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–SPORTS–

**New Good Hope boys basketball coach Cory Meyer looks ahead to future with Raiders**

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## Pink Cactus Western Co., Heavy Equipment Xchange open in Vinemont


**Anabelle Howze**
anabelle@cullmantribune.com


**VINEMONT, Ala.** — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, April 2, welcomed two new businesses to the Vinemont community. A joint ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the openings of The Pink Cactus Western Co. and Heavy Equipment Xchange (HEX). » PAGE 4



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, April 2, 2026, welcomed two new businesses to the Vinemont community. A joint ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the openings of The Pink Cactus Western Co. and Heavy Equipment Xchange (HEX).*

# Discover the joy of hosting international students




PAM ANCELET

*Nick, an exchange student from Germany, visited the Cullman Christkindlmarkt with Pam Ancelet and her husband, Don.*


**Anabelle Howze**
anabelle@cullmantribune.com


**CULLMAN, Ala.** — More than 100 international students are in need of host families. Pam Ancelet, an international exchange coordinator with EF High School Exchange Year, is encouraging residents to consider opening their homes to exchange students for the upcoming school year.

She said the program connects students from Europe, Asia and South America with American families for a full academic year.

"It gives students the opportunity to be immersed in the English language and experience American culture," said Ancelet. "They get to take part in traditions like Thanksgiving, which many of them have never experienced before."

At the same time, host families gain a cultural exchange of their own.

"Families get to bring another culture into their home," she said. "They learn about different traditions, holidays and ways of life from around the world."

Despite the benefits, Ancelet said, many families hesitate to commit because the program begins in August, which can feel far away.

"Students go through extensive appli- » PAGE 12


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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
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## Hanceville man killed in Cherokee County crash » PAGE 3

## Kids invited to Wildflower Walk April 11



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*One of the beautiful flowers in the Wildflower Garden at Sportsman Lake Park* » PAGE 5

## Jones, Carnes awarded scholarships



JOSIE JONES/ALABAMA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Lexi Jones of Cullman, and Madeline Carnes of Vinemont, were each awarded a scholarship by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) for their participation in Alabama's livestock industry on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at a ceremony held in coordination with the Southeastern Livestock Exposition (SLE) Rodeo. Pictured left to right are PBCI Member and Perdido River Farms Director John English, Madeline Carnes and SLE President-Elect Galen Grace. Not pictured is Lexi Jones. The PBCI has a proud history of supporting youth in livestock. Each year, young people from each of Alabama's 67 counties are awarded scholarships from the Tribe to aid in future participation in youth livestock events or further education during SLE Livestock Week.**


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CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported April 3

**Cullman Tribune staff**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 3, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**INCIDENTS**

**March 30**

- domestic violence; CR 447
- domestic violence; Edmondson Rd. NE
- theft of property; CR 1494
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB Rest Area
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; Hwy. 157
- dog bite; CR 731

**March 31**

- domestic violence; Main St. NE Hanceville
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91
- burglary; criminal mischief; Commercial St. SE
- harassment; CR 1205
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 698
- theft of property; CR 386
- assault; CR 587

**April 1**

- domestic violence; CR 1401
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 91
- harassment; CR 1427
- possession of controlled substance; CR 565
- harassing communications; CR 321
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 91
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 71
- receiving stolen property; CR 386

**ARRESTS**

**March 30 – April 1**

**Bartlett, Tomeka J.; 35**
- FTA – contributing to delinquency of minor

**Boatright, Sr., Joshua A.; 47**
- possession of methamphetamine

**Booker, Christopher M.; 47**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Buie, Logan A.; 26**
- menacing-aggravated assault

**Carlton, Chikenzyia C.; 24**
- theft-grand jury arrest warrant, $500-less than $1500

**Dill, Kelly; 46**
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

**Fulenwider, Ashley M.; 39**
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Givens, Dinkey V.; 65**
- assault-aggravated assault family-strong arm

**Moore, Charlotte L.; 69**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Nation, Janie L.; 43**
- FTA – driving while license suspended

**Nation, Shawn D.; 51**
- drug trafficking

**Owens, Kelly J.; 50**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

**Speegle, Jonathan S.; 55**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possessing stolen property, less than $500

**Sturgeon, Rachel N.; 37**
- FTA – sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – counterfeiting
- FTA – forged instrument
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

**Tomas, Santiago F.; 20**
- GJ – sex offense-statutory rape

**Watkins, Anthony T.; 40**
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

**Williams, Jeremy O.; 40**
- criminal mischief – damaged property
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- escape
- theft-miscellaneous
- theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- obstructing justice using a false identity
- attempting to elude a police officer

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**March 28**
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $42; Olive St. SW

**March 29**
- leaving the scene of an accident; Wiggins Incorporated; damage to '23 Ford T350; $500; Main Ave. SW / 4th St. SW

**March 30**
- assault-2nd degree; person; Hwy. 157

**March 31**
- retail theft of property-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $560; Olive St. SW

**April 1**
- domestic violence – harassing communications; person
- theft of property-4th degree; person; miscellaneous; $316; Wildwood St. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Marktplatz Ctr. SW

**April 2**
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $38; Olive St. SW

**ARRESTS**

**April 1-2**

**Lenz, John L.; 54**
- FTA – fail to register vehicle
- FTA – driving while revoked
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – no seat belt

**Maurici-Baez, Ender M.; 35**
- receiving stolen property-1st degree
- receiving stolen property-4th degree
- possessing forged instrument
- attempt to elude

**Johnson, Carla R.; 45**
- GJ – unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

**Hansard, Rhonda G.; 57**
- theft of property-4th degree

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No arrests or incidents reported.

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







# Hanceville library hosting poetry contest

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — The Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville is currently hosting a free poetry contest. Submissions must be postmarked by April 24.

Library Manager Teresa Rivera said local teacher and published author Will Justice Drake will be judging the contest.

"Will Justice Drake will be judging the contest for us and we are very excited," Rivera said. "The purpose of the contest is to uncover local talent, increase participation in Poetry Night, increase awareness for our little local library and have fun!"

Rivera said the competition is completely free and open to all Alabama residents 18 and older.

"Participants can submit up to three poems and there is no length or genre requirement," she said.

Poems should be original – no AI content. Submissions must be titled and typed. They can be emailed to hancevillepubliclibrary@gmail.com or submitted by mail to: The Shirley Burden Public Library, 201 Commercial St., Hanceville, Alabama 35077.



SHIRLEY BURDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more information or additional contest rules, contact the Hanceville Public Library at 256-352-0685 or hancevillepubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit Facebook/Hanceville Public Library.

About Will Justice Drake

Will Justice Drake lives in north Alabama, where he teaches English literature and mythology and coaches soccer.

His poems and articles have appeared in "The Southern Poetry Anthology, Vol. X: Alabama," "Mid/South Anthology," "The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature," "Flyway," "Trinity House Review," "Poetry South," Raleigh Review" and others. He received his MFA from North Carolina State University. His work can be found at willjusticedrake.com.



# Crash (from Front)

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**CHEROKEE COUNTY, Ala.** — A Hanceville man was killed in a two-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 1, in Cherokee County, Alabama.

Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Marco Cortez-Gomez, 40.

Troopers said Cortez-Gomez was fatally injured when the 2010 Nissan Altima he was a passenger in collided head-on with a 2024 Honda HR-V Sport driven by Katie G. Miller, 22, of Cedar Bluff.

Cortez-Gomez was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Miller and the driver of the Nissan, Benjamin Cortez-Gomez, 44, of Hanceville, were both injured and transported to Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center, in Rome, Georgia for treatment.

The crash occurred on Alabama 273 near Cherokee County 48, approximately 4 miles north of Leesburg, in Cherokee County.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

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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, April 4 – 1-3 p.m. Community Easter Celebration
• Sunday, April 5 – 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.
• In April we continue the Poetry Contest! Please look at Facebook for contest details. We thank the Hanceville community for their book donations in helping us raise money for the children's programs. We also thank Jennifer and Tonya, owners of Southern Party Specialists LLC, for the $300 donation for a June presenter! We thank HanceVegas Coffee for sponsoring the Adult Book Club. We also thank the many library volunteers who help service the community.
• April 8, 10 a.m. Storytime led by author Telina Bates "It's Just ADAD, Don't Judge Me" target age 7-10
• April 14, 11 a.m. Spanish class with Mrs. Alejandra Pena (She makes it fun with games!)
• April 15, 10 a.m. Storytime led by Rachel McFarland
• April 18, 10 a.m. Adult Book Club with Jennifer and Beth
• April 22, 10 a.m. Story time led by Cassy Holeyfield
• April 24, 6 p.m. Poetry Contest deadline and POETRY NIGHT
• April 28, 11 a.m. Spanish Class with Mrs. Alejandra Pena
• April 29, 10 a.m. Storytime and Children's Book club led by Briana Taylor
• May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Grilled Cheese Festival and Library BOOK SALE
• May 27, Start of Summer program!

**Fairview Lions Club Annual Spring Fling and Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show**
Saturday, April 4, at Randall Shedd Community Park on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. We will have a car show, vendors, games, music, bouncy houses. Registration is $20 and will begin at 8 a.m. with awards to be given out at 1 p.m. Vendor spots are $20, payable the day of the event. Must be set up by 9 a.m. Food vendors are encouraged to join us; spots are $50. For more info, please contact Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

**Seventh Street Baptist Church and WKUL Easter Candy Hunt**
Saturday, April 4, at 10 a.m. (rain or shine!), at Seventh Street Baptist Church, 708 Seventh St. SW, Cullman. Completely free for kids 2-12. First 150 kids receive a FREE Easter Candy Hunt T-shirt and FREE SnoBiz shaved ice (on-site). Free petting zoo (B&C Mobile Petting Zoo). The Easter Bunny will be there for free family photos.

**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!

**Celebrate Easter at Seventh Street Baptist Church**
We invite you and your family to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with us at Seventh Street Baptist Church, located at 708 Seventh St. SW in Cullman. Join us on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10:30 a.m. to rejoice in the hope and new life we find in our risen Savior. Because Jesus rose from the grave, believers have forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. As Scripture says, "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said." (Matthew 28:6) Celebrate the victory of Easter with us!

**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.

**Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting**
Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church 1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

**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 Chapter of NARFE Meeting**
• CORRECTION: Lunch is $15, not $25
• Monday, April 13, at 11 a.m. The Cullman Chapter of the National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees (NARFE) will resume second Monday lunch meetings at Freddie Day Catering. All members, spouses and guests are welcome to attend and enjoy a Dutch lunch beginning at 11 for $15. Business meeting and guest speaker follow at noon.

**Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting**
Tuesday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501 Fourth St. SW, Cullman.

**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

**Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing**
Sunday, April 19, at 5 p.m. with The Kellys from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. Everyone is invited! For more information, call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-1501.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 4, 2026



PINTEREST

*Flower lion*



PINTEREST

*Flower vase*



PINTEREST

*Handprint bouquets*

# Budget-friendly spring family activities

**Chasady Woods**
chasady@cullmantribune.com

What better way to spend spring days than to have quality time with your spouse or partner and your littles? The days grow longer and energize us as sunshine blankets everything outside. The sweet aromas of spring thaw any remnants of winter so that we may emerge from its grasp anew.

Use this annual liveliness for a chance at creativity and family bonding! I have two crafts ranging from outdoor and indoor.

The first being the easiest and most explorative: flower hunting! Before you start the outdoor scavenging you will need to get markers and pieces of cardboard. The size of cardboard depends on which activity you would like to do.

The options are dandelion lions or flower vases! For the lion, perhaps the size of a medium plate.

You will draw the face in the middle roughly two-thirds of the size.

Then you will poke holes around the extra space. Don't worry; it doesn't have to be perfect! The fun part is finding the flowers!

For the flower vase you can use your best judgement on size, but be sure to cut a rectangular piece of cardboard as seen in the picture. Draw the vase with empty stems to be filled or simply holes for the flowers.

You can make patterns on the vases before venturing outside for the flowers or allow you children to design them themselves! Finger-painting, perhaps? Stickers? Possibilities are endless!

The second activity is handprint bouquets. This involves a few extra steps that can get a bit messy, so plan accordingly and have on play clothes!

You will need craft paper for the stems and flower buds, paint for the handprints, something for the bouquet wrap (you can use the same paper for the stems to make it simple), paper plates, glue/tape, scissors and something to tie the bouquet wrapping.

For each bouquet prepare roughly 4-6 stems and leave them a bit longer to glue the hands on.

When making the handprints you can use multiple colors so have a few paper plates ready for dipping!

I suggest having the paper uncut when making the handprints, letting them dry fully and then cutting them out to attach to the stems. Once you've attached them to the stems you can wrap and tie them to create your handprint bouquet!

**Image sources:**

- Flower lion www.pinterest.com/pin/351912466886613
- Flower vase www.pinterest.com/pin/211174979118472
- Handprint bouquets www.pinterest.com/pin/805159239675875102



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE




ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

# Vinemont (from Front)

The Pink Cactus, owned by Shayla Pendrey and Kayla Shelnutt, offers western-style clothing for men, women and children, along with accessories like cowhides.

Pendrey said both owners have strong ties to the area despite originally being from out of state. "We've made Cullman our hometown," she said. "We love it here, and we're so glad to be able to bring this to the community."

The boutique operates both in-store and online, with plans for social media sales and shipping options to reach customers beyond the local area.

Find the store online at Facebook/The Pink Cactus Western Co.

Alongside Pink Cactus is HEX, owned by Zach Lively and Whit Harrison, which sells and services heavy equipment.

The business offers equipment such as skid steers, excavators, tractors and aerial lifts, along with repair services for customers' machinery.

"Customers can bring equipment to us or we can go out and work on it," said Harrison.

Lively said the business plans to expand in the coming months, including adding a rental line of newer equipment.

Find HEX online at www.heavyequipxchange.com.

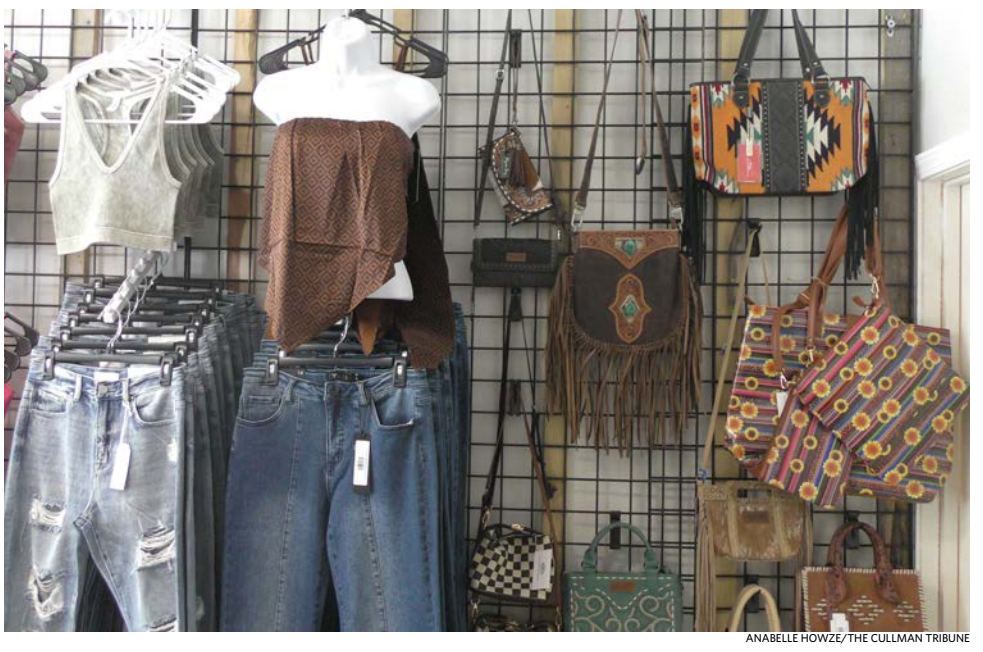
Both businesses share a unique location that blends retail and industrial services, something the owners said sets them apart.

"It's one of the most unique buildings in Cullman. You can come in and shop or head outside and look at equipment," Pendrey said.

Owners of both businesses said they are excited to grow in Cullman and serve the community.

"It's exciting to see the support and turnout," Harrison said. "We're glad to be part of Cullman."

The businesses are located at 18667 U.S. Highway 31 in Vinemont.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



# Walk (from Front)

**Anabelle Howze**
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The North Alabama Agriplex is taking its Farm Kids Club off-site this month to explore spring blooms on a Wildflower Walk at Sportsman Lake Park.

The walk will take place Saturday, April 11, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the park's Wildflower Garden. The event is designed as a hands-on nature walk for children in kindergarten and elementary grades, accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Agriplex Executive Director Rachel Dawsey said the walk will allow children to experience local wildflowers in their natural setting, particularly ephemeral blooms that appear briefly each spring before tree canopies fill out and block the sunlight.

During the walk, families will learn to identify native wildflowers and explore their roles in supporting pollinators and the ecosystem.

The hands-on experiences will help children develop an appreciation for local plants and understand their importance.

"If they don't know about them, they're never going to miss them when they're gone," Dawsey said, noting that public spaces with visible spring wildflowers have become increasingly rare.

The program will also include creative and interactive activities, giving children the opportunity to design their own wildflower-inspired projects.

Activities will be held in the garden's outdoor classroom, a wooded deck area maintained by the Cullman County Master Gardeners.

Registration is available through the Agriplex website at www.Agriplex.org. The cost is $10 per child, with a maximum of $20 per family, and adults attend free. Families are encouraged to attend while the wildflowers are in bloom or to visit the garden on their own, as the area remains open to the public year-round.

Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Beautiful flowers in the Wildflower Garden at Sportsman Lake Park***



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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 4, 2026

PREP BASKETBALL

# New Good Hope boys basketball coach Cory Meyer details his coaching influences, looks ahead to future with Raiders

**Sammy Confer**
sammy@cullmantribune.com

**GOOD HOPE, Ala.** — Good Hope hired Cory Meyer to be their new basketball coach on March 19th. He took over for Mitch Morris, who coached the team last year. He was an assistant coach for 14 years and was an assistant under his dad, Bobby Meyer at Cullman and West Morgan, and at Decatur High School under Kori Walker.

"My dad has always been my biggest influence and reason I became a coach. I have been in a basketball gym with him since I was in the third grade. Just seeing what all goes into being a basketball coach, how to implement your system in a program, and the impact the position allows you to have on young people is something I plan to take to Good Hope from my dad. Kori Walker has become a great friend since I joined his staff at Decatur. We share a lot of the same philosophies, so having him to share ideas with is invaluable," Meyer said.

Coach Meyer is going to a school that has great basketball tradition, with plenty of trophies in their trophy cases, and he's going to bring a lot of things to Good Hope and their community.

"Good Hope has great basketball tradition. They have consistently been at the top of Cullman County and competing for area titles over the last decade. The foundation has been set by Drew Adams and others for this program to have a ton of success," Meyer said. "We are going to play an exciting brand of basketball. We will play an uptempo style that tries to maximize the number of possessions in a basketball game. I hope it's a style that our community gets behind because of the effort our guys play with. I also look forward to the relationships that are to be made within our youth and middle school programs, as I want them to be an extension of our program at the high school."

Coach Meyer will have a lot of players back from last year's team and is looking forward to seeing what they can do this upcoming season, and he's ready to get everything put together for the 2026-2027 season. He wants to see them grow as not only basketball players but as even better people off the court.

"I'm just excited about the journey for this team and the ability to impact their life in a positive way. Each new season brings new challenges, and I'm just excited for the opportunity to maximize this group's potential," he said. "I'm just ready for the work, putting this team together, and allowing these kids an opportunity to grow as basketball players on and off the court. They will all play a final basketball game, but it's how we use the game of basketball to make them become better people within our community."

God also played a huge role in helping him land the job, and he wouldn't be where he's at today without Him.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without God. I believe this opportunity is truly God's timing, and I hope that I'm able to use my testimony to guide young people in the Good Hope community."



CONTRIBUTED
*Good Hope's Cory Meyer*

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

# Scores and stats for April 2

**Lucas Gray**
lucas@cullmantribune.com

**BASEBALL**

• Addison 8, Vinemont 4 – Batting: S. Talley (Add.) 2-4 (2B), 1 RBI Pitching: S. Talley 4.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER, 7 K

• Cullman 6, Avon 3 – Batting: J. Inman 2-3 (2B), 3 RBI Pitching: G. Wright 4.0 IP, 1 ER, 4 K, W

• Cullman 10, Hinsdale 1 – Batting: J. Inman 3-4 (2B x2) Pitching: L. Henry 5.0 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, W

• Hayden 15, West Point 4 – Batting: B. Freeman 1-4 (HR), 2 RBI – D. Cleghorn 2-3 (HR), 1 RBI Pitching: D. Cleghorn 3.1 IP, 4 H, 5 ER, 4 K

**SOFTBALL**

• Lynn 15, Addison 4 – Batting: A.B. Powell 2-3, 3 RBI – Mac. Carter 3-3 (2B x2) Pitching:Mad. Carter 4.0 IP, 15 ER

• Meek 11, Winston Co. 1 – Batting: M. Sandlin 3-4 (3B, HR x2) Pitching: S. Farley 6.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 8 K, W

• Blackman 8, West Point 0 – Batting: L. Windham 2-2 Pitching: Z. Love 3.1 IP, 5 H, 5 ER

COLUMN

# Reasons for optimism and concern for Alabama, Auburn and UAB as spring practices intensify

**Lucas Gray**
lucas@cullmantribune.com

In the next three weeks, Alabama (April 11) and Auburn (April 18) will play in their "A-Day" spring games, and UAB will hold their up close and personal Spring Showcase (April 18), for fans to get their first looks at their 2026 football squads. All three schools are in the thick of spring practices, and with many football fans already starving for the sport, we'll take a look at what there's to be excited, and nervous, about with each of the three teams before they hit the field in the their respective scrimmages.

**Alabama**

I'm going to go backwards for this one. In two seasons Kalen DeBoer has gone 20-8, taken the Tide to a SEC Championship and won a College Football Playoff game. This isn't at any old SEC school, however, and he wasn't following up any old coach. What's more important than the record is how they've lost games as of late.

Versus Georgia in the SEC title game and Indiana in the Rose Bowl, Alabama was dominated, specifically in the trenches. Fans needn't be concerned about what DeBoer wears, or his facial expressions on the sideline or what he says at press conferences- the trenches is where this tenure will live or die.

On the offensive line, the Tide will go into 2026 needing a new left tackle, left guard, center and right guard, giving new OL coach Adrian Klemm a clean slate.

Only one starter returns, 2025 Freshman All-American right tackle Michael Carroll, and 6-7 sophomore behemoth Jackson Lloyd is in the lead to slot in for Kayden Proctor at the blind-side spot according to offensive coordinator Ryan Grubb.

The interior, however, carries even more uncertainty. Every spot still seems to be up for grabs, with underclassmen and transfers looking to fill them.

The root of the concerns for the Tide are also reason to be optimistic. The expectations, the cache that comes with that shade of crimson and that 'A' on the collar (not to mention a top NIL pool) are enough to attract and keep some of the top talent in the country in Tuscaloosa.

At the top of that list is receiver Ryan Coleman-Williams, who's looking to bounce back after a disappointing sophomore season. While spring practice is just that- practice, Williams has produced highlight plays and rave reviews from coaches.

It remains unclear who will be throwing Williams the ball this fall, with quarterbacks Keelon Russell (R-Fr.) and Austin Mack (R-So.) in the midst of a position battle.

While Russell was a more highly rated recruit (No. 2 recruit in the country in 2025), Mack has more experience in DeBoer's system and followed the coach from Washington in 2024.

Should it truly be a toss-up in August, expect to see Mack under center. However, with how talented both are, if one of them truly runs away with the job, Alabama likely has another star on their hands.



UA, AU, UAB ATHLETICS
*From left to right: Alabama's Ryan Coleman-Williams, Auburn's Byrum Brown and UAB's Rod Robinson II*

**Auburn**

Football on the plains has been a tough watch since Auburn hired Hugh Freeze. Last year was inarguably the worst, as another elite D.J. Durkin defense featuring multiple to-be draft picks was completely wasted by a stagnant quarterback-less offense.

The good news? Freeze is out, Durkin is back, and Alex Golesh is in as head coach, and he brought a potential Heisman candidate at quarterback with him.

With South Florida in 2025, dual-threat Byrum Brown passed for 3158 yards and ran for an additional 1000. His leadership as a redshirt-senior, personality and talent will automatically give Auburn their best quarterback since Jarrett Stidham in 2018.

In spring practices so far, Golesh and the defensive staff have told reporters Brown is picking up right where he left off in 2025.

Despite the departure of the bulk of the 2025 receiving core, namely Cam Coleman, there's still loads of talent on the offensive side of the ball. Jeremiah Cobb will return at running back, and following Brown and Golesh were three of the four leading Bulls receivers in Keshaun Singleton, Chas Nimrod and Jeremiah Kroger.

The Tigers' offensive line last year was one of the worst in the country, and with the departure of center Connor Lew, who missed much of '25 with injury, and guard Jeremiah Wright, it's still a work in progress.

Former USF center Cole Best was one of the best at the position in the portal, and tackles Stanton Ramil (Michigan State) and Jo Simmons (James Madison) should start at the bookends. It's too early to tell, however, and it could be another season with a patchwork line if things go wrong early.

Similarly, on the other side of the trenches, Auburn lost a ton of talent on the defensive line.

Keldric Faulk and Keyron Crawford won't be on the edge anymore, and Malik Blocton and Bobby Jamison-Travis will be missing on the interior.

Durkin, one of the best defensive minds in the game, still has an incredible linebacker duo in Xavier Atkins and Elijah Melendez, but it's going to be extremely difficult to replicate a defensive line close to last season's.

**UAB**

Like Auburn, UAB was in dire need of a clean slate after one of the worst coaching hires in college football history. They got just that this offseason, promoting former offensive coordinator Alex Mortensen to lead the team.

His small sample size as interim head coach in 2025 was inspiring, to say the least. His demeanor, offensive scheme and ability to rally players helped UAB achieve their first ranked win since 2021 and their first road victory since pre-Trent Dilfer in just five games.

Mortensen's offensive prowess helped pull in a promising transfer portal class as well, especially in the offensive backfield.

Last year's one-two punch in Isaiah Jacobs and Jevon Jackson graduated, but the signing of three running backs made sure there was no lack of talent in the run game.

Braylon McReynolds (ULM) and Javon Simpkins (Coastal Carolina) both bring 500-plus yard seasons to the table and project to be instant impact players, with Roderick Robinson II (Georgia), a sophomore, standing as a potential breakout back with SEC experience.

On the defensive side of the ball, the hiring of Todd Grantham to call the plays signaled an emphasis on experience.

In the portal, the bulk of the defensive players brought that as well. Veteran players like linemen Marlin Dean (Georgia State), Tylin Jackson (Eastern Washington), and Cam Cunningham (Youngstown St.) along with defensive backs Diezel Wilkinson (Montana) and Que Billingsley (Gardner-Webb) give UAB quality experience on the defense that they haven't had in years.

It's early however, and despite the good start for Mortensen, especially considering the situation he was left with, there's much to still prove.

If the offense can return to a level of production like 2023, the defense can just be even middle of the pack and the administration commits to maintaining and building the roster, UAB could be a feisty Mid-Major team in just a few years. It's simply yet to be seen in this new era.

# Auburn cruises into NIT Championship with 88-66 win over Illinois State

**Jeff Shearer**
AU Athletics


AU ATHLETICS

***Auburn's Keyshawn Hall***

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Advancing to the NIT championship game for the first time, Auburn got 24 points from Keyshawn Hall and made 12 3-pointers to rout Illinois State 88-66 Thursday at Hinkle Fieldhouse in the semifinals.

"I'm proud of my guys. We took a really difficult situation, not getting in on Selection Sunday, and I think we've turned it into a positive," Auburn coach Steven Pearl said. "They're playing with a level of joy that is really good for me as a coach to see. Good performance by our guys. Really cool to have the opportunity to play in Hinkle."

Kevin Overton went 5-for-5 from 3-point range and Sebastian Williams-Adams made all three of his 3-pointers to help the Tigers shoot 57.1 percent from deep, going 12 for 21.

Overton scored 16 points, Filip Jovic scored 13 and Tahaad Pettiford added 12 points and a game-high five assists.

"All of those guys have really stepped up as the postseason has gone on," Pearl said. "It's an opportunity to represent themselves but also represent Auburn. They've done a really good job of that."

The Tigers converted18 Illinois State turnovers into 26 points while outscoring the Redbirds 22-2 in fast-break points.

"The last 30 minutes, I thought our defense was really solid," Pearl said. "Good overall effort. Proud of the guys."

Leading by 13 points at the half, Auburn pushed its lead to 24 midway through the second half with Hall scoring the Tigers' first seven points after intermission.

"My teammates were finding me. We were getting a lot of fast-break points," said Hall, who made 10 of 16 shots and grabbed a team-high six rebounds. "The defense carried us when we were getting out in transition and a lot of guys hit shots. We were having fun, we were smiling, happy, just playing."

After Hall's flurry, Pettiford, Overton and Williams-Adams made 3-pointers with each one putting Auburn up by two dozen, matching its biggest lead.

"We knew we had to keep our foot on the gas," Pettiford said. "Getting out in transition, letting our defense turn into our offense."

"We've done a good job all postseason of really sharing it," Pearl said of Auburn's 20-assist performance. "We did a great job of making easy passes and finishing around the rim. When we share the ball, we're pretty good."

Auburn led by at least 16 points the rest of the way, earning its fourth NIT victory this season, its first away from Neville Arena. Senior walk-on Reed Trapp scored Auburn's final two points.

Overton made four first-half 3-pointers and Hall scored 15 on 7-of-9 shooting to help Auburn take a 51-38 halftime lead.

Auburn (21-16) will play Tulsa (30-7) Sunday at 7 p.m. CT on EPSN2 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers. The Golden Hurricane defeated New Mexico 74-69 in Thursday's first semifinal.

"Our league play got us ready for being able to play in this tournament and allowed us to find a way to win four straight," Pearl said.

"Finish what we came here for," Pettiford said. "We came to win it all and that's what we're looking forward to doing. It's special to be one of the last teams playing. Not every team can finish their season with a win so hopefully we can do that and end the season happy."

**Games notes**

• With Auburn's 88-66 victory over Illinois State, the Tigers have advanced to their first NIT championship game in program history. The Tigers will face Tulsa in the championship game on Sunday night at 7 p.m. CT on ESPN2.

• The Tigers shot 60.7 percent for the game (34-of-56), marking the second time they have shot 60% or better this season (64.6 vs. Jackson State).

• Auburn shot 66 percent in the first half on 21-of-32 shooting and scored 51 points. It was the third time this season Auburn has scored 50 or more points in the first half (57 vs. Queens, 55 vs. Jackson State).

• Auburn had 20 assists against Illinois State and is averaging 16.0 assists per game in the NIT.

• Keyshawn Hall scored 24 points and is now in sole possession of 5th place on Auburn's single season scoring list (683). Hall passed Johni Broom (669 in 2024-25) and Mike Mitchell (671 in 1977-78) for 5th place. It was Hall's 19th game scoring 20 or more points this year.

• Tahaad Pettiford became the 41st player in program history to score 1,000 career points. The sophomore finished the game with 12 points and now has 561 this season, which moved him into 20th place on Auburn's single season scoring list.

• Kevin Overton finished the game with 16 points on 5-of-5 shooting with all five of his makes coming from behind the 3-point line. Overton now has 90 made 3-pointers this season, which is the 8th most single season makes in Auburn history, passing Miles Kelly (88 in 2024-25).

• Auburn outscored Illinois State 26-9 on points off turnovers and also outscored the Redbirds 38-24 in the paint. Additionally, the Tigers had a 22-2 advantage in fast break points.

• The starting lineup of Elyjah Freeman, Keyshawn Hall, Filip Jovic, Kevin Overton and Tahaad Pettiford is now 5-1 this season when starting together.

• The 2025-26 team has surpassed 3,000 points this season, becoming the third team at Auburn to do so, along with doing it for the second-consecutive season.

• Auburn had 13 steals tonight, which is tied for the second most this season.

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# LEGALS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

CITY **OF HANCEVILLE**

Pursuant to the instructions of the City Council of the City of Hanceville, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council at the Hanceville City Hall, located at 112 Main ST SE, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM, where all interested citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard for or against Ordinance No. 2026-6 Amendment to the Zoning Regulations Governing Alternative Financial Services.

DRAFT

**CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA**
**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, is authorized pursuant to Alabama law to regulate land use and zoning in order to promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that certain Alternative Financial Services establishments, including payday lending, title lending, pawn shops, and check-cashing businesses, may have secondary impacts on surrounding land uses if not appropriately regulated; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council desires to establish reasonable location, spacing, and review standards for Alternative Financial Services establishments within the B-2 General Business District to ensure compatibility with surrounding properties, protect residential areas, and support long-term community planning goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, as follows:

**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

1.1 Alternative Financial Services Establishment
Any business establishment that provides short-term, high-cost, or collateral-based financial services, including but not limited to payday loans, title loans, pawn transactions, and check-cashing services, whether offered individually or in combination.

1.2 Payday Loan (Deferred Presentment) Business
A business operating in accordance with the Alabama Deferred Presentment Services Act, Chapter 18A of Title 5, Code of Alabama, including the acceptance of checks or electronic debit authorizations in exchange for funds advanced to a customer for a fee.

1.3 Title Loan Business
A business offering short-term loans secured by motor vehicle titles and regulated under the Alabama Pawn Shop Act, Chapter 19A of Title 5, Code of Alabama.

DRAFT

1.4 Pawn Shop
A business engaged in lending money on the security of pledged personal property, conducted in accordance with Ala. Code § 5-19A-1 et seq.

1.5 Check-Cashing Establishment
A business that cashes checks or negotiable instruments for a fee without requiring customers to maintain a bank account.

**SECTION 2. CONDITIONAL USE REGULATIONS**

2.1 Conditional Use Requirement
Alternative Financial Services establishments shall be permitted within the B-2 General Business District **only as a conditional use**, subject to review and approval in accordance with this ordinance and the City of Hanceville Zoning Ordinance.

2.2 Separation From Similar Uses
No Alternative Financial Services establishment shall be located within two thousand (2,000) feet of another Alternative Financial Services establishment, as measured from the primary public entrance of one establishment to the primary public entrance of the other establishment, following the shortest commonly used pedestrian or vehicular travel route along public rights-of-way.

2.3 Separation From Residential Districts
No Alternative Financial Services establishment shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of any property zoned for residential use, as measured from the primary public entrance of the Alternative Financial Services establishment to the primary public entrance of the nearest residential building, as determined by the City, following the shortest commonly used pedestrian or vehicular travel route along public rights-of-way.

2.4 Population-Based Limitation
The total number of Alternative Financial Services establishments permitted within the City shall not exceed one (1) establishment per each distinct type of business for every five thousand (5,000) residents, as determined by the most recent decennial United States Census at the time of application. Population figures shall be applied prospectively and shall not retroactively affect lawfully approved or existing establishments.

2.5 Multiple Services Under One Roof
Any business location offering multiple Alternative Financial Services shall be considered a single establishment for spacing purposes but shall be counted separately for each type of service for purposes of the population-based limitation.

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2.6 Prohibition of Outdoor Storage
Outdoor storage of merchandise, vehicles, equipment, or collateral of any kind is prohibited on the premises of an Alternative Financial Services establishment.

2.7 Measurement Determination

All distance measurements required by this Section shall be determined by the City. Such determinations shall be final for purposes of application review and enforcement.

**SECTION 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

3.1 Planning Commission Review
The Planning Commission shall review all applications for conditional use approval of Alternative Financial Services establishments and shall evaluate such applications based on the following criteria:
a. Compliance with all separation and location requirements of this ordinance;
b. Compatibility with surrounding land uses and zoning districts;
c. Traffic, parking, and access considerations;
d. Potential impacts on nearby residential areas; and
e. Consistency with the City's comprehensive planning objectives.

3.2 City Council Oversight
Following Planning Commission review and action, the City Council shall be notified of the Planning Commission's decision. Final approval of the conditional use shall be issued administratively in accordance with the Planning Commission's action and the provisions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT**

4.1 Violations
Any Alternative Financial Services establishment operating in violation of this ordinance shall be deemed in violation of the City of Hanceville Zoning Ordinance.

4.2 Notice and Opportunity to Cure
Upon determination that a violation exists, the City shall provide written notice to the property owner and/or business operator describing the violation and allowing a reasonable period of time to cure the violation, consistent with due process requirements.

4.3 Administrative Remedies
If a violation is not cured within the time provided, the City may take one or more of the following actions, as permitted by law:
a. Denial, suspension, or revocation of any zoning approval, business license,

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or certificate of occupancy related to the establishment;
b. Withholding or denial of future permits or approvals; and
c. Initiation of civil enforcement proceedings, including injunctive relief, in the appropriate court of jurisdiction.

4.4 Cumulative Remedies
The remedies provided herein are cumulative and not exclusive, and the City may pursue any lawful remedy available to enforce compliance with this ordinance.

**SECTION 5. LEGAL NONCONFORMING USES (GRANDFATHER CLAUSE)**

Any Alternative Financial Services establishment lawfully operating within the City of Hanceville prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall be considered a legal nonconforming use. Such nonconforming use may continue provided that the business remains in continuous operation, the footprint, intensity, or scope of operations is not expanded, and the business does not relocate without full compliance with current zoning regulations.

**SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____
Mayor of Hanceville

ATTEST:
_____
City Clerk

**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.

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

2009 Dodge Caliber VIN#1B3HB48AX9D150657

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Lucas Auto Repair, 10271 US HWY 31, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, on May 2, 2026 at 8 A.M.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

COREY REEVES,
Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant,
V.
CASEY HUNTER and BLAKE HUNTER,
Defendant/Counter-Plaintiffs.

CASE NO: CV 2026 – 900013

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Please take notice that a Counterclaim in the above-styled matter was filed by Counter-Plaintiffs, Casey Hunter and Blake Hunter, in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, on January 21, 2026. Attempts have been made to serve Counter-Defendant, Corey Reeves, with the CounterClaim by Cullman County Sheriff's Department and Certified U.S. Mail at the last known address of the Counter-Defendant, 415 Lincoln Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055. Please be advised that Corey Reeves, as the named Counter-Defendant, has thirty (30) days from the last date of publication to contest said CounterClaim and must do so by filing a written response with the Cullman County Clerk of Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and with Plaintiff's Attorney, Shay Persall, Shay Persall Law, LLC, 611 7th Street SW, Cullman, Alabama 35056.

Done this 25th day of March, 2026

LISA McSWAIN, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA FARRIS, Deceased.** — **CASE NO.: PC 2026-072**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to LAJUANA DURBIN, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of PATRICIA FARRIS, deceased, on the 26th 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.

Lajuana Durbin
Personal Representatives

Shelbie G. Hankey
409 Second Avenue SW
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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LORA NELL HUGHES, Deceased.** — **CASE NO.: PC 2026-083**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to NORA FAYE RILEY, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of LORA NELL HUGHES, deceased, on the 30th 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.

Nora Faye Riley
Personal Representatives

Richard L. Collins
Attorney for the Estate
PO Box 669
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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DENISE WEISSEND, Deceased.** — **CASE NO.: PC 2026-133**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JACOB MORROW, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DENISE WEISSEND, deceased, on the 27th 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.

Jacob Morrow
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Estate
200 Second Avenue, SW
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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM RONALD PARKER
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2025-247

Recorded in Above Book and Page 04/02/2026 9:15AM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
**PETITION OF WILLIAM ALLEN PARKER FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM RONALD PARKER, DECEASED, and AMENDED PETITION**
**PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL,**
**MOTION TO DISMISS and NOTICE TO COURT, and**
**MOTION TO DISALLOW PETITIONER FROM BEING APPOINTED PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

This cause is before the Court upon the following filings:

By Attorney Annette Irons Parker for William Allen Parker, Petitioner:
- *Petition of William Allen Parker for Letters of Administration of the Estate of William Ronald Parker, Deceased*
- *Amended Petition of William Allen Parker for Letters of Administration of the Estate of William Ronald Parker, Deceased*
- *Motion to Dismiss* and *Notice to Court*
- *Motion to Disallow Petitioner from Being Appointed Personal Representative*

By Attorney Matthew K. Carter for Timothy Bryan Parker, Petitioner:
- *Petition for Probate of Will*

By Attorney Trent Lowry
- *Notice of Appearance* as attorney of record.

**A HEARING HAS BEEN SET FOR THE 30th DAY OF JUNE, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M.**, at the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 2nd day of April, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN THE MATTER OF
W.G.L.
A minor child.
D.O.B. 3/2/2018

CASE NO.: PC 2026-140

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR**

**TO: JONATHAN PAUL LYNN, A.K.A. JONATHON PAUL LYNN, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF A CHILD BORN TO KRISTA SNIDER KNOWN AS W.G.L.**

*Petition for Name Change of Minor* was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Tim Snider and Jerri Snider, Petitioners. If you should contest this name change, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioners, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 2nd DAY OF April, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Michael L. Thornton
Attorney for the Petitioners
409 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

IN RE: The Estate of
JOHNNY BENSON NESMITH,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2025-268

Case# PC2025-268 PB WIL Book 137 Page 399 Recorded in Above Book and Page 04/01/2026 3:50PM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s) WJC

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Josh Brooks, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHNNY BENSON NESMITH, deceased, on the 1st day of April, 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.

Josh Brooks
Personal Representative

June Brooks
Attorney for the Estate of Johnny Benson Nesmith
P.O. Box 73
Cullman, AL 35056-0073

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TIMES

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 1st day of April, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

**STATE OF ALABAMA**
**CULLMAN COUNTY**

**PROBATE COURT**
**CASE NO: PC2022337**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF CLELLAN EARL GRIMMETT, SR., Deceased.**

**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PAPER PUBLICATION**

To: DONNA MARIE GRIMMETT, ANDREW CARSON GRIMMETT AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTITES

*Petition for Removal of Personal Representative/Executrix and Petition to Grant Letters Upon Vacancy*, filed in the Cullman County Probate Court on the 11th day of March 2026, and made court record on the 16th day of March 2026, filed by Wanda Randolph, the Petitioner, by and through her Attorney, Jerri D. Grisham, has been set for the **28th day of May, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate. Hearing will take place at the Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 2nd day of April, 2026.

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 Proof of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Jerri D. Grisham
Attorney for the Petitioner
107-D Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

# Alabama Department of Mental Health recognizes Autism Acceptance Month

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** — The Alabama Department of Mental Health is recognizing April as Autism Acceptance Month, highlighting the importance of awareness, access to services and support for individuals and families across the state.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, is a developmental condition that affects communication, behavior and social interaction.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1 in 31 children in the United States has been identified with autism.

"Autism Acceptance Month is about recognizing people, not just diagnoses," said ADMH Commissioner Kimberly Boswell.

"ADMH is focused on ensuring individuals and families across Alabama have access to services that support real-life needs and long-term well-being."

The department encourages the public to take part in Autism Acceptance Month by promoting understanding and inclusion in their communities.

Suggested ways to support include using identity-first language, amplifying the voices of autistic individuals and advocates, creating more inclusive environments in workplaces and schools and supporting organizations that provide community-based resources.

ADMH provides a range of services for individuals from birth to age 20 with autism and their families.

Through its Intensive Home-Based Services program, the department offers care coordination, therapeutic mentoring, behavioral and mental health support, in-home therapy, psychoeducational services and peer support.

Officials said these services are designed to help individuals build practical skills, strengthen family relationships and improve overall well-being at home and in the community.

In addition to direct services, ADMH serves as the lead agency for the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council, working with partner agencies and stakeholders to improve statewide planning and access to autism-related resources.

Residents can find Autism Acceptance Month events through the Regional Autism Network at mh.alabama.gov/aiacc/regional-autism-network/.

More information about ADMH autism services is available at mh.alabama.gov/autism-services.



THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

***Black-Throated Green Warbler***

# Alabama Audubon free bird-watching events

**Chasady Woods**
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Alabama Audubon has several bird-watching events scheduled for 2026. Two free events will take place Saturday, April 11.

**Birding at Vulcan Trail**
The 2.2-mile Vulcan Trail is located at 1701 Valley View Dr., Birmingham, AL 35209. It passes by the Vulcan statue and museum. The event will take place from 7-11 a.m. Attendees should meet at precisely 7 a.m. beneath the Vulcan statue. Parking will be available at the trailhead, but also at the museum.

The group will be looking for vireos, warblers, tanagers, orioles and more.

Get more information and register at www.alaudubon.org/event/birding-at-vulcan-trail-free.

**Spring Migration at Chapman Mountain**
This event will be located at Chapman Mountain Nature Preserve, 1263 U.S Highway 72 East, Huntsville, AL 35811. This is a migration hotspot for one of north Alabama's most notorious songbirds. The preserve offers all of the things these birds look for on their migration journey.

This will take place from 8-10 a.m. Attendees are advised to meet under the pavilion of the main parking lot at exactly 8 a.m. From there the group will quietly travel to the water to spot the songbirds.

Get more information and register at www.alaudubon.org/event/spring-migration-at-chapman-mountain-free.

Find out more about Alabama Audubon, including more events, at www.alaudubon.org or www.facebook.com/alaudubon.

## LEGALS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 35**
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, REGULATING THE RETAIL SALE OF CONSUMABLE HEMP PRODUCTS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alabama has enacted Act 2025-385 (formerly HB 445), adding Chapter 12 to Title 28, Code of Alabama 1975, to regulate the testing, labeling, distribution, and retail sale of consumable hemp products, including requirements for licensing by the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC Board), age restrictions (21+), bans on smokable hemp, and prohibitions on online/direct delivery sales; and
**WHEREAS**, said state law authorizes municipalities to impose additional local requirements or restrictions on the location and operation of retailers of consumable hemp products, provided they do not conflict with state regulations; and
**WHEREAS**, the City of Cullman seeks to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that any retail sales of consumable hemp products within city limits comply with state standards, local zoning, and community standards, including appropriate location restrictions to minimize impacts on residential areas, schools, parks, and youth-oriented facilities; and
**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that requiring local review and approval prior to or in conjunction with ABC Board licensing is consistent with the city's authority and promotes orderly development;
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA**, as follows:

**Chapter 5 - Hemp**

**Section 1. Definitions.**
a) "Consumable Hemp Product" means any product as defined in Ala. Code § 28-12-20 et seq. "Retailer" means any person or entity seeking or holding an ABC Board license to sell consumable hemp products at retail in the City.
b) "Pharmacy" means a place as defined in Ala. Code § 34-23-1(21) and licensed by the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy in which prescriptions, drugs, medicines, medical devices, chemicals, and poisons are sold, offered for sale, compounded, or dispensed, and shall include all places whose title may imply the sale, offering for sale, compounding, or dispensing of prescriptions, drugs, medicines, chemicals, or poisons."
c) "Liquor Store" means a place licensed by the City of Cullman as a liquor (package) store and its primary business is the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption.

**Section 2. Local Approval Required.** No person shall sell consumable hemp products within the corporate limits of the City of Cullman without first obtaining approval from the Cullman City Council or its designee, the Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman, in addition to any required Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board license. Applicants must submit:
a) Proof of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board application (or intent to apply).
b) Site plan demonstrating zoning compliance.
c) Business details on operations, security, and age verification (21+ with ID checks).
d) Any other information deemed necessary by the Cullman City Council or its designee, the Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman.

**Section 3. Zoning and Location Restrictions.** Retailers of consumable hemp products are permitted as follows:
a) B-1 Business District – pharmacies only.
  i) Minimum distance of 1,000 feet from private and public schools, churches, or other similar uses (measured from property lines).
  ii) Full compliance with state THC limits, packaging, labeling, and age restrictions.
  iii) No drive-thru sales or exterior displays visible from public rights-of-way.
b) B-2 Business District – pharmacies and liquor stores.
  i) Minimum distance of 1,000 feet from private and public schools, churches, or other similar uses (measured from property lines).
  ii) Minimum distance of 1,500 feet from another location already licensed to sell consumable hemp products excluding pharmacies.
  iii) Full compliance with state THC limits, packaging, labeling, and age restrictions.
  iv) No drive-thru sales or exterior displays visible from public rights-of-way.
c) B-3 Business District – pharmacies only.
  i) Minimum distance of 1,000 feet from private and public schools, churches, or other similar uses (measured from property lines).
  ii) Full compliance with state THC limits, packaging, labeling, and age restrictions.
  iii) No drive-thru sales or exterior displays visible from public rights-of-way.
d) CBD Central Business District – pharmacies only.
  i) Minimum distance of 1,000 feet from private and public schools, churches, or other similar uses (measured from property lines).
  ii) Full compliance with state THC limits, packaging, labeling, and age restrictions.
  iii) No drive-thru sales or exterior displays visible from public rights-of-way.

**Section 4. Enforcement and Penalties.** Violations are punishable by fines up to five hundred ($500.00) dollars per offense, business license revocation, or injunction.
**Section 5. Severability.** If any provision is held invalid, the remainder shall remain in effect.
**Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and approval.
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 23rd day of March, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 23rd day of March, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

## LEGALS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 34**
**TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTING THE ANNUAL STREET AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the Cullman City Council recognizes that street and transportation infrastructure are among the City of Cullman's most significant capital assets and financial obligations; and
WHEREAS, Ala. Code § 23-8-8 requires municipalities receiving state transportation funds to adopt an annual transportation plan identifying projects for the next fiscal year; and
WHEREAS, sound fiscal governance requires transparency, long-range planning, clearly identified funding sources, and public communication regarding capital street improvements; and
WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a formally adopted annual street and transportation infrastructure capital plan enhances transparency, assists in strategic budgeting, and promotes public accountability; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama:
**SECTION II.** The following section, Section 411 of Chapter 2 Administration, Article VI. Finance, of the *Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama*, is hereby added as follows:

**Sec. 2-411. Procedures to adopt the annual Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.**
(a) Purpose.
  a. Establish a mandatory Annual Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8.
  b. Require City Council approval of said plan prior to submission of the Mayor's proposed budget.
  c. Ensure all paving expenditures are aligned to the said and approved plan.
  d. Promote transparency and public communication.
  e. Provide structured reporting and accountability.
(b) Applicability.
  a. This ordinance shall apply to any department responsible for street paving, resurfacing, reconstruction, or major roadway capital improvements.
(c) Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.
  a. Annual Submission Requirement according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8 - No later than June 1 of each year, the Street Superintendent, in coordination with engineering and under the supervision of the Mayor, shall submit to the City Council a proposed annual Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The City Council shall adopt the annual Street and Transportation Capital Improvement Plan by August 31.
  b. Required Contents of the Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan shall include, at minimum, the following:
    i. Complete List of Proposed Projects: The Annual Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8, shall provide a detailed list of projects for which expenditures are intended to be made in the next fiscal year based upon an estimate of the revenues anticipated from the fund during the fiscal year.
      1. Street name.
      2. Project limits.
      3. Description (mill & overlay, full-depth reconstruction, widening, drainage correction, etc.).
    ii. Project Prioritization Methodology
      1. Pavement condition index (PCI) or similar objective criteria.
      2. Traffic volume considerations.
      3. Safety concerns.
      4. Economic development impact.
      5. Utility coordination needs.
    iii. Timeline
      1. Projected bid date of each project.
      2. Anticipated start date of construction of each project.
      3. Estimated date of completion of each project.
    iv. Detailed Cost Estimates
      1. Engineering.
      2. Materials.
      3. Construction.
      4. Contingency.
    v. Identified Funding Sources
      1. Rebuild Alabama funds
      2. Gas tax revenues.
      3. General fund.
      4. Bond proceeds.
      5. Federal or state grants.
      6. ARPA or other special revenue.
    vi. Five-Year Capital Projection
      1. Forecasted paving needs.
      2. Estimated funding gaps.
      3. Long-term maintenance strategy.
    vii. Map Exhibit
      1. Geographic visualization of proposed paving projects.
(d) Review and Approval of the Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan
  a. Mandatory Public Presentation - The Mayor, Street Superintendent, and/or Engineering shall:
    i. Present the proposed Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8, a detailed list of projects for which expenditures are intended to be made in the next fiscal year based upon an estimate of the revenues anticipated from the fund during the fiscal year.
    ii. The written report, according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8, shall include detailed expenditures made from the fund during the previous fiscal year, which includes the status of each project in the previous fiscal year's Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. The written report shall be presented at the first City Council meeting in January.
    iii. Answer questions from the City Council and community.
    iv. Allow public comment.
  b. Adoption by the City Council according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8:
    i. Adopted by resolution of the City Council.
    ii. Approved prior to submission of the Mayor's proposed annual budget.
  c. Budget Restriction - No paving-related capital expenditures shall be included in the proposed budget unless:
    i. The project appears in the Council-approved Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.
    ii. The City Council approves an emergency amendment by Resolution.
(e) Amendments to the Plan
  a. Amendments to the adopted Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan shall require:
    i. Written explanation of change.
    ii. Updated funding sources.
    iii. Public City Council approval by resolution.
(f) Reporting Requirements
  a. The Street Superintendent shall submit quarterly reports to the City Council detailing:
    i. Project status.
    ii. Expenditures to date.
    iii. Budget variances.
    iv. Project delays.
    v. Change orders.
    vi. Updated completion dates.
  b. These reports shall be presented in a public City Council meeting.
(g) Transparency
  a. Upon adoption of the Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan by the City Council, the plan shall be posted at city hall and the municipal street department, and remain posted until the next plan is adopted by the City Council and posted, and shall be published on the official City website according to according to Ala. Code § 23-8-8:
    i. A summary shall be distributed through official City communication channels.
    ii. A project status tracker shall be maintained online.
(h) Failure to Comply
  a. Failure to submit the required Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan by June 1 may:
    i. Prevent inclusion of discretionary paving projects in the proposed budget.
    ii. Require formal explanation. The Mayor and the Street Superintendent shall provide a written statement to be read into the record explaining the reasons for the delay and submit an updated timeline for the completion of the plan.
(i) Emergency Exceptions
  a. Emergency repairs - These urgent, high-priority interventions are performed to address critical situations that pose immediate threats to public safety, infrastructure integrity, or essential mobility. They include, but are not limited to:
    i. Response to natural disasters (such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, severe storms, wildfires, or other extreme weather events) that damage roadways, drainage systems, bridges, or related infrastructure.
    ii. Repairs following infrastructure collapse or structural failure (e.g., bridge failures, sinkholes, major pavement blowouts, or undermined roadbeds).
    iii. Mitigation of immediate safety hazards (including but not limited to large potholes creating imminent danger, fallen trees or debris blocking travel lanes, hazardous debris on roadways, unstable slopes, exposed utilities, or other conditions that present a clear and present risk to motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, or emergency responders).
  b. Emergency repairs prioritize rapid assessment, temporary stabilization, debris clearance, and restoration of safe passage to minimize harm, facilitate emergency access, and support community recovery efforts.
  c. May proceed prior to amendment of the Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for Emergency Exceptions, provided:
    i. The Mayor certifies the emergency in writing.
    ii. The City Council ratifies the action at its next regular meeting.
(j) Street Maintenance
  a. The Mayor is authorized to approve all routine street maintenance, included in the city budget as adopted by the City Council, as deemed necessary for the safety of our citizens.
  b. Routine street maintenance encompasses a variety of ongoing activities designed to preserve roadway safety, functionality, and appearance. These include, but are not limited to:
    i. Filling potholes and patching pavement defects.
    ii. Repairing utility cuts and patches.
    iii. Restoring curbs and gutters.
    iv. Maintaining and repairing storm drains and drainage structures.
    v. Repairing or replacing damaged sidewalks.
    vi. Restriping pavement markings and refreshing traffic lines.
    vii. And other routine upkeep tasks as needed to sustain the street network.
  c. The City Council will approve a street maintenance fund in the annual budget for the Mayor to manage special projects as deemed necessary for the good of the community.

**SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and that holding of any provision hereof to be void and invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision which might have been held invalid. This Ordinance repeals any prior Ordinance in conflict therewith.
**SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval and publication as required by law. ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 23rd day of March, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 23rd day of March, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

EDITORIAL

# The first thing I remember isn't that she's gone

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**Publisher's note: Some stories aren't about answers. This is one of them.**

I don't think about her death first. That's what I didn't expect.

It's her smile.

That big, effortless smile that showed up before anything else did. The kind that didn't ask for attention but took it anyway.

And her laugh. The kind that filled a room without trying.

That's what hits me first.

For a second, it feels like she's still here. Like nothing has changed.

And then it all comes crashing in behind it.

There's a house I pass sometimes, and I've started to dread that stretch of road more than I want to admit. Because every time I drive by, it's the same thing.

Her smile. Her laugh.

Then the weight.

It doesn't ease in. It doesn't give me time to prepare.

It just hits.

There's a physical kind of grief that people don't talk about enough. The kind that makes your chest tighten, your stomach turn, your hands feel like they don't belong to you for a moment.

That's what it feels like.

And it doesn't get easier just because I understand it.

I told myself I walked away because I was hurt. And I was.

There were things I couldn't carry anymore. Things that sat heavy enough that distance felt like the only way to breathe.

So I created space.

What I didn't know was that sometimes space doesn't stay temporary.

Sometimes it becomes permanent.

And there's no way to go back and fix what you thought you had time to fix.

That's the part that stays with me.

Not because I think I could have changed what happened. Not because I had any control over how her story ended.

But because I left without knowing it was the last version of us I would ever get.

I think about her children.

I think about the kind of loss that doesn't just echo, it reshapes everything.

And it breaks something in me every time.

There's a guilt that lives in quiet places. It doesn't scream. It doesn't demand attention.

It just stays.

A constant weight that shows up in the middle of ordinary moments.

I've tried to move forward.

I've sat across from someone else, had the conversations, gone through the motions of what moving on is supposed to look like.

And it felt like nothing.

Not because they did anything wrong. But because a part of me is still somewhere else.

Still standing in a place that no longer exists, trying to make sense of something that doesn't have an answer.

I'm starting to understand that cutting people out of your life isn't always simple.

Sometimes it's necessary. Sometimes it's the only way to protect yourself.

But it doesn't come without consequence.

It doesn't mean you stop caring. It doesn't mean the story just ends clean.

Sometimes it means you carry both things at once.

The truth that you needed to leave. And the weight of never getting to come back.

I don't have a clean ending for this.

I don't have a lesson tied up in a bow.

I just know this though; the first thing I remember isn't that she's gone. It's that she was here.

And maybe, for now, that has to be enough.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# I strongly encourage support for House Bill 389

**Dr. Edward L. Potter, Ph.D.**
Contributor

**To the Editor,**

Domestic violence is not a distant issue – it is a daily reality in our community. I see firsthand the impact this has on individuals and families across our county.

Law enforcement in Cullman County responds to domestic-related calls regularly, many involving repeat offenders and escalating violence. One of the most dangerous moments for a victim is immediately after an offender is released from custody. We have seen cases where victims are re-assaulted within hours or days of that release. This is not hypothetical – it is happening here.

House Bill 389 addresses this exact problem. By strengthening bond conditions and allowing for temporary holding periods, this legislation targets the highest-risk window where retaliation and serious harm are most likely to occur.

This is not about being overly punitive. It is about being realistic and protecting victims during the most dangerous phase of these cases. Right now, gaps in the system allow individuals with a history of violence to return to the same environment without adequate safeguards. The result is repeat victimization and, in some cases, preventable tragedy.

Cullman County has limited resources for victims, including only one primary domestic violence shelter. We cannot afford to rely on services alone while leaving critical gaps in protection.

House Bill 389 is a necessary step forward. It strengthens accountability, prioritizes victim safety and gives law enforcement and the courts the tools needed to reduce repeat violence.

This issue affects our neighbors, our families and our community. I strongly encourage support for House Bill 389.

**Dr. Edward L. Potter, Ph.D.**

# Obituary Announcements: April 2-3

**Belinda Ann McClure, 70**
Belinda Ann McClure, age 70 of Cullman, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Folsom Center. She was born March 11, 1956, to Caris Theo Weeks and Iva Clarisse Totman Weeks. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Timmy Weeks & Tommy Weeks and sister, Vicky Parker. Survivors include her daughter, Michelle Terry (Ross); children, Shea Merriman, Shawn Cross, Dawn Cross (Steve); grandchildren, Trevor West (Tabitha), Annie McDonald, Levi McDonald, Christy McDonald, Meri-Katherine Tolbert, Lizzy Tolbert, Cheyenne Copeland, Brittany Chavis (Kevin), Chelsey Falcione, Caleb Falcione (Kylie) and Aaliyah Thrasher (Nathan); 17 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

**Virginia Annette Woods, 84**
Virginia Annette Woods, age 84 of Vinemont, passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at her residence. She was born, Oct. 2, 1941, to Henry and Mary Phillips. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ed Woods; and daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Jim Hutchens. Survivors include her daughters, Carol (Jerry) Wren, Teresa Woods; granddaughter, Christy (Jamie) Sharpston; great grandsons, Dustin (Layla) McGraw, Dakota (Shyanne) McGraw; great granddaughter, Breanna White; great great grandchildren, Lynlee and Zaylie McGraw and Wren McGraw; sister, Marie Bell; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

**Lila Darlene Hale, 88**
Lila Darlene Hale, 88, was born July 3, 1937, in Cullman, Alabama, and passed away March 31, 2026. A beloved, gentle, kind-hearted and adventurous woman, she will be remembered with deep respect and enduring affection by all who knew her. Darlene earned an associates degree and carried that steady commitment to family and life wherever the years led. She lived on many different Air Force bases including bases in Arizona, Japan, California, Germany and New Mexico when Maurice served in the Air Force, embracing each season of change with grace and strength. Flowers and travel brought Lila particular joy. She found beauty in the world around her—whether in a garden in bloom or along the road to somewhere new—and shared that joy in a way that made others feel welcomed and cared for. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama, on April 4, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. A Celebration of life Funeral Service will follow at 2 p.m. Darlene is survived by her husband, James Maurice Hale; her daughter, Sonya Hale; her son, Kent Hale; her sisters, Gail Hale(Larry), Bonnie Heaven(David) and Anita Evatt(Robbie); and her brothers, Joe Montgomery(Nell), Charlie Montgomery(Elaine), Glenn Montgomery(Debbie),Gary Montgomery(Jane), Cary Montgomery(Anisa) and Mark Montgomery(Inna). A host of Nieces and Nephews. Darlene was preceded in death by her son, Jeffery Allen Hale, her sister, Reba Marlene Bradford and her parents, Joseph Horace and Clara Belle Cole Montgomery In-leu-of Flowers please make donations to St. Jude's hospital or Mt. Zion Church general fund.

**Tommy Michael Holloway, 77**
Tommy Michael Holloway, 77, of Oneonta, Alabama, was born on June 16, 1948, and passed away on March 31, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. He was a graduate of Minor High School and the University of Montevallo. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and was an active member of Lester Memorial Methodist Church in Oneonta for 25 years. He retired from U.S. Steel in 2000 after a long career. Tommy's journey on this earth was marked by his love to laugh, compassion and kindness to everyone he encountered and his faith in God. He served on the Blount County Children's Advocacy Center board of directors for eight years to help others less fortunate. Tommy was an avid golfer and fisherman especially around the Limestone Springs neighborhood. Tommy is survived by his loving wife, Brenda Moody Holloway; four children, Heidi Holloway of Jasper, Kimberly Manning of Kimberly, Andrew Michael Holloway of Jasper, and Christopher Ormond of Kimberly; Grandchildren, Hannah Holloway, Tyler Mulford (Eme), Baylee Mulford, Carter Ormond, and Collier Ormond; Great Grandchildren, Xander Holloway, Charlee Shores, Emmett Shores, and Tate Mulford; and his Brothers, Terry Holloway (Susan), and Steve Holloway (Faith Ann). Tommy was preceded in death by his father, J. T. Holloway Jr; mothers, Rosalie Holloway, and Imogene Holloway; and his sister, Dorothy Ann Holloway. The family will receive friends in the Chapel of Hanceville Funeral Home at 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., on Saturday, April 4th, with the funeral service following at 11 a.m. Burial will follow the service at Union Hill Cemetery, Hanceville, Alabama.

**Beverly Joan Moss, 79**
Funeral service for Beverly Joan Moss, 79, of Cullman will be at 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Daystar Church, Pastor Jerry Lawson officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 2-3 p.m. prior to the service. Interment will follow at Good Hope Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Moss passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2026. She was born Sept. 29, 1946, to Curtis and Wilma Christine Pugh King. She was a member of Daystar Church. She loved to shop. Joan had a gift of hospitality and loved being able to help someone. She loved cooking and enjoyed cooking for the military group, football teams, etc. She didn't meet a stranger and she will certainly be missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harvey Wilson Moss; her brothers and sisters. Those left to cherish her memory are her sons, Chris (Carmen) Moss, Keith Moss, Kevin (Sandra) Moss; brothers, Larry King, Gary Wayne King; sisters, Melody (Tony) Weaver, Kathy Johnson, Janet Wallis; grandchildren, Daniel (Ally) Moss, Victoria (Charlie) Johnson, Savannah Moss, Emily Moss; great-grandchildren, Lukas Moss, Nicholas Johnson; special friend, Randy Gunter; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

**Mary Louisa Bryan, 77**
Mary Louisa Bryan, 77, of Cullman passed away Friday, April 3, 2026, at her residence. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Bryan was born April 14, 1948, to Juan L. and Estephania Pena Flores. She was a great wife, mother, grandmother and friend. The family desires you to remember her as she was before her illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother and sister. Those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 57 years, Don Bryan; son, Perry Don Bryan, Jr.; daughter, Stephanie I. Bryan (fiance' Shannon 'Bubba' Pate); sister, Sharron Marie Colwell; grandchildren, Cody Tyler Bartik, Christian James Bryan, Alex Van Bryan, Michael Don Bryan; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

# The ultimate sacrificial gift

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



Larry was an unusual sort. In fact, to even say such would be like saying that Babe Ruth was a baseball player. Everybody who knew Larry already knew that. He was a good man; but honestly, he could be quite difficult.

Larry was not a member of our church, but he attended more than many who were. In fact, I had been at the church for some time before I realized that Larry was not a member. He was there almost every Sunday, as well as Wednesday evenings. He often said that the fact that we served a pretty good meal on Wednesdays evenings didn't hurt any. He loved to ask difficult questions, especially during the Wednesday Bible study.

I asked Larry why he had never become a member. His reply was, "Why should I? I get all the benefits of being a member without being a member.

Besides that, if I become a member, I would have to give up my parking space." Although Larry had been attending for years, he still parked in one of the designated guest spaces.

He went on to say, "The best parking spaces, closest to the main doors, are for the handicapped and visitors. If I became a member, I would no longer be a visitor and since I am not handicapped, I would have to give up my good parking space."

Eventually though, Larry did become a member, but he still continued to park in a guest parking space. I asked him about it once and he said, "Oh, now I only park in one of those if there is no one else parked in it."

Sometime later, Larry was able to legally move over to one of the handicapped spaces. That was because he developed breathing problems and couldn't walk very far without gasping for breath. His doctor discovered that not only were his lungs bad, but that his heart was, too.

Eventually, Larry came to the point where his only hope of survival was to have a transplant...three transplants, actually.

At that time, heart/lung transplants had only been performed for around 20 years. Even still today, only around 100 are performed annually. One of the largest obstacles is finding a compatible donor.

Eventually, a matching donor for Larry was found, and he went to Houston for the surgery. Afterward, he said to me, "I am so thankful to God, but at the same time I feel guilty. I realize that someone had to die in order for me live."

The truth is that Larry's donor did die, but he did not choose to die in order to become an organ donor.

He chose to donate his organs whenever or however the time of his death might come. You and I may have possibly made that same decision and registered ourselves to be an organ donor. It has been said that organ donation is the gift that keeps on giving even after we are gone.

This week we celebrate the life of an individual who gave his life so that others might live. He did more than donate his organs to someone else. He gave his total being for us all. Jesus chose to give his life, so we might have life eternally.

This Friday, we pause to remember His death on the cross. Through faith we become a match to receive his gift. On Sunday, we will celebrate His resurrection.

Thank you to all who have donated organs so others might live. Thank you to Jesus Christ, who gave his all that we all might live forever. Happy Easter!

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

HISTORY

# Files from Yesteryear: April 4, 1963

**From the files of April 4, 1963**

**HANCEVILLE NEWS**
Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Harris and J. W. Davis spent the past Sunday in Mississippi visiting Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown who entertained with a dinner honoring Mr. Davis on his birthday.

George Clapp was the Thursday guest of Mrs. Lillie Clapp and Mrs. Lola Holland in Blountsville.

O. H. Compton is ill in the Cullman Hospital.

Mrs. John Graves is spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Garner in Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Clapp and Kitty spent Sunday in Tuscaloosa visiting Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Freeman.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lewis and little son of Birmingham spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Gray.

Mrs. Aurelia McCabe was dismissed from the Cullman Hospital on Friday and will spend several days with her daughter, Mrs. W. O. Hogan in Birmingham.

Kathy Thomas, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Thomas, has been ill this week with mumps.

After a visit to New Orleans Ann Hartwig of Birmingham is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hartwig.

Earl Clark remains ill in the Cullman Hospital.

**BRICKYARD NEWS**
Mrs. Emma Walker spent Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. Arvol Walker.

Mrs. Ida McGraw, Mrs. Tennie Blackmon, Newton Nix and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Crider attended the singing at Oneonta Sunday.

Mrs. Lela Crider spent Saturday with her sister, Mrs. Maidel Tilley.

Mrs. Emma Walker and Mrs. Mollie White are leaving for Indiana Thursday to visit their children.

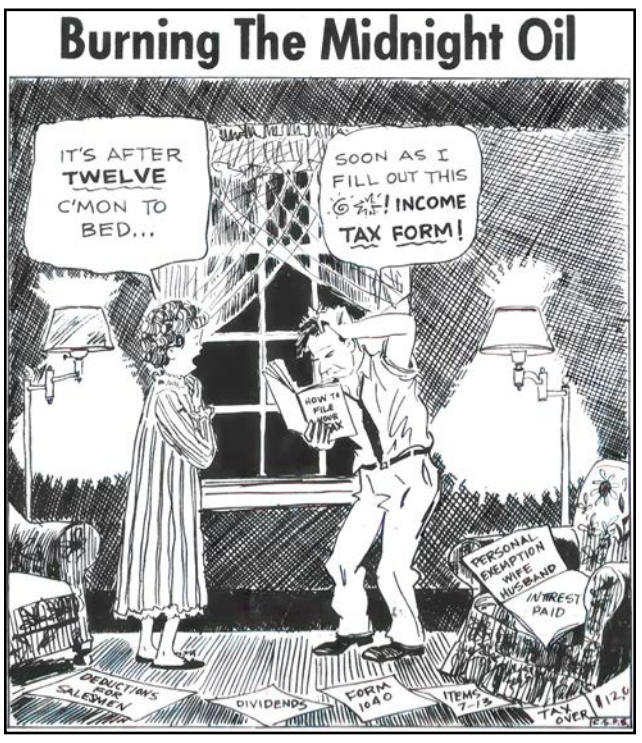
Mrs. Lela Crider is spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Blackmon and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Crider spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Horton.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillard Stricklin visited Mr. and Mrs. Horton Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Crider spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Enis Wall in Gadsden.

**ARKADELPHIA NEWS**
**By Mrs. Bea Crauswell**
The Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. J. T. Helton. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Helton. For devotion Mrs. Grady Sawyer read the 101 Psalm. Prayer was by Mrs. Exie Baty. Mrs. Tillery gave an interesting demonstration on Selecting Fabrics. Refreshments were served to Mesdames Doris McPherson, Ora Lee Trimble, Ethel Dean, Willie Freeman, Bea Crauswell, Exie Baty, Pauline Hawkins, Corvette Sawyer and Mrs. Tillery. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Pauline Hawkins.




Visiting the Jessie Crauswells Sunday afternoon were Buel Hawkins, Glenn and Buddy of Jemison; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hawkins and Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Curt Crauswell of Partridge Cross Roads.

The J. T. Trimbles have sold their home here and are visiting in the community before leaving for Texas, where they will make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fell have bought the J. T. Trimble home.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Hawkins, Benny and Gwen of Huntsville, were Sunday guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hawkins.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Trimble and "Aunt" Caldonia Hawkins were Sunday dinner guests of the O. O. Collins.

Jackie Collins preached at the Methodist Church Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillard Jackson and children of Birmingham, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Jackson, Saturday.

# POET'S CORNER

## He is Alive

By: Randy C. Hale

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



They drove the nails, His sacrifice.
He cried, It's finished, and then He died.

Wrapped in linen, His body still.
Laid in the tomb, the stone was sealed.

Then early morn, on that third day.
The stone was moved and rolled away.

He lives! He lives! Let us proclaim!
That Jesus did not die in vain.

Though in the grave three days he lay.
Triumphant now, His body raised.

Declare the anthem of Christ the King.
Alive! Alive! Let praises ring.

# CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 4

S O L A R P O W E R F U E L C E L L S
O I L P R I C E B I O M A S S O E C H
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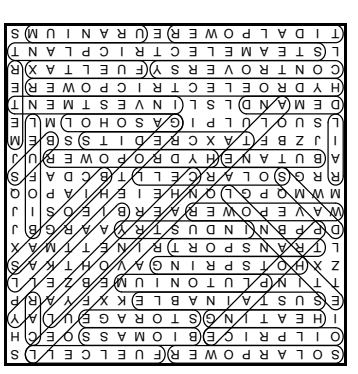
**Alternative Fuel**
**Battery**
**Biofuel**
**Biogas**
**Biomass**
**Bus**
**Butane**
**Car**
**Chernobyl**
**Controversy**
**Dams**
**Demand**
**Ethanol**
**Fuel Cell**
**Fuel Tax**
**Gasohol**
**Geothermal**
**Heating**
**Hot Spring**
**Hydroelectric Power**
**Hydropower**
**Industry**
**Investment**
**Meter**
**Oil Price**
**Plutonium**
**Propane**
**Rail**
**Solar Cell**
**Solar Power**
**Steam Electric Plant**
**Storage**
**Sustainable**
**Tax Credits**
**Tidal Power**
**Transport**
**Uranium**
**Wave Power**

# CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

APRIL 4

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**ANSWERS:**

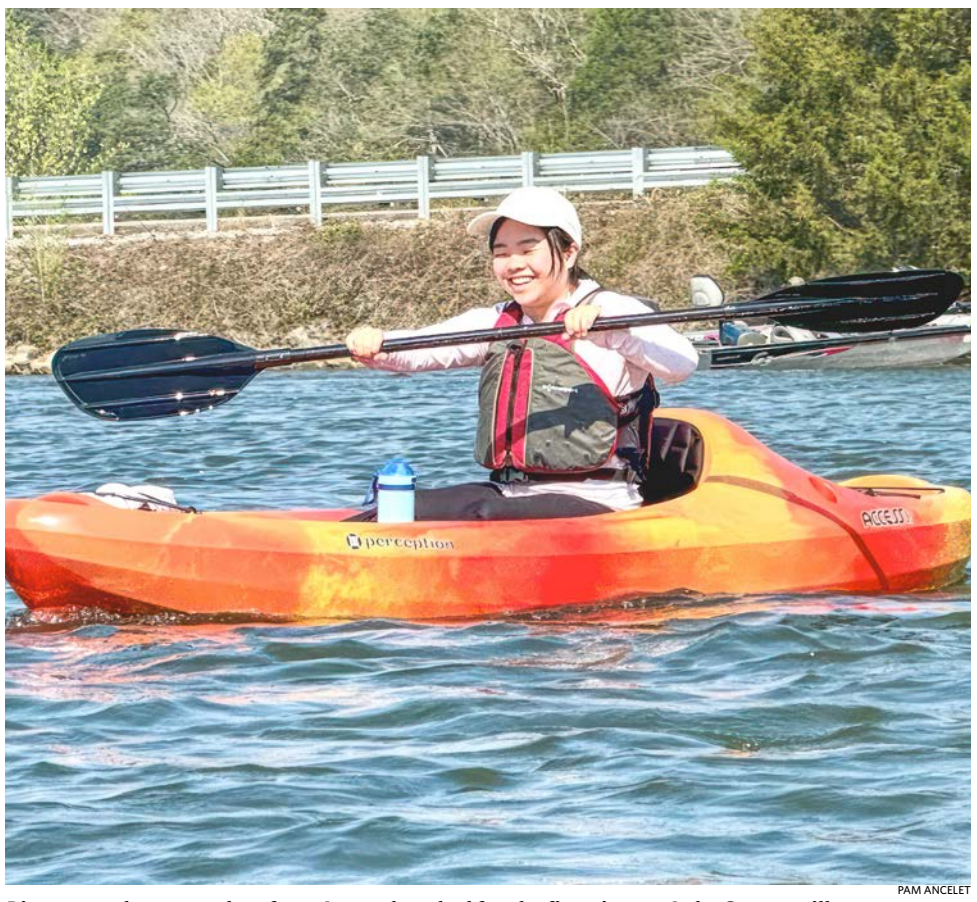


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PAM ANCELET

*Adriana, an exchange student from Spain, enjoyed a visit to Unclaimed Baggage in Scottsboro.*




PAM ANCELET

*Rina, an exchange student from Japan, kayaked for the first time on Lake Guntersville.*

# Students (from Front)

cations, interviews and background checks before being accepted," she said. "We begin planning their travel and placements well before the school year ends."

Hosting an exchange student involves welcoming them into the family. Families must provide a bedroom and meals, while students will participate in daily routines, including chores, school activities and community events.

"They become part of your household just like your own children," Ancelet explained. "They also come with their own spending money and medical insurance, so families are not responsible for those expenses."

Ancelet has hosted 23 students since 2005, and said the relationships formed through the program can last a lifetime.

"I still talk to my very first student regularly. I've attended a former student's wedding in Colombia, and now some of my students have children of their own. I like to say I'm a foreign grandmother."

She added that hosting has also created opportunities for her own family to travel and build international connections.

For families who may be unsure, Ancelet emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive and open mindset.

"Teenagers are teenagers no matter where they're from, so there can be challenges. But coordinators are there every step of the way. We check in regularly and offer activities for students and families to connect," she said.

Local coordinators also organize events throughout the year, such as seasonal gatherings, to help students experience American traditions and meet others in the program.

Families interested in hosting or learning more can contact Ancelet at 256-302-2422 or visit www.efexchangeyear.org.







