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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

–SPORTS–

Addison completes first round sweep of Hackleburg

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Bremen man sentenced to 25 years for 2025 shooting

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Bremen man on April 20, 2026, was sentenced to 25 years in prison in connection with a Jan. 24, 2025, shooting.

According to court records, Richard Anthony Vitkauskas, 53, pleaded guilty to first-degree domestic violence – assault in connection with the crime. A charge of attempted murder was dismissed. Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Chad Floyd handed down the sentence.

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker posted a statement about the sentencing, stating:

"Earlier this week, Circuit Judge Chad Floyd sentenced Richard Vitkauskas to 25 years in the state » PAGE 3



2025/CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Richard Anthony Vitkauskas

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80 YEARS
80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

CCS Foundation celebrates 30 years, recognizes award winners



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS
Ray Oaks, who received a Distinguished Service Award, poses for a photo with Cullman City Schools Foundation President Maegan Tucker.

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Schools Foundation marked its 30th anniversary during its 15th annual Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards brunch on Tuesday, April 21, at Loft 212.

The Foundation donated $1,050 to the Cullman Middle School Piano Recital from the Tony Brock Music Fund, which helps maintain the school's piano lab equipment.

CMS Band Director Linda Bean said the piano lab program is uncommon across the country and gives students special opportunities, including advanced study in high school and chances to work with colleges. "We're one of the few schools in the nation that has a program like this," Bean said.

Dr. Jay Page (Class of 1987) and Ray Oaks (Class of 1958) were recognized with Distinguished Service Awards for their longtime dedication to the school system.

Page is retiring after 35 years in education, including 13 years as principal at West Elementary.

Oaks was honored for his work as a substitute teacher and for the support and kindness he shows to students. "Don't settle for anything but your best," Oaks told students.

The Foundation also named Unsung Heroes from across the district: Jeanmarie Yearwood, Leigh Ann Busby, Dr. Richard Dodd, Katie Smith and Kathy Hacker.

The 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year are Caroline Tidmore (Cullman City Primary School), Michelle Greenlee (Cullman High School), Morgan Johnston (Cullman Middle School), Lacy Cameron (East Elementary School) and Kristy White (West Elementary School).

Dr. Elizabeth Shaddix (Class of 2005) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for her ongoing service to the district.

Dr. Ann Carol Braswell (Class of 2017) was honored as Promising Alumni for her accomplishments in the medical field.

Foundation President Maegan Tucker said the organization remains dedicated to improving educational opportunities and supporting teachers and students throughout Cullman City Schools.

"The Foundation's vision and mission has continued to provide students and teachers with what they need to meet the students where they are," Tucker said.

REMEMBERING
APRIL 27, 2011
Special section inside

The Tribune Debate Series returns, and the invitation stands » PAGE 5

County Commission honors historic cemeteries, OKs road and community projects » PAGE 5

Hanceville proclaims April Child Abuse Prevention Month » PAGE 8

Free Touch A Truck event returns May 2 with giveaways supporting Community Cupboard



CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Touch A Truck will take place Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. » PAGE 6



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 24

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 24, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 20

- obstructing governmental operations; I65NB MM 299
- theft of property; CR 1402
- harassing communications; CR 664
- harassing communications; CR 108
- trespassing; CR 109
- harassing communications; CR 1116
- attempted murder; discharging firearm into vehicle; reckless endangerment; CR 703

April 21

- possession of marijuana; CR 852
- disturbing the peace; CR 1658
- obstructing governmental operations; Michelle St. NW
- theft of property; CR 1179
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 641

April 22

- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 490
- criminal mischief; CR 321
- domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief; CR 1101
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 69S
- harassment; CR 1422
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Meadow Creek Dr. NE

ARRESTS

April 20-22

Breedwell, Rickey D.; 48
- obstruction-governmental operations

Kitts, Kyle A.; 25
- family offense-NS non-support-child

Oliver, Hannah R.; 26
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – DUI (alcohol)

Olszowka, Dax M.; 23
- FTA – sex offense-victim under 12 – offender under 16

Adams, Paige P.; 35
- school employee distributing obscene material to a student (30 counts)
- school employee having sexual contact with a student under the age of 19
- sex offense-school employee engaging in sex act or deviant sexual intercourse with a student

Burns, Steven C.; 41
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hamby, Casey L.; 21
- obstruction-governmental operations

Collier, Nichole D.; 33
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Davis, Jason W.; 32
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Dingler, Tiffany J.; 45
- FTA – criminal trespass

Dodd, Debra J.; 53
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Dutton, Jacob B.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Farr, Larry D.; 65
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Griffin, Joshua B.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Jakaj, Josephine; 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Lawrence, Raymond D.; 37
- FTA – 20 days to register vehicle
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – improper lights
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – run red light

Parker, Ashley B.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Reid, Daniel L.; 37
- stalking-2nd degree

Sanford, Trinity S.; 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Ward, Sammy J.; 47
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs

Wray, Calvin J.; 20
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 19
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $491; Olive St. SW

April 21
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

April 22
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $189; Olive St. SW

April 22
- leaving the scene of an accident; Brinks Incorporated; damaged mirror; $300; 2nd Ave. SW
- assault-3rd degree; person; Cherokee Ave. SW
- theft by deception-1st degree; Nexan Building Products, Inc.; cash
- theft of property-4th degree; person; cash; $500
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $15,000

April 23
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

ARRESTS

April 22-23

Speegle, Rodney C.; 48
- FTA – improper lane usage
- FTA – driving without license

Curvin, Joshua A.; 29
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – disorderly conduct
- FTA – speeding

Phillips, Rodney J.; 29
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Sitzes, Jessica R.; 42
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Kent, Amber L.; 34
- possession of unlawful hemp product

Roth, Tyler J.; 36
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while suspended

Reeves, Andrew M.; 40
- public intoxication

Dempsey, Tracy S.; 55
- possession of controlled substance

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrets or incidents reported.

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



Obituary Announcements: April 23-24

Norman Aaron Brown, 74
Norman Aaron Brown, age 74 of Arley, passed away April 22, 2026, at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham. He was born Oct. 14, 1952, to Thomas and Levean Brown. Aaron was the Police Chief of Arley for 28 years, he dedicated his life to the Arley Police Department and Winston County Sheriff's office for over 30 years. He loved the Arley Community and the Meek Tigers, always showing up in support. Aaron was the co-founder of the Arley Rescue Squad. He was a member of the Alabama Chief of Police Association, and also the Smith Lake Task Force Dive Team. He was a "One-of-a-Kind Man", and did not meet a stranger, and it was said he "carried the police jurisdiction sign in the trunk of his car." Aaron had a great sense of humor and had the best stories over the years to tell. He was hard working family man. Visitation will be Thursday, April 30, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. at Meek Baptist Church in Arley, where the service will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Liberty Baptist Church in Helicon. Brother Corey Cochran will officiate. Pallbearers will be his fellow law enforcement officers, honoring his decades of dedicated service. Aaron is survived by his son, Wes (Mary Beth) Brown; grandchildren, Liam Brown, Lillie Caldwell, and Lexi Brown; brothers, Clayton (Carolyn) Brown, Kennith (Terri) Brown; Allen Brown and Ron (Melinda) Brown; sisters, Susan Brown and Wanda Reese; and a host of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Levean Brown; and brothers, James Brown, Clifton Brown, Jackie Brown and Lee Brown.

Ellen Burks, 81
Funeral Service for Ellen Burks, age 81 of Vinemont, will be at noon on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Ebenezer Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Trimble officiating; burial at Ebenezer Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Burks passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at Woodland Village Healthcare. Ellen was born Aug. 30, 1944, in Kosciusko, Mississippi to William Young Sudduth and Mary "Velma" nee Mitchell Sudduth of McAdams, Mississippi. Ellen spent 30 years as the Pianist at Ebenezer Baptist Church and touched many lives through her music and her dedication to her church family. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Donald Edward Burks, Sr. and granddaughter, Jade Burks. Survivors include her sons, Eddie (Julie) Burks, and Phil (Wendy) Burks; grandchildren, Tabatha Burks, J P Burks, Patric (Courtney) Burks, Dakota (Leah) Burks; great granddaughters, Ivy Lee Burks, Finley Ellen Burks; bonus great grandchildren, Vincent Yates, Callaway Beck and Rowen Beck.

Margie Nix Girard, 77
A Celebration of Life for Margie Nix Girard, age 77, is Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Cullman Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 3033 County Road 490, Hanceville, AL 35077. Margie was born on Sept. 13, 1948, to Virgle and Evelyn Nix. She passed away at her residence on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Linda Miscovich and Patricia Sutton; brother, Tommy Chris Nix; niece, Angela Nail Silvey; nephews, Nathan Grund, and Stephen Miscovich. Survivors include loving husband, Leonard Girard; son, Kevin Brown; daughter, Karen Stapler; step-love daughters, Wendy Girard and Jennifer Girard; grandchildren, Brett, Scott, Makena, Noah, Ashton, and Kathlyn; great grandchildren, Olive, Theo, and Lincoln; brothers, David (Jen) Nix, Tim Nix; sisters, Joyce Nail (Danie), Tammy Grund (Tim), and Gypsy Wisinger; nephews, Patrick Grund; nieces, Jessica Carter, Kristy Nail Terry; and a host of wonderful friends that she couldn't even count. Margie hoped she would be remembered foremost as a blessed woman that loved the Lord for all He had done for her. She had a passion for sewing, tending her flower and vegetable garden, and playing softball. She later inspired the games of bowling and Wii bowling with her senior friends from The Grove. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Jeanean Carolyn Taylor, 83
Jeanean Carolyn Taylor, 83, of Crane Hill, Alabama, passed away on April 22, 2026. Born on Feb. 2, 1943, Jeanean's life was marked by a steady devotion to her home and family, and by a quiet pride in the work and care she gave to what she loved most. Those who knew Jeanean will remember the deep satisfaction she found in her business, R&T Custom Builders, which she owned and operated for 26 years, as well as the life she built around her farm. She especially loved her cows, calling each of them by name—an everyday reflection of her attentive nature and the simple, enduring bonds she formed through faithful care. Jeanean is survived by her son, Nathan Richardson (Cristy); her sister, Evie Edwards; and her brothers, Hendon Taylor and Ceaf Taylor. She was preceded in death by her mother, Esther Olene Calvert, and her father, Ceaf Taylor Sr. A Celebration of Life graveside service will be held on Saturday May 2, 2026, at 1 p.m., at Prospect Church of Christ, where she will be laid to rest.

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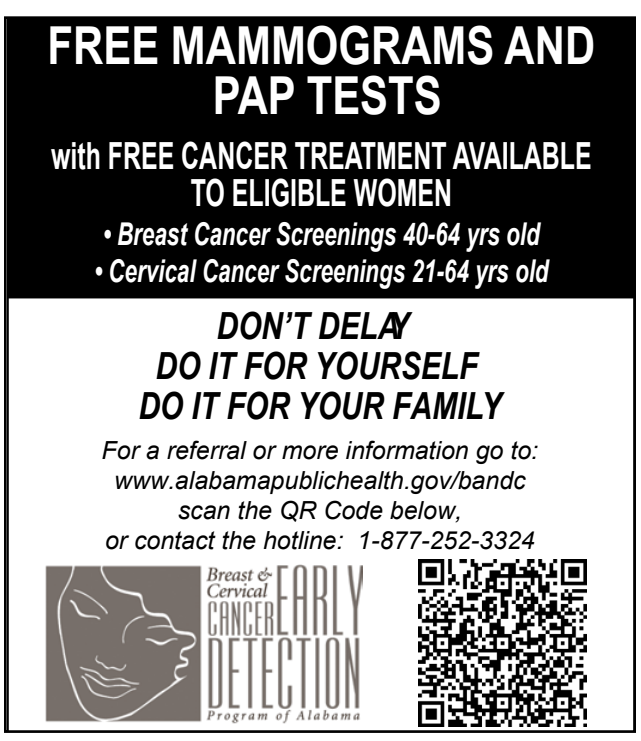
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Man (from Front)

penitentiary for this January 24, 2025 shooting in Bremen.

"Vitkauskas didn't want a fair fight - he shot an unarmed female who never knew what was coming.

"The credit belongs to the investigators of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office for their swift response, for processing the primary scene where the shooting occurred and the secondary scene where our victim was found, and for tracking down this offender, who fled to Winston County where he was arrested, and taken into custody.

"I also want to thank our victim, who made a full recovery and assisted us with this prosecution.

"Domestic violence has no place in society, and we aren't putting up with it in this county."

Vitkauskas had been held without bond, pursuant to Aniah's Law.

The crime

On Friday night, Jan. 24, 2025, Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to reports of a shooting in the Bremen community. A female victim, who was shot multiple times, was transported to an area hospital. The suspect, later identified as Vitkauskas, fled the scene before deputies arrived.

The following morning, the CCSO announced that Vitkauskas had been located in Winston County and arrested.

He was initially charged with aggravated assault and held without bond.

After conferring with Crocker, authorities charged Vitkauskas with first-degree domestic violence – assault, which is an Aniah's Law offense.

Under Aniah's Law, judges can deny bond to those who are charged with committing violent crimes. Vitkauskas was to be held without bond until an Aniah's Law hearing could be held.

Authorities said additional charges were likely as the investigation continued.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, a local judge issued a "no bond" ruling, meaning Vitkauskas would stay in jail until at least his next hearing or his trial.

According to court documents at that time, Vitkauskas' charges were first-degree domestic violence – assault and attempted murder.

Crocker said the testimony was that Vitkauskas shot the female victim nine times, broke her phone and fled the scene, which was the victim's home.

"After hearing the evidence, Judge Wells R. Turner ordered the defendant will be held without bond in this case," Crocker said.

In April 2025, Vitkauskas was indicted on both charges.



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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
• 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 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
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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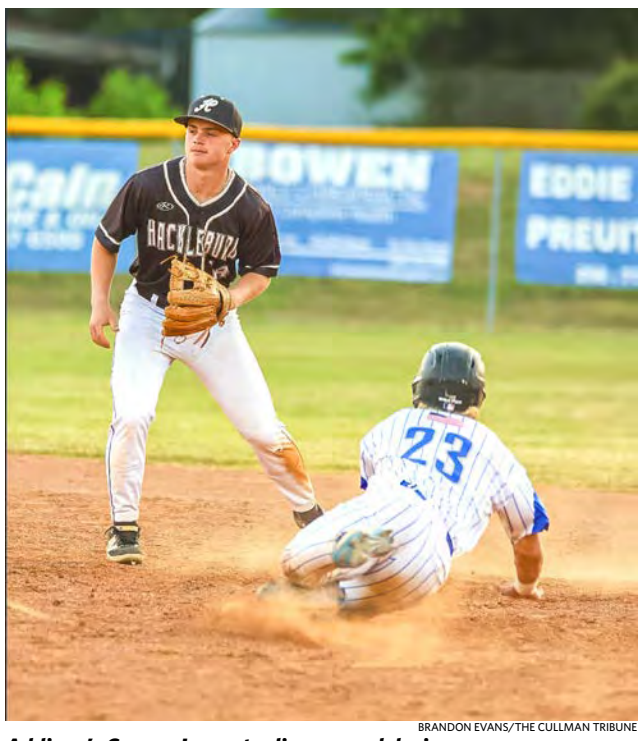
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PREP BASEBALL

Addison completes first round sweep of Hackleburg

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison's Conner Lane stealing second during game one

ADDISON, Ala. — The 2026 AHSAA baseball playoffs are officially underway, and the Addison Bulldogs hosted the Hackleburg Panthers, a team that they defeated easily 15-2 earlier this year, in the first round of the Class 1A state playoffs. Addison trailed 5-1 late in game one, but they launched a late rally in the fifth and the game-winning RBI single by Jaxson Williams in the seventh helped seal their 6-5 come-from-behind win over Hackleburg. Game two was all Bulldogs, as a big first inning and a dominant performance on the mound by Tucker Thompson were key in their 9-3 win in game two, as they move on to the second round.

Addison 6 – Hackleburg 5 (Game One)

Addison starter Kiah Lake quickly found himself in some early trouble to start out the game, as he gave up back-to-back singles to Ross Hudson and Kross Weeks to put runners at first and second with nobody out. A ground ball moved them over to third and second, then a hit by pitch loaded the bases. Lake got Jakoby Burns to pop out for the second out, but Kannen Cheatham drew a bases-loaded walk to give Hackleburg the early lead. The Bulldogs got that run back in their half. Tucker Thompson reached on a one-out error and moved up to second during the play. Conner Lane lined a single to left field to put runners at the corners. Two pitches later, Stone Talley drove in Thompson on a ground ball to tie it up at one.

Jaydin Ware drew a walk to lead off the second inning for the Panthers. A ground ball, then a wild pitch, saw him move up to third with one out, and an error allowed him to score to give Hackleburg a 2-1 lead. The Panthers added to their lead in the top of the third. Jaxson Beard led off the inning with a single, then after he stole second, Burns lined a single to center field, and another Bulldog error allowed Beard to score to make it 3-1. Another single put runners at the corners with nobody out, and a ground ball by Hayes Henderson brought home Burns to stretch their lead to 4-1. A two-out double by Lane, followed by an intentional walk by Talley, had Addison in business in their half, but a ground ball quickly ended the inning.

Addison looked to crack the scoreboard for the first time since the first inning in the bottom of the fourth. Jaxson Williams led off the inning with a single, then Ben Bridges reached on an error to put runners at the corners with nobody out.

Hackleburg starter Maddox Vickery, though, got Scout Flynn to fly out into a double play and got Preuitt Woods to pop out to get out of the inning unscathed. The Panthers continued to add onto their lead in the top of the fifth. Beard reached on an error to lead off the inning, and Burns got hit by the pitch to put runners at first and second with nobody out. A fly ball moved Beard over to third, then Henderson blooped an RBI single to right field to put Hackleburg up, 5-1.

The Bulldog offense quickly got going in the bottom of the fifth. Thompson hit a single to center field, then Lane hit the first pitch he saw into left field for a double to put runners at second and third with one out. After an intentional walk, Lake got hit by the pitch to force home a run to make it 5-2, and Williams drove in a run on a fielder's choice to cut it to 5-3. Lake set Hackleburg down in order in the top of the sixth, and Addison continued to chip away at the Panther lead in their half. Flynn lined a single to left field to lead off the inning, then he moved up to second on a wild pitch. He advanced to third on a ground ball, and he scored on a sacrifice fly by Canaan Speegle to trim it to just a one-run game at 5-4.

Lake worked around a two-out error in the top of the seventh to keep it at a one-run game. The Bulldogs looked to win it in their final at-bats. Lane led off the inning with a single to right field, then two pitches later, Talley reached on an error, as that put runners at the corners with nobody out. Lake delivered one of the biggest hits of the game for Addison, as he lined an RBI double to center field to tie it up at five. The big hits didn't stop there, though, as Williams hit the game-winning RBI single to left field on the first pitch to give the Bulldogs the 6-5 come-from-behind win in game one.

Williams (two hits, including the game-winning RBI single) and Lake (game-tying RBI double) each drove in a pair of runs in the win for Addison, while Speegle and Talley each collected an RBI of their own in the game. Lake went seven innings for the Bulldogs, as he gave up six hits, five runs (two earned), walked two, and struck out three.

Addison 9 – Hackleburg 3 (Game Two)

Game two saw Addison get out to a fast start offensively, as Speegle led off the game with a solo home run to give them the early lead. They were only getting started, though, as Thompson followed that up with a double, and Lane drove him in on an RBI single to make it 2-0. After an intentional walk, Lake hit an RBI single of his own to stretch their lead to 3-0. One out later, a single by Bridges loaded the bases for Flynn. He kept the onslaught going with a two-run single to put the Bulldogs up, 5-0. Speegle, who led off the game with a home run, reached on an error, which allowed Bridges to score to make it 6-0. Thompson's sacrifice fly made it 7-0.

Hackleburg loaded the bases with two outs in their half, but Thompson struck out Cheatham to get out of the early jam. Thompson quickly settled down in the second, as he struck out all three batters he faced that inning. The Panthers cracked the scoreboard against Thompson in the bottom of the third, as an RBI single by Burns cut it to 7-1. Addison got that run back in the top of the fourth. Talley led off the inning with a home run to give the Bulldogs an 8-1 lead. Hackleburg made it 8-2 on an RBI double by Hudson in their half.

Speegle reached on an one-out error in the top of the fifth, and Thompson's single put runners at first and second with one out. Speegle ended up scoring on a sacrifce fly by Lane, as that gave Addison a 9-2 lead. Hackleburg trimmed it to six at 9-3 in the bottom of the sixth on an RBI single by Vickery. The Panthers wouldn't get any closer after that, as Thompson retired the side in the seventh to help seal the Bulldogs' 9-3 win over Hackleburg to move on to the second round of the state playoffs.

Speegle, Lane, and Flynn all finished with a hit and two RBIs in the win for Addison. Thompson and Lake each added three hits and an RBI, and Talley collected a hit and an RBI in the game. Thompson gave up 12 hits, three earned runs, and struck out 10 in his complete game effort.

Addison will take on the Berry/South Lamar winner next week.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's boys team in warmups

PREP SOCCER

Cullman's boys and girls advance to the second round of state playoffs with wins over Fort Payne and Southside

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CULLMAN, Ala. — Both Cullman's boys and girls varsity soccer teams advanced to the second round of the state playoffs Thursday night in home wins.

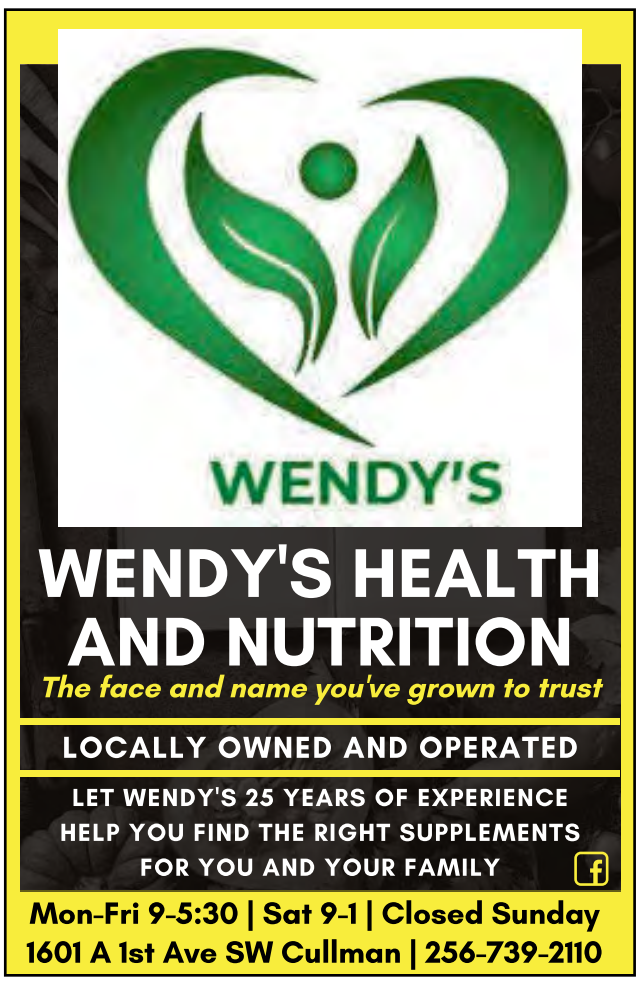
The boys took a 3-2 victory over Fort Payne with goals from JD Ellerbee, Carlos Medina and Cy Dawsey.

The girls avenged their 2025 playoff loss to Southside with a 2-0 shutout victory with goals from Eva Allen and Maddy Henry.

The boys will face Randolph on Monday night at 7 p.m., and the girls await the winner of Hazel Green vs. Decatur on Monday night.





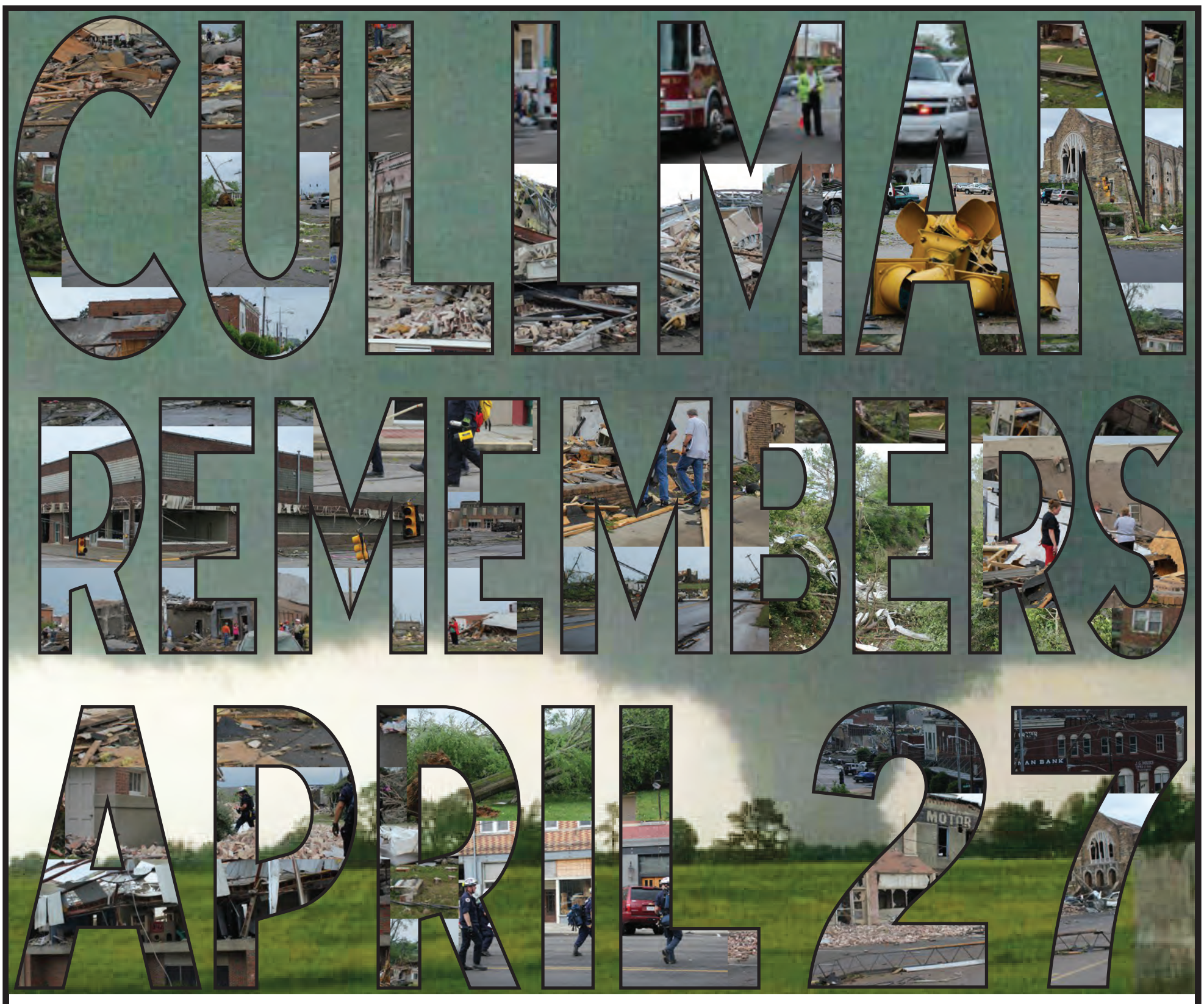




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– 15 YEARS LATER –

The day the sky turned dark still echoes across the community

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The sky was already uneasy when the morning began. Storms had moved across Alabama overnight on April 27, 2011, but forecasters warned the worst was still ahead. By midday, a second wave of storms began developing across north Alabama, fueled by unstable air, strong wind shear and conditions meteorologists would later describe as historic.

Across Cullman County, residents watched the sky grow darker.Some gathered in living rooms around televisions. Others kept radios nearby while going about their days. Many remember checking on neighbors, calling family members or watching weather coverage while trying to understand what was unfolding across the state.

Within hours, one of the most destructive tornado outbreaks in American history was underway.

By the time the day ended, dozens of tornadoes had touched down across Alabama. Among them was the massive tornado that tore through Cullman, leaving destruction across neighborhoods, businesses and the heart of the city.

Fifteen years later, many Cullman residents say the memories remain as vivid as ever.

The sound people still remember

For many who experienced the storm, the sound is what never fades.

Some describe it as a train. Others say it was more like a roar, or a wall of wind that seemed to shake everything around them.

Hannah Danielle Gonzales was just 13 years old. "I'll never forget hearing it sound like a train when it went over," she said.

Brandon DaSilva remembers watching the storm approach from his home in Fairview. "I remember the sound of a train. I looked out my window just before running to the basement and our trampoline flew up and landed on the neighbor's house," he said.

Vic Aviles said the storm lasted only seconds but felt much longer. "They don't lie when they say it sounds like a freight train. The whole house was shaking," he said. "Fifteen to 25 seconds later it was over."

Others recall how the noise filled entire homes.

Leigh Hopper Stallings said she and her son sat on basement stairs with their dogs as the tornado passed. "It was so incredibly loud," she said. "I could hear things hitting my house, glass breaking and the siding being ripped off."

Moments of fear

For many, the storm arrived suddenly. Amy Reynolds said she was standing on her porch when she realized the tornado was approaching.

"I watched it from my porch and saw the tornado coming toward me," she said. "I was in shock and just stood there."

Reynolds said it was not until she heard meteorologist James Spann urgently telling viewers to take shelter that she snapped into action.

"Finally I came back to reality and told my oldest to run," she said. "We made it to the closet and heard it go over."

Inside homes, shelters and hallways across the county, families waited as the storm passed overhead.

Heather Conn was in the basement of St. Paul's Lutheran Church near downtown Cullman. "We came out to absolute carnage," she said. "I couldn't figure out where I was because nothing was recognizable."

Conn said she sat on the curb and cried. Her young son offered comfort. "My oldest was 4. He just held my face and said, 'Mommy, it's OK. Jesus protected us.'"

Watching it happen

Some residents witnessed the tornado from yards, roadways or businesses.

Josh Barnes remembers seeing the massive storm pass near Simcoe when he was 11 years old. "My dad and I saw that monster EF-4 that tore through Cullman from our backyard," he said.

Jordan Powell said he and his father were driving north on U.S. Highway 31 when the storm crossed their path. "It was terrifying," he said.

Others saw it form in the sky.

Becky Sullins watched from a mountain in Hanceville. "I saw the 'dead man walking,'" she said, referring to a phenomenon where debris and condensation give the tornado a humanlike silhouette.

Mark Clough remembers watching it pass his home in West Point. "I was standing on our porch and watched it go past our house," he said.

Downtown destruction

In Cullman's downtown area, the tornado left some of the most visible damage.

Justin Thomas said he drove into Cullman shortly after the storm struck.

"The damage we came into around the courthouse looked like a war zone or a scene from a movie," he said.

Kerry Schrader was working at CVS on Second Avenue when the tornado approached. "I watched it come straight toward us," she said. "I watched it suck up a house around St. Joseph Street and then turn and hit the courthouse."

Even those who arrived after the storm passed said the devastation was difficult to comprehend.

Pattie Call-Edmundson remembers driving to work the next morning. "Cullman looked like King Kong had walked through town," she said. "I had never seen anything like it."

In the days after

When the winds died down, the work of recovery began almost immediately.

Across Cullman County, neighbors cleared debris, shared food and searched for ways to help one another.

Gary Maddux remembers spending days clearing roads. "Lots of gas and chainsaw oil," he said.

Others remember long lines for fuel, ice and supplies.

Megan Pitts Pennington said her family's gas station in Hanceville was one of the few locations able to pump fuel using a generator.

"There was a line coming from both directions as far as you could see," she said. "We opened early and stayed open late just trying to help people."

Many residents say the community response remains one of the most powerful memories from that time.

Kimberley Suzanne Howell said the destruction left deep emotional scars but also revealed something hopeful. "The only good thing that came out of all the destruction was the love everyone showed for each other," she said. "That was the miracle from it."

Loss and remembrance

For some families, April 27 carries painful memories of lives lost.

Melissa Long Novalis said she remembers the phone calls that day as family members tried to confirm everyone was safe.

Others still struggle to revisit the memories.

Jeff Wynn said the day is one he hopes never to relive. "It is a day I do not wish to ever have to live again," he said.

15 years later

In the years since the storm, Cullman has rebuilt homes, businesses and neighborhoods.

New buildings now stand where debris once covered streets.

But for many residents, the memories remain tied to the sounds, sights and emotions of that day.

WVTM 13 Chief Meteorologist and Holly Pond native Jason Simpson said one memory still stands above the rest.

"I can smell that picture," he said. "I'll never forget the smell of destruction the day after."

For many in Cullman County, April 27 is not just a date on the calendar. It is a reminder of loss, survival and the strength of a community that came together when it mattered most.

APRIL 27, 2011 THE DAY SEVERE WEATHER CHANGED CULLMAN

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

A look back at the day that forever changed our community.

EARLY MORNING
A line of severe storms moves across Alabama overnight. Strong winds cause damage and leave many areas without power, but forecasters warn the worst conditions will arrive later in the day.

MID-MORNING
Meteorologists across the state isun that atmospheric conditions Warm, unstable air combines with powerful upper-level winds, creating ideal conditions for strong tornadoes.

LATE MORNING
The National Weather Service issues tornado watches across north Alabama as storms rapidly develop.

EARLY AFTERNOON
Supercell thunderstorms form across the region. Several large tornadoes begin touching down across central and north Alabama.

MID-AFTERNOON
A powerful tornado approaches Cullman County as storms intensify across the Tennessee Valley.

MINUTES LATER
The tornado moves into the Cullman area, striking neighborhoods and businesses and causing widespread damage across parts of the city and surrounding areas.

LATE AFTERNOON
Emergency responders begin searching damaged areas while residents check on neighbors and family members. Roads are blocked by debris, downed power lines and fallen trees.

EVENING
Additional storms continue moving across Alabama as emergency crews begin assessing damage.

NIGHTFALL
Thousands across north Alabama are without power. Many residents spend the night without electricity, cell service or access to normal communications.

DAYS FOLLOWING
Cleanup begins across Cullman County as neighbors, churches, volunteers and emergency crews work together to clear debris and help families recover.

15 YEARS LATER

WHAT MANY CULLMAN RESIDENTS SAY THEY REMEMBER MOST

Even after a decade and a half, certain memories from April 27 remain vivid. For many, the storm is remembered not just for the destruction, but for the sounds and emotions surrounding it.

THE SOUND
Many survivors describe the tornado as sounding like a freight train roaring through their homes and neighborhoods.

THE DARKNESS
Several residents remember how quickly daylight disappeared as the storm approached, leaving the sky an eerie shade of gray or green.

THE CONFUSION AFTERWARD
Some people said they walked outside after the storm and could not recognize familiar streets or landmarks because so many buildings and trees had been destroyed.

THE SMELL
Others recall a powerful smell of splintered wood, wet insulation and debris that lingered for days after the tornado passed.

THE SILENCE
Without power or cell service, many residents spent days with limited communication as the community slowly began rebuilding.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONSE
Despite the devastation, many residents say the most lasting memory is how people came together.

- Neighbors cleared roads with chainsaws.
- Families shared food and fuel.
- Volunteers from across the region came to help rebuild homes and restore normal life.

Many Cullman residents say that spirit of community remains one of the most powerful legacies of April 27.

DEVASTATION



JERRY HALE/READER SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jerry Hale: "Here's one from behind Topre America"



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



READER SUBMITTED PHOTO



LEIGH HOPPER STALLINGS/READER SUBMITTED PHOTO

Leigh Hopper Stallings: "Our back yard"



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Storm shelters available across Cullman County

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CULLMAN, Ala. – Residents are encouraged to know where their nearest storm shelter is before storms arrive.

According to the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), all shelters open when a tornado watch or warning is issued and close once the threat passes (with the exception of the Jones Chapel shelter, which is always open).

General rules apply at all locations. Only service animals for people with disabilities are allowed; however, a designated pod at the Sportsman Lake shelter in Cullman allows small pets in carriers.

Smoking, alcohol, recreational drugs, weapons and firearms are prohibited.

The following storm shelters are available, listed by community:

Baileyton
- 112 Fairview Road, capacity 96+
- 130 Cemetery Road, capacity 86+
- 600 Fire Station Road, capacity 86+

Berlin
- Berlin Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, 3584 U.S. Highway 278 E, capacity 40+

Bethsadia
- Bethsadia Volunteer Fire Department, 454 County Road 804, capacity 86+

Bremen
- Brushy Pond Senior Center, 2729 County Road 143, capacity 48+

Chapel Village and Jones Chapel
- 74 County Road 1034, capacity 96+, always open

Colony
- 65 Byars Road, capacity 86+
- Colony Senior Center, 12980 Alabama Highway 91 S, capacity 48+

Crane Hill
- Crane Hill Senior Center, 15140 County Road 222, capacity 100+
- Crane Hill Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, 15123 County Road 222, capacity 48+

Cullman
- 1511 Sportsman Lake Road, capacity 396+
- Beech Center basement, 1803 Beech Ave. SE, capacity 150+
- Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road, capacity 89+

Dodge City
- 130 Howard Circle, capacity 96+
- Dodge City Volunteer Fire Department No. 2, 7150 County Road 223, capacity 96+

Fairview
- Fairview Housing Authority, 96 Countryside Acres Road, capacity 96+

Garden City
- 501 First Ave. SW, capacity 396+

Gold Ridge
- Gold Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, 5225 County Road 1545, capacity 96+

Good Hope
- 301 Day Gap Road, capacity 96+
- 301 Municipal Dr., capacity 96+

Hanceville
- 202 Bangor Ave., capacity 96+
- 203 Michelle St. NW, capacity 96+
- 1407 Commercial St., capacity 96+
- Hanceville Senior Center, 1500 Spruce St. SE, capacity 48+

Holly Pond
- 60 Finley Road, capacity 86+

Logan
- Logan Volunteer Fire Department, 4203 County Road 818, capacity 96+

Smith Lake Park
- 416 County Road 385, capacity 96+

Stony Lonesome OHV Park
- 10075 Alabama Highway 69 S, two units, capacity 144+

Vinemont
- 60 Ridgeway St., capacity 192+
- Vinemont-Providence Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, 576 County Road 1355, capacity 192+

Walter
- Walter Volunteer Fire Department, 32655 Alabama Highway 91, capacity 80+

West Point
- 3990 County Road 1141, capacity 96+
- West Point Volunteer Fire Department, 11160 Alabama Highway 157, capacity 96+

Residents are encouraged to identify the shelter nearest to their home and monitor weather conditions closely, especially during severe weather season.

Get more details:
- https://co.cullman.al.us/ema/assets/PDF/CommunityShelterList.pdf
- https://co.cullman.al.us/ema/index.html
- www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyEMA

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 25, 2026

– 2 STORMS, 1 DAY –

West recounts surviving April 27, 2011, in Hanceville, Cullman

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CULLMAN, Ala. — For Leanne Harden West, April 27, 2011, was not defined by a single storm, but by two.

West experienced both the early morning tornado in Hanceville and the EF4 tornado that tore through the city of Cullman later that afternoon during the April 27, 2011, tornado outbreak, a day she said carried a sense of warning from the very beginning.

"April 27, 2011, was one of those days that carried a sense of warning," West said.

Tornadoes had been forecast for days. That morning, as she drove down Interstate 65 to drop her husband off at work in Hanceville while the two were carpooling, West received a call from a family member in the Dodge City area warning that severe weather had already begun there.

"It was still calm where we were, but I decided to take U.S. 31 instead of I-65 to my office at Cullman City Hall, hoping to stay ahead of the worst of it," she said.

Moments after dropping her husband off, conditions quickly deteriorated.

"As soon as I dropped my husband off, it started raining," she said. "By the time I pulled onto Alabama 91, it was raining so hard I could only see when lightning lit up the sky."

In those brief flashes, she could see the trees bending over the roadway.

"In those flashes, I could see the trees bending over the road. Trees were snapping behind me, and one fell so close that the tip of its branches swept the back of my car, which terrified me," she said.

Unable to safely continue driving, West searched for a place to shelter.

"I tried to find somewhere to pull off, but I couldn't see well and wanted to get away from the trees," she said.

She eventually pulled into a gas station, but the conditions offered little relief.

"I thought about going inside, but debris was flying and the canopy over the pumps was shifting in the wind," she said. "Roofing shingles from a dilapidated building behind me were hitting my car, and I slunk down in my seat because I was afraid debris would come through the windows."

Inside her vehicle, the force of the storm became more apparent.

"Sitting there, I could feel the car rocking in the wind and started to worry it might flip," she said.

She briefly reached her husband by phone before losing connection.

"I tried to call my husband and briefly got him on the phone, but the line went dead and I couldn't reach him again," she said.

In the middle of the chaos, one moment stood out in sharp contrast.

"Throughout all of that, I looked over to my left and saw a man sitting in his truck calmly sipping coffee," she said. "I still don't know how he was so calm, because I was crying and praying and convinced I might not make it through that moment."

After the storm passed, West checked on her daughters, who were both living in Vinemont at the time, before heading back toward Cullman. She later learned the Hanceville tornado had been rated an EF2 and had passed just yards from where she had taken shelter.

Driving back, the damage became increasingly visible.

"I remember seeing two mules standing in a pasture who looked just as stunned as I felt," she said.

She navigated around debris, downed power lines and fallen trees, passing a house with a tree on top of it, unsure whether anyone inside needed help.

"It was eerily quiet, with no emergency response there yet, and everything had that strange green tint I still remember vividly," she said.

By mid-afternoon, West was inside the Cullman City Hall vault with coworkers as the second storm approached.

"By mid-afternoon, around 3 p.m., I was in the city hall vault with coworkers as an EF4 tornado tore through downtown Cullman," she said.

Some employees had been watching from the windows and saw the tornado approaching.

"A group of them had been watching from the windows and could see the tornado appeared to be heading straight for us," she said.

Then-Mayor Max Townson brought in a television reporter and cameraman who had been outside, and they joined those sheltering in the vault.

"My boss at the time, Mayor Max Townson, saw a reporter with a TV news station and her cameraman outside and brought them into city hall," she said. "They came into the vault with us, and the cameraman filmed as we waited out the storm."

As the tornado closed in, West received another call – this time from her sister in Birmingham.

"My sister called me from Birmingham crying because she was watching coverage and could see the tornado heading straight for downtown Cullman," she said. "I tried to reassure her even though we all knew what was coming."

Inside the vault, the atmosphere shifted.

"I also remember an eerie, almost still feeling in the room as the storm passed over, and the power dimmed slightly," she said. "We were all waiting, tense and quiet, expecting something worse to happen."

City hall sustained only minor damage, but the scope of the disaster quickly became clear.

"Thankfully, at city hall, the damage was limited mainly to a broken window and some debris in the parking lot," she said. "But not long after, word started coming in about widespread damage across the city and beyond, and that's when we began to understand just how serious it was."

In the hours that followed, emergency response efforts began across the city.

"Our fire and police departments, emergency dispatch, power crews and public works crews, including street, water and sewer, traffic and sanitation, all went to work," she said. "Really, every city department had a role in the recovery and cleanup efforts."

She said those efforts were supported by volunteers from across the community.

"Those efforts were supported by an incredible number of volunteers who worked alongside municipal employees and made sure workers and volunteers were fed, and it was something special to witness," she said.

City hall became a central point for recovery operations.

"City hall also became a headquarters of sorts for recovery efforts, as we had full power thanks to a brand new generator," she said.

Even as night fell, the danger had not fully passed.

"Even after I got home that evening, the day wasn't over," she said. "More tornadoes moved through the area, though none with the destruction of the two I experienced earlier."

Later that night, she returned to pick up her husband, navigating through a changed landscape.

"I had to drive to pick my husband up from work, carefully making my way around downed trees and power lines," she said. "Driving back through town, I remember not even knowing where I was at times because it was completely dark."

With power outages across the area, the city was nearly unrecognizable.

"There were no traffic signals, no street lights, no lights from stores, just a few emergency lights here and there, but mostly darkness and destruction," she said. "It was a somber sight."

Reflecting on the day, West said it remains one she will never forget.

"It was a terrifying, tragic and very long day, followed by many long days of work, but also a time when you saw people step up and help one another in ways you don't forget," she said.

"I'm deeply grateful that I and my family came through those storms without injury or loss. Many others were not as fortunate, and for all of us who lived through that day, it will never be forgotten."

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Loan Production Office: Decatur

Commission (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Commission at its meeting on April 21, recognized Ryans Creek Cemetery and Good Hope Baptist Church Cemetery for being listed on the Alabama Historical Commission's Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

According to the Alabama Historical Commission, the register is "the state's official list of historic cemeteries in Alabama. The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) considers historic cemeteries particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

Read more about the register at www.ahc.alabama.gov/cemeteryprogram.aspx.

The Commission also honored Water Department employee Jerry Reynolds for 26 years of service. CARTS employees Jody Glover and Cindy Burgett were recognized for winning first and second place in the bus division at the Alabama RTAP Training Roadeo.

The Commission approved an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation to improve County Road 222, pledging $200,000 in matching funds as part of a larger grant-supported road improvement project. Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, and Rep. Cindy Myrex, R-Cullman, were present and recognized for their roles in helping secure funding for the project. Officials said the project will improve a busy section of the county's longest road.

Several resolutions were adopted, including lowering speed limits to 25 mph on County Roads 1658, 546 and 338. Commissioners also agreed to join the Alabama Inter-Local Mutual Aid Agreement and the state's remnant defendant opioid settlement.

The commission approved several funding measures, such as $50,000 in Opioid Response Funds for Restoring Women Outreach and $30,721.68 for the District Attorney's Office to support related programs. Commissioners also approved a $2,500 community grant and a $23,000 agreement for Fourth of July entertainment at Smith Lake Park.

Other actions included selling a surplus 2017 Dodge Ram to the Vinemont-Providence Fire Department for $26,000, buying a 2027 Chevrolet Equinox for county use and purchasing computers for the Reappraisal Office. The commission also approved several subdivision plats in District 1.

The countywide "Free Dump Day" cleanup event will take place during the month of May, allowing residents to dispose of certain items at no cost. Additional details on specific dates, locations and participation guidelines are expected to be announced by the county.

The Commission will meet next on Thursday, May 21, with a work session at 4 p.m. and a meeting to follow at 6 in the commission meeting room.

Debate (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Tribune Debate Series will return in May, bringing candidates together in a format built on transparency, accountability and direct engagement with the public.

At its core, the debate series exists for one reason: voters deserve to see, hear and evaluate the individuals asking for their vote, side by side, under the same conditions, answering the same questions.

This year's schedule reflects that continued commitment, with multiple races already confirmed and others still pending.

The following debates are currently set, all taking place at the James C. Bailey Center on the campus of Wallace State Community College:

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner
- Michael Pitts vs. Kenneth Cornelius
- Saturday, May 9 at 4 p.m.

****Cullman County Commission, District 2**
- Richard Barnett vs. Joshua Speakman
- Saturday, May 9 at 6 p.m.

Alabama State Senate District 4
- JK Bowling vs. Garlan Gudger
- Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m.

Cullman County Sheriff
- Tim Creel vs. Chad Whaley
- Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m.

**As of publication, Richard Barnett has not yet confirmed his participation in the District 2 debate.

In a text message sent when asked, Barnett stated, "I've not heard from my daughter in law yet. Waiting on her to see if she gets deployed."

Additional races, including Cullman County Board of Education, District 4 and County Commission, District 1, are still awaiting confirmations.

The Tribune has extended the same invitation to every candidate in every race. There are no special conditions, no preferred treatment and no altered formats. Each candidate is given an equal opportunity to participate.

If a candidate chooses not to attend, that decision will be made visible.

An empty chair will remain on stage.

That chair is not symbolic for effect. It is a clear, honest representation for voters, showing that the opportunity to stand before the public, answer questions and participate in a direct exchange was offered and declined.

Running for public office carries an expectation of accessibility. It requires more than campaign materials, social media posts or controlled appearances. It requires a willingness to stand in a shared space, respond in real time and engage in the process openly.

The Tribune Debate Series is not designed to favor one candidate over another. It is structured to give voters a clearer view of each candidate's positions, preparedness and ability to lead.

These debates would not be possible without Wallace State opening the doors of the Bailey Center auditorium. Their partnership allows the public to attend in person while also making the debates accessible through official livestream coverage.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Media organizations wishing to be present must receive prior written approval, as The Tribune serves as the host of these events. To maintain consistency and prevent confusion for viewers, no independent livestreams will be permitted. The official Tribune broadcast will serve as the sole live video stream.

In addition, The Tribune does not accept sponsorships for the debate series. These events are not a paid stage. They are intended to remain neutral, focused solely on the candidates and the voters they seek to serve.

For those who have already confirmed, the commitment reflects an understanding of that responsibility.

For those still considering, the invitation remains open.

Cullman voters will head to the polls Tuesday, May 19. Results will begin posting shortly after polls close at 7 p.m.

Before that moment arrives, voters deserve every opportunity to make an informed decision.

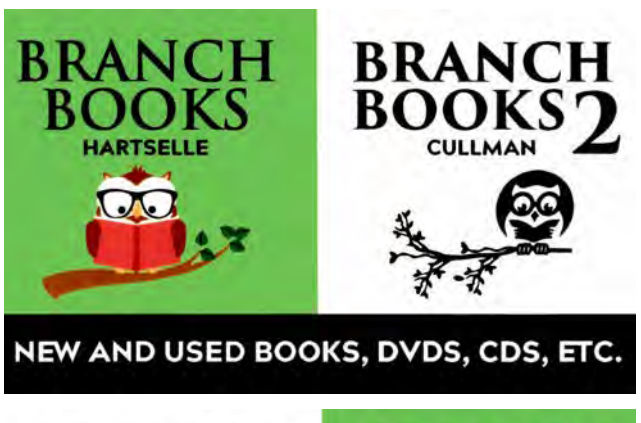
The stage will be set.

The microphones will be on.

The question now is simple: who will take their seat?













Free Touch A Truck event returns May 2 with giveaways supporting Community Cupboard

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Electric Cooperative will host its annual Touch A Truck event on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. Admission is free, and this year's event will combine family fun with an opportunity to give back.

Guests are encouraged to bring nonperishable food items or hygiene products to support Cullman Electric Cooperative's Community Cupboard. Each item donated earns one entry into a giveaway featuring prizes such as a Cozy Coupe, water table, bike and basketball goal — giving families a fun incentive to help neighbors in need.

A sensory-friendly hour from 9-10 a.m. will provide a quieter, more accessible experience for attendees.

Touch A Truck is designed as a hands-on event where children and families can explore a wide variety of vehicles up close. Emergency responders, local businesses and organizations will showcase fire trucks, police vehicles, ambulances, bucket trucks, tractor trailers, school buses, farm equipment and heavy construction machinery. Representatives will be on-site to answer questions and guide visitors through the vehicles.

"Touch A Truck is one of our favorite ways to bring the community together," said Lindsey Dossey, manager of communications and external affairs at Cullman Electric Cooperative. "It's a day where kids can explore, families can connect and neighbors can support one another. By pairing this event with donations for our Community Cupboard, we're able to turn a fun experience into something that truly makes a difference for local families."

Vehicles and vendors confirmed for 2026 include:

- Cullman Fire Rescue
- Cullman Police Department
- Cullman County Sheriff's Office
- Cullman EMS
- Hanceville Fire Department
- Bethsadia VFD
- RevNet
- Sprout Fiber Internet
- Cullman Power Board
- Cullman County Schools
- Wallace State Community College
- Perfect Choice Towing
- Dixie Towing
- TriGreen
- Brothers Concrete Supply
- K&K Logging
- Alabama State Troopers
- Cullman County Library Bookmobile
- Cullman Farm-City Committee
- Climate Heating and Cooling
- Alabama Game and Wildlife
- Alabama Tornado Tracker
- Badger Hydrovac
- J &C Johnson Trucking
- CARTS
- S & S Tire
- United Way
- McGriff Tire and Service
- The Butcher Chuck Wagon
- ChaCha's Shaved Ice

Food trucks and additional vendors will also be on-site, offering refreshments available for purchase throughout the day.

Touch A Truck remains a free, family-friendly event focused on education, community connection and service.

For more information, visit www.cullmanec.com/touch-truck or follow Cullman Electric Cooperative on social media for updates.

LEGALS

Notice of Sale

The following storage units will be sold at West Point Mini Storage, 5677 Co. Rd. 1114, Vinemont, Alabama 35179 at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 30, 2026: Unit 13 Kelly Mazy and Unit 104 Kyle Price Elam. We reserve the right to reject any or all offers, 256-338-1759.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
ROWAN LUKE BURNS,) CASE NO. 25-JU-2026-000096.01
)
A MINOR CHILD.)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

REBECCA BURNS, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Verified Petition to Terminate Parental Rights filed by John Burns and/or other relief by May 18, 2026, or, thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against her in regard to case number JU-2026-96.01, Juvenile Court of Cullman County.

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 06 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Done this the 8 day of April, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT

JERRY L. KILGO
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
421 Third Avenue SE,
Post Office Box 156
CULLMAN, AL. 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
MARK STEVEN HAYMON,
Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2024-196

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to TONYA C. PALMER as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARK STEVEN HAYMON, deceased, on the 8th 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.

Tonya C. Palmer
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Estate
Palmer Law Firm, LLC
1939 Main Avenue SW
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

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law,statutes, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.
1994 GMC Yukon 1GKEK18K1RJ732970
Vehicle will be sold to pay storage/repair fee at Head Hoggers llc, 222 Arkadelphia Rd, Hanceville, AL 35077
May 28, 2026 at 8:30 am

VALUATION NOTICE

The appraised valuations of all property listed for taxation in Cullman County have been fixed as provided by law and filed in my office according to Sec. 40-30-20, 1975 Code of Alabama. The Board of Equalization and Adjustment will hear protest on any of these valuations provided these protests are filed in writing by May 22, 2026.

Barry Willingham, ACTA
Revenue Commissioner
Board Secretary
Cullman County

Legal Notice

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF
W.G.L.
A minor child.
D.O.B. 3/2/2018 CASE NO.: PC 2026-140

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR

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

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

DONE THIS 2nd DAY OF April, 2026.

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

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

Case No. PC 2026-160
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Alabama
Cullman County

Probate Court

Estate of Anthony Brandon Harbison
Deceased

Letters of Administration upon the Estate of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned, William Brady Harbison, on the 21st day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

William Brady Harbison
c/o Chamblee & Malone, LLC
Attorneys at Law
Personal Representative
111 Watterson Parkway
Trussville, Alabama 35173

TO: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Mail Proof of Publish to:
Judge of Probate
Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue, SW # 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
DAVID LYONELL BROWN, CASE NO. PC2026-136
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to TAMI BROWN MYER, as Administrator of the Estate of DAVID LYONELL BROWN, deceased, on the 24th 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.

DONE this the 24th day of April, 2026.

Tami Brown Myers
Administrator

Franklin D. Posey
Attorney at Law
131 East Laurel Street
Cullman, AL 35768
(256) 912-0360

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD 2026-001

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF MARIAH WATSON EDGE and ROBERT NATHAN EDGE
TO ADOPT J.D.D.W. a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: UNKNOWN FATHER OF J.D.D.W. BORN APRIL 21, 2017

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption* to adopt J.D.D.W. a minor child (born on April 21, 2017, to Andrea Danielle Watson) was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Mariah Watson Edge and Robert Nathan Edge, Petitioners. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 23rd DAY OF April, 2026.

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

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Petitioners
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

SAMPLE FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given

that BOATNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC
(*Contractor Company Name*)
Contractor, has completed the Contract for ☑(Construction) ☐(Renovation) ☐(Alteration) ☐(Equipment) ☐(Improvement) of (*Name of Project*):

ADDITIONS TO THE CULLMAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CULLMAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

at
(*Insert location data in County or City*)
for the State of Alabama and the (County) (City) of CULLMAN COUNTY CULLMAN ALABAMA, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify
MCKEE & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS INC 631 SOUTH HULL STREET MONTGOMERY AL 36104
334-834-9933
(*Architect / Engineer*)

BOATNER CONSTRUCTION CO INC
(Contractor)

114 HICKMAN STREET STE A
RAINBOW CITY, AL 35906
256-442-3820
(Business Address)

NOTE: This notice must be run once a week for ~~four~~ 3 successive weeks for projects exceeding $50,000.00. For projects of $50,000.00 or less, run one time only. A copy of the publisher's affidavit of publication (including a copy of the advertisement) shall be submitted by the Contractor to the Design Professional for inclusion with DCM Form B-13: Final Payment Checklist for state agencies, PSCA-funded and other bond-funded projects.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JO ANN WOODS, * CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 159
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Ancillary Letters Testamentary having been granted to Charles Reece Woods, Jr. as Executor of the Estate of Jo Ann Woods, deceased, on the 23rd day of April, 2026, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Charles Reece Woods Jr.
Charles Reece Woods, Jr.
Executor

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

Attorney for Executor

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2024-236

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF HOWARD DENNIS MALLORY, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF HOWARD DENNIS MALLORY, DECEASED.

Case# PC2024-236 PB MIN Book 242 Page 309 Recorded In Above Book and 04/10/2026 8:54AM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s)

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Mallory Elizabeth Caldwell on the 10th 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.

Mallory Elizabeth Caldwell Personal Representative (Administrator),

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2026-093

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SANDRA KAY ABBOTT DECEASED,

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to MICHAEL COFER, as Administrator of the Estate of SANDRA KAY ABBOTT Deceased, on the 21st day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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.

MICHAEL COFER
Administrator of the
Estate of SANDRA KAY ABBOTT,
Deceased

PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
MANZIE C. WOOTEN,) CASE NO. PC 2026 - 158
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Tommy Dwayne Wooten, as Administrator of the Estate of Manzie C. Wooten, deceased, on the 24th 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.

Tommy Dwayne Wooten

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

Attorney for Administrator

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

'This Little Line of Mine'

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I am a writer. I write articles, books and songs. While I have won a few awards for some of my newspaper and magazine articles, I have never written a best-selling book or song. I have written hundreds of songs, recorded a few off them and lost or thrown away many others. My first printed book was a 184-page doctoral dissertation 31 years ago. They only printed four copies, and a dear friend actually bought one!

Not counting that dissertation, I recently finished writing my 11th book, which I've titled: "This Little Line of Mine." Obviously, that is a play on words from the song, "This Little Light of Mine." My book's subtitle is, "Lyrics, Lines, and Rhymes." With this latest book, I married my songwriting and my book writing. It is mostly a collection of some of the song lyrics I have written through the years.

Honestly, I can't remember the first song I ever wrote, and I don't know exactly how many songs I have written. I have forgotten a great number of then. That's probably because they were forgettable. I do remember being a little kid and making up my own lyrics to the tunes of someone else's songs.

I have been guilty of altering the words of a serious song to make it into something funny. I can still hear my "Closet Puritan" mother say of some of those songs, "Son, that's a gospel song." The interpretation of her rebuke was that I should not alter the lyrics of a gospel song. I'm afraid I have not always minded my mother's admonitions.

I picked up my brother's old guitar and started "making noise" on it, while I was still in elementary school.

Before long, I was making up chord progressions and adding my own lyrics to match. I believe I first thought it might be best for me to write my own songs after I had rendered my own version of a radio song I had heard.

Mama was hosting a group of ladies from church in our living room one day when I broke out into an impromptu verse of, "It will either be the bottle dear or me." Since I was only around 6 at the time, I didn't fully understand why my mother didn't like songs about bottles.

Noah may have found grace in the eyes of the Lord, but I definitely didn't find much grace in the eyes of Mama that day! I did find other songs to sing.

Some of my original songs were scribbled on scraps or paper or even the proverbial lyric napkins.

Through the years, many of them were lost or thrown away, but I managed to keep quite of few of them. I still have the lyrics and chords for some but have no idea what they sounded like back then or now. Many of them are Christian songs that I used in church.

About 25 years ago, I created a story-telling/song-singing character called Bro. Billy Bob. Many of my original songs are lightheartened or humorous ones that I've used in those Billy Bob programs. My music has naturally fallen into two different categories, so my new book has as well. I called the first section, "Seriously - Let's Get Serious." I called the second section, "Silly-ouly - Let's Get Silly." Occasionally, I got the two confused and some silliness slipped into the serious songs and vice versa.

Beginning this weekend, I will be available in the coming months for a limited number of concerts of selected songs from the book. The book is available from me or online.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: April 25, 1940

From the files of April 25, 1940

Mt. Pisgah News

Sunday School attendance is very good during the beautiful Spring weather.

Little Dora Dean Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dolphus Smith of Alabama City is still ill at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Doc Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Huddleston spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Perry Waldrop.

Miss Wanda Dye was the Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Dye.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lackey and family visited relatives near Eidson Chapel, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Green were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Drinkard were the guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Farley, Sunday.

Mr. Charlie Wyatt Huddleston was the Saturday night and Sunday guest of Mr. L. J. Dye.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Waldrop spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. William Waldrop.

Buddy Ivey is reported to be recovering from the flu.

Irene and Lila Huddleston were the week-end guests of Lura Brown.

Mrs. Earl Tipton, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Farley and Mr. B. F. Moses went to Birmingham last Monday and returned Tuesday after Mr. Lester Farley underwent a slight operation.

Miss Ruby Powers spent Wednesday night with Miss Florence Harper.

Mr. and Mrs. Ossie McGriff spent Friday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Johnston.

Mr. Jesse Dye and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Reid and family were the guests Sunday afternoon, of Mr. and Mrs. Doc Smith.

The mumps seem to have taken a new start around. As usual something always breaks out about decoration time. It is the second Sunday in May, just two weeks off. Everyone is given a cordial invitation to attend.

Miss Lurena Stapler spent the week-end with Miss Perlin Adams.

Amateur Typewriting Champion To Be Here

Barney Stapert, former World's Amateur Typewriting Champion, who was featured at the New York World's Fair, will demonstrate his typewriting skill at 10:30 o'clock, Monday morning, April 29th, at the Cullman County High School.

A recognized authority on touch typewriting, Mr. Stapert says. "It is important to be correctly seated at the typewriter in a comfortable, relaxed position in order to obtain the best results and not be subjected to physical fatigue.

"It is equally important to develop a rhythmical touch of the fingers on the keyboard which will automatically improve your accuracy and typing speed."

Mr. Stapert's official record in the last International Typewriting Contest held in Toronto, Canada, was 136 net five stroke words a minute for one solid hour of typing.

During the hour's grind, Mr. Stapert struck 42,773 keys giving him an average of almost 12 keys for each of 3,600 seconds.

During his demonstration on correct typing form, Mr. Stapert emphasizes finger rhythm on the keyboard, proper posture, concentration and the elimination of waste motion.

While writing, he carries on a conversation and answers the questions of different persons who wish to get information from him on typewriting subjects.

Mr. Stapert's remarkable power of concentration, enables him to recite the States of the Union and their Capitals in less than a minute while typing at full speed.

Mr. Stapert who lives in Hawthorne, New Jersey, received his early education in Paterson, New Jersey.

He is now making an educational demonstration tour of the United States so that students and others interested in typewriting may benefit from his experience and ability.

Mr. Stapert is a member of the Educational Department of the Underwood Elliott Fisher Co.

Mr. J. H. Rigney, Representative of the Underwood Elliott Fisher Company, is sponsoring Mr. Stapert's demonstrations in this city.



QUEEN MARGARET II TO REIGN—When the 1940 Cullman County Strawberry Festival opens Miss Margaret Engel (above) will reign as Queen of the celebration. Eleven other local beauties and princesses representing several North Alabama towns will form the royal court. (Wagner Photo)

POET'S CORNER

The Wild One

By: Randy C. Hale

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



MAKENZIE TAYLOR

Some kids are calm.
Some kids are quiet.
And then... there's that child.

The wild one.

The one who runs instead of walks.
The one who climbs things you didn't even know were climbable.
The one who asks a thousand questions, talks nonstop,
and somehow has the energy of ten kids combined.

The one who tests every ounce of your patience some days.

But what people don't always see is the other side of that same child.

The one who gives the tightest hugs.
The one who says I love you out of nowhere.
The one who cries when someone else is sad.
The one who loves with their whole heart
and feels everything so deeply.

The wild ones aren't too much.
They're passionate.
They're curious.
They're fearless.
They're full of life in a way the world sometimes
doesn't know what to do with.

And one day that big energy, that big personality, and that big heart is going to be exactly what makes them extraordinary.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 25

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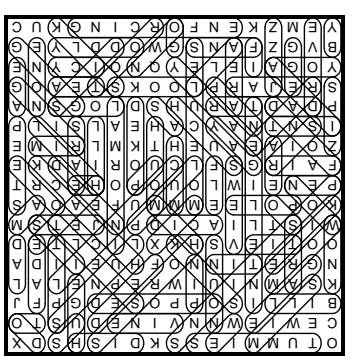
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Council
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

APRIL 25

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ANSWERS:



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

Hanceville (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville City Council, during the public comments portion of its April 23 meeting, heard from Cullman Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Alyson Stewart on the subject of child abuse.

"It's become a popular subject, but not decreasing in numbers, unfortunately," she said.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and one of the ways people raise awareness and honor victims of child abuse is by wearing blue. Stewart expressed the need for change, saying Alabama ranks in the top 20 states for child abuse reports.

Mayor Nolan Bradford signed a proclamation proclaiming April Child Abuse Prevention Month in Hanceville.

Following this, the president of Compassion and Hope Food Basket Ministry, John Skinner, requested permission to set up from Monday, June 15, through Saturday, June 20, for a tent revival at Tucker Park.

Bradford discussed a possible issue with Food Truck Night event being held at the same location, but assured something would be worked out.

The council ultimately motioned to approve Skinner's request, with an extra week if the revival has a successful first run.

The council moved on to approve bills and minutes from the previous meeting and address two public hearings discussed at the previous meeting.

• Ordinance No. 2026-6 zoning alternative for financial services was approved

• Ordinance No. 2026-7 for the vacation of Sherry Street was approved

Continuing new business, Councilwoman Kim Brown motioned for the library to surplus requested items listed to the council. Councilman Robert Powell seconded and all members approved.

Bradford addressed a pending contract between the Cullman County Public Library System and the City of Hanceville.

Brown motioned to approve, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Jana Shelton. All members approved.

Councilman Cameron Rowe motioned to table discussion about a contract with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. The council will pick this up at a later date.

About the city website, Bradford stated, "It's been recommended we change the .net to .gov."

Rowe stated, "I think it should be changed to .gov and don't worry about the rest."

Powell made a motion to allow Bradford to research the process of switching to .gov. Brown seconded the motion with no further discussion from the council.

Upcoming events
The Hanceville Grilled Cheese Festival will take place on Saturday, May 23. Details and times will be provided soon.

Food Truck Nights at Tucker Park will continue on Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.

Upcoming meeting
The next Hanceville City Council meeting will be Thursday, May 14, at Hanceville City Hall located. The work session will be 5:30 p.m., with the meeting following at 6.



Find more Alabama Strawberry Festival photos at Facebook.com/CullmanTribune



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

