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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

Cold Springs' Dickerson to be honored with regional Scholar-Athlete Award at Bryant-Jordan Banquet
» PAGE 4

Fairview Elementary receives $15K grant for playground

Staff Reports
Contributor

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – Alabama Mountains Rivers & Valleys (AMRV) Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) recently gathered with Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman and local leaders to announce a $15,000 grant for the installation of a new sunshade structure at Fair- » PAGE 2

Left to right are Brooke Smith (PTO), Michaela Self (PTO), Lorie Pendergrass (PTO), Audra Knop (PTO), Lia Kate Gibbs (student), Kaci Kugler (student), Erica Rutherford (Principal), Renona Seibert (AMRV RC&D executive director), Shane Rusk (board member), Sen. Garlan Gudger, Tracy Means (PE coach), Ali Dutton (PE coach) and Matthew Crowe (assistant principal). »



AMRV RC&D

West Point Middle crowned Grand Champion at Cullman County Middle School Math Tournament



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

West Point Middle School earned the title of Grand Champion at the Cullman County Middle School Math Tournament on March 13, 2026, demonstrating outstanding performance across multiple grade levels in both team and individual categories.

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman County's top middle school math students gathered March 13 at Wallace State Community College for the 2026 Cullman County Middle School Math Tournament,

After a day of competition, West Point Middle School earned the title of Grand Champion, demonstrating outstanding performance across multiple grade levels in both team and individual categories.

Cullman County Schools expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Wallace State Community College for hosting the event and supporting academic excellence in Cullman County.

Sixth-grade competition

In the sixth-grade team competition, West Point Middle School took first place, followed by Fairview » PAGE 2

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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
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Sparks named new president of Wallace State FAME



Kenneth Sparks » PAGE 2

Cullman County Schools holds career fair



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Schools held a career fair on March 19, 2026, at Desperation Church. » PAGE 2

'Xanadu' a 'fun and nostalgic experience' » PAGE 5

Wallace State Singers to present 'The Great American Road Trip' March 27–29 » PAGE 5

Harmony Pixies and Pirates raise money for Curt's Closet » PAGE 3



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March 16

- tampering with physical evidence; Hwy. 91
- assault; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 773

March 17

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1101
- stalking; CR 247
- assault; Johnson Circle

March 18

- assault; Cemetery Rd.
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- theft of property; Whaley Ave. NE
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N
- trespassing; CR 1197
- violation of elder abuse protection order; CR 1114

ARRESTS

March 16-18

Bridges, Mickey F.; 35
- FTA – assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon

Erby, Diamond L.; 18
- assault-aggravated assault non-family-knife

Firlik, David H.; 54
- tampering with physical evidence

Hudson, Charles S.; 52
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large

Jones, Jr., Jimmie D.; 61
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Lawson, Tracy L.; 52
- FTA – assault-harassment

Mitchell, Kage A.; 27
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Phillips, Danny J.; 49
- FTA – expired tag

Sandlin, Dallas C.; 28
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Scott, James T.; 41
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Swafford, Jeffery S.; 47
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-2nd degree, domestic violence
- PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500

Tackett, Erin K.; 25
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – assault-child abuse-simple-family (2 counts)

Tate, Jeremy R.; 32
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Walling, Clinton H.; 53
- public intoxication

Weldon, Freddie D.; 54
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled (2 counts)
- FTA – damaged property-criminal mischief
- GJ – burglary-non-residence-no force

Wilson, Bobby C.; 61
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Woodson, Ashley L.; 35
- FTA – negotiating worthless instrument

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 18
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

March 19
- theft of property-4th degree

ARRESTS

March 18-19

Gaither, Tracy M.; 50
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – driving while revoked
- FTA – insurance violation

Swann, Brandon L.; 34
- FTA – driving while revoked

Arwood, Jamey E.; 52
- GJ – sexual abuse-1st degree

Tackett, Erin K.; 25
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Short, Braxton L.; 28
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence
- attempt to elude

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

West Point (from Front)

Middle School in second and Good Hope Middle School in third.

Top individual performers in the sixth-grade division were:

1. Ashlynn Erklenz – West Point
2. Cayden McCauley – West Point
3. Ameya Harper – Hanceville
4. Noah Kessler – Fairview
5. Kinsley Hamm – West Point
6. Ava Collum – West Point
7. Kinleigh Floyd – West Point
8. Sam Kessler – Fairview
9. Ava Moore – West Point
10. Dawson Davis – Parkside

Seventh-grade competition

The seventh-grade team competition also saw West Point Middle School take first place. Hanceville Middle School finished second, and Good Hope Middle School placed third.

Top individual winners in the seventh-grade division included:

1. Kyle Grant – West Point
2. Brianna Gray – West Point
3. Hudson Mann – West Point
4. Nathanial Davenport – Hanceville
5. Beckitt Nunnelley – West Point
6. Molly Jenkins – Parkside
7. Chase Phillips – West Point
8. Jayden Watts – West Point
9. Lucas Adcock – West Point
10. Usher Mena – Hanceville

Eighth-grade competition

In the eighth-grade team competition, West Point Middle School again claimed first place. Vinemont Middle School finished second, while Good Hope Middle School placed third.

The top individual performers in the eighth-grade division were:

1. Colton Campbell – West Point
2. Adon Graves – Hanceville
3. Mason Girardi – West Point
4. Isabella Neighbors – West Point
5. LillyKate Bryant – West Point
6. Mylee Malchow – Vinemont
7. Gracie Horton – West Point
8. Briar Brown – Vinemont
9. Mackenzie Phillips – Vinemont
10. Damien (Kort) Freeman – Holly Pond



Fair (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County Schools held a career fair on March 19 at Desperation Church. The event gave residents a chance to browse employment opportunities and meet with employees within the school system.

"When you count our full-time and part-time employees, we hire more in Cullman County than any other business," Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette said. "We decided several years ago to start a career fair."

Barnette advised that the career fair is essential to hiring an abundance of positions.

Every occupation within the school system was represented, as well as every school.

"We are hiring for maintenance, transportation, child nutrition, teachers, instructional aides and likely others that I'm sure I haven't mentioned," he said.

These career fairs offer great opportunities for those who have just graduated and are looking for work within these fields and for those who want careers.

Individuals were able to bring their resumes and speak with many county school representatives. Booths were also open to the public to fill out online applications on-site.

"We've had a really good turnout and a lot of really great prospects," Barnette shared.

He stated that some informal interviews were conducted that day, giving individuals the opportunity to speak about themselves and make an impression.

For additional information about job opportunities with Cullman County Schools, visit www.ccboe.org/page/job-openings.

Playground (from Front)

view Elementary School. The project is designed to protect students from harmful UV exposure and create a safer, more comfortable outdoor play environment. The funds for the project were appropriated to AMRV by the Alabama State Legislature and the Cullman County legislative delegation.

Gudger thanked the Fairview Elementary faculty and staff and local community for their efforts to improve the playground.

"I want to thank the team here at Fairview Elementary and the Fairview community for their work on this project," Gudger said. "I also want to thank AMRV RC&D for providing the funding. All of us work together, from the state level down to the local level, to make our communities a great place to live."

Fairview Elementary School Principal Dr. Erica Rutherford said the project demonstrates the strong support the school receives from community leaders and local residents.

"Fairview Elementary is incredibly grateful for the support of Senator Gudger and our state leaders who recognize the importance of investing in our students and community," she said. "This project quickly became a reality because our entire community came together with a shared commitment to our school. I am truly amazed at how quickly it all came together, which is a testament to Senator Gudger's devotion to our schools and our community's dedication to supporting Fairview and its students."

The State of Alabama has funded RC&D for over 25 years. Renona Seibert, executive director of AMRV RC&D, said the organization is proud to support projects that directly benefit local communities.

"We love projects like this, bringing money back to the community, and I just want to thank everyone for their contributions to this project," Seibert said. "I also want to thank Senator Gudger, because we couldn't do what we do without the support of the legislature."

To learn more about AMRV RC&D and its programs, visit https://amrvrcd.org.

Sparks (from Front)

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - Wallace State Community College on Thursday, March 19, announced that Kenneth Sparks with Mazda Toyota Manufacturing Company has been named president of its Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) chapter, strengthening the college's continued partnership with regional industry and its commitment to developing highly skilled technicians for Alabama's advanced manufacturing sector.

Sparks, the human resource skills staffing specialist at Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, will work alongside Wallace State and its industry partners to support the continued growth of the FAME program, which follows an "earn while you learn" model that allows students to gain paid industry experience while completing their associate degree.

As president of the chapter, Sparks said he hopes to strengthen employee-partner relations and to have employers help a new generation of maintenance technicians.

"We have a really good chapter here already," Sparks said. "The previous president has done a great job, so I'm really just trying to build on what he's done and move forward and provide what the students need to be successful."

The FAME program at Wallace State prepares students for careers in robotics, automation, advanced manufacturing and industrial maintenance, combining rigorous classroom instruction with hands-on training provided by participating industry sponsors.

"As president of our FAME chapter, Kenneth will play an important role in strengthening the collaboration between industry and education," said Jerry Murcks, dean of applied technologies at Wallace State. "FAME represents one of the most effective workforce models in the country. Through this partnership, students graduate with both a degree and valuable real-world experience that prepares them to immediately contribute to the advanced manufacturing workforce."

The FAME model is nationally recognized for its ability to develop highly skilled technicians while helping employers address critical workforce needs. Students attend class two days per week and work with their sponsoring employer three days per week, allowing them to apply what they learn in the classroom directly to industry settings.

Wallace State's FAME program continues to expand through partnerships with leading manufacturing companies across north Alabama. The program is part of the college's broader workforce initiative to develop apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities that connect students directly to high-demand careers.

For more information about TITAN, contact Kaitlyn Michael-Ryan at 256-352-7874 or Kaitlyn.michael-ryan@wallacestate.edu or visit www.ncalfame.com.

Priority registration for the summer and fall semesters will begin on April 6. Summer classes begin May 26 and fall classes begin Aug. 17. Visit www.wallacestate.edu for more information or call 256-352-8236 or email lioncentral@wallacestate.edu.

Harmony Pixies and Pirates raise money for Curt's Closet

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

LOGAN, Ala. - Fifth graders at Harmony School are picking up important life lessons through the Pixies and Pirates girls' and boys' clubs, where they focus on leadership, service and practical skills.

Cassie Swann, a parent volunteer who helps organize the clubs, said they were started to give students new opportunities and help them learn about challenges they might face as they get ready for middle school. The goal is to help them do their best.

"The overall goal was to help pour into them as they prepared to enter middle school next year and hopefully help inspire them to be the best version of themselves," said Swann.

Students recently hosted a fundraiser to benefit local nonprofit Curt's Closet. According to Swann, the students not only met expectations, but also exceeded them. They doubled their original goal to sponsor two shelves, one representing the Pixies and the other the Pirates.

To raise funds, students participated in a coffee sale in partnership with Farmhouse Coffee, greeting car riders and speaking directly with adults about the cause. Swann said she was proud to see the students confidently approach drivers and explain the purpose of their fundraiser.

"Even though they are young kids, they can make a difference in the lives of other people," she said. "I hope that these students grow up to become leaders and draw on these experiences to help them be successful."

Swann said she hopes experiences like this instill a sense of compassion and responsibility in the students, reminding them that even at a young age, they are capable of making a meaningful difference in their school, community and beyond.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Saturday, 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!

Cullman County Master Gardeners 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 Gardeners Spring Plant Sale
Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fairgrounds at Sportsman Lake Park

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Ella Dickerson

Cold Springs' Dickerson to be honored with regional Scholar-Athlete Award at Bryant-Jordan Banquet

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

Cold Springs High School basketball star and multi-sport athlete Ella Dickerson was selected as the Class 2A, Region 6 recipient of the Larry D. Stripling Scholar-Athlete Award, which includes a $3,000 dollar scholarship.

Per the AHSAA, the award honors "high school seniors who are both superior athletes and outstanding students. Selection considerations include scholastic standing, sport involvement, athletic honors, student leadership, and civic/church leadership."

Dickerson was among 104 regional award winners, all of whom will be honored at the 41st annual Bryant-Jordan Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham on April 13th. Each regional honoree will also be eligible for other awards at the banquet.

PREP BASEBALL

Bearcats hold off a late Hartselle rally to seal a 9-8 win

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Fresh off home wins over Sardis and Hillcrest, the Cullman Bearcats looked to add onto their winning streak at home against the Hartselle Tigers on Thursday night. Cullman could do no wrong in the second and third inning, where they jumped out to a 9-0 lead, but had to hold off a furious Hartselle rally late in the game to win 9-8.

Jake Weathersby got the start for Cullman and struck out two in a scoreless first inning. The Bearcats put a pair of runners on base with two outs in their half but were unable to score any runs that inning. Weathersby struck out the first two batters he faced to lead off the top of the second and despite giving up a single, he quickly got out of the inning on the next pitch. His teammates quickly gave him some run support and then some in their half.

Knox Mauldin, Clay Colvard and Case Edwards each hit singles to load the bases with nobody out. One out later, Jonah Inman lined an RBI single to center field to give Cullman the early lead. Tyler Brock followed that up with a sacrifice fly to make it 2-0. Carson Stancil's RBI single put them ahead, 3-0, then Brody Vincent delivered the big blow in that inning, as he lined the first pitch he saw over the right field fence for a three-run home run to stretch their lead to 6-0.

Weathersby got into a jam in the top of the third, where he allowed a pair of singles to lead the inning off. However, he was able to keep Hartselle out of the scoring column. The Bearcats played long ball to start out their half, as Mauldin hit the first pitch he saw over the left field fence for a leadoff home run to put them ahead, 7-0. Back-to-back singles by Colvard and Edwards put runners on first and second with still nobody out, then Weathersby reached on an error, and that allowed Colvard to score to make it 8-0. Inman hit a sacrifice fly on the first pitch to increase their lead to 9-0.

Hartselle cracked the scoreboard in the top of the fourth inning. A leadoff single was followed by a two-run home run to cut it to 9-2. The Tigers continued to cut into Cullman's lead in the top of the fifth. They hit back-to-back singles to lead off the inning, then a two-run single to center field trimmed it to five at 9-4. Later that inning, a sacrifice fly made it a four-run game. A walk put runners on first and second with one out, then a three-run home run over the center field fence quickly turned what started out as a rout into just a one-run contest at 9-8.

After a scoreless sixth inning, Hartselle looked to complete the comeback in the top of the seventh. A leadoff single and a one-out walk put runners on first and second, but new pitcher Michael Shadeck got the next batter to ground out into a game-ending double play, and Cullman (7-3) ended up outlasting the Tigers 9-8.

Vincent (home run) finished with three RBIs in the game for the Bearcats. Inman added a hit and two RBIs, while Stancil (three hits), Mauldin (home run), and Brock each posted an RBI in the win.

Cullman will look to extend their winning streak even more on Saturday afternoon against Southside (DH).

PREP SOFTBALL

Vinemont hangs on for a 13-11 win in an error filled county matchup

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. - The Vinemont Lady Eagles hosted county foe Cold Springs on Thursday, looking to right the ship after uncharacteristic losses in four of their last six contests.

Vinemont's star pitcher Tori Vines took the mound, facing off against Cold Springs' Addie Kilgo.

Leading the game off for Cold Springs, Aleah Addison tapped a grounder to start a play that ended with her on second as a result of an error. After a walk and a ground out, Addison made it home thanks to another error later in the inning before Vines got out of the early jam. In their half of the inning, Vinemont's bats more than made up for their defensive mistakes against Kilgo. With two runners on from Cold Springs errors, Bryleigh Basinger got a runner in with an RBI single to tie the game up at one and left a runner on. Alaina Sandlin then popped a ball up, which was dropped, initiating an error-filled play for the Cold Springs defense that got two more runners home and a 3-1 Vinemont lead.

Later, with two outs and having gone through the entire batting order, Vinemont would go on to score five more runs, with the last two coming home thanks to a double to center field from Kylie Metzger.

The disastrous bottom of the first for Cold Springs' defense ended with the ladies from Bremen in an 8-1 hole.

Cold Springs' bats didn't wait long to get in on the chaos. After Vines struck out Kotie Calvert in the leadoff spot, a pair of singles from Sadie Smith and Addie Kilgo got them on base, then Peyton Kennedy drove them both home with a single of her own.

Addison would then get on base with a single that advanced Kennedy to third. Then Sydney Ingram slapped a liner to center field, clearing the bases and making it an 8-5 game, with Vinemont still leading.

In the bottom of the second, Kilgo got three outs in four batters to hold the score.

In the top of the third, Vines pitched a one-two-three inning, striking out one then drawing two ground-outs. Then, Vinemont went back to the plate to stretch their lead. Basinger and Aleeyah Holmes both drove in runs with doubles, and Vines knocked in Basinger with a single, making their lead 11-5.

After a scoreless inning-and-a-half, Vinemont's offense found a groove again in the bottom of the fifth. With Kennedy now on the mound for Cold Springs, Metzger got things going with a double, then got driven home by Basinger just moments later to make it 12-5.

Then, in a jam with the bases loaded, Kennedy walked Darcy Carmack forcing in Arleigh Thomason to make it 13-5.

Vines, now on her sixth inning, got in a jam of her own. After a walk and a single, an error by Vinemont's infield allowed Calvert to touch home, then an errant throw got Kayleigh Light in to make it 13-7.

With batters on and pressure building, Kennedy drove in a runner after a walk, then Ingram drove in two more just moments later to make things truly interesting with the score now 13-10. Cold Springs would get one more run in on a Cheyenne Bishop single to head into the seventh trailing only 13-11. In the bottom of the sixth, Vinemont was unable to add to their now-slim lead, going three up, three down.

In the top of the seventh, Vines put the hopes of a comeback to rest, striking out one batter and drawing outs on a pop up and a grounder to end the game.

Leading Vinemont's bats, Basinger finished the game 4-5 at the plate, bringing in three runs. On the mound, despite 11 eight earned runs, Vines earned the win and fanned six Eagles.

For Cold Springs, Kennedy's three hits in four appearances led the team, and her three RBIs were second to only Ingram's four. On the mound, Kennedy was tagged with the loss after giving up two earned runs in three innings.

Vinemont will next take on Brindlee Mtn. tomorrow night, and Cold Springs will play Cleveland on Monday night.

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Scores and stats from March 19, 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BASEBALL

• Addison 5, Decatur Heritage 4 – Batting: S. Talley 3-3 (2B x2), RBI Pitching: C. Thompson 3.0 IP, ER, K, W

• Cold Springs 16, Sumiton Chris. 11 – Batting: B. Archer 1-4 (2B), RBI Pitching: A. Black 5.0 IP, 2 ER, 6 K

• Sumiton Chris. 13, Cold Springs 6 – Batting: A. Black 2-3 (2B x2) Pitching: B. Chasteen 3.0 IP, 2 ER, 4 K

• Cullman 9, Hartselle 8 – Batting: B. Vincent 1-3 (HR), 3 RBI Pitching: J. Weathersby 4.0 IP, 5 ER, 6 K

• Good Hope 14, Danville 2 – Batting: P. Johnson 2-3 (3B x2), 2 RBI Pitching: C. Kilpatrick 3.0 IP, 1 H, ER, 6 K

• Hanceville 2, Locust Fork 0 – Batting: C. Belcher 2-4 (2B) Pitching: J. Sellers 4.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER, 4 K

• Hanceville 3, Locust Fork 2 – Batting: H. Black 2-2 (3B) Pitching: C. Belcher 7.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 9 K

• West End 8, Holly Pond 3 – Batting: C. Eubanks 2-3 Pitching: H. Stephens 2.0 IP, 2 H, ER, K

• Wellborn 5, Vinemont 4 – Batting: J. Rhodes 1-3 – C. Drummond 1-4 Pitching: R. Borwick 6.1 IP, 4 ER, 14 K

• East Limestone 11, Vinemont 1 – Batting: D. Bryan 1-1 Pitching: B. Wallace 2.1 IP, 4 ER, 2 K

• West Point 15, Lawrence Co. 5 – Batting: C. Ashley 3-3 (2B x2), 4 RBI Pitching: C. Howard 4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 6 K, W

• West Point 10, Lawrence Co. 5 – Batting: D. Cleghorn 2-3 (2B), 3 RBI Pitching: D. Crow 4.0 IP, 0 ER, 8 K, Save

SOFTBALL

• Falkville 7, Addison 0 – Batting: A. Powell 1-3 (3B) Pitching: M. Carter 6.0 IP, 7 ER, 2 K

• Vinemont 13, Cold Springs 11 – Batting: B. Basinger (Vine.) 4-5 (2B), 3 RBI Pitching: T. Vines 7.0 IP, 8 ER, 6 K, W

• Hanceville 7, Locust Fork 6 – Batting: I. Spinks 3-4 (2B x2), 2 RBI Pitching: I. Spinks 5.0 IP, 0 ER, 7 K

• West Point 10, Danville 6 – Batting: L. Windham 3-4 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: K. Jones 7.0 IP, 4 ER, 7 K



Wallace State Singers to present 'The Great American Road Trip' March 27–29

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - The Wallace State Singers invite the community to take a musical journey across the United States with "The Great American Road Trip," presented March 27–29. Inspired by the nation's celebration of America's 250th birthday, the concert offers a fun and nostalgic evening of music that highlights the places, people and moments that define the American experience.

"This year's show is all about celebrating the music that has shaped our country and the memories we associate with it," said Tiffany Richter, director of the Wallace State Singers.

"From classic hits to modern favorites, every song on this program represents a stop along the great American journey.

"We hope audiences will feel the joy, nostalgia and sense of connection that only music can inspire."

The program features a mix of country, pop, oldies and rock 'n' roll, with music made famous by iconic artists including Elvis Presley, the Eagles, the Beach Boys and Alabama.

Adding to the excitement, the Singers will be joined on stage by the Junior Singers from Heirlooms Fine and Performing Arts, making the performance a celebration of both music and community. The result is an energetic, feel-good night filled with favorite American songs and stories that audiences of all ages will recognize and enjoy.

The Great American Road Trip will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 27–28 and at 2 p.m. on March 29 at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children younger than 12. Tickets may be purchased by visiting www.wallacestate.edu/fpa.

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

- Solo & Chamber Ensemble Recital, April 9
- Big Band Dance, April 17
- Spring Under the Stars and Stripes, April 23
- Broadway Night, April 30
- "I Am a Pilgrim," July 23-25

Xanadu (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - Wallace State Community College's recent production of "Xanadu" brought to life a mix of exciting music, humor and nostalgia, making a unique addition to the college's fine arts lineup.

Director Angela Green said the show had been on her radar for years, inspired by both the 1980 film and the Broadway adaptation. She chose to stage the production this season in part due to the renewed interest in roller skating among students and 1980s culture and fashions, which perfectly align with the show's style.

Green mentioned several meaningful moments about the production, including performing alongside fellow fine arts instructors and sharing the stage with graduating students in their final show at Wallace State.

Bringing "Xanadu" to life presented a number of challenges, particularly incorporating roller skating safely into the stage design and balancing sound between performers and a live band. Green credited sound designer Wes Clabo and set designer Mark Eccleston for successfully integrating those elements into the production.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Wallace State Community College's recent production of "Xanadu" brought to life a mix of exciting music, humor and nostalgia.

Throughout rehearsals, Green said, the cast embraced the show's "campy" and comedic tone, growing more confident in its unique style. Cast members also supported one another behind the scenes, assisting with quick changes and set transitions.

The production was well received by audiences, with many attendees describing it as a fun and nostalgic experience. Green noted that the positive response may influence future show selections, encouraging productions centered around specific musical styles or time periods.

Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts will continue its season when the Wallace State Singers stage "The Great American Road Trip" March 27–29.

FAITH

Jackson's wish

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Along Interstate 65 in Evergreen, Alabama, you will notice a 120-foot-tall cross. All crosses have a story and all long to be heard. There are likely many you see on your drive home or throughout your daily routine. The stories may be unfamiliar to you, or maybe some you know of personally.

This cross has a message of hope and pure innocence.

Jackson Conway passed away in March 2021 from Ewing Sarcoma.

This is a rare form of bone cancer that develops in bones or soft tissues. It primarily affects children and young adults from 10 to 20 years old.

"When approached by wish-granting organization in 2018, Jackson requested a large steel cross to be placed alongside the interstate in his home town for people to be reminded of the Lord's faithfulness and encourage people through life's difficulties," reads a passage on the website for The Jackson Conway Foundation.



THE JACKSON CONWAY FOUNDATION

Jackson's cross

The steel cross was erected for all to see in early March 2026.

Of all things he could have wished for at age 17, Jackson chose to bless the masses through a cross on a busy interstate.

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Choosing the right baby carrier

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

The first baby carrier I purchased was a likely 10-foot long heap of fabric. It was portrayed in every ad I'd seen to be "the best," and I believed it. That was until I tried it. After five minutes of attempting to get it situated and put my baby into it, I realized I needed something more convenient.

It was nice in theory. The endless wrapping myself up like a cocoon to hold my baby seemed comfortable initially. Though this was when my baby was still young and sleepy 99% of the time. What would happen when he was crying more as I spent those five minutes getting this wrap assembled? In some reality where I mastered the art and reduced it to a minute or two, spring would be here soon. Then summer. Did I want this multilayer baby wrap to suffocate in?

I would hate to not include how impossible it was to get it back into the bag. I rolled it up so neatly, with no luck whatsoever.

The storage bag was too small for the wad of fabric I had attempted to roll and place into it. Three tries later and it fit...mostly. Though that was good enough for me.

The second carrier was a similar fabric to the first, but had a harness in the back. All you had to do was place your baby within the criss-cross fabric, then tighten the straps. For the last step, there was an extra piece of fabric you tie around yourself and the baby toward the end that holds them more securely.

This option worked really well for me until the day I was holding my son and felt a warm rush of pee along my stomach.

This was after he had a bath, freshly changed diaper and was put in warm jammies. I went to remove the additional strap, essential to undoing the rest of it, and by the time I was able to get it undone he was wide awake and not amused. We both needed a change of clothes and a nice bath.

I gave it one last shot and tried the Infantino baby carrier. It looks like it would be suffocating. A backpack rather than a sufficient baby-carrying option. Though, I needed to try it. After several attempts putting it on myself the wrong way, I finally figured it out. All you have to do is snap it around your waist, your back and then slide the baby's legs in the front and secure them. If you leave the back snapped it's very easy to slip on and off after use.

If my baby was agitated, it only took two snaps to open the front and get him out! He has yet to pee on me in this sling, but there's a first time for everything.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Arnold Wyatt Caylor and Karen Caylor Woods on the 4th day of March, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Arnold Wyatt Caylor and Karen Caylor Woods
Co-Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JEWEL MCCARN HALL, * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 008
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Daniel Mosley and Ashley Mosley as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Jewel McCarn Hall, deceased, on the 12th day of March, 2026, 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.

Daniel Mosley
Personal Representative

Ashley Mosley
Personal Representative

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

Attorney for Personal Representatives

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 to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARION LOUISE MCDANIEL, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-064**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

DONE this the 5th day of March, 2026.

Rebbecca S. Underwood
Personal Representative

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

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
Stacey L. Stewart,) Case No. PC 2026-078
Deceased)

Case# PC2026-078
PB MIN Book 241 Page 434
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/10/2026 2:35PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Joe M. Stewart as Personal Representative of the Estate of Stacey L. Stewart, deceased, on the 10th day of March, 20 26, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Joe M. Stewart
Personal Representative
Joe M. Stewart

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
Judge of Probate Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARK ALLEN BENEFIELD, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-028**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to KRISTI TAYLOR, as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARK ALLEN BENEFIELD, deceased, on the 11th 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.

Kristi Taylor
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
Attorney for Estate
407 2nd Avenue, SW
PO Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
THOMAS CODY SOUTHEARD, * CASE NO.: PC2026-082
Deceased. *

Case# PC2026-082
PB MIN Book 241 Page 472
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/11/2026 2:22PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Richard Thomas Southeard, as Personal Representative of the Estate of THOMAS CODY SOUTHEARD, deceased, on the 11th 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.

Richard Thomas Southeard
Personal Representative

Johnny V. Berry
Attorney for the Petitioner
405 Second Avenue Southwest
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 11th day of March, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JOHNNY ALRED REEVES aka, * **CASE NO.: PC 2025-453**
JOHNNY A. REEVES *
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to ROGER BURNETT, JOE BUTERA and DAPHNE W. BUTERA, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of JOHNNY ALFRED REEVES aka JOHNNY A. REEVES, deceased, on the 19th 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.

Roger Burnett
Joe Butera and
Daphne W. Butera
Co-Personal Representatives

John Bahakel
Attorney for Estate
2131 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35234

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

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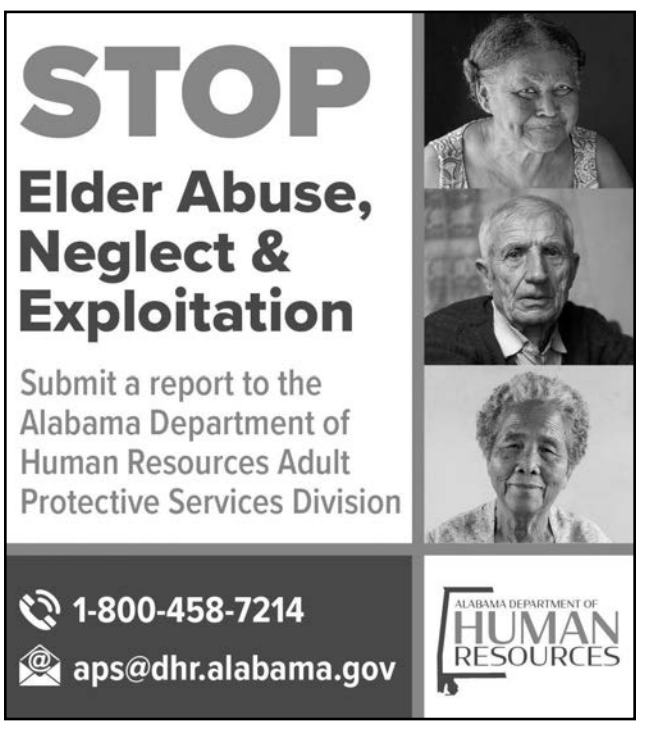
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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Crawling critters that brought me cash!

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Worms...some of the first money I ever made came from selling worms. With two ponds and a creek right beside our house, I grew up fishing. Now everybody knows if you catch fish you have to have bait. As a boy, I caught my own bait and then used it to catch my own fish. I caught minnows in a wire basket and I dug up worms. I discovered early in life that sometimes I might go out and dig half a day and not find more than two or three worms...if I found any at all. I normally headed to the cow pasture to dig. I won't share my secret of where I always found worms, but I will give you this hint...they were the most fertile spots in the cow pasture.

Before long, I was introduced to a new, and perhaps cleaner, way of finding worms. I was absolutely amazed when one of my cousins showed me a method that seemed like magic to this young boy. He said, "I'll show you how to get all the worms you want." With a hand saw in one hand and a bucket in the other, he took me to the woods. He picked out a small sapling, cut it down about a foot from the ground, and then began to run the teeth of that hand saw across the top of the stump.

A few minutes later he said, "Alright, start picking them up." Big earthworms began popping out of the ground all around. I picked up a bucket full. It is called fiddling worms.

Somebody once told ole Billy Bob that he could fiddle up worms. He grabbed up his fiddle, headed to the woods, and started playing a tune. He didn't find one single worm. As poorly as he played, he probably drove those things deeper in the ground rather than to the surface!

One day, more by accident than anything, I discovered a whole new crop of worms right at my fingertips. The banks around our creek were covered with trees.

While we raked up the leaves in our yard, we let the leaves from the creek bank trees fall and stay right where they landed. I raked back some of those leaves one day and discovered worms...night crawlers.

I guess those moist decaying leaves created a natural worm bed. Suddenly, I had more fishing worms than I could use.

One day when I was in Casey's Curb Market, I saw the boxes of worms he sold, and I had an idea. I asked Mr. Casey if he would like to buy some of my worms.

To tell you the truth, after all these years I can't remember if he paid me 2 cents per worm or a penny for two worms, but I clearly remember we shook hands and entered into a business partnership.

Selling night crawlers was my first "professional" business venture and therefore one of my first jobs. I didn't get rich, but that was some of the first money I every earned from working. I usually always found enough worms to sell a few and make a little spending money, and to keep a few so I could go fishing.

Eventually, I discovered plastic worms that I could use to catch fish, but I had to pay for those.

The fish seemed to like the real thing better than the fake ones. Since those days long ago, I have also discovered that I am somewhat like fish in that I like things, and people, too, that are real, rather than fake.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: March 21, 1946

From the files of March 21, 1946

Good Hope News
Edward Mize has arrived home with his discharge after serving in the South Pacific.

Mrs. Delwyn Gillispie of Boaz was the Sunday guest of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Ryan.

Good Hope basketball boys are champs. They won in the finals which were played Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Woodall and Mr. and Mrs. Opel Livingston and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Woodall were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Woodall and family.

Ozell Henkle has returned to camp after a thirty day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Denson Hinkle.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Reid spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn R. Reid and family.

Weldon Cupp is in 1-A without a red check mark against him.

Bro. Hart of Tenn. will bring the message at the Good Hope Baptist Church the fourth Sunday of this month.

Bro. Glenn M. Harbin has returned to civilian life again.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cordes of Birmingham were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edd Cordes and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Reid were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Gantt of Hanceville.

Mrs. Tom Gilley and son Tommy have returned home after a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hathcock.

Preston Bentley, Addie Reid and Evelyn Reid attended the weiner roast at Robert Harris's Saturday night.

To and Fro
By EAGLE EYE
Interviewed Saturday night on a radio program broadcast in Chicago was Cullman's Fred Kelley who is now with the Navy. Fred, who was heard by a number of local people, used part of his time on the air to say hello to his wife, Miriam Sandlin Kelley and his daughter, Sandra, who was recuperating following a case of measles. Mrs. Kelley and Sandra are at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Sandlin while Mr. Kelley is in service. Fred is the older son of Mrs. W. O. Kelley and the late Mr. Kelley.

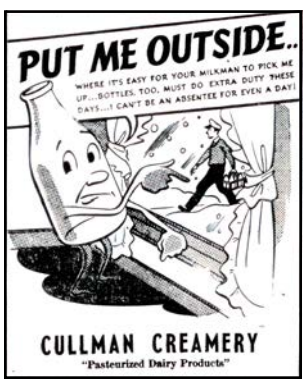
More cash income is again assured the farmers of this area. Julian McPhillips and Goodwin Pharr, officials of the King Pharr Canning Operations, this week emphasized that guaranteed price is being offered for ripe tomatoes produced this year. Before the establishment of the canning plant here the growers had a limited outlet for the ripe tomatoes. As a result of this former adverse marketing condition, following the picking of the green tomatoes, many of the nice red ones were left in the fields.

Five dollars in pennies from one place, a few coins from another, some money from another, a smashed cash register, a broken door, a picked lock, a slashed screen! All that was damage done by thieves during the past week when they broke into at least a half a dozen business houses. Among the places entered "illegally" were White Star Market, Mayo's Cafe, Palace Barber Shop, Lyric Cafe and Red Wing Cafe. A screen was slashed at The Tribune but the door was not opened.

For the past few years Miss Minnie Lee Frazier, County Health Nurse, has no doubt given more inoculations and vaccinations than any other person in the county. She has traveled thousands of miles and inoculated thousands of people during the war years when she was the only nurse left at the Cullman Health Department.

However, Miss Frazier won't be going on her visits to the schools this year because she is leaving Cullman April 1st for Jasper where she will be Superintendent of the Walker County Hospital.

Now in Salzburg, Austria is Fred Abt who last week was promoted to Sergeant. Fred has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willy Abt that he expects to be home by summer.



The Cullman County Red Cross quota was almost two thirds raised today. $8,200 of a $13,000 goal had been reported this week with several beats not heard from. Ellis Burns, drive chairman urged all workers to get their reports in this week if possible.

Packages and cards are piled high in Mrs. F. D. Burnum's room this week. However, she will not open them until Friday which is her 89th birthday.

Several of her seven children will join her on Friday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T. A. Smith with whom she makes her home. Mrs. W. M. Roberts of Bessemer is baking the huge cake, which will have to be huge to hold 89 candles, for the family celebration Friday. On last Sunday the Joe Yeager Sunday School class at the First Methodist Church honored Mrs. Burnum and Mrs. M. Bogue, who are the only living charter members of that congregation, with beautiful baskets of flowers dedicated to them.

POET'S CORNER

Snow Day | Randy C. Hale

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

It falls from heaven with
peaceful flakes and colors
the ground so white.
And children cheer and dress
up warm and rush to play outside.

To build a snowman,
then break into a snowball fight.
And when they come in,
waiting for them,
a treat of snow cream delight.

Enjoy my children! Embrace the day!
For memories you now create.
And when you are grown,
you will smile when you think
of those wondrous snowy days.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MARCH 21

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

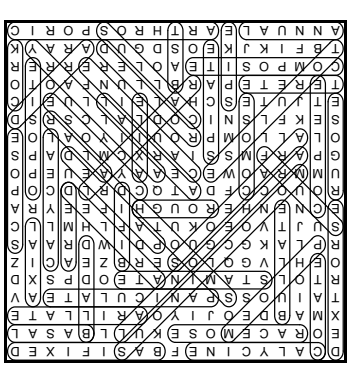
Aerial
Alar
Annual
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Archegonial
Ariled
Arillate
Armed
Aroid
Arthrosporic
Axial
Axile
Axillary
Basal
Basifixed
Bast
Bifid
Bladed
Bullate
Callus
Calyceal
Calycine
Cauline
Comate
Comose
Complete
Composite
Cork
Cymose
Dextrorse
Monoclinous
Opposite
Paired
Paniculate
Phloem
Racemose
Radical
Rolled
Rough
Rugose
Scapose
Scurf
Smooth
Spicate
Spike
Staminate
Terete
Torulose

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MARCH 21

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

ANSWERS:



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





Library board meeting notes: March 19

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Public Library Board met on March 19 to approve routine business items and receive updates on library operations, grants and facility improvements.

The board approved the adoption of the previous meeting minutes and financial reports for December and January as well as the purchase and installation of a new air compressor at a cost of $9,000. The expense will be funded by cashing out two certificates of deposit from Alabama Credit Union.

During informational reports, the library announced it received a $4,000 Slice of Literacy grant from the Pizza Hut Foundation to support STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) programming. The system was also awarded $16,000 through Cullman Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority to fund two interactive computer boards for branch locations, additional books and a subscription to ABCmouse.

An update was also provided on restroom renovations at the Cullman branch, which are nearing completion.

Library statistics showed continued usage in January and February. In January, the library issued 150 new cards, hosted 28 programs with 339 attendees and recorded 4,012 books checked out. In February, 160 new cards were issued, 41 programs were held with 693 attendees and 4,964 books were checked out. Additional usage included e-books, audiobooks, public computers and Wi-Fi sessions across both months.

The next Cullman County Public Library Board meeting is Friday, April 17, at 11 a.m.

Obituary Announcements: March 19-20

Fred Jarrett Hogan, 92
Memorial service is not planned at this time for Fred Jarrett Hogan, 92, of Vinemont. Fred passed away Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Woodland Village Nursing and Rehab. He was born April 10, 1933, to Odie W and Bertie Blair Hogan. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. In Fred's early years, he worked at Cullman Products, was a business owner of the 7-11 store in Cullman, was an excellent cook and worked many years at the All Steak in Cullman. He enjoyed farming and his cattle. He loved to garden. Fred was a people person who enjoyed talking to others. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Jo Hogan; granddaughter, Chasiti Puckett and his brothers and sisters. Survivors include his sons, Barry Hogan, Tim Hogan; daughter, Sabrina (Mike) Puckett; grandchildren, Tiffany (Ryan) Bain, Blake Puckett; great-grandchildren, Darci Bain, Anya Bozle, Abigail Champion; nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Tommy Moten Stricklin, 90
A Graveside Service for Tommy Moten Stricklin will be Friday, March 20, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Addington Cemetery with Dr. Keith Warden officiating. A Celebration of Life service will be Friday, March 20, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at Good Hope Baptist Church, with Bro. Steve Britt officiating. Visitation will be from 1-2:30 p.m. at the church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family Mr. Stricklin passed away on Monday, March 16, 2026, at his residence. He was born April 18, 1935, to William T. Stricklin and Minnie Essie Calvert Stricklin. Mr. Stricklin earned his BS Degree in Engineering at Auburn University in 1957 and worked over 40 years in Church Bond Financing He was preceded in death by his parents; sister Irene Graves; brother-in-law, Aves Graves and great grandson, Cannon Schlemmer Survivors include his wife of 69 plus years. Cloette Palmore Stricklin; son, Chuck Stricklin; daughter, Rhonda Schlemmer (Norman); grandchildren, T. J. Stricklin, - Ben Schlemmer (Ashleigh), Karis Lovelady (Anthony), Mandee Shelby (Fred), Sarabeth Schlemmer, Sydney Allen (Max), Jordan Schlemmer, John Schlemmer (Vanessa), Anna Grace Schlemmer, Drew Schlemmer, Cole Schlemmer (Chloe), Trey Schlemmer and 17 great Grandchildren In lieu of flowers please make donations to Northbrook Baptist Church Caring Center or the Charity of your choice.

Betty Faye Bates, 86
Betty Faye Bates, 86, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away March 17, 2026, at her son's home in Calera, Alabama. Betty was born May 18, 1939, in Double Springs, Alabama. She lived a life marked by love, devotion to her family, and a quiet strength that touched all who knew her. Betty was a woman of deep care and compassion, whose presence brought comfort and joy to those around her. In 1977, at the age of 38, Betty committed her life to Christ at Victory Missionary Baptist Church of Cullman, where she was an active member, sang in the choir, and served a term as church treasurer. She remained a devoted member until she was no longer physically able. Her faith shaped the remainder of her life and her family's lives, and she lived it daily through her own version of the golden rule: mind your own business—but also do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Betty was a devoted homemaker and also worked alongside her husband in several small business ventures. She later became well known as the owner and entrepreneur of Good Hope Campground in Good Hope, Alabama, where she spent over 30 years building a place where many came to stay, gather, and feel welcomed. Her sister, Dean Tubbs, worked alongside her there for many years. Betty was known for her strong will and get-it-done attitude, qualities she passed along to her sons. Above all, Betty's greatest love was her children. She was deeply devoted to them and fiercely committed to their well-being, serving as their constant protector and source of strength. She also had a great sense of humor that brought lightness to those around her. Betty loved the outdoors, especially in the spring and fall. She found joy in pointing out blooming flowers, budding trees, and even returning bugs in the spring, and she equally appreciated the changing leaves and colors of fall. She also had a lifelong love for animals, both wild and domesticated, and cared for many pets over the years, including horses, dogs, cats, and birds. She enjoyed yard sales and had a particular fondness for jewelry, building a collection one treasure at a time. Betty was also a skilled seamstress who enjoyed sewing and painting. Earlier in life, she bowled on a team and was an avid gardener, often growing vegetables—especially tomatoes for her favorite tomato sandwiches—and preserving much of her harvest through canning. She had a well-known sweet tooth, especially for cream horns, and loved music, particularly country, bluegrass, and gospel. Betty also enjoyed traveling and visited places such as New England, New York, Philadelphia, London, Phoenix, and Alaska. She was actively involved in women's groups throughout her life, including TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly), where she formed many lifelong friendships and served as an officer, and the Red Hat Society, where she enjoyed fellowship and connection with other women. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie Eugene Bates; her granddaughter, Hannah Nicole Bates; her mother, Agnes Janette Warren Garrison; and her brother, Charles Douglas Garrison. She is survived by her sons, Lionel Jay Bates and Craig Eugene Bates; her sister, Dean Tubbs and husband Glenn Tubbs; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama, with visitation from noon-2 p.m. Burial will follow at Bethsadia Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Betty's life was one of strength, faith, and love. It brings comfort to know she is reunited with those who went before her, and likely already catching up with the many pets she loved—including Toby, Fuzzball, Jojo, Misty and Haley—each one surely remembered by name.

Waylon Kai Leathers
Funeral Service for Waylon Kai Leathers, of Somerville, will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Waylon Kai passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at his residence. He was born March 21, 2024, to Dylan Leathers and Raven Alexandria Picard. He was preceded in death by his great great grandmother, Angie Champion great grandparents, Bernice Cooper, Larry Leathers, Alex Picard and Mark and Kathy Teichmiller. Survivors include his parents; grandparents, Jennifer & Tooie James, Richie and Breanna Leathers, Robert Picard; great grandparents, Jerry Cooper, Nancy Leathers, Roxanne Picard; aunt and uncles, Brody (Kaelyn) Leathers, Shawnee (Steven) Picard, Cheyenne Picard, Kristin (Drew) Yahn and Katelin Yahn along with a host of great uncles and aunts, cousins and family friends who loved him.

Fayra Thrasher Ray, 89
Fayra Thrasher Ray, passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center at the age of 89. Fayra was born on February 17, 1937, to Leonard Uel and Ruby Askea Thrasher. Fayra enjoyed Bible study, her grandchildren, and numerous hobbies such as gardening, scrapbooking, cooking and bee keeping. She graduated from Blountsville High School and attended Snead State, ultimately working many years with Leeth National Bank until her retirement with SouthTrust Bank in Cullman, Alabama. She was proceeded in death by her parents, her husband Halbert Wayne Ray, son-in-law Donald Ray Ferguson, Jr., and nephew Bradley Thrasher. She is survived by her sister Bonnie (Danny) Martin; brothers Lavelle (Kathy) Thrasher and Lawayne (Peggy) Thrasher; daughters Elisia Ferguson and Katrina Garnett; grandchildren Joshua Ferguson, Noah (Addison) Garnett and Savannah Garnett; nephews Steve (Jacqueline) Thrasher and David (Sherri) Thrasher and niece Lisa Thrasher. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama. Graveside Service and burial will follow at 2 p.m. at Hopewell Baptist Cemetery in Hanceville, Alabama. Moss Service directing. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Lake Catoma Baptist Church or your favorite charity.

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