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PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
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WEATHER

73 47
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

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James Doss sentenced to 325 years in sex crimes against children case

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman County man on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, was sentenced to 325 years in prison by Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Emily Niezer Johnston. James Michael Doss, 67, earlier this year entered a blind plea of guilty to 12 charges stemming from his initial 2020 arrest.

According Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, Doss entered a blind plea of guilty back in February to two counts of first-degree sodomy, one count of production of child pornography, two counts of sexual abuse of a child under 12 and seven counts of possession of child pornography.

Doss was sen- » PAGE 7



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James Michael Doss in 2020

East Elementary's Lacy Cameron named Alabama Teacher of the Year 'Sweet 16' finalist

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — East Elementary Fifth-Grade Teacher Lacy Cameron has been named one of 16 finalists (commonly known as the "Sweet 16") for the prestigious 2026–2027 Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Exemplary teachers inspire students to reach their full potential by instilling in them a desire to become lifelong learners. Alabama's teachers serve as the foundation for educational excellence at both the state and national levels, and this year's finalists represent the very best of the profession.

Selected from a highly competitive pool of more than 155 outstanding educators across the state, the 16 finalists exemplify excellence in teaching and learning in their classrooms and communities. The Alabama Teacher of the Year program remains one of the state's oldest and most respected honors in education.

Cameron began her career at East Elementary School in 2005 and has dedicated her career to teaching elementary mathematics. Throughout her tenure, she has played a pivotal role in achieving some of the highest elementary math scores in Alabama, serving as a cornerstone of academic success within Cullman City Schools.

Currently a fifth-grade math teacher, Cameron is known for uplifting her students, supporting families and collaborating with colleagues to foster a positive and high-performing learning environment.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Lacy Cameron

"This recognition is a testament to Mrs. Cameron's unwavering commitment to excellence," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "As a superintendent and as a parent, I have seen firsthand the impact Mrs. Cameron has on our students, our school system and our community. I could not think of a more deserving person to receive this level of recognition."

Cameron now advances in the selection process for Alabama Teacher of the Year. All 16 finalists will be honored at a statewide reception in Montgomery in mid-May.

This marks the third time in the past five years that Cullman City Schools has had a representative named to the Alabama Teacher of the Year "Sweet 16."

Cullman City Schools congratulates Cameron on this outstanding achievement and wishes her continued success as she represents the system and community at the state level.

Cullman Regional Foundation Gala XXV coming April 25 » PAGE 8

Holly Pond distributes funds to area schools



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

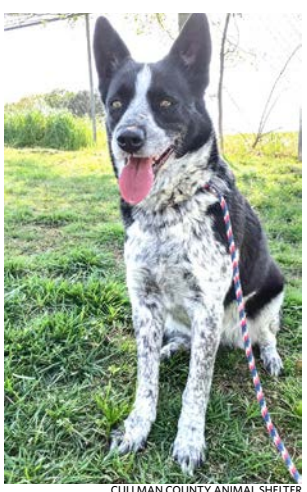
Holly Pond High School Principal Nate Ayers, Holly Pond Middle School Principal Danny Weaver and Holly Pond Elementary School Principal Karen Sparks are seen with the Holly Pond Town Council on April 6, 2026. » PAGE 5

Cullman City Planning Commission notes: April 7 » PAGE 4

Hoop Shoot Champs recognized at Cullman City Council meeting » PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Cookie!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Cookie » PAGE 3



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 8, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 6

• burglary-3rd degree, criminal mischief-3rd degree; Cullman Park & Rec; McNabb Dr. SW; damaged property

• theft of property-4th degree; Shoe Show; Marktplatz Ctr. SW; shoes; $60

• theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $358

• domestic violence-criminal trespass-3rd degree; person; Nunnelley Ave. SW

April 7

• domestic violence-2nd degree; criminal mischief-1st degree; 10 St. SE; damaged property; $4,350

• criminal mischief-3rd degree; City of Cullman; 2nd Ave SW; damaged property-2nd degree

ARRESTS

April 6-7

Marshall, Shea M.; 46
• expired tag

Murphy, Bama S.; 41
• organized retail theft

Williams, Shayla C.; 31
• FTA- theft of property-4th degree
• FTA- leaving scene of accident

Hall, James G.; 54
• theft of property-4th degree
• criminal trespass-2nd degree

Wolford, Ayla E.; 33
• FTA- theft of property-4th degree
• FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Seals, Sharon D.; 52
• FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Stricklin Jr., Emil W.; 59
• FTA- no seat belt

Santiz, Romelia L.; 35
• theft of property-4th degree

Bevington, Ronald E.; 57
• criminal trespass-3rd degree

Walker, Travis R.; 27
• FTA- no tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Friday, April 10 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, April 12 – 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. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

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 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!

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Spring Revival
Through Friday, April 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.

Cookie (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cookie is an Australian Shepherd mix with a calm personality, a love for simple moments and a quiet need for reassurance. She's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

Estimated to be around 5-6 years old, she has a medium energy level and does well on a leash. Cookie enjoys being brushed and settles easily into a relaxed pace, making her a comfortable companion both at home and on the go.

What sets Cookie apart is how closely she connects with people. Shelter staff said she often stays near when she's out in the yard, especially if someone sits down nearby. She will come over, lean in and quietly snuggle beside you.

"She just wants to know she's a good girl," a volunteer shared. "When you tell her that, you can see her confidence start to come back."

Because of her temperament, Cookie would be well suited as a therapy companion, a steady hiking partner or a loyal everyday friend. She has the kind of balanced personality that adapts easily to different lifestyles.

Cookie is already spayed, so her adoption fee is only $35.

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

If Cookie has already been adopted, many other dogs and cats are still available at the shelter, each waiting for a second chance.

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- Submit completed paperwork for consideration

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Sammy Confer - JV Sports Editor
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Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

PREP SOFTBALL

Benefield's one-hitter gives Good Hope their third straight County Tournament title in 3-0 win over West Point

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — On Tuesday afternoon at the Vinemont Sports Complex, fifth-seeded Good Hope met sixth-seed West Point in the 2026 Cullman County Tournament championship game. The Lady Raiders and Lady Warriors, who faced off in last year's title game, gave fans a show and sent their aces out to start, with Molly Benefield and Kara Jones going head-to-head.

On the way to throwing a complete game one-hitter with eight strikeouts, Benefield was the recipient of three runs to support her outing and eventually seal a 3-0 county championship win, Good Hope's third straight.

A sign of things to come, the game started off with Benefield going three up, three down including a strikeout of West Point's Alissa Stephenson. While Lizzie Steed knocked a ball into the outfield to lead off the game for Good Hope, Jones went on to earn three straight outs to keep the Raiders off the board.

In the title game of a tournament dominated by pitching, this game followed suit. It took until the bottom of the third for a team to threaten to score, with Good Hope getting three straight singles from Steed, Kylee Smith and Campbell Koch to load the bases. While keeping the Warriors off the plate on defense, Benefield gave herself some breathing room and opened scoring with a sac-fly that scored Steed. The next batter, Carlee Trammell, drove in another with an infield single to make it a 2-0 Lady Raider lead.

After two scoreless frames, Good Hope found momentum again as Steed led off the fifth with another single to left field. After an error and a grounder let her make it to third, Steed touched home plate again on a Smith groundout.

The rest of the game, Benefield and the Raiders played a successful game of keep-away, blanking the Lady Warriors and sealing the victory on a Jones groundout to spark the celebration.

The final stat line for Benefield was 7.0 innings pitched, one hit, zero runs and eight strikeouts. Jones threw for six innings, giving up nine hits and three runs while striking out three Lady Raiders.

Leading Good Hope at the plate was their catcher, Steed, who ended the game 3-3 and scoring two of the Lady Raiders three runs.

Benefield, Steed, Koch, Smith and Trammell were all named to the All-Tournament team. The full list can be found below.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Lizzy Steed (left) and Molly Benefield (right) celebrating the final out of their county championship victory.

2026 ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- Maggie Nail, Holly Pond
- Lilly Adamson, Holly Pond
- Jocelyn Barnett, Fairview
- Kayleigh Hill, Fairview
- Tori Vines, Vinemont
- Bryleigh Basinger, Vinemont
- Peyton Kennedy, Cold Springs
- Kaydance Williams, Cold Springs
- Cheyenne Bishop, Cold Springs
- Isabella Spinks, Hanceville
- Kynzlee Farr, Hanceville
- Makayla Butler, Hanceville
- Kara Jones, West Point
- Bai McSwain, West Point
- Averee Folds, West Point
- Mylee Echols, West Point
- Molly Benefield, Good Hope
- Lizzy Steed, Good Hope
- Campbell Koch, Good Hope
- Kylee Smith, Good Hope
- Carlee Trammell, Good Hope

TENNIS

Bearcats boys and girls take wins over Wilson on Senior Night

Nathan Bates
CHS Tennis

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bearcats varsity tennis teams earned impressive victories over the Wilson Warriors on Tuesday while also celebrating Senior Night. Seniors Kassie Privett and Allie Krigbaum, both four-year starters, were honored for their dedication to the program.

On the court, the Bearcats delivered strong performances, with the boys team winning 6-3 and the Lady Bearcats securing a 7-2 victory. With these wins, both teams improved to 14-2 on the season.

Cullman will return to action today against Muscle Shoals before closing out the regular season Saturday at Pell City.



NATHAN BATES

Cullman girls tennis team after their win

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Scores and stats for April 7

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

BASEBALL

- Addison 18, Meek 6 – Batting: J. Williams 2-5 (3B), 2 RBI Pitching: S. Talley 3.0 IP, 0 H, 1 ER, 4 K, W
- Addison 16, Meek 6 – Batting: T. Thompson 1-2 (HR), 2 RBI Pitching: B. Lake 2.1 IP, 1 H, 1 ER, 3 K, W
- Cold Springs 14, Winston Co. 3 – Batting: B. Archer 1-3, 3 RBI Pitching: A. Black 5.0 IP, 4 H, 1 ER, 8 K, W
- Cullman 7, Jasper 0 – Batting: T. Brock 1-3 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: J. Weathersby 5.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 9 K, W
- Fairview 9, Guntersville 0 – Batting: C. Cullen 1-2 (HR), 3 RBI Pitching: H. Barron 7.0 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, 6 K, W
- Priceville 8, West Point 6 – Batting: C. Ashley 4-4 (2B, 3B), 4 RBI Pitching: D. Crow 4.0 IP, 3 ER, 2 K

SOFTBALL

- Meek 12, Addison 2 – Batting: J. Williams 2-3 (2B), 4 RBI Pitching: S. Farley 5.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 8 K, W
- Cullman 13, Muscle Shoals 3 – Batting: H. Graham 2-4 (2B, HR), 4 RBI Pitching: D. Bates 6.0 IP, 3 ER, 2 K, W

CULLMAN CO. SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS

- (6) West Point 11, (7) Cold Springs 4 – Batting: L. Windham 3-4 (2B), 2 RBI Pitching: Z. Love 7.0 IP, 3 ER, 8 K, W
- (5) Good Hope 2, (1) Hanceville 1 – Batting: C. Trammell 1-3, 2 RBI Pitching: M. Benefield 7.0 IP, 4 H, 0 ER, 14 K, W

CULLMAN CO. SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

- (5) Good Hope 3, (6) West Point 0 – Batting: L. Steed 3-3 (2B) Pitching: M. Benefield 7.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER, 8 K, W

Commission (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The City of Cullman Planning Commission met at the city hall auditorium on April 7.

The commission held a public hearing regarding two subdivisions in progress. First on the agenda was Iron Hills at Cross Creek. This subdivision is located along County Road 490 off Gold Course Road Southwest.

A letter from David Hayes, president of St. John & Associates on behalf of Unconquered Homes requested preliminary plat review and comment for the commission for the following side development plans for Iron Hills subdivision: drainage design calculation and list of adjacent property owners.

No one spoke in opposition to the preliminary subdivision and the hearing was closed.

There was a short form request letter from Hayes about the Noble Ridge subdivision for Lots 2, 3A and 6. Short form subdivisions are a legal process for dividing parcels of land into smaller numbers of new lots without public hearings.

Hayes advised the audience, "Lot 3A is the largest parcel. This is going to become two parcels - Lot 3A and 3B."

He said Lot 6 will remain as it is, but work is being done to the area. Though Lot 2 will entertain a second parcel, Lot 2A, which will be an estate lot for residential use.

There were no oppositions regarding the Noble Ridge subdivision and the hearing was closed.

Moving on to additional subdivisions, the first item on the agenda regarding the final plat for Maple Grove subdivision was withdrawn. Kenneth White sent a letter to the commission to move the plat request to the upcoming planning agenda on May 5.

The commission redressed the preliminary subdivision of Iron Hills at Cross Creek. There were no issues regarding the water department.

Sanitation advised that the road looks to be 27 feet wide and stressed no vehicles must park along the road and the Dumpsters during construction as to not impede the flow of traffic.

Cullman Electric Cooperative advised it is within its line extension policy.

The engineering department stated the erosion and sediment control plan was submitted and appears adequate. Including HOA drainage easement was appropriately noted.

The building department reported that the lots meet the minimum requirements for this R1 zoning district. Through the zoning board front and rear setbacks have adjusted to 30 feet per variance.

St. John & Associates, on behalf of N31, submitted a request for approval for Noble Ridge final subdivision plat Phase 1B.

There were no issues with the water department, sewer or Cullman Electric Cooperative. This parcel isn't within the Co-Op service territory.

It was noted that existing TVA transmission lines are on the property though all existing easement restrictions are to be abided by. TVA approval is needed for any structural encroachments on their right of way.

Engineering certification has been submitted for drainage structures. As of March 24, 2026, all storm curb and gutters have been installed and inspected.

Michael Sullins advised that the pads needing to be built need to be approved by the building department before requesting build permits.

Moving to the short form subdivision request of Lot 2, 3A and 6 of Noble Ridge.

"Basically this is making an inaccessible section of the subdivision accessible for a home, correct?" Sullins asked.

Hayes replied, "That's correct."

The planning commission addressed Josh Donnell's proposed site plan and among other department notes, they reiterated that the entrance drive needs to be precisely 25 feet. This was proven adequate by the building department.

The next meeting for the City of Cullman Planning Commission will be held on May 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the city hall auditorium.







CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

First-grade students of Cullman City Primary School recently took the stage in a vibrant performance of "The Day the Crayons Quit."

First graders shine in 'The Day the Crayons Quit' musical at CCPS

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — First-grade students of Cullman City Primary School recently took the stage in a vibrant performance of "The Day the Crayons Quit" — a celebration of creativity, confidence and self-expression.

The show is based on the beloved book by Drew Daywalt, and the students delivered a colorful and engaging performance through storytelling, songs, playing instruments and creative movement that kept the audience smiling from beginning to end.

A special highlight of the show was a guest appearance by Tim Clemmons during the green crayon song, where he led the beloved "Frog Song" — a cherished favorite sung for generations among Cullman City Schools alumni.

"At CCPS, we love incorporating literature into our fine arts classes, and we were thrilled for our students to have the opportunity to bring a book to life," CCPS Music Teacher Mary Lauren Samplaski said.

"The performance showcased not only their musical and theatrical talents, but also the confidence and communication skills they've been building all year. It thrills my heart to see students discover how they can shine, especially those who may not always be in the spotlight, and to see them step out in courage, try something new and push through their fears to grow in confidence."

Alabama Extension challenges residents to move more this month

Mary Wilson
Alabama Cooperative Extension

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — With warmer temperatures and more sunlight in the evenings, spring is the perfect time to get up, get out and move more. That's why Move Alabama — A Community Physical Activity Challenge runs throughout the month of April.

Move Alabama is a social marketing campaign of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, also called EFNEP. As EFNEP state coordinator and a specialist with Alabama Extension at Auburn University, Erin Reznicek oversees the campaign.

"Movement has incredible benefits for our mental and physical well-being," Reznicek said. "To experience those benefits, it just takes making one little tweak. That could be as easy as scheduling a 10 minute walk every day. You could walk first thing in the morning to get your body moving, awake and energized, or plan to walk during breaks at work."

The Move Alabama campaign also encourages participation in local activities offered through county Extension offices and provides resources for movement inspiration.

Joining the challenge

All it takes to participate in Move Alabama — A Community Physical Activity Challenge is a personal commitment to move more. However, participants can receive regular exercise and nutrition tips throughout April by joining the Move Alabama Facebook group and signing up for a text messaging service.

"Anyone can join the Facebook group and post about ways they're moving more in their communities, which encourages others," Reznicek said. "To join the text message group, all you have to do is text MoveAL to 833-545-0693. Once you do that, you'll receive three texts a week that provide encouragement and education."

Additionally, county Extension offices will host pop-up challenges. Optional activities range from active Easter egg hunts and garden work days to scavenger hunts and group walks at local parks. Challenge participants should call county Extension offices for details about upcoming Move Alabama events.

"Another hope for this challenge is that it gets people out in their communities to places they may not have been before," Reznicek said. "Try to find a park that's close to your work or home. Go there, and see what it's like to walk around."

Additional movement motivation

Reznicek encouraged Move Alabama participants to use the official flyer for additional inspiration.

"You can find this flyer in all of our county Extension offices, and it's also available in the Facebook group," Reznicek said. "Our hope is that participants will use the checklist on the back page as they do each item."

Tasks listed fall into categories including Take a Walk, Build Strength, Move More and Make These Simple Changes.

Suggestions include setting up an obstacle course with family or friends, finding and completing a stretch routine, walking around a local downtown and taking the stairs instead of an elevator.

Challenge conclusion

At the end of April, challenge winners will be selected from a list of survey respondents. The survey will be shared in the Facebook group, through text messages and during local events. Winners will receive a certificate and items that help them achieve the long-term goal of moving more.

Although prizes are involved, Reznicek said she hopes the true payoff of the challenge will be healthier people and communities.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

"When people develop the habit of adding movement to their days, their quality of life greatly increases," Reznicek said. "I hope people learn to love finding those opportunities for movement. The more people engage in challenges like this one, the better Alabama will be."

For more nutrition tips and exercise tricks, visit aces.edu.

Holly Pond (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Town Council at its April 6 meeting distributed funds to local schools and held a public hearing about vacating roads.

With increased funding of $15,000 to distribute among Holly Pond schools, Mayor Carla Hart expressed the importance of having the elementary, middle and high school budgets be fairly distributed. Each school was presented $5,000. On-hand to receive the checks were Holly Pond High School Principal Nate Ayers, Holly Pond Middle School Principal Danny Weaver and Holly Pond Elementary School Principal Karen Sparks.

A public hearing was held regarding vacating roads. Hart presented Ordinance 260406. The council said certified letters were sent out to property owners with adjoining property to Dodson subdivision regarding the public hearing taking place. A notice about the hearing was posted in the library, post office and town hall display case on March 3, 2026.

Hart told those in attendance, "This area was initially to be a subdivision."

Councilman Eli Howard motioned to wave the second reading of the ordinance and Carr seconded.

Howard motioned to approve the ordinance as-is. This vacates portions of Dodson, Taylor and Olive Streets due to petition by property owners that own block one and two of the subdivision. Councilwoman Deborah Holcomb seconded, and the ordinance was passed.

Councilman Dwight Kidd said work at Governor's Park is finished and the picnic tables would ideally be ordered on April 6. The council discussed having concrete slabs poured for these tables to sit upon and, as discussed at the last meeting, decided to go through with that plan.

Holcomb told the council and audience that the fence along Finley Circle has been completed.

About renovations and other additions, Hart asked the council to approve a roughly $1,500 estimate for painting of the concession stand building. This was approved by the council and painting should begin this week.

The council entertained the topic of pickleball courts being added on the old tennis court, though some members of the council said the area is used for parking. Community members in attendance asked if turning a pavilion into the court would be beneficial. The council decided to revisit the topic next month.

The council did come to an agreement for community caution signs to be installed on two streets. A "Slow - Children at Play" sign will be set up on Cemetery Road. A "Deaf Child Area" sign will be added onto Lovers Lane.

The next meeting will have a one-time work session at 5:30 p.m. with the regular meeting beginning at 6 at the Guy Hunt Library conference room on May 4.



LEGALS

2025 Tax Year Delinquent Parcels

In accordance with Title 40, Chapter 10, Code of Ala. 1975 (§40-10-180 through 200), Cullman County Tax Collecting official has authority to auction and sell tax liens on properties for which ad valorem property taxes are delinquent. For the 2025 delinquent property tax, a tax lien auction will take place via an online tax lien auction service, The Zeus Auction Program, on May 5, 2026, beginning at 10:00. To bid in the Cullman County tax lien auction of 2025 ad valorem property taxes, visit https://www.zeusauction.com and follow the instructions to create a bidder account.

Barry Willingham, Revenue Commissioner for The State of Alabama, Cullman County and Municipalities therein.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
ALTON G. JONES,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC 2026-001

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JIMMY DALE JONES as Personal Representative of the Estate of ALTON G. JONES, deceased, on the 7th day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Jimmy Dale Jones
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Petitioner
201 2nd Ave SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-124

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FLORINE PERRY CLARKE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Bobby Gene Spears on the 24th day of March, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Bobby Gene Spears
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-139

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SUE R. EVANS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Brooke Evans Freeman and Drew L. Evans on the 7th day of April, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Brooke Evans Freeman and Drew L. Evans
Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RONALD HANCOCK, DECEASED

CASE NO. PC 2026-116

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF RONALD HANCOCK, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Lois P. Hancock on the 6th day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Lois P. Hancock, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
DENNIS LAMAR DOTY
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC 2026-143

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JOANN RILEY, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DENNIS LAMAR DOTY, deceased, on the 7th day of April, 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.

Joann Riley
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
RAYMOND W. KENNA JR.,
Deceased.

CASE NO. PC2025-439

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Tyler Ray Kenna, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Raymond W. Kenna Jr., deceased, on the 30th day of March, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

DONE this the 30th day of March, 2026.

Tyler Ray Kenna
Personal Representative

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, AL 35056
(256) 739-1962

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
RODGER D.E. PITTS,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2026-107

Case# PC2026-107
PB WIL Book 137 Page 255
Recorded in Above Book and Page
03/25/2026 11:01AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
WJC

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Rodger Dale Pitts, Jr., as Personal Representative of the Estate of RODGER D.E. PITTS, deceased, on the 24th day of March, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Rodger Dale Pitts, Jr.
Personal Representative

Barnes F. Lovelace, Jr.
Attorney for the Petitioner
HARRIS, CADDELL & SHANKS, P.C.
Post Office Box 2688
Decatur, Alabama 35602-2688

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 24th day of March, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by James Israel, an unmarried person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for The Federal Savings Bank, its successors and assigns dated March 31, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on April 5, 2022 in Deed Book 2008, Page 749 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank National Association by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2121, Page 809 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank National Association, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on March 12, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 2, according to the Survey of Cotton Row, as recorded in Map Book B, Page 63A in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as **123 County Road 1407, Cullman, AL 35058**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, will go into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258.

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 25-07966AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
01/29/2026,02/05/2026,02/12/2026,04/09/2026

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until April 23, 2026, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

Cullman Tribune, April 9, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the Cullman County Commission, Cullman County Commission Office, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama, May 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. to receive comment on closing a portion of County Road 270, more particularly described as the following:

From the northern right of way boundary of County Road 260 at the intersection of County Roads 260 and County Road 270, located in Section 2, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, thence go northerly along the existing centerline of County Road 270 approximately 1100 feet to a point on said centerline, being the point of beginning. Thence, from the point of beginning, continue north easterly along existing centerline of County Road 270 approximately 650 feet to the point of ending of the existing County Road 270. Said road vacation to include all right of way, left and right of the above-described centerline from the point of beginning to point of ending. Which abutting property owners wish to vacate and abandon.

Cullman County Commission

Jeff Clemons, Chairman

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

BELINDA A. WALKER,
Plaintiff

vs.

Case Number: **25-DR-2021-900230.01**

EDDIE E. WALKER,
Defendant

NOTICE OF CONTEMPT ACTION

Eddie E. Walker, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Belinda Walker's Petition for Contempt by May 26th, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2021-900230.01 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 24th day of March, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
215 MAIN AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of
Donna E. Maddux,
Deceased

Case No. PC 2026-117

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Lavinia Maddux as Personal Representative of the Estate of Donna E. Maddux, deceased, on the 25th day of March, 20 26, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Lavinia Maddux
Personal Representative
Lavinia Maddux

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

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

TOWN OF BAILEYTON
STATE OF ALABAMA

P.O. Box 116
55 Fire Station Road
Baileyton, Alabama 35019
(256) 796-6447

Mayor: Benny Guthrie
Town Clerk: Lisa Zehr

Baileyton Town Council
Council Place 1 / Mayor Pro Tem – Dewayne Sumner
Council Place 2 – Donna Kent
Council Place 3 – Mark McKelvy
Council Place 4 – Kaleigha Fitch
Council Place 5 – Taran Garrison

B2026-001 COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL COURTS

BID PROPOSAL FOR RESURFACING AND CONVERSION OF TENNIS COURTS TO PICKLEBALL COURTS

Notice is hereby given by the Town of Baileyton that Bid Proposals for

B2026-001 COMMUNITY PICKLEBALL COURTS will be accepted on or before 5:00PM on May 1, 2026, at the Baileyton Town Hall

located at

55 Fire Station Road Baileyton, Al. 35019

Informational

Packets may be obtained by emailing requests to

town.clerk35019@gmail.com or picking one up at the Baileyton Town Hall.

Contact Town Clerk Lisa Zehr with any questions at

(256) 796-6447 Monday - Friday from 8:00AM until 5:00PM.

SECTION 001116
INVITATION TO BID

1.1 BID INFORMATION

A. Project: Scott Drive Sewer Extension
B. Owner: City of Good Hope
C. Engineer: Canyon Engineering, LLC

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Your firm is invited to submit a sealed Bid for the project listed above. Owner will receive Bids at the Good Hope City Hall, located at 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman, Alabama, 35057, until **10:00 AM local time on the 30th day of April 2026**, at which time and place the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids not received by the indicated time will not be opened.

B. Project Description: Construction of approximately 3,500 LF of 8" gravity sewer mains, 24 concrete manholes, one duplex submersible lift station with above ground valves, approximately 2,200 LF of 4" force main, site work, electrical service, and all related items for a complete sewer installation.

C. Owner requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days.

D. Bidding Documents for a Unit Price contract may be obtained from the office of Canyon Engineering, LLC, 1912 Gault Avenue N., Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967. Electronic copies will be a free download to all potential bidders. Paper sets are available upon receipt of a $100.00 non-refundable amount per set.

E. Potential bidders may view the Bid Documents at the office of Canyon Engineering by appointment only.

F. Bidders will be required to provide Bid security according to the requirements in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

G. Refer to other Bidding requirements as described in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

H. Submit your Bid on the Bid Form provided. Bidders are required to submit the bid form, bid bond, and the E-Verify documents at the time of the bid. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the bidder, the bidder's General Contractor's license number, the project name, and bid date. Bidders are asked not to submit the full contract documents and specifications book at the time of the bid.

I. Bidders must carry the Municipal and Utility construction classification as listed in the roster of the Alabama State Licensing Board for General Contractors to be considered for the award of the project.

J. Your Bid will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 calendar days after submission.

K. Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to accept or reject any or all Bids.

Doss (from Front)

tenced to a total of 325 years, to be served consecutively.

At the time of the plea in February 2026, Crocker said in a statement, "This case was first up for trial on March 9. We were ready to go, but Mr. Doss entered a 'blind plea,' which is a guilty plea without a plea agreement.

"I appreciate the hard work of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, specifically, Sheriff Matt Gentry for working directly with me to get this case ready and for being in court with us this morning.

"The victims in this case remained steadfast and strong after suffering unspeakable harm at the hands of Mr. Doss.

"These victims never gave up on justice and neither did we. I look forward to being back in court with them for sentencing."

Doss in 2020 faced two counts of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12, two counts of first-degree sodomy and one count of production of obscene material containing a visual depiction of a child younger than 17.

A media release from the CCSO at the time of Doss' 2020 arrest said investigators conducted a short investigation and it was determined Doss committed the sexual abuse crimes over many years.

"I would like to thank the investigators who worked this case on the great job they did," said Gentry said at the time. "As soon as the victims came forward, they moved swiftly to conduct an investigation, follow up on leads and ultimately make this arrest."

In a statement to The Tribune on April 8, following Doss' sentencing, Crocker said, "No sentence is too harsh for a pedophile. Doss showed zero remorse, and I believe he would re-offend if given the chance. The good news is he won't, because of this 325-year sentence.

"I am so proud of our victims – they are heroes for coming forward and helping us put Doss' reign of terror to an end. I am also very appreciative of the men and women at Cullman County Sheriff's Office, as well as my staff, for giving this case their all."

Due to the graphic nature of the crimes and the crimes involving minors, The Tribune is not reporting specific details of Doss' crimes.

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LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
EDWIN RUSSELL DANIEL,) Case No.: PC-2026-127
)
DECEASED.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to TRACEY HOGELAND, on the 23rd 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.

Tracey Hogeland, Personal Representative
Shelbie G. Hankey, Attorney for the Estate

To the publisher of *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ARTHUR DAVID SHARP, *
Deceased. *
CASE NO.: PC 2026-141

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to LEIGH VERBLE, as Personal Representative of the Estate of ARTHUR DAVID SHARP, deceased, on the 7th day of April, 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.

Leigh Verble
Personal Representative

Amanda Schafner
Attorney for Personal Representative
Schafner Law
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, Alabama 35210

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

Obituary Announcements: April 7-8

John Schafer
Funeral service for John Schafer, age 68, of Vinemont, will be at noon on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Macedonia Baptist Church with Jacob Watts and Chuck Johnston officiating; burial at Macedonia Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Schafer passed away on Sunday, April 5, 2026, at his residence. He was born Aug. 14, 1957, to Fred Schafer and Deloris Daniels Schafer. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Julianna Schafer, Jim Schafer and Ricky Schafer and a stepson, James Floyd. Survivors include his wife, Sandra Schafer; daughter, Katti (Patrick) Mann; sons, Jerred (Crystal) Schafer and Erik (Katlin) Schafer; step-Son, Chris Miller; grandchildren, John-Patrick Mann, Alianna, Maverick, Kolson and Bankston Schafer, One on the way-Simon John Schafer; siblings, Jan (Fuller) Smith, Fred (Cathy) Schafer, Gerald (Donna) Schafer and Nita Schafer. John was a loving husband, father, paw-paw and friend. He owned Schafer Trucking for 40 years before retiring to be a paw-paw.

Joan Dean Hill
Funeral Services for Joan Dean Hill, 88, of Hanceville, will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12, at Hanceville Funeral Home. Bro. Christopher Dotson will be officiating. Visitation will be prior to the service from 2-3 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Joan was born July 30, 1937, to S.A. and Tressie Dean. She graduated from Hanceville High School in 1956. She married the love of her life, Charles Hill, on Jan. 30, 1959. They were married 33 years at the time of his death in 1992. Joan was a loving and devoted wife who cared for her beloved husband during his battle with cancer. "Mawmaw Joan" loved spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was their biggest supporter and was so proud of their many accomplishments. She loved Jesus and spent many years teaching Sunday School, Girls in Action, and Vacation Bible School. She enjoyed working in her yard and maintaining a variety of beautiful flowers. She will be remembered for her unconditional love and her many acts of kindness to family and friends. Mrs. Hill is survived by her children Cindy Bland (Jimmy), Janice Meyer (Bobby); grandchildren, Jessica Raper (Justin), Tyler Bland (Jennifer), Cory Meyer, Dean Meyer; great-grandchildren; Dalyn Bland, Anastasia Bland, Caleb Raper, Olivia Raper, Kynslee Meyer, Karson Meyer; sister, Beverly Dean, and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Hill was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Hill; her parents, S.A. and Tressie Dean; her brother, Paul Dean; her sisters, Dorothy Mays and Patricia Ponder; her stepmother, Edith Dean. Serving as pallbearers will be Tyler Bland, Cory Meyer, Dean Meyer, Justin Raper, Dalyn Bland, and Caleb Raper. The family would like to thank Hanceville Nursing Home and North Alabama Hospice for all their care and support.

Benjamin Cody Weeks
Benjamin Cody Weeks passed on April 6, 2026, at the age of 42. He was born on Aug. 29, 1983. Benjamin was a resident of Cullman, Alabama. Benjamin is survived by his mother Delilah Lee Griffith (Mark); Mason Cody Weeks his son and Mason's mother Brittney Lee; sister Jaylee "Sissy;" brothers Damien C. Weeks (Holly), Shannon L. Weeks, Jared G. Price (MaryBeth), Martin D. Price and Reagan Weeks; and his beloved dog Dolly, who was his loyal constant companion, along with a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held Saturday, April 11,2026 at 1 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home Chapel. Due to Ben's love of Alabama Football, the family requests guests to dress comfortably in Alabama attire. Following the service, the family will hold a reception at Sportsman Lake Park, Pavilion 18. In lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to be made to Benjamin's son (Mason Weeks) college fund at: Citizens Bank & Trust-Mason Weeks Address: 223 Second Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055 Phone: 256-481-6600 Or Venmo @MasonWeeks25

Jerry Craft
Funeral service for Jerry Craft, age 79 of Hartselle, will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Dr. Wesley Johnson officiating; burial at Whitewater Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Craft passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at his residence. He was born Jan.15, 1947, to George Craft and Virgie Watkins Craft. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jack Craft, James Craft and Jerome Craft; sisters, Linda Guelde and Sue Johnson. Survivors include his daughter, Holly (Lance) Whitfield; grandson, Blake Burton, granddaughters, Shelby Burton, Savannah York and Shiloh York and sister Julia Hatcher.

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CULLMAN REGIONAL FOUNDATION

Left to right are Dr. Jenny Folsom, Nesha Donaldson and Dr. David J. Dueland.

Gala (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The annual Cullman Regional Foundation Gala will take place on Saturday, April 25, at 5:30 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek.

Gala XXV's theme is Silver Jubilee: 25 Years of Impact. The evening will feature a lovely dinner and special program, along with a silent and live auction.

"The annual event recognizes individuals who have played a significant role in advancing healthcare for our community," said Cullman Regional Foundation President Amy Wood. "We are pleased to announce the H.C. Arnold Humanitarian Award honoree this year is Mrs. Nesha Donaldson, the Dr. Herman C. Ensor Excellence in Heath Care honoree is Dr. David J. Dueland and the McAfee Commitment to a Cause honoree is Dr. Jenny Folsom."

Service Guild members help with the organization of the Gala and are led by President Amanda Knappenberger. Annual fundraising events like the Gala give community members an opportunity to become more involved in helping advance healthcare excellence at Cullman Regional.

Gala XXV will host live entertainment by the Dueling Pianos, and there will be a special catered dinner.

For tickets or additional information, contact the Cullman Regional Foundation at 256-737-2565 or crmcfoundation@cullmanregional.com.



Kids Loving Kids requesting baby dolls and Barbies

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Kids Loving Kids, a ministry at Spirit Life Church, is collecting donations of baby dolls and Barbies this month. Donated items can be dropped off at the church at 1650 St. Joseph Dr. in Cullman.

Organizers expressed hopefulness for this month's donations, advising that narrowing down the donations into monthly categories helps make it more economical. They said spacing this out to a monthly recommendation is easier for those who aim to contribute rather than lumping it all into the end of the year.

Kids Loving Kids reported it helped approximately 1,000 children in 2025. This includes Cullman, Walker and Winston counties.

Representatives said this wouldn't be possible without the help from local churches and the community.

"We definitely appreciate the help given!"

For more information, email kidslovingkids2@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/KidslovingKids.

Champs (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com



CITY OF CULLMAN

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs and city council members with 2026 Hoop Shoot Champions

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council at its Monday, April 6, meeting took a few moments to recognize winners of the local Elks Club 2026 Hoop Shoot.

Winners included Alex Wood of Holly Pond Elementary School, Avery Stricklin of Good Hope Elementary School, Kylie Minor of East Elementary School, John Carl Knight of Sacred Heart Elementary School and Paxton Plourd of Parkside Elementary School.

The 2026 Hoop Shoot National Finals will take place April 16-19 in Chicago.

Councilman Chuck Shikle said April 12-18 is Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Mayor Woody Jacobs issued a proclamation for recognizing the week in Cullman.

Shikle also reported that a new, $970,000 fire truck should be on the road and serving the public within the next month.

Councilman David Moss said the Heritage Park splash pads are being replaced. This should, ideally, he said, be finished by June.

Councilman Jason Willoughby reported that right-of-way bushhog routes have begun. He said the city has received two of the four trucks it had been anticipating, with the low bidder being Long Lewis Automotive Group.

Councilman Paul Schaffer in his report stated the city's Sanitary and Sewer Improvement Program is in phase two. "This is going to improve our sewers tremendously," he said.

Council President Kim Hall advised the city's human resources content manager is now live.

"We have begun the process of digitalizing the personnel record system," she said. "That's been a work in progress, but we have it working now. We've onboarded 54 employees; eight full time and 46 seasonal."

Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Jamie Troutman reported that in 2025 Cullman was the fifth-fastest growing city in Alabama.

The Logan Street project survey will start this week and will ideally start in June once the survey is reviewed. Mayor Woody Jacobs stated the city was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in 2025 after being unsuccessful in two applications. Jacobs said it is roughly roughly three months out.

"Our guys will work to the best of their ability, but there's a certain amount of inconvenience anytime you do a project of this magnitude," he said. "So we will ask now, and ask again that you be patient with our folks."

He went on to advise that the remainder of the U.S. Highway 278 project has been turned over to Alabama Department of Transportation. "You're probably looking at 2033 completion."

Hall made a point to mention, on the topic of road and sewer projects, that having a mass communication alert is in the public's best interest. It will allow individuals to properly plan their routes accordingly as to not be inconvenienced by the work.

On second readings and unfinished business the council approved the following ordinances:

- Second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-33 to rezone property owned by Rodney Hawkins located at *701 Main Avenue SW* from R-4 Residential to B-2 Business District (PIN 5161)

- *Second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-36 to annex property owned by Joseph and William Culpepper located at County Road 1269 as AG-1 Agricultural District (PIN 5628)

- *Second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-37* to rezone property owned by William and Jenna Culpepper located at 960 County Road 1269 as R-1 Residential District (PIN 81877)

Moving to new business the council approved the following resolutions:

- Resolution No. 2026-04 to adopt the annual municipal water pollution prevention resolution

- Resolution No. 2026-05 to approve Change Orders No. 1 and 2 to Pipeworks Plus, Inc. for the Mann Subbasin Sewer Rehabilitation project increasing the total project cost by $2,060.250
- Resolution No. 2026-06 to award the bid for one or more new 4WD Trucks to Long Lewis Automotive, the lowest responsive bidder, for $50,178.70

The council also had a first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-38 to adopt personnel policies (new handbook).

Hall advised that as she came onto the council the handbook was already in the revision process.

"When I came on, our current human resource director, Michelle Bates, was already in the process of working on the handbook and making revisions to policies based on new laws, new technology that's come out since 2009."

She went on to say, 'Our city clerk, Wesley Moore, has gone back to cross review it with ordinances that have been passed since 2009, because we have to make sure that any ordinances that are in place are reflected in the handbook. It's been a work in progress."

The following special event requests were approved by the council:

- Mike Ward of Hope Road Ministries to hold a gospel celebration at the Festhalle on April 10, from 6:30- 8:30 p.m.
- Alyson Miley of Cullman Caring for Kids to hold a Kickin' It for the Kids event at Cullman Fairgrounds on May 9, from 1-6 p.m.

- Romero Flores of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic for a Run for Good 5K fundraiser on June 27, from 6-10 a.m.

- Tonya Carter to hold annual Warehouse District Street Sale on April 10-11

The next Cullman City Council meeting will take place at the city hall auditorium on April 20, at 7 p.m.