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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Christina Ann Jones, Kay Anderson Niezer, Mary Frances Starnes
» PAGE 6

WEATHER

79 52
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
INCREASING CLOUDS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

Addison celebrates Senior Night with a 5-1 win over Vinemont
» PAGE 4

Alleged off-campus incident under active criminal investigation, Barnette says

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette on Monday morning said an alleged incident that has circulated publicly through social media screenshots is the subject of an active criminal investigation being led by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

The incident involves the alleged abuse of one student by a group of other students. Barnette said the alleged victim is not a Cullman County Schools student, though the boys accused are students in the system. He also said the alleged incident did not happen at school and, to his knowledge, was not connected to any school activity or event.

"This situation is terrible," Barnette said. "I don't know all the facts about the situation, but I do know that it is an active criminal investigation led by the sheriff's department. I don't believe that anyone should be afraid to send their children to school because none of this happened at school or was associated with school activities. Whoever did this should and I believe will be held accountable. While I understand that the alleged victim is not one of our students and the other boys » PAGE 7

Cullman council approves Rural King incentive agreement for proposed 90K sq. ft. store



JANET CHANDLER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Rural King will be located on approximately 10 acres along Olive Street Southwest across from Rock N Roll Sushi.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday approved an economic development agreement tied to a proposed Rural King store, advancing a project officials said would bring a $14 million investment, about 45 full-time jobs and a major new retail presence to Cullman.

According to information released by Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Jamie Troutman, the project is planned for approximately 10 acres along Olive Street Southwest across from Rock N Roll Sushi.

Troutman said the project is expected to create about 45 full-time jobs.

The agreement approved by the council included a one-time $800,000 infrastructure payment, split evenly between the City of Cullman and the Cullman County Industrial Development Authority at $400,000 each.

Under the public packet, the payment was not to be made up front. Instead, it will be paid in a single lump sum within 30 days after the official opening date of the Cullman store.

The agenda listed the item as Resolution No. 2026-88, a development agreement with Rural King Realty, LLC, for construction of an approximately 90,000-square-foot store.

The packet stated the public money was intended for infrastructure improvements directly related to the project.

It also stated Rural King had told local officials that rising construction and labor costs, along with certain required public infrastructure improvements, made financial assistance necessary.

The packet did not specify in detail which infrastructure improvements the $800,000 would cover.

The agreement was approved under Amendment 772, which allows local governments to provide incentives for economic development projects when officials determine the expenditure serves a valid and sufficient public purpose despite any incidental private benefit.

In approving the agreement, the city adopted findings stating the project is expected to create new tax revenue, support schools, promote adaptive reuse of a high-visibility area, bring new commercial activity to underutilized property, improve the area's appearance and vibrancy and expand jobs and economic development in Cullman.

Mayor Woody Jacobs said the project represents more than the addition of another retail store.

"This project represents more than just a new retail location. It's an investment in the quality of life for our residents," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said Rural King would add shop- » PAGE 6

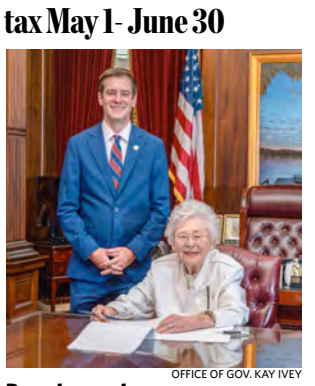
Beautiful weekend at St. Bernard



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The 42nd annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair took place Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19, 2026, on the grounds of St. Bernard Abbey and Preparatory School.

Ivey signs bill giving tax break on overtime, suspending state grocery tax May 1- June 30



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Rep. James Lomax, R-Huntsville, with Governor Ivey as she signs HB527 » PAGE 2

Dripping Springs Chapter of DAR awards JROTC medals at CATA » PAGE 5

Cold Springs HS 1936 Club earns statewide recognition with CLAS School of Distinction Award » PAGE 5

Allen: Deadline to register to vote in May 19 Primary Election is May 4 » PAGE 3

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
April 16
- theft of property; Hwy. 91
- theft of property; CR 1212
- criminal mischief; CR 1435

April 17
- possession of controlled substance; CR 601
- domestic violence; CR 623
- menacing; CR 1570
- theft of property; CR 532
- theft of property; CR 1776
- theft of property; CR 652
- theft of property; CR 1034
- harassing communications; Greenbriar Dr.
- theft of property; CR 329
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91

April 18
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; 4th St. SW
- domestic violence; CR 5
- harassing communications; Hwy. 278E
- domestic violence; Hwy. 278E
- menacing; Leonard Rd.
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Cottonwood Ln. SE
- criminal mischief; CR 565

April 19
- domestic violence; CR 1640

ARRESTS
April 16-19
Bartee, Katherine L.; 43
- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- ignition interlock misdemeanor
- illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card
- driving while license suspended (2 counts)
- DUI (alcohol)
- DUI (controlled substances)
- improper lane usage
- operating vehicle without insurance

Black, Stormy L.; 41
- FTA – organized retail theft

Boatright, Sr., Joshua A.; 47
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Boissel, Veronica A.; 53
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Brock, Amanda G.; 43
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Curvin, Meshach J.; 30
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Downing, Hollie R.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Dumis, Emily G.; 19
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Graham, Kayla N.; 32
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Guthrie, William A.; 19
- DUI (alcohol)

Hawkins, Destiny N.; 24
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Johnson, Christopher M.; 38
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Locke, Alexander K.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Myrick, Brandi M.; 49
- public intoxication

Olvera-Astrain, Angel I.; 24
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Pannell, Chasity L.; 43
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – giving false identification to law enforcement officer
- FTA – public intoxication

Pilgrim, Danielle M.; 30
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Quinn, Misty A.; 39
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Smith, Sean T.; 33
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Teeter, Brittany E.; 27
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Thornton, Justin D.; 20
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Tzox, Salvador L.; 25
- DUI (alcohol)

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
April 14
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $92; Olive St. SW

April 18
- assault-3rd degree; person; McNabb Rd. SW

ARRESTS
April 17
Alldredge, Jr., Cecil R.; 64
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree

Harvell, Stephen A.; 58
- possessing forged instrument-3rd degree
- theft of property-3rd degree

Bauer, Paci C.; 21
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree (2 counts)

Smith, Cody D.; 38
- DUI
- FTA – public intoxication

Goodson, Jennifer L.; 42
- FTA – insurance violation

Edmonds, Tammy L.; 56
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Baker, Frank R.; 51
- public intoxication

Bartee, Katherine L.; 43
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – insurance violation

Ruiz, Tania M.; 36
- theft of property-4th degree

Curvin, Meshach J.; 30
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – attempt to elude
- FTA – assault-3rd degree
- FTA – criminal mischief-3rd degree
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while suspended

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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



Planning Commission calls for Comprehensive Plan update from city

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — At the City of Cullman Planning Commission's April meeting, Commissioner Michael Sullins announced the Commission would be requesting an updated Comprehensive Plan from the Cullman City Council.

"It is recommended by the code of Alabama that the Comprehensive Plan be updated every 5-10 years, and we are outside of that number. Therefore, we are overdue," Sullins stated. "Statute 11-52-8 of Alabama Code requires a planning commission to adopt a master plan. What we are recommending is for the city to start the process of updating the plan."

This plan will set the curve for the future of the city by progressing community development and addressing job demands, transportation plans, public utilities, diverse housing and much more.

Sullins made a point to express to the audience that the community needs to educate themselves about the plan and what it entails.

"The number one thing is educating the citizens. If we don't educate y'all on how this process goes, it's not going to be a good overall master plan," he said.

"We need to understand what's important to our residents – that's the key to this plan."

Sullins advised that because this will be proceeding long after all the members are off of the commission, it is setting the tone for the city.

The commissioners approved a plan to present a request for proposal to the city council to hire the right consultants.

The City of Cullman Planning Commission will meet next on Tuesday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the city hall auditorium.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Master Gardeners held their Spring Plant Sale April 17-18 at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

Cullman County Master Gardeners fall class registration opens June 1

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Fresh off their successful Spring Plant Sale, held April 17-18, the Cullman County Master Gardeners advised registration for the 2026 fall Master Gardeners course will open June. 1.

Early-bird registration opens June 1 at 8 a.m. and runs through June 15 at 5:30 p.m. If you apply for the course during this time, registration is $150. Regular registration will open June 16 at 8 a.m. and close June 30. Regular registration is $175.

Orientation will be Aug. 6, with classes running Aug. 13 through Nov. 7.

Visit www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/become-an-alabama-extension-master-gardener-volunteer or contact the Cullman County Extension Office at 256-737-9386 for more information.

Learn more at www.cullman-master-gardeners.org.

Ivey (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday, April 16, signed House Bill 527 into law. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. James Lomax, R-Huntsville, and Sen. Arthur Orr, R-Decatur, provides an income tax deduction for qualified overtime compensation, up to $1,000. HB527 also suspends the state's portion of the grocery tax for two months beginning in May.

"Alabamians are the best workers out there. I applaud Rep. James Lomax and Sen. Arthur Orr for working with us to provide tax relief to those employees putting in overtime," said Governor Ivey.

"I am also glad we are able to put a two month pause on the state's portion of the grocery tax to help families across Alabama. Any time we can responsibly provide some relief for the hardworking people in our state, I am all for it."

Lomax joined Ivey in her office as she officially signed HB527 into law.

"HB527 provides meaningful, direct tax relief by delivering real savings at the grocery store for all families and rewarding hardworking Alabamians by recognizing the value of overtime work," said Lomax.

"By creating a deduction on overtime pay and temporarily suspending the state sales tax on food, this legislation puts money back into the pockets of families when they need it most.

"I'm grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature for their support in getting this bill across the finish line, and I thank Governor Ivey for her continued leadership in supporting the people of Alabama."

Orr carried the legislation in the Senate.

"I want to commend my colleagues in the Legislature for passing legislation that provides hardworking Alabamians with well-deserved tax relief on overtime pay, as well as some temporary tax relief at the grocery store that will benefit families across the state," said Orr.

"This reflects a strong commitment to easing the financial burden on Alabama families while encouraging productivity and economic growth, which are priorities Governor Ivey has emphasized since day one."

The income tax reduction for overtime compensation will apply for tax years 2026 through 2028. The grocery tax suspension will occur May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

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Allen: Deadline to register to vote in May 19 Primary Election is May 4

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen reminded Alabama residents that the deadline to register to vote before the May 19, 2026, Primary Election is Monday, May 4, 2026.

"The right of eligible United States citizens to vote in fair and secure elections is one of the hallmarks of our constitutional republic," Allen said. "I encourage all eligible Alabamians to register to vote or verify their voter registration status on AlabamaVotes.gov ahead of the May 19 Primary Election."

Electronic voter registration may be completed by visiting www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/register-to-vote. A paper voter registration form may be delivered in person or by mail to your local Board of Registrars.

"To be eligible to vote in Alabama, one must be a citizen of the United States, reside in Alabama and be 18 years old on or before election day. One must not be barred from voting due to a disqualifying felony conviction or have been judged 'mentally incompetent' by a court of law," said Allen's office.

On Election Day, polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Voters are required to present a valid form of photo identification when voting at their polling place or by absentee ballot. Cumulative election results will be posted on the Alabama Secretary of State's website at www.AlabamaVotes.gov.

For questions about registering to vote in Alabama, please call the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office at 334-242-7210 or your local county Board of Registrars.

Contact the Cullman County Board of Registrars at 256-775-4697, 256-775-4698 or Cullman@vote.alabama.gov.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Good Hope Public Cemetery Decoration Weekend Clean-up Announcement
Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3. Please have all worn flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery by Sunday, April 26. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 26 will be subject to removal by cemetery maintenance with respect to condition. We ask that all new flowers and decorations be kept as close to the monuments as possible to aid in mowing. Donations to the cemetery can be sent to Good Hope Public Cemetery, P.O. Box 355 Cullman, AL 35056 and are tax deductible and help us to pay for cemetery upkeep. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Wednesday, April 22 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, April 24 – 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. Special guest speaker – Larry C. Hill Sr.
• Saturday, April 25 – 8 a.m. Men's breakfast. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Women's Ministry yard sale. 9 a.m.-noon Men's Conference with Larry C. Hill Sr.
• Sunday, April 26 – 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 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!

Alabama Strawberry Festival
Friday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Senior Day from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.) and Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Depot Park. Free admission. www.AlabamaStrawberryFest.com

Dorsey Creek Community Mission Church Singing
Sunday, April 26, at 11 a.m. 9174 Alabama Highway 69 South in Bremen. We will be hosting Soul Purpose, a group of singers from the Athens area.

Large Community Yard Sale
Friday, May 8, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, May 9, from 8 a.m.-noon, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 505 Commercial St. in Hanceville. Proceeds go to the (CCC) Committee on Church Cooperation and First Source for Women.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, May 16, from 6-9 a.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee, eat in or take out, for a donation. The proceeds will benefit the Holly Pond Cemetery project fund. Come join us! Thank you in advance for your support.

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PREP BASEBALL

Addison celebrates Senior Night with a 5-1 win over Vinemont

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — Addison hosted the Vinemont Eagles for Senior Night on Friday, and were able to send their seniors out with a 5-1 victory.

Addison sent their ace Kiah Lake to the mound and the Eagles got him in a jam in the first inning. After a Bulldog error and a hit batter, the Eagles had runners on first and second with one out. Eagle Randy Torres drilled a ground ball to 'Dawg third baseman Stone Talley who stepped on the bag for the force out and threw to first to complete the double play.

Addison had their first scoring opportunity of the game in the bottom of the second when Talley led off, getting hit by the pitcher. Talley advanced to second on a passed ball and then with two outs, Ben Bridges singled to left driving in Talley to give Addison the 1-0 lead.

The score stayed the same until the bottom of the third when Addison struck for three runs. With one out, Canaan Speegle singled and then Tucker Thompson singled as well. Both runners advanced to second and third base after a wild pitch. Connor Lane doubled bringing in Speegle and leaving Bulldogs on second and third. Talley reached on an Eagle error allowing Thompson to score to push the score to 3-0. Lake then hit a sacrifice fly to left scoring Lane giving Addison the 4-0 lead.

The Eagles answered back in the top of the fourth as Carson Drummond stroked a single. With one out, Ryne Dalton singled putting runners on first and third. Lake got a strikeout but Davey Johnson singled scoring Dalton but during the play, the Eagles had a runner tagged out trying to advance to third. Vinemont had cut the lead to 4-1.

Addison plated their last run with Lane tripling to deep centerfield leading off the bottom of the fourth. Lane was able to score on an error on the throw back into the infield and Addison led 5-1. This is how the game would end with the Bulldogs winning 5-1.

Unofficial stats

Vinemont had Carson Drummond go 1-2 with a run scored. Ryne Dalton went 1-3. Davey Johnson went 2-3 with an RBI.

Addison had Kiah Lake go the distance, seven innings giving up four hits, striking out five, walking one and giving up one run. Lake also had an RBI at the plate. Canaan Speegle went 1-4 with a run scored and Tucker Thompson went 2-4 with a run scored. Connor Lane went 2-4 with a double, triple, two runs scored and an RBI. Scout Flynn went 1-2 with a walk and Jaxson Williams went 1-3 with a stolen base.

Addison senior baseball players were Jaxson Williams, Tucker Thompson, Kiah Lake, Casen Hill and Stone Talley.

Addison hosts Cold Springs on Monday at 5pm. Vinemont hosts Good Hope on Monday.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison's Tucker Thompson

TRACK & FIELD

Several local teams shine at fourth annual Andy Page Memorial Meet at Cullman, West Point's Lamar earns meet MVP

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The fourth annual Andy Page Memorial Meet took place at Cullman High School on Thursday night, and several local teams put on some great performances at the meet. Notably, West Point sophomore Rush Lamar took home the track MVP after gold medals in the 400m and 300mH.

Girls 100mH:
3. Ella Dickerson – 17.24 (Cold Springs)

Boys 110mH:
1. Asa Sutter – 15.31 (West Point)

Girls 1600m
1. Madeline Stidham – 5:27.43 (Cullman)

Boys 1600m
1. Brady Johnson – 4:31.08 (Vinemont)
2. Henry Crocker – 4:39.19 (Cullman)
3. Jacob Taylor – 4:41.16 (Cullman)

Girls 4x100m
5. Cullman – 55.12 (A. Taylor, C. Jones, C. McCoy, E. Scoggins)

Boys 4x100m
1. Cullman – 42.93 (C. Hollis, J. Floyd, W. Keel, M. Fuller)
5. Good Hope – 45.25 (R. Hancock, K. Hollis, W. Buchanan, C. Phillips)

Girls 400m
3. Khloe Nalley – 1:03.60 (Cullman)

Boys 400m
1. Rush Lamar – 50.61 (West Point)
3. Jaxson Richter – 51.06 (Good Hope)
4. Reid Huelsmann – 51.60 (Cullman)
5. Brier Taylor – 51.76 (West Point)

Girls 4x800mR
3. Cullman – 11:14.23 (K. Richter, A. Floyd, A. Lawrence, V. Waldrop)
4. Good Hope – 11:31.20 (J. Alsup, C. Campbell, A. Scott, V. Horvath)

Boys 4x800mR
3. Good Hope – 9:28.75 (O. Horvath, D. Nichols, R. Brown, A. Alsup)

Boys 100m Para Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa – 14.27 (Holly Pond)
2. Eain Adams – 20.96 (Hanceville)

Boys 100m
1. Mason Fuller – 11.36 (Cullman)
3. Weston Keel – 11.45 (Cullman)

Girls 300mH
3. Cadence Watson – 50.72 (Good Hope)

Boys 300mH
1. Rush Lamar – 40.94 (West Point)
3. Yojan Patino-Rendon – 42.82 (Vinemont)
5. Ethan Fox Westall – 44.07 (Holly Pond)

Girls 800m
1. Reese Swidecki – 2:24.53 (Cold Springs)
2. Mabry Free – 2:24.93 (Cullman)
3. Madeline Stidham – 2:28.67 (Cullman)

Boys 800m
1. Drake Nichols – 2:02.01 (Good Hope)
2. Henry Crocker – 2:02.90 (Cullman)
3. Reid Huelsmann – 2:03.40 (Cullman)
4. Brady Johnson – 2:04.46 (Vinemont)

Boys 200m Para Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa – 28.89 (Holly Pond)

Boys 200m
2. Brier Taylor – 23.28 (West Point)

Girls 3200m
5. Dorothy Slater – 13:08.32 (West Point)

Boys 3200m
1. Avin Dempsey – 10:06.03 (Cullman)
5. Carson Rice – 10:53.52 (Cold Springs)

Girls 4x400m
4. Vinemont – 4:44.09 (L. Flores, P. Tankersley, A. Powell, N. Foell)

Boys 4x400m
1. West Point – 3:32.09
4. Cullman – 3:38.15 (L. McDonald, R. Huelsmann, H. Crocker, B. Stidham)
5. Good Hope – 3:41.86 (J. Murphy, D. Nichols, J. Richter, R. Brown)

Boys Long Jump
1. Jackson Floyd – 21-03.75 (Cullman)
3. Nolan Franklin – 19-07.75 (West Point)
5. Boston Gibbs – 19-04.50 (Holly Pond)

Girls Triple Jump
2. Jana Blocher – 34-00.00 (Cullman)
5. Blakely Baggett – 30-11.00 (Holly Pond)

Girls Long Jump
2. Kailyn Redding – 15-07.50 (Fairview)
5. Zoe Gibbs – 14-06.00 (Good Hope)

Boys Shot Put
3. Malik Howell – 44-06.00 (West Point)

Boys Javelin Throw Para Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa – 76-10 (Holly Pond)
2. Eain Adams – 35-08 (Hanceville)

Boys Javelin Throw
2. Andrew Latham – 162-05 (Fairview)
4. Ethan Day – 155-07 (Cold Springs)

Girls Javelin Throw
4. Ella Dickerson – 102-11 (Cold Springs)



WEST POINT XC/T&F

West Point sophomore Rush Lamar

Girls Discus
4. Isabella Moore – 105-01 (Cullman)

Boys Discus Para Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa – 71-02 (Holly Pond)

Boys Discus
4. Logan Rice – 134-03 (Fairview)
5. Bailey Gann – 132-10 (Cold Springs)

Boys Pole Vault
1. Wyatt Shields – 13-06.00 (Cullman)
4. Gavin Parr – 12-00.00 (Vinemont)

Girls Pole Vault
1. Jana Blocher – 10-06.00 (Cullman)
2. Cadence Watson (Good Hope) – 8-06.00
4. Ryleigh Wright (Cold Springs) – 8-06.00
T-5th – Claire Huffstutler (Cold Springs) and Paizley Whitlow (Cold Springs) – 8-00.00

Boys High Jump
1. Miguel Garcia – 6-02.00 (Holly Pond)

Girls High Jump
1. Kailyn Redding – 5-00.00 (Fairview)
4. Cadence Watson – 4-10.00 (Good Hope)
5. Ella Dickerson – 4-10.00 (Cold Springs)

Male MVP
2. Rush Lamar (West Point)
3. Henry Crocker (Cullman)

Male – Track MVP
1. Rush Lamar (West Point)
2. Henry Crocker (Cullman)

Female – Track MVP
T-3rd: Madeline Stidham (Cullman)

Male – Field MVP
3. Miguel Garcia (Holly Pond)

Female – Field MVP
T-3rd: Jana Blocher (Cullman) and Kailyn Redding (Fairview)



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point soccer's Amelia Ward with coaches Rob Whitesell (right) and Sydney Carpentier (left)

PREP SOCCER

West Point's Amelia Ward commits to the University of Tennessee Southern

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point senior girls soccer star Amelia Ward signed her scholarship Friday, signifying her intent to join the University of Tennessee Southern this fall to further her academic and athletic career.

"Amelia is a six-year player for us, she's been on the varsity squad since seventh grade, she's just a great all-around player. She's played every position from defense all the way up to striker, she's scored lots of goals in her career, had lots of assists, but been a true leader on the team. We're super proud for her to get an opportunity to continue her career, and I think UTSouthern is going to be a good home for her," Whitesell said.



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35 Ct. Cheddar Jalapeño
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JIMMY DEAN BACON
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10-12 Oz. Deli Style
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



LUNCHABLES FUN PACK!
8.9-10.7 Oz. Oscar Mayer
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



ZATARAIN'S SMOKED SAUSAGE
14 Oz. Cajun Style
or Andouille
$3.99 EA.



HORMEL SIDE DISHES
19-20 Oz.
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$3.99 EA.



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Bag Ready to Eat American,
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$2.99 EA.



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Hothouse
Grown
$1.99 LB.



KLONDIKE EXPRESS POTATOES
1 Lb. Rose or Goldust
Microwaveable
2 for $5



PILLSBURY GRANDS! BISCUITS
5 Ct. Varieties or 4 Ct. Crescent Rolls
or 6 Oz. Cinnamon Rolls
2 for $3



FOOD CLUB CHEESE PRODUCT
2 Lb. Loaf
American Style
$4.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB SOUR CREAM OR COTTAGE CHEESE
14 Oz. Squeeze or 16 Oz.
Original or 4% Large Curd
2 for $4



PICTSWEET VEGETABLES
10-14 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



FOOD CLUB GARLIC BREAD OR TOAST
10-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
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TYSON CHICKEN OR ANY'TIZERS
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MARUCHAN RAMEN NOODLE SOUP
3 Oz. Pkg.
Selected Varieties
3 for $1



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24 Oz. Jar
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



NABISCO PREMIUM SALTINES
9-17 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



KOOL-AID JAMMERS
10 Ct.
Selected Varieties
$2.99 EA.



OREO COOKIES
9-14 Oz. Nabisco
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



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6 Rolls
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12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
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8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
2 for $12

DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$5.99 EA.

POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
8 Pk.
20 Oz. Bottles
$6.99 EA.

BODY ARMOR SUPER DRINK
16 Oz. Bottles
2 for $3

FRITO LAY DORITOS, CHEETOS OR FRITOS
6-10.75 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

GOLDEN FLAKE CHEESE CURLS, PUFFS OR PUFF CORN
or Pork Skins 3-6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
3 for $5

LEWIS BAKE SHOP BREAD
20 Oz. Loaf Sandwich or
24 Oz. Loaf Texas Toast
2 for $5

LITTLE DEBBIE SEASONAL SNACKS
6-12 Oz. Gingerbread Cookies, Blooming Spring Brownies, Butterfly or Mother's Day Cakes, Spring Mini Donuts! or Strawberry Delight
2 for $6

BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon
Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.

COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE
15 Pk.
Pints
$19.99 EA.

BUDWEISER OR BUD LIGHT
24 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$25.99 EA.

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All Varieties
Deli Sliced
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CHARTER RESERVE COLBY JACK CHEESE
Deli Sliced
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32 Oz.
$12.99 EA.

FRENCH BREAD
Fresh Baked
Loaf
$1.99 EA.

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

CHICKEN WINGS
Fresh Fried
Regular or Buffalo
$4.99 LB.

Mary Carter Store hosts Butterfly House Workshop

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Butterfly House Workshop was held recently at the Mary Carter Store in downtown Cullman.

Melissa Jones of Mary Carter said friends of all ages were in attendance. Participants were given pre-cut house kits including nails, hammers and safety glasses. After the butterfly houses were built, flowering pots were filled with soil, and participants got a cup with seeds mixed specifically for butterflies and a small cup of dirt. The seeds were sprinkled and then topped with soil.

Participants were encouraged to grow their own butterfly gardens and place the houses, which will hopefully become home to a chrysalis, among the flowers. They were also sent home with extra seeds and fun coloring pages about what they learned, as well as butterfly images.

Jones said the workshop was something the store has not done before, but Mary Carter's aim was to involve the community.

The butterfly houses came from its distributor and inspired the idea for a fun, hands-on experience that could teach others about things that often get overlooked.

"We all know butterflies are beautiful, but many do not exactly know the small details," she said.

Jones credited Aubrey Harris for hosting the class with her.

"Aubrey is very knowledgeable on the environment, bugs and animals. (Aubrey) taught all of our friends the importance of the certain types of flowers for our local butterflies, what the butterfly house is actually used for and how butterflies aid in our environment."

If you missed the workshop, don't worry! Mary Carter Store still has the kits available for purchase. They are $8 plus tax, and there are garden and butterfly kits available for $10 plus tax. Jones noted the cost is strictly to cover the cost of supplies.

"It was a great turnout and we appreciate everyone that showed up. We are planning more workshops and classes and events in the future!" Jones stated.

The Mary Carter Store is located at 104 Fourth St. SE in Cullman. For future workshops, go to www.facebook.com/marycarterstore.



MELISSA JONES

Butterfly house kits, coloring pages, seeds and life cycle education stand at Mary Carter Store



ATHELIA GIBBS

Left to right are Athelia Gibbs, Géraldine Farr, Logan Dillard from West Point, Michael Moyers from Vinemont, Ryan Cameron from Holly Pond, Aryelle Mahaffey from Hanceville, Adrienne Gaddis from Cold Springs, James Crabb from Cullman, Zaylie Guthrie from Fairview, Cathy Shallal and Angia Smith. Not pictured: Anita Winslow

Dripping Springs Chapter of DAR awards JROTC medals at CATA

Athelia Gibbs
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Several members of the Dripping Springs Chapter of DAR attended the JROTC Awards Dinner at the Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) on April 17, 2026. There, they awarded DAR Bronze JROTC medals and certificates to the outstanding cadet from each school in Cullman County that participates in the JROTC program.

The recipients must have demonstrated loyalty and patriotism and earned a record of military and scholastic achievement.

They are selected based on qualities including dependability and good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership ability and a patriotic understanding of the importance of JROTC training.

Representing the Dripping Springs Chapter were Athelia Gibbs, Geraldine Farr, Regent Cathy Shallal, Angia Smith and Anita Winslow.



Recognition (from Front)

Gauge Day
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BREMEN, Ala. — The 1936 Club at Cold Springs High School earned a CLAS School of Distinction Award for State School Board District 6, placing it among just four programs in the district recognized as outstanding models for other schools in Alabama.

The honor, awarded by the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), recognizes programs that demonstrate excellence in education and community impact. Established in 2001, the CLAS Banner School program highlights outstanding schools across the state, with eight Banner Schools, one from each district, selected from the Schools of Distinction. Those recognized will be honored at an awards luncheon on April 27 in Prattville, where final selections will be announced.

Club Sponsor Tammy Gay said the recognition reflects something deeper than just an award.

"The Cold Springs community is a small, unincorporated area without even a stop sign, making the local school the true heart of the community," Gay said. "Four years ago, we established a service club to strengthen our ability to support both our students and our neighbors. The 1936 Club, named in honor of the year our school was founded, is an all-inclusive organization open to any student with a desire to serve others while building meaningful connections and enjoying the experience."

Since its inception, the club has grown into the largest student organization on campus, driven entirely by students who take the lead in planning and carrying out service projects.

"As a student-led group, the 1936 Club is actively involved in a wide range of service initiatives," Gay shared. "Members provide tutoring and organize school-wide events such as a community trunk-or-treat and a high school egg hunt. The club also supports families in need by providing Thanksgiving meals and hosting 'Christmas in the Springs,' along with many other outreach efforts throughout the year."

The club also takes on a new service focus each year, selecting a cause or organization to support through volunteer work and fundraising efforts. Funded entirely through donations and fundraisers, the group also gives back to its own students by awarding a scholarship to a deserving senior member each year.

Now, with statewide recognition, their impact is being showcased far beyond the Cold Springs community. Gay said the club's success is a direct reflection of the students who make it what it is.

"As the largest club at our school, the 1936 Club reflects the heart and spirit of Cold Springs, students who are always willing to step up, serve and make a difference," she said.

For more information on the 1936 Club, contact Tammy Gay at 256-287-1787 or tgay@ccboe.org.



TAMMY GAY

The 1936 Club of Cold Springs High School



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 21, 2026

Wallace State to present Spring Under the Stars and Stripes concert April 23

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States with its Spring Under the Stars and Stripes concert on Thursday, April 23.

The free concert will feature performances from the college's Performing Arts ensembles, including the Wallace State Concert Choir, Singers, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Theatre and Pride Line.

"We invite everyone to come out and enjoy a night of music in the great outdoors," said Ricky Burks, chair of the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts programs. "Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sit back to enjoy a collection of songs from performances held this year and special presentations planned for the anniversary of the birth of our nation."

Burks also encouraged those planning to attend to bring their appetite as several food trucks will be on hand to serve guests. Food vendors scheduled to be in attendance include Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Stephen's Hot Dog Wagon, Frios Gourmet Pops and Farmhouse Coffee.

The concert is scheduled to be held outside the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. In the event of rain, the performances will be moved inside the center.

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

- Broadway Night, April 30
- "I Am a Pilgrim," July 23-25

Two performing arts programs will be holding auditions next month. The Wallace State Singers and the Wallace State Pride Line dance team will hold auditions on Saturday, May 2. The Singers auditions will be held at 10 a.m., and the Pride Line dance team will hold auditions from 1 to 4 p.m. All auditions will be held in the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.



WALLACE STATE

Members of the Wallace State Singers perform during the 2025 Spring Under the Stars concert.

Rural King (from Front)

ping options and jobs while strengthening Cullman's appeal as a place to live, work and spend time.

"Rural King will provide new shopping options, create jobs and continue to make Cullman a place where people want to live, work and spend their time," he said.

Troutman said the store is projected to generate an estimated $22 million in annual sales during its first year of operation.

She described Rural King as a destination retailer that typically draws customers from a trade area of 30 miles or more.

According to company estimates, about 40% of the store's sales are expected to come from outside Cullman and Cullman County, bringing new dollars into the local economy and increasing activity for nearby retail businesses, restaurants and fuel stations.

County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons said the project will strengthen the county's economic footing.

"Rural King is a strong addition for Cullman County as a whole," Clemons said. "With significant sales, this project brings new revenue into our county and strengthens our overall economic base."

The project is projected to generate about $467,000 in additional funding for local education in its first year of operation, including about $287,000 for Cullman County Schools and $180,000 for Cullman City Schools.

Over the next 20 years the investment is expected to contribute nearly $12 million to local schools. Total projected revenue from the project over that same period is estimated at more than $31 million.

Jason Grimmett, chairman of the Cullman County Industrial Development Authority, said the project could help attract additional development.

"The addition of Rural King further positions our community as a regional retail destination," Grimmett said.

"This type of investment builds momentum and enhances our ability to recruit additional retail, restaurant and commercial development to Cullman and Cullman County."

Construction has already begun moving forward, according to Troutman.

The building has been ordered through Inland Buildings, and site preparation is underway by Manning Construction.

In addition to the $14 million investment and 45-job threshold, the company is required to operate the store at the site for at least five years after opening and provide reasonable documentation of project progress, capital expenditures and job creation upon request.

The agreement also states the company will use commercially reasonable efforts to open by Dec. 31, 2026, unless unforeseen delays occurred.

It also includes a claw-back provision.

If the company fails to substantially satisfy one or more of its obligations, other than because of force majeure or events beyond its reasonable control, it will have to repay a pro-rata portion of the infrastructure payment based on the extent of nonperformance as reasonably determined by the city and county.

Any repayment would be due within 60 days of written demand.

Rural King describes itself as "America's Farm and Home Store."

The company started in Mattoon, Illinois, in 1960 and has grown to more than 130 stores across 13 states.

Its current Alabama locations includ Albertville, Dothan, Huntsville, Jasper, Muscle Shoals, Prattville and Saraland.

Monday's vote places Cullman among a growing list of Alabama communities with Rural King locations while also committing public incentive dollars to help secure the project locally.

Resolution No. 2026–88: https://cullmanal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/nb2-042026.pdf

Obituary Announcements: April 18–20

Christina Ann Jones, 51
Christina Ann Jones, age 51, of Vinemont, passed away too soon on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. A Celebration of Life will be planned by Christina's family at a later date. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Christina was born on Oct. 23, 1974, to Jack Richard Duncan and Rowena Ann Banks Duncan. She is preceded in death by her father, Jack Richard Duncan; brother, Hillman Richard Duncan; grandmother, Velma Lee Twilley; mother-in-law, Nella Faye Davenport. She is survived by her husband of twenty-eight years, Eugene Jones; six children, Ashley Marion (Adam), Britney Arias, Tesla Nichols (Todd), Will Duncan (Kayla), Kyle Jones (Cheyenne), Peytan Jones (Jessica); grandchildren, Xavier Arias, Chandler Arias, Prince, Talieah, Chanlan, Kaliah, Maliea, Tylan, Jayden Brooks, Brantley Nichols, Zayne Nichols, Trace Nichols, Willow Duncan, Jameson Jones, Mason Jones, Waelynn Jones, Brayden Rouse, Ben Rouse, Jaxson Marion, Ashton Jones, Presley Jones; brother John (Angeline) Duncan; niece, Calista Duncan; and a host of family and friends.

Kay Anderson Niezer, 79
Kay Anderson Niezer, a beloved mother, grandmother and lifelong educator, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Kay dedicated her life to teaching and shaping young minds, serving as an elementary school teacher at Jones Chapel, West Elementary, and East Elementary. She was deeply committed to her students and took great pride in the difference she made in their lives. She was preceded in death by her parents, G.O. Anderson and Lola Mae Anderson, and her husband, Charlie Niezer. She is survived by her daughters, Alice Niezer Steele (Ben Steele) and Emily Niezer Johnston; and her cherished grandchildren, Mary Claire Page, Anna Page, Mary Charles Davis, and Liz Johnston, who lovingly knew her as "Mimi." Kay was a member of Seventh Street Baptist Church. She found great joy in simple pleasures—especially time spent at the lake and relaxing by the swimming pool with her family. A funeral service will be held on April 25, 2026, at Moss Service Funeral Home, with visitation from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by the service. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to Cullman County Hospice or Cullman Regional Foundation in appreciation of the care and compassion shown to Kay and her family. Kay will be remembered for her kindness, her devotion to her family, and the lasting impact she made on all who knew her. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Mary Frances Starnes, 76
Funeral services for Mary Frances Starnes, 76, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Garden City Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1-2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Starnes was born July 18, 1949, in Blount County, Alabama to the late John and Mary Martin. Frances Starnes, lovingly known to all as "Granny," passed away on April 19, 2026. She was a woman whose life was defined by kindness, warmth, and an open heart that never turned anyone away. To know Frances was to know comfort. Her door was always open—whether you needed a warm meal, a listening ear, or simply a place to sit and feel at home. She had a way of making everyone feel like family, and in truth, that's exactly how she saw them. Blood relation never mattered to her; if you walked through her door, you belonged. "Granny" was more than a name—it was a role she embraced with her whole heart. She offered love freely, gave without hesitation, and made lasting impressions on generations of people who were blessed to know her. Her home was filled with laughter, stories, and the kind of love that stays with you long after you leave. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, generosity, and love. Though she will be deeply missed, the countless lives she touched will carry her memory forward in the simple acts of kindness she lived by each day. Her family takes comfort in knowing that her spirit lives on in every open door, every shared meal, and every moment of love given freely—just as she taught them. Mrs. Starnes is survived by her husband, Leon Starnes; children, Michael Starnes (Kim), Christy Gowens (Mikele), Bryan Starnes; grandchildren, Seth Starnes (Michelle Hancock), Austin Starnes (Jazz Sharp), Chase Starnes (Morgan), Bailey Starnes (Ryan Dill), Deven Gowens (Brooklyn), Brandi Mitchell (Brent), Joshua Gowens; great grandchildren, Riley, Casey, Delilah Rae, Hunter, Paisley, Etta; siblings, Allen Martin, Dan Martin (Freda); sister-in-law, Barbara Dooley (Paul); and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Starnes was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary Ruth Martin; and her brother, Lynn Martin. Serving as pallbearers will be her grandchildren, Seth Starnes, Austin Starnes, Chase Starnes, Josh Gowens, Deven Gowens, and Ryan Dill. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Starnes family.

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Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130

2024 Alabama law changed what out-of-state boaters need before hitting the water

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Lake season is coming, and, as a reminder, Alabama's rules for out-of-state boaters changed in 2024. The change ended a longtime exemption that allowed some nonresidents to operate on Alabama waters without certification for up to 45 days.

According to information provided by Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley, that exemption ended Oct. 1, 2024. State records show the change came through HB375, enacted as Act 2024-394. The law amended Section 33-5-52 of the Code of Alabama and took effect the same day.

Under the updated law, nonresidents may operate a motorized vessel on Alabama waters only if they have a valid boater safety certification or vessel operator's certification issued by their home state or country.

Those who do not must obtain a Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification under the same terms and conditions as Alabama residents.

ALEA's boating certification guidance reflects that same requirement and notes the change became effective Oct. 1, 2024.

The rule applies to operators of motorized vessels, including boats and personal watercraft such as jet skis.

Alabama still recognizes valid home-state certifications for nonresidents. However, the law makes clear that a nonresident cannot receive broader operating privileges in Alabama than an Alabama resident of the same age.

According to the information shared by Wadsworth, a nonresident whose home state does not require a boating license, or who does not already hold one, must obtain a Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification before operating on Alabama waters.

ALEA stated that applicants must complete the same certification process used for Alabama residents. That includes an application and testing or proof of exemption.

Applicants must also pay a $5 application fee and a $36.25 issuance fee.

The law also keeps age restrictions in place for younger operators.

ALEA says a person must be at least 12 years old to obtain a vessel operator's license.

Operators who are 12 or 13 may operate only if a licensed person age 21 or older is on board. That person must have the required license in possession and be seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel.

Operators 14 and older may operate without supervision after obtaining certification.

There is still an exception for some rental situations, but it is limited.

Under the law, a person renting from a properly licensed boat rental business or state-owned marina may be exempt if the rental contract shows the operator received safety instructions, all required documents are signed, a copy of the contract remains on board and the operator is at least 16 years old.

Wadsworth's office also noted that vessel registration is separate from operator certification.

According to the information he provided, a boat legally registered in another state is generally recognized in Alabama for up to 90 consecutive days.

Legislative text tied to Alabama's vessel-registration law states that vessels covered by a valid number issued under another state's numbering system may operate on Alabama waters for 90 consecutive days without being licensed in Alabama.

If the vessel remains longer than 90 consecutive days, it must then be registered and licensed in Alabama like other vessels in the state.

For visitors heading to Alabama lakes and rivers, the takeaway is simple: the old 45-day grace period is gone.

Before operating a motorized vessel on Alabama waters, out-of-state boaters now need to make sure they have a recognized home-state certification or obtain an Alabama nonresident certification, unless they fall within one of the law's limited exceptions.

What out-of-state boaters need to know

- The 45-day exemption ended Oct. 1, 2024.
- Nonresidents now generally need a valid home-state boating certification or a Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification before operating a motorized vessel on Alabama waters.
- Operators must be at least 12. Those who are 12 or 13 must have a licensed adult age 21 or older on board and able to take immediate control.
- Rental operators may qualify for an exception only if the rental meets the law's contract, instruction and age requirements.
- Boats registered in another state are generally recognized for up to 90 consecutive days before Alabama registration is required.

Incident (from Front)

who were accused are our students, none of this was related to school activities or events, to my knowledge. We are cooperating with the investigation in any way that we can."

Barnette's statement confirms that law enforcement is actively investigating the matter and that Cullman County Schools students are among those accused, while also drawing a distinction between the alleged conduct and any school-sponsored event or campus activity.

The Cullman Tribune has reviewed a cropped screenshot that has been widely shared on social media and emailed to the newsroom.

However, The Tribune has not independently verified the full origin of the image or all of the allegations contained in the circulating post.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office was contacted last Friday with a list of questions regarding the matter. Those questions were sent again this morning.

As of publication, The Tribune has not received a response from Sheriff Matt Gentry.

CCSO Director of Communications Chad Whaley said, "I know we have been actively investigating the incident since it was reported and continue to do so as we speak. Juvenile laws do hamper what can be released, but we are in process."

Because the case involves juveniles and an active criminal investigation, many details have not been publicly confirmed by law enforcement.

For now, Barnette said the school system is cooperating with investigators as the case moves forward.



IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
D.L.S., * **CASE NO.: JU 19-341.05**
a minor, DOB: 12-22-2009. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

MICHAEL NEAL STACKS, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to a minor child born on December 22, 2009, to Julie Lynn Massey by the 12 day of May, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 27 day of March, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

FILED IN OFFICE
MAR 27 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
PHILLIP JEREMY COX) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 138
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Leslie Rena Cox, as Administratrix of the Estate of Phillip Jeremy Cox, deceased, on the 2nd day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Leslie Rena Cox
Leslie Rena Cox

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

Attorney for Administratrix

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 37
TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Cullman finds that the following property owner, William and Jenna Culpepper, have petitioned the City under the provisions of Section 11-42-21 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, that the following described property, owned by the petitioner, be annexed into the City of Cullman:
PIN: 81877. Parcel Number: 09-04-19-0-001-035.002. Property Address: 260 County Road 1269, Cullman, AL 35058.
Legal Description: A tract or parcel of land containing 2.2 acres of land, more or less, commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South Range 3 thence North along the West of said quarter section 1020 to the point of beginning. Thence continue 320 feet along said line to the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South Range 3, thence east along the North line of said quarter section 506.67 feet to a branch thence Southwesterly along the branch 463.32 feet; thence West 245 feet to the point of beginning.
SECTION 2. That the Council has before it a map showing the relationship of the properties proposed to be annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Cullman, and that said map is on file in the office of the City Clerk along with an acknowledgment by the property owner that they want it to be annexed into the City of Cullman.
SECTION 3. That the City of Cullman does hereby annex as a part of its corporate limits the above-described tracts or parcels of land as R-1 Residential District.
SECTION 4. That a copy of this ordinance after its adoption, which ordinance includes a description of the property annexed to the City of Cullman, be filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the county in which the municipality is located.
SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 36
TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Cullman finds that the following property owner, Joseph Culpeper and William Culpepper, have petitioned the City under the provisions of Section 11-42-21 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, that the following described property, owned by the petitioner, be annexed into the City of Cullman:
PIN: 85628. Parcel Number: 09-04-19-0-001-035-003. Property Address: 0 County Road 1269, Cullman, AL 35058.
Legal Description: The Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, in Cullman County Alabama, Less and Except: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South Range 3; thence North 0 degrees 15 minutes East along the West line of said quarter section 210 feet; thence South 86 degrees 42 minutes 28 seconds East 210 feet; thence South 0 degrees 15 minutes West 210 feet to the south line of said quarter section; thence North 86 degrees 42 minutes 28 seconds West along the south line of said quarter section 210 feet to the point of beginning. Also, Less and Except: 2.2 acres commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South Range 3 thence North along the West of said quarter section 1020 to the point of beginning. Thence continue 320 feet along said line to the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 9 South Range 3, thence east along the North line of said quarter section 506.67 feet to a branch thence Southwesterly along the branch 463.32 feet; thence West 245 feet to the point of beginning.
SECTION 2. That the Council has before it a map showing the relationship of the properties proposed to be annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Cullman, and that said map is on file in the office of the City Clerk along with an acknowledgment by the property owner that they want it to be annexed into the City of Cullman.
SECTION 3. That the City of Cullman does hereby annex as a part of its corporate limits the above described tracts or parcels of land as AG-1 Agriculture District.
SECTION 4. That a copy of this ordinance after its adoption, which ordinance includes a description of the property annexed to the City of Cullman, be filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the county in which the municipality is located.
SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 33
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Rodney L Hawkins, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:

PPIN: 5161. Parcel No.: 17-05-16-4-009-001.000. Property Address: 701 Main Ave SW.
A lot being 100 feet of even width off and across the East end of Lot Number One (1) of Thompson and Buchmann's Addition to Cullman, AL as shown and known on the recorded plat or map of said Additon being of record in Map Book 1, Page 44 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as R-4 Residential District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from R-4 Residential District to B-2 Business District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.
SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 23rd day of March, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.
SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.
SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.
SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.
SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 6th day of April, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

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City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday May 5, 2026, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short form subdivision – 1011 Main Avenue SW – 2 lots
2. Short form subdivision – Loring Street NW & Cleveland Avenue NW – create 4 lots

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, April 27 2026 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Edgefield Holdings, LLC
vs.
Danny Ponder
5935 County Road 1114
Vinemont, AL 35179

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Jacqueline Anderson Smith, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Danny Ponder, to the property, described as follows:

Commence at the Northwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the South Quarter, Section 17, Township 9 South, Range 4 West, thence South 0'00" East a distance of 667 feet to a point, said point being on the North right of way of Alabama Highway #157; thence South 52° 14' East a distance of 410 feet to the true point of beginning; thence South 52° 14" East a distance of 410 feet to the true point of beginning; thence continue along said right of way a distance of 435 feet to a point where County paved road intersects said right of way; thence North 13° 25' East along County road a distance of 345 feet to a point; thence South 89° 25' West a distance of 436 feet to a point; thence South 0° 00' East a distance of 59 feet to the point of beginning. Said land lying and being situated in the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, Section 17, Township 9 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

LESS AND EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING: Commence at the Southwest corner of said Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; thence Northerly along the West line of said Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter a distance of 198 meters, more or less, to the present Northeast right of way line of Alabama Highway No. 157; thence Southeasterly along said present Northeast right of way line a distance of 125 meters, more or less, to the West line of the property herein to be conveyed and the point of beginning; thence Northerly along the West property line a distance of 18 meters, more or less, to the North property line; thence Easterly along said North property line a distance of 57 meters, more or less to a point that is 35 meters northeasterly of and at right angles to the centerline of said project; thence S 51° 09' 22.9" E parallel with the said centerline, distance of 65 meters, more or less, to a point that is 35 meters Northeasterly of an at right angles to said centerline at Stateion 66 + 40; thence Northeasterly along a line a distance of 16 meters, more or less, to a point on the present northwest right of way line of County Road No. 1224 that is northwesterly of and at right angles to the centerline of said road at Station 10 + 55; thence Southwesterly along said present northwest right of way line a distance of 68 meters, more or less, to said present northeast right of way line; thence northwesterly along said present northeast right of way line a distance of 133 meters, more or less, to the point of beginning.

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Writ of Execution issued on or about 19 February 2026 in case CV-2010-900261 in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Danny Ponder in and to the above-described real property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 31 day of March, 2026.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

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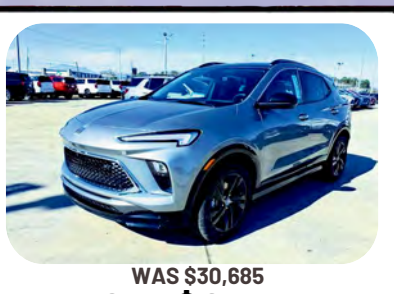
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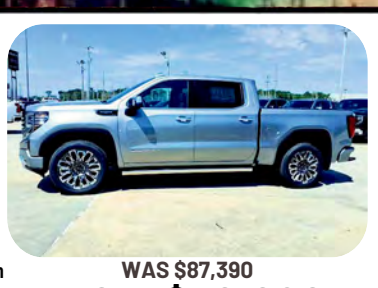
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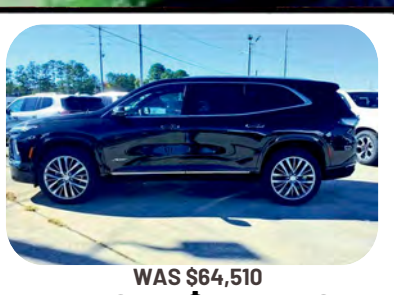
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- Front & Rear Park Assist



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NOW $72,890
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2026 BUICK Enclave Avenir
STK# 64057
- Super Cruise
- Enhanced Automatic Park Assist
- Power Moonroof
- 2.5L DOHC FWD



WAS $64,510
NOW $55,510
SAVE $9,000!

2026 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali Ultimate
STK# 68973
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- 10 Speed Automatic
- 16-Way Power Front Seats
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STK# 58263
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