th, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Etha Cemetery, Bro. Dennis Loyd officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11 a.m.-noon prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Judy passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at CRMC. She was born March 5, 1956, to James Fred and Ruth Elizabeth Kimbril Bailey. She was a very hard working, caring woman who enjoyed her garden, flowers, and loved life. Judy tried to take care of everyone. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Randy Bailey. Survivors include her sisters, Doris Walker, Wanda Bailey, Joann (Gordon) Hughes, Mary (Lester) Loyd; nieces and nephews, LaShay Watwood, Donnie Anderson, Connie Stone, Tracy (Randall) Bailey, Ronnie Westmoreland; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Arnold Glenn Lindsey, 78
Arnold Glenn Lindsey, 78, born Jan. 23, 1948, in Cullman County to parents Arnold and Velma Lindsey. Glenn passed away at home from a short battle of cancer with his family by his side on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Glenn was an avid car enthusiast who also loved motorcycles and old tractors. He enjoyed going to car shows and tinkering on his vehicles. He was married for 57 years to his wife, Maebelle. He is survived by his wife, Maebelle Lindsey, son and daughter-in-law Michael (Brandi) Lindsey and his pride and joy, granddaughter, Raegan Lindsey; sister, Brenda (Butch) Muro; brothers, Tim (Ellen) Lindsey, Mark (Amy) Lindsey and brother-in-law, Blaine Winstead; a host of nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Renee Gammon. Glenn worked for 38 years in the paper industry with retirement from International Paper in 2014. In 38 years, Glenn never called in sick. Funeral service will be Saturday, March 21st, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Persimmon Grove Cemetery, Ministers Steven McCrary and Tim Junkin officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 10 a.m.-noon. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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Minerva (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week is Minerva, a young German Shepherd with a calm spirit and a quiet presence that stands out the moment she steps beside you.

At approximately 1 year old, Minerva carries herself with a gentle confidence. She walks softly on a leash, never pulling, never rushing, just content to be close.

Those who have spent time with her describe her as low energy, patient and unassuming. She is the kind of dog who does not demand attention, but instead earns it, simply by being near. There is a steadiness about her. The kind that makes her an ideal companion not only for a home, but also for someone looking for a therapy dog or even a reading partner for a child.

Her temperament makes her especially suited for calm environments. She would do well in a home where her quiet nature can shine and where she can build a close bond with her person.

Minerva is already spayed, which reduces her adoption fee to $35. That number, however, does little to reflect her true value. She offers something far greater: a steady presence, a gentle heart and a kind of companionship that does not ask for much, but gives everything in return.

For those looking for a dog who brings peace instead of chaos, Minerva may be exactly what you have been waiting for.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
REGISTRATION AND VOTING AIDS

State of Alabama
Cullman County
Probate Office Elections

TO: ALL CULLMAN COUNTY VOTERS

Pursuant to 21-4-23 (b), of the Code of Alabama (1975), notice is hereby given of the following requirements for and the availability of this registration and voting aids.

(b) The appropriate election officials of each county shall issue public notice in each voting precinct of the requirement for and the availability of these registration and voting aids, which notice shall be notification for all handicapped and elderly individuals. This notice shall be issued as early as practicable, but in any case, not later than 60 days before any state election or the registration deadline for such election.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2026-005

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF REBECCA LEA BOYD.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Case# AD2026005
PB 40T Book 73 Page 590
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/10/2026 2:16PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

WJC

Notice to: JENNIFER NICOLE WORRALL
ANTONIO VILLA JR. and
ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF S.A.R.V.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of S.A.R.V., a minor child born April 14, 2015, to Jennifer Nicole Worrall was filed on the 23rd day of January, 2026, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioner Rebecca Lea Boyd. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 10th day of March, 2026.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Cullman County Board of Education, until 2:00 P.M., legally prevailing time, March 26, 2026 for the Cold Spring High School Gymnasium HVAC Upgrades (Bid #08-26), Bremen, Alabama in the Board Room at the Cullman County Board of Education, 402 Arnold St NE, Cullman, Alabama at which time and place they will be publicly opened.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to Cullman County Board of Education in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than $10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of the Contract.

Drawings and Specifications may be examined at the office of the Architect, Ward Scott Morris Architecture, Inc., 1606 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and TuscaBlue, 2806 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bid documents may be obtained from TuscaBlue via www.ward-scottplans.com, upon deposit of $100.00 per set, which will be refunded in full on the first two sets issued to each trade contract bidder submitting a bona fide bid, upon return of documents in good condition within ten days of bid date. Other sets for contractors, and sets for dealers, may be obtained with the same deposit, which will be refunded as above, less cost of printing, reproduction, handling, and distribution. Electronic PDF copies of bid documents may be procured free of charge.

Bid bonds are to be issued by an acceptable bonding company licensed to do business in the State, with a Power of Attorney, to confess judgment thereon, with the understanding that it shall guarantee that the bidder shall not withdraw his bid for the guarantee period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids; that if his bid is accepted, he will enter into a formal contract with the Owner, and that in the event of a withdrawal of said bid within said period, or the failure to enter into said contract within the time specified, the bidder shall be liable to the Owner for the full amount of the bid guarantee as liquidated damages and not as a forfeit or as a penalty. The bid bond and certified checks on unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon awarding the contract or rejection of all bids, in no event, later than the number of days in the guarantee period from the opening of proposals. That of the successful bidder will be returned when formal contract and bonds are accepted and approved.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Architect or copies thereof. All bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Architect; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Owner's judgment, the best interests of the Owner will thereby be promoted.

All Bidders are invited to attend a non-mandatory pre-bid conference to be held electronically via Zoom at 10:00 A.M. on March 19, 2026. Participants can join the video presentation by going to https://zoom.us/join or via conference call at +1(305) 224-1968. Please enter the Meeting ID#: 844 4593 3403 & Passcode: 601438 at the website and on the conference call when prompted. The bidder's company employee attending the pre-bid conference shall have qualifications and experience with the construction to be performed within this project. Any questions concerning the pre-bid conference shall be directed to the Architect.

Nonresident bidders must accompany any written bid documents with a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in such nonresident bidder's state of domicile, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that state to its own business entities whose principal places of business are in that state in the letting of any or all public contracts.

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1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THOMAS HALL, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-234**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to GREG HALL and VAN HALL, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of THOMAS HALL, deceased, on the 2nd 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.

Greg Hall and Van Hall
Personal Representatives

Thomas E. Drake, II
419 Second Avenue SW Suite A
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

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **N&C HOLDINGS, LLC,** as Mortgagor, to **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PULASKI**, as Mortgagee, dated the 3rd day of April, 2025, recorded in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, in Mortgage Book 2117, Page 514, which default continues.

The undersigned Michael J. Baggett, as Attorney for Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door of the Cullman County Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama on the 24th day of March, 2026, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama:

The NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 12, Range 5 West. Situated, lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama, wherein reference is incorporated herein.

LESS AND EXCEPT: 18 acres on West side of said forty.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: A three acre parcel of land in the Southeast comer of said NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 12, Range 5 West, being more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said forty and running North along the East line of said forty a distance of 38 rods to the Bremen and Campbell Ford public road; thence running West or in a Westerly direction along said road 13 rods and 9 1/2 feet; thence South 40 rods to the South line of said forty; thence East along the South line of said forty 13 rods and 9 1/2 feet to the Southeast corner of said forty.

ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT the property conveyed by deed to Buell H. Brown and Freda H. Brown from Grover Stricklin and Myrtle A. Stricklin dated March 25, 1967, as recorded with the Judge of Probate for Cullman County, Alabama, in Real Volume 261, Page 277 which is described as follows; Commencing at the Northeast corner of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 23, Township **12.** Range 5 West; thence continue due West along the North line of said forty to a point on the North line of said forty, said point being the Northeast comer of the W. B. Stricklin eighteen acre tract; thence South and parallel with the East line of the Stricklin tract to a point on the North right of way of the Campbell Ford public road; thence in an Easterly direction along the North right-of-way of said public road to a point, said point being where the North right of way line of said public road intersects the East line of said forty; thence North along the East line of said forty to the point of beginning.

Property Address: 285 County Road 71, Bremen, AL 35033

Parcel Number: 28-06-23-0-000-003.000

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

Notice is hereby given to N&C HOLDINGS, LLC, on this the 3rd day of March 2026.

MORTGAGEE: **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PULASKI**

By: Michael J. Baggett
Michael J. Baggett
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
Attorney for Mortgagee
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: 256-737-0740

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2026-004

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF REBECCA LEA BOYD.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Case# AD2026004
PB 40T Book 73 Page 588
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/10/2026 2:06PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

WJC

Notice to: JENNIFER NICOLE WORRALL
ANTONIO VILLA JR. and
ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF D.T.V.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of D.T.V., a minor child born April 3, 2014, to Jennifer Nicole Worrall was filed on the 23rd day of January, 2026, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioner Rebecca Lea Boyd. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 10th day of March, 2026.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR.) CASE NO PC 2026-044
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL

TO: DARREN RENO MERHOFF, DEBORAH CAROL MERHOFF, BEVERLY LYNN WOMMACK, VIRGINIA WOMMACK GOTHARD and all known and unknown heirs of the estate of FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR., deceased.

The Petition of Holly Wommack Allen to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Frederick Donald Meroff, Jr., deceased, has been set for hearing on the **14th day of May, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, Judge of Probate Office, Room 101.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 17th day of March, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Nathan Johnson
909 E 2nd St
Sheffield, AL 35660

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1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-074

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BRIAN EDWIN LEE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Catherine E. Lee on the 9th 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.

Catherine E. Lee
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Lisa G Geiger, An unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC, its successors and assigns. dated July 10, 2024; said mortgage being recorded on July 15, 2024 in Deed Book 2090, Page 271 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC D/B/A Mortgage Solutions Financial by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2154, Page 808 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC D/B/A Mortgage Solutions Financial, 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 May 7, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 25 of Hedgerowe Subdivision as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, in Plat Book B174B and corrected plat recorded in Plat Book B180B.

Said property is commonly known as **114 County Road 755, Cullman, AL 35055**.

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.

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.

MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS OF COLORADO, LLC D/B/A MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS FINANCIAL
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-07636AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
03/19/2026,03/26/2026,04/02/2026

25-07636AL

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Larry Smith & Marti Smith,

PLAINTIFF,

VS. CASE NO: DV 2026-900087

Diosa Rivera Romine &
Corey Romine,

DEFENDANT.

NOTICE OF FILING LAWSUIT

The above listed Defendants, Diosa Rivera Romine & Corey Romine, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer Plaintiff's complaint for Unlawful Detainer ($2,922.00) by April 9, 2026 or, thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the Defendant in Case No. DV 206-900087, District Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 26th day of February, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk of Cullman County

Attorney for Plaintiff
G. Edward Coey
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-352-2090

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-436

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLOIE A. RAY POWELL, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to David Randal Ray on the 6th 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.

David Randal Ray
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-4721

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgages executed by **ELLARD CALVERT AND SPOUSE, MARY CALVERT** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage dated April 27, 2007, and recorded on May 22, 2007, in Mortgage Book 1521 Page 823 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, as modified by that Modification of Mortgage dated February 12, 2011, and recorded on March 7, 2011, in Mortgage Book 1647 Page 305, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the **26th day of March 2026,** between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commence at the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 11, Range 5 West and go 105 yards East to the point of beginning for land herein conveyed; Thence continue East 105 yards to a point; thence go South 105 yards to a point; thence go West 105 yards to a point; thence go North 105 yards back to the point of beginning for the land herein conveyed, said parcel of land containing 1½ Acres, more or less.

Property Address: 19884 County Road 222, Crane Hill, AL 35053

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

PUBLICATION DATES: March 5, March 12 and March 19, 2026
NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

TRADITIONS BANK
Mortgagee
Steven C. Smith
SMITH & SMITH ATTORNEYS, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

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1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-104

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF Sandra W. SLOAN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Stephanie L. Wright on the 9th 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.

Stephanie L. Wright
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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 19, 2026

The Link seeks housing coordinator to support assistance programs

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County is now accepting applications for a housing coordinator position. The role is contracted for 12 to 16 months and is focused on administering housing assistance programs funded through federal grants.

The position offers 32 hours per week at a rate of $16 per hour. The selected candidate will support individuals and families experiencing homelessness or housing instability through coordinated housing services and case management.

According to the posting, the housing coordinator will process referrals through coordinated entry systems.

The coordinator will also conduct participant appointments and housing inspections.

The position requires ensuring all program activity complies with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Continuum of Care requirements.

The role includes maintaining detailed, audit-ready documentation in HMIS and Charity Tracker systems. The housing coordinator will work closely with the supportive services manager. Responsibilities include assisting with grant reporting, data validation and compliance monitoring.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail are required. Candidates must be able to work effectively with individuals facing housing instability.

The position also requires basic computer proficiency. Applicants must be able to maintain confidentiality under federal data standards. Reliable transportation is required for conducting home visits and inspections.

A degree is not required for the position. However, an associate or bachelor's degree in social work, human services or a related field is preferred. Experience working with HUD or Continuum of Care housing programs is also preferred. Familiarity with coordinated entry systems, housing documentation and case management is beneficial.

The housing coordinator will play a direct role in participant engagement. Duties include scheduling and conducting eligibility appointments. The coordinator will explain program requirements, participant rights and housing standards. The position also requires maintaining ongoing communication with individuals throughout their time in the program.

Key responsibilities include:

- Receiving and processing housing referrals through coordinated entry systems
- Verifying eligibility and prioritization requirements under HUD and CoC guidelines
- Scheduling and conducting participant appointments and housing inspections
- Explaining program requirements, participant rights and housing standards
- Maintaining consistent communication with participants throughout assistance periods

Additional responsibilities include:

- Maintaining accurate and audit-ready documentation in HMIS and Charity Tracker
- Developing individualized housing stability plans for participants
- Coordinating with landlords and supportive service providers
- Monitoring participant progress and compliance with program requirements
- Assisting with grant reporting, data validation and compliance reviews

The work environment includes both office-based duties and fieldwork. The position requires regular in-home visits and inspections. It also involves extended periods of documentation and data entry.

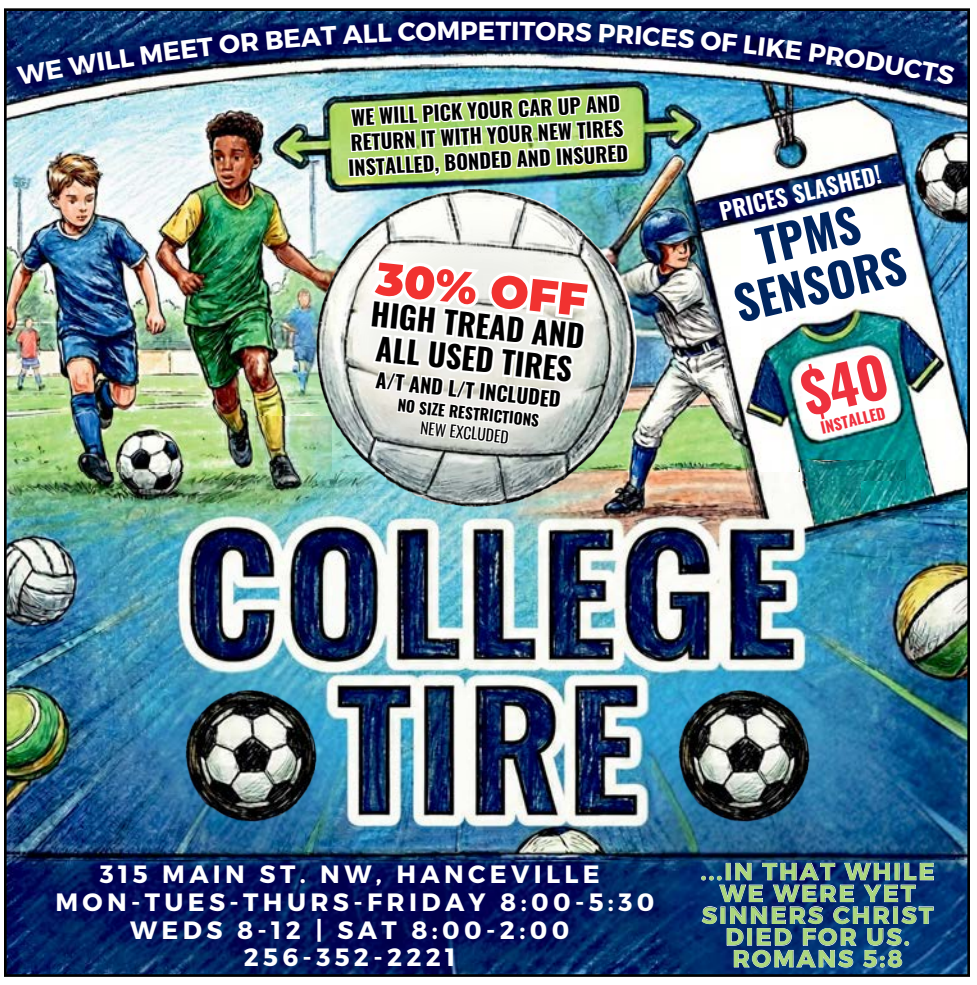
The Link emphasized that the position is tied to grant funding. This funding carries additional compliance requirements and documentation standards.

Officials also noted that while the position supports housing assistance programs, the organization is not currently accepting applications for housing assistance. Information about that process will be released when funding becomes available for distribution.

Those interested in applying should email a resume to Supportive Services Manager Jonathan Creekmore at jonathancreekmore@linkingcullman.org.

For additional information, applicants may contact The Link of Cullman County at 256-775-0028 or info@linkingcullman.org. The organization is located at 708 Ninth St. SE in Cullman.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review all qualifications and responsibilities before submitting a resume.



ALEA: 'Think smart before you start spring break'

Staff Reports
Contributed

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — As spring break travel ramps up across Alabama, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is urging motorists and students to make smart decisions before celebrations begin, emphasizing that enforcement will extend beyond highways and into illegal activity often associated with spring break gatherings. Through its annual "Think Smart Before You Start Spring Break" campaign, ALEA is highlighting the importance of both safe travel and responsible behavior as activity increases statewide.

Spring break is one of the busiest travel periods of the year, and ALEA Troopers will be highly visible on Alabama roadways, focusing on speeding, impaired driving, distracted driving and seat belt compliance.

"Spring break travel brings heavier traffic volumes and increased risks on our roadways," said Colonel Jonathan Archer, director of ALEA's Department of Public Safety (DPS). "Our Troopers will be proactively patrolling across the state to deter dangerous driving behaviors and respond quickly when needed. We are asking drivers to slow down, stay focused and make responsible choices behind the wheel so everyone reaches their destination safely."

Beyond the roadway, ALEA officials emphasize that safety extends into communities and social settings as well. Special Agents assigned to ALEA's State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Alcohol Unit will be actively working cases involving underage drinking, illegal alcohol sales and the use of fraudulent identification.

"Illegal activity doesn't get a pass during spring break," said SBI Director Chris Inabinett. "Our Special Agents are committed to identifying and investigating violations involving underage drinking and illegal alcohol activity. These are not minor offenses; they carry real legal consequences and can quickly escalate into dangerous situations."

As the state's top law enforcement official, ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor emphasized that public safety remains a unified effort across all divisions of the Agency.

"Whether on our highways or within our communities, our mission remains the same, to protect life and uphold the law," Taylor said. "ALEA Troopers and Special Agents will be working together throughout Spring Break to ensure that those traveling and those celebrating do so safely and responsibly. We want everyone to enjoy this time, but more importantly, we want them to make it home. Thinking smart before you start can prevent a moment of poor judgment from becoming a lifelong consequence."

Under Alabama law, individuals under the age of 21 who possess or consume alcohol may face criminal charges. Providing alcohol to minors or using fake identification can also result in significant penalties.

In addition to enforcement efforts, ALEA is actively engaging students across the state through hands-on safety initiatives, including "Prom Promise" and Fatal Vision events. These programs are designed to show, not just tell, the real-life consequences of impaired driving. Prom Promise events use powerful, scenario-based demonstrations to illustrate how quickly poor decisions can lead to tragedy, while Fatal Vision courses allow students to experience firsthand how alcohol and drugs impair coordination, reaction time and judgment. These interactive events are currently underway statewide and will continue throughout Spring Break and the prom season into April, reinforcing ALEA's commitment to reaching young drivers before a critical decision is made.

ALEA encourages all travelers and students to plan ahead and make responsible choices before heading out:

- Never drink and drive or ride with an impaired driver
- Plan safe transportation in advance
- Obey all traffic laws and posted speed limits
- Always wear a seat belt and avoid distractions
- Watch for pedestrians and increased foot traffic in popular destinations; pedestrians should also follow safety guidelines
- Understand the risk and legal consequences of underage drinking

"Spring break should be remembered for the right reasons," Taylor added. "A smart decision before you start can make the difference between making memories and facing consequences."

For updates and additional safety tips, follow ALEA on social media @ALEAProtects.

Cullman County Distinguished Young Women holding informational meeting March 21

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Area high school junior girls are invited to learn about scholarship, leadership and personal growth opportunities at the Cullman County Distinguished Young Women informational meeting on Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church.

The program is part of the national Distinguished Young Women organization, a scholarship-based initiative that helps young women develop their full potential. Local chairman Felicia Carden said the program combines financial assistance with life skills training to prepare participants for future success.

"It's a scholarship-based program, and it's completely free to participate. Our mission is to empower young women to develop their full individual potential through scholarships and development opportunities," said Carden.

Last year, the Cullman County program awarded about $10,000 in scholarships, with additional funding available at the state level. Colleges and universities, including Troy University, the University of Alabama, UAB and Auburn University, also offer scholarships to top participants. Cash scholarships can be used at any college for educational expenses, while some institutions provide additional awards to winners who choose to attend.

Additionally, the program highlights the importance of life skills such as public speaking, interview preparation and confidence-building. Participants take part in a week of activities leading up to the local showcase, including nightly practices and sessions with guest speakers focused on topics like managing anxiety and effective communication.

"We have people come in and speak to them on different subjects," Carden said. "We've had authors talk about anxiety so the girls don't let the program overwhelm them, and we have former participants come in to work on interview skills and public speaking."

The DYW showcase is scheduled for June 13 at Wallace State Community College. The winner will advance to the state competition in Montgomery, where participants spend about 10 days preparing and competing. The state winner then moves on to the national program.

Carden said the program is not so much a beauty pageant but an opportunity to gain long-term benefits through networking and community connections. Participation in the program can stand out on resumes and signal a strong work ethic and leadership ability.

The program is open to all 11th-grade girls in Cullman County. Applications are available online at www.distinguishedyw.org. The deadline to register is April 15. Attendance at Saturday's meeting is not required to apply.



Ivey, Alabama Department of Workforce encourage veteran hiring through HIRE VETS Medallion Program

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey and Alabama Department of Workforce Secretary Greg Reed are encouraging Alabama employers to hire veterans by applying to and participating in the Hire Vets Medallion Award Program, an official program of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The application period runs through April 30, 2026.

"We need our veterans in Alabama's workforce, and as governor, I've made it a priority to connect their diverse talents with meaningful opportunities," said Ivey. "These extraordinary men and women deserve our very best, and I am proud of Alabama's world-class employers for helping our veterans provide for themselves and their families after service."

"We are fortunate to have a large population of veterans that call Alabama home, and many employers in a variety of industries that are ready to hire them. The HIRE VETS program honors the recruiting and employing of veterans across the state of Alabama," said Reed.

ADOW's Jobs for Veterans State Grant staff play a vital role working with employers to raise awareness for this program and assist them in qualifying for the Medallion.

These awards are the only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention and professional development. In 2025, 48 Alabama companies received the HIRE Vets Medallion Award. Since the program's inception, more than 160 Alabama businesses have received this honor, and more than 2,000 businesses nationwide.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is based on several criteria, ranging from veteran hiring and retention to providing veteran-specific resources, leadership programming, dedicated human resources and compensation and tuition assistance programs – with requirements varying for large, medium and small employers.

To learn more, create an account or update an existing account for the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Program, go to www.HireVets.gov or visit one of the 57 Alabama Career Centers in the state for assistance.