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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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First round regional pairings set for Addison, Meek, Hanceville and Good Hope

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Hayden man arrested in fatal Highway 157 crash in Cullman

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Hayden man has been arrested following a Cullman County grand jury indictment connected to a February crash that killed a woman from Arab, according to the Cullman Police Department.

The CPD said George Ricky Sanders was arrested at about 1:40 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Cullman County Detention Center.

The department said Sanders was indicted on charges of homicide by vehicle, criminally negligent homicide and failure to yield-left turn.

The charges and indictment stem from a fatal crash that occurred Feb. 8, 2026, at the intersection of Alabama Highway 157 and Childhaven Road.

The crash resulted in the death of Christanna Nicole Anderson, 38.

On the day of the crash, the CPD said a semi-truck pulling a trailer was traveling southbound on Alabama Highway 157 and » PAGE 2



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
George Ricky Sanders

After 58 years, Cullman veteran formally presented Purple Heart



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Carolyn and Rick Leigeber at the Cullman VFW on May 4, 2026.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After nearly six decades, Richard "Rick" L. Leigeber has received formal recognition of a Purple Heart earned after he was injured while serving in Vietnam.

Leigeber, a Vietnam veteran and 2024 Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame inductee, was presented the medal by Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, who said the recognition was long overdue.

"It was my honor to present Richard Leigeber of Cullman with the Purple Heart he had earned after being injured while serving in Vietnam," Aderholt wrote in an April 14 Facebook post. "He had never gotten this token of our nation's appreciation and I was glad to finally right that wrong. Thank you Richard for your service to our country."

On May 4, a special ceremony was held for Leigeber at Cullman VFW Post 2214.

In a brief interview at the VFW, Leigeber » PAGE 5

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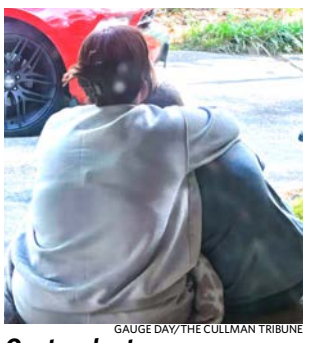


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PD POL ADV BY FRIENDS OF MIKE PITTS 431 COUNTY ROAD 591, HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

Ivey signs special election bills as Alabama seeks court action on district maps » PAGE 4

OP-ED

Mother's Day: 'I can't carry it for you, but I can carry you'



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Our toughest day yet » PAGE 6

Next phase of I-65 resurfacing to start Sunday, May 10



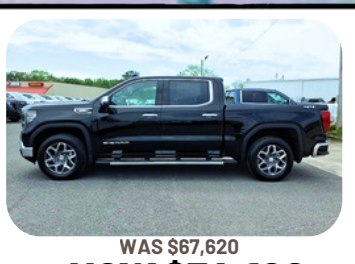
ALDOT
The next phase of I-65 resurfacing will resurface from south of SR-36 in Hartselle to south of I-565 in Limestone County. » PAGE 2

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 4
- domestic violence; CR 616
- domestic violence; CR 1247
- theft of property; CR 1080
- domestic violence; CR 1247
- burglary; CR 1105
- harassing communications; Hwy. 278E
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 31
- harassing communications; CR 1656
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; tampering with physical evidence; CR 468
- violation of protection order; CR 437
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1291
- theft of property; CR 602
- criminal mischief; CR 1184

May 5
- harassment; Park Dr.
- domestic violence; CR 827
- domestic violence; CR 791
- theft of property; CR 264
- theft of property; CR 1289
- violation of protection order; CR 702
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Mayfair Ln.
- assault; Red Hill Rd.
- criminal mischief; CR 1718
- burglary; CR 1212

May 6
- criminal mischief; US 31N
- trespassing; CR 651
- stalking; Pearson St.
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1080
- permitting dogs/cats to run at large; Buettner Dr.

ARRESTS

May 4-6

Aldijaili, Michael H.; 29
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Bell, Shontez A.; 39
- receiving stolen property

Bentley, Kenneth W.; 45
- GJ – assault-domestic violence-strangulation or suffocation

Bentley, William B.; 59
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Bullard, Warren A.; 28
- public intoxication

Calvert, William B.; 37
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Cammon, Nathon D.; 47
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Campbell, Brett A.; 26
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Doss, April D.; 42
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Edwards, Kaylee M.; 26
- FTA – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- FTA – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card

Faulkner, Whitney N.; 38
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Finch, Jr., Earl D.; 41
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications

Goodwin, Becky S.; 39
- FTA – harassing communications

Hambrite, Quin D.; 37
- fraud-identity theft
- theft-grand jury arrest warrant, $500-less than $1500

Hoffman, John R.; 62
- FTA – driving without license

Hyde, Piper L.; 29
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Loosier, Matilda F.; 46
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

McDuffee, Michael J.; 45
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Mentzer, Joshua R.; 29
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mitchell, Brandy G.; 43
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Monfort, John K.; 27
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Pezzeca, Leanna M.; 46
- FTA – driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Phillips, Jami A.; 44
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Randolph, Finis J.; 56
- public intoxication

Roach II, Roy W.; 51
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – traffic-speeding – no workers – construction zone

Speegle, Rodney C.; 48
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs
- tampering with physical evidence

Villa, Kamie C.; 46
- public intoxication

Waldrop, Joshua N.; 47
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 1
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; wallet & contents; Hwy. 157

May 3
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; Patriots Way SW

May 6
- criminal trespass-1st degree; person; Denson Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ash Ave. NE

ARRESTS

May 6

Whitworth, Troy L.; 33
- obstructing governmental operations
- attempt to elude

Curvin, Joshua A.; 29
- criminal trespass-1st degree

Hoffman, John R.; 62
- FTA – driving while revoked

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Vehicle break-ins reported at Hwy. 157 businesses; Joppa man charged

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Joppa man has been arrested and charged following reports of thefts from vehicles at two businesses along Alabama Highway 157, according to the Cullman Police Department.

Skylar Dale Hill, 28, was taken into custody after officers responded April 28 to reports of thefts from vehicles at La Quinta Inn & Suites and later at the north Chick-fil-A.

According to the CPD, officers and investigators used surveillance footage and other investigative work to quickly identify the suspect's vehicle.

Police said the vehicle was later located at a nearby residence.

Investigators allegedly recovered multiple stolen items from the vehicle. Many of those items were returned to the victims.

Hill was charged with three counts of unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, one count of first-degree theft of property and one count of fourth-degree theft of property.

The CPD said the investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be forthcoming.

The department commended Investigator Hunter Riddlesperger, Investigator Chad Ashworth and Shift 1A patrol officers for their teamwork and quick response. According to CPD, their efforts and attention to detail were instrumental in identifying and apprehending the suspect.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Skylar Dale Hill

Man (from Front)

attempted to make a left turn onto County Road 1339, also known as Childhaven Road, when it collided with a motorcycle traveling northbound on Alabama Highway 157.

Sanders was driving the semi-truck, and Anderson was operating the motorcycle.

The CPD Traffic Homicide Unit and an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Commercial Vehicle Enforcement trooper responded to investigate the crash at the time.

In announcing Sanders' arrest on May 7, 2026, the CPD said the case was investigated by Traffic Homicide Investigator Hunter Potts.

"Following the investigation, the case was presented to the Cullman County District Attorney's Office under District Attorney Champ Crocker, which led to the grand jury indictment," said the CPD.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan commended Potts, the department's Traffic Homicide Unit and the Cullman County District Attorney's Office for their work on the case. According to the CPD, Duncan said the thorough investigation and collaboration between agencies were instrumental in bringing the case before the grand jury.

As of Thursday evening, May 7, 2026, the indictment paperwork has not yet been added to Alacourt.

I-65 (from Front)

ALDOT
Contributor

The next phase of a $16.5 million project to resurface the entirety of I-65 in Morgan County will begin the evening of Sunday, May 10, weather permitting.

The contractor, Rogers Group, will resurface from just south of SR-36 (Exit 328) in Hartselle to south of the I-565 interchange (Exit 340) in Limestone County. The contractor will patch the pavement prior to the start of milling and resurfacing.

Nightly lane closures

To reduce traffic impacts, most work requiring lane closures will take place between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday nights through Thursday nights. ALDOT advises drivers to expect delays due to single-lane closures.

For real-time traffic and road condition information, visit ALGOtraffic.com or download the ALGO Traffic app.

Previous phase of project

During the first phase of the project, Rogers Group and their subcontractors substantially completed the following work:

- Resurfacing from Hurricane Creek, north of Vinemont in Cullman County, to south of SR-36 in Hartselle
- Raising two local road overpasses to improve clearance
- A bridge repair that was added to the project after the contract was awarded

These areas remain part of an ongoing project and may be subject to lane closures for minor work items.







ALEA urges Alabamians to share the road during National Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Month

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — As National Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Month kicks off in May, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind all road users that safety is a shared responsibility, whether you're driving a car or riding on two wheels.

Bicycles are legally considered vehicles in Alabama, meaning bicyclists must follow the same traffic laws as motorists. At the same time, drivers must treat bicyclists with the same care and respect as any other vehicle on the roadway.

Awareness, patience and mutual respect are critical to preventing crashes and saving lives.

Motorcycle safety remains a serious concern across the state. In Alabama, 2024 marked the highest number of motorcycle fatalities in the past decade, with 125 lives lost, an increase from 92 in 2023 and 95 in 2022.

While serious injuries saw a slight decrease in 2024 (1,138 compared to 1,178 in 2023), the data underscores the ongoing risks riders face. Notably, individuals ages 20 to 24 experienced the highest number of motorcycle crashes and injuries.

Nationally, NHTSA reports there were 31.39 motorcyclist fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2023, compared to 1.13 fatalities for passenger car occupants, highlighting the increased vulnerability of motorcyclists.

Alabama law requires all motorcycle operators and passengers to wear a properly fastened,

DOT-approved helmet. Failing to do so is a misdemeanor offense punishable by fines up to $100 and up to 180 days in jail. More importantly, helmets save lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), wearing a helmet reduces the risk of head injury by 69%.

Bicycle safety is equally important. In 2024, Alabama recorded eight cyclist fatalities and 181 injuries, compared to 11 fatalities and 171 injuries in 2023.

The majority of bicycle crashes, 86%, occurred on urban streets, while 14% took place on rural routes. Data also shows that individuals ages 41 to 50 experienced the highest number of injuries, while fatalities were most common among those ages 51 to 60.

ALEA encourages all motorists, motorcyclists and bicyclists to take simple but critical steps to stay safe:

- Obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Never drive or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Stay focused and avoid distractions behind the wheel or handlebars.
- Yield to motorcyclists, especially at intersections.
- Increase visibility by wearing bright or reflective gear.
- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet when riding a motorcycle.
- Consider completing a certified motorcycle rider education course.

"Every time you get on the road, you're making choices that affect not just your safety, but everyone around you," ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor said. "A few extra seconds of awareness can be the difference between a close call and a tragedy."

Throughout the month of May, ALEA will continue working with local and state partners to promote education, enforcement and outreach efforts aimed at reducing crashes and protecting lives across Alabama.

For more information on bicycle and motorcycle safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov.

**Stats in this release were provided by the Center for Advanced Public Safety (CAPS) and Drive Safe Alabama. These stats reflect data from Trooper-investigated crashes as well as local law enforcement agencies.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
- 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- 256-739-3326
- spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
- FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
- Sunday, May 10 – 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.
- May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Grilled Cheese Festival and Library BOOK SALE
- May 27, Start of Summer program!

Guy Hunt Library Summer Reading Program
- Make plans to join us at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for the Summer Reading Program!
- June 2, Mr. Larry's Magic Show
- June 9, Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District
- June16, Movie Day- "The Land Before Time"
- June 23, Jessie Douglas, Farm Bill Biologist II
- June 30, Snead's Farmhouse
- Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information contact the Guy Hunt Library at 256-796-5226, or guyhuntlibrary@gmail.com.

2026 Women's Conference: Joy in the Journey
Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m.-noon at Seventh Street Baptist Church, 708 Seventh. St. SW in Cullman. Ladies, you're invited to a special morning of encouragement, connection and worship at Seventh Street Baptist Church! Join us as we hear from Martha Pullen, Kelly Garner and Suzanne Crocker – three incredible speakers who will inspire and challenge you in your walk with Christ. Pastries and coffee provided. No matter where you are in your journey, this is a space for you to be refreshed and reminded of the joy God has for you. Register now at www.7thstreetbaptist.com/event-registration. Invite a friend and come – we'd love to see you there!

Cullman Chapter of NARFE Meeting
Monday, May 11, at Freddie Day Catering, 1628 Second Ave. NW, Cullman. A meat-and-three Dutch lunch will be served at 11 a.m., meeting and speakers at noon. Topic of meeting is "Health Choices of Federal Retirees." Speakers include Sonya Fortner and Penny Aldridge, agents of Medicare Health Benefits. Members and nonmembers are invited to attend.

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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. at Saint Andrew's, 615 Main Ave. SW, Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

Hwy. 278 (from Front)

ALDOT
Contributor

A $2.4 million resurfacing project on U.S. Highway 278 near Jones Chapel in Cullman County will begin next week.

Weather permitting, contractor Grayson Carter and Son will start work Monday, May 11.

The project will resurface nearly 8 miles of Highway 278 from the Winston County line to County Road 867. ALDOT anticipates completion in mid- to late summer. ALDOT advises drivers to expect single-lane closures with traffic directed by pilot vehicles or flaggers.

For real-time traffic and road condition information, visit ALGOtraffic.com or download the ALGO Traffic app.

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PREP SOFTBALL

First round regional pairings set for Addison, Meek, Hanceville and Good Hope

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama High School Athletic Association has officially released the pairings for the first round of the 2026 Regional Tournaments. Hanceville and Meek both won their respective areas to head into state playoffs hot, while Good Hope and Addison will look to bounce back from area championship losses.

ADDISON – Despite falling in the Class 1A, Area 14 Tournament twice to rival Meek, the 1-21 Lady Bulldogs qualified for regionals and will travel to Albertville.

In their first round matchup they'll meet Appalachian High out of Oneonta, who finished the season 23-8-1 and are coming off three straight wins where they put up 10+ points. The game will take place at Albertville's Sand Mountain Park on Tuesday the 12th at 9 a.m.

MEEK – On the other end of the 1A, Area 14 Tournament, the 23-9 Tigers are surging into Regionals. At Sand Mountain Park, Meek will face 13-19 Ragland, who are 2-3 in their last five.

The Devils have put up three ten plus-point performances in that stretch, reaching 20 runs in two of them, setting up an intriguing matchup with a stout Tigers defense led by pitcher Sadi Farley. The game will be Tuesday at 10:45 a.m.

HANCEVILLE – After taking down Locust Fork to earn their first ever area title, head coach Kim Lewis and the Hanceville Lady Bulldogs are heading to Albertville. Battling them will be the Weaver Bearcats, who fell in their area championship game and currently sit at 15-17.

The Bulldogs and their balanced attack of offense/defense should make for an entertaining matchup with Weaver, who've also shown flashes on both sides. The game will be played at Sand Mountain Park on Wednesday, with the specific time time TBD.

GOOD HOPE – Molly Benefield and the Lady Raiders fell to West Morgan in their area tournament championship, but Good Hope will take a 15-16 squad north to Florence's Coffee O'Neal Park. In round one of regionals, they'll face the 30-14-1 area champion Curry Yellow Jackets. A hot Curry offense should push Good Hope, but the Raiders' defense has shown the ability to shut teams down completely this season. The Raiders' round one game will take place on Monday the 11th at 9 a.m.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville's Bentley Childers fielding a ball during the Bulldogs' area championship victory.

Ivey (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey signed two bills Friday, May 8, giving her authority to call special elections in certain congressional and state Senate districts if courts allow Alabama to use earlier maps during the 2026 election cycle.

House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1 were passed during a special session called by Ivey after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its April 29 ruling in Louisiana v. Callais, a redistricting case involving congressional maps, race and the Voting Rights Act.

The new laws do not immediately replace Alabama's current election maps. Instead, they create a process for the State to move quickly if existing court orders are lifted in Alabama's congressional or state senate redistricting cases.

"With this special session successfully behind us, Alabama now stands ready to quickly act, should the courts issue favorable rulings in our ongoing redistricting cases," Ivey said. "I thank the Legislature for answering my call to address the issue in fast order. I am grateful to Speaker Ledbetter and Pro Tem Gudger for their strong leadership and focus this week. Alabama knows our state, our people and our districts best."

Ivey's office said the May 19, 2026, Primary Election remains scheduled to proceed. If injunctions are lifted, the governor could call special elections in districts affected by a return to the Legislature's 2021 state senate map or 2023 congressional map.

Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, said the special session was aimed at restoring maps approved through Alabama's legislative process rather than maps imposed through federal litigation.

"The successful special session held this week put Alabama firmly on the path toward reclaiming our congressional and legislative elections with maps that were drafted, drawn and approved by Alabamians, not by the federal courts," Gudger said.

Gudger tied the Legislature's action to the Supreme Court's Louisiana v. Callais decision and to national Republican control of Congress.

"Our senators deserve recognition for working through tornado warnings, a fire alarm and State House flooding in order to embrace the Louisiana v. Callais decision and do our part to help President Trump, Speaker Mike Johnson and the Republican Party maintain control of Congress for the next several years," Gudger said.

Gudger said the Senate's work during the special session was also about protecting voters' constitutional rights.

"And we accomplished all of this while protecting the two most important things guaranteed to every American by our U.S. Constitution — their voice and their vote," Gudger said.

The Associated Press reported Friday afternoon, May 8:

Demonstrators outside the Alabama Statehouse on Friday shouted "fight for democracy" and "down with white supremacy."

"I was out there in 1965 marching for the right to vote, and now we are back here in 2026 doing the same thing," Betty White Boynton said.

During debate inside the statehouse, Black lawmakers said the Republican legislation harks back to the state's shameful Jim Crow history. The new law would ignore the May 19 primary results for some congressional seats and direct the governor to schedule a new primary under revised districts, if a court allows it. Lawmakers also approved a similar bill related to state Senate districts.

"What happened here today is that we were set back as a people to the days of Reconstruction," Democratic state Sen. Rodger Smitherman said after the vote.

Senate Democrats shouted "hell no" and "stop the steal" as senators voted.

The special primary would happen only if the courts agree to lift an injunction that put a court-selected map in place until after the 2030 census. That order required a second district where Black voters are the majority or close to it, resulting in the 2024 election of Democratic Rep. Shomari Figures, who is Black. If a court lifts the injunction, Republican officials want to put in place a map lawmakers drew in 2023 — which was rejected by a federal court — that could allow them to reclaim Figures' district.

Attorney General Steve Marshall, who is seeking the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, announced Friday that he had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to lift a federal court order requiring Alabama to use the current congressional map in the May 19 primary.

Marshall's office said Alabama is asking the court to act by May 14.

"I will continue to fight for Alabama to be able to use the congressional map the people's elected representatives enacted," Marshall said. "Alabama drew a map based on lawful policy goals, not race, and the Supreme Court's recent ruling vindicates that approach. We were punished for doing the right thing, and we are asking the Court to correct that now."

Marshall's office characterized the current congressional map as race-based and said the state's filing argues the order requiring its use conflicts with the Supreme Court's ruling in Louisiana v. Callais. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled against Louisiana's congressional plan and addressed how courts should weigh race, state redistricting goals and Voting Rights Act claims.

Alabama's congressional districts have been the subject of ongoing federal litigation. The state's 2023 congressional map was blocked, and Alabama has been operating under a court-ordered map while appeals continue.

The state senate litigation is separate from the congressional map case, but the special election legislation is structured to address both if courts allow Alabama to return to maps previously approved by the Legislature.

Wallace State Downs Northwest-Shoals 6-4 in ACCC Tournament Opener

Wallace State Sports Information

OXFORD, Ala. — Wallace State opened play in the ACCC Baseball Championship with a 6-4 victory over Northwest-Shoals on Thursday afternoon at Choccolocco Park, advancing to the winner's bracket semifinals.

Northwest-Shoals took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Parker Frost stole home, but Wallace State answered with a five-run fourth inning to seize control of the game.

The Lions collected five hits in the inning, highlighted by a three-run home run to right field by Clint Seymore that gave Wallace State a 5-1 advantage. Seymore finished 3-for-5 with three RBIs and two runs scored.

Carson Burdette and Carter Cumming each added two hits for Wallace State, while Aiden Boileau drove in a run. Tucker Rickman and Israel Navarro also recorded RBIs in the win.

Northwest-Shoals cut into the deficit in the sixth inning when Frost connected on a two-run homer to left field, trimming the Wallace State lead to 5-3.

Trent Wright later added a solo home run in the eighth inning to make it 6-4.

Sam Vincent earned the win for the Lions, allowing three runs — two earned — on seven hits over 6.2 innings. The sophomore struck out 11 and walked one.

Matthew Lyons worked the final 2.1 innings to record the save, allowing one run on one hit while striking out three.

Wallace State totaled 12 hits in the game and turned one double play defensively.

Frost led Northwest-Shoals with two RBIs and went 2-for-4 at the plate. Wright also collected two hits for the Patriots.

Brady Wilson took the loss for Northwest-Shoals after allowing six runs on 10 hits over six innings.

The Lions improved to 32-24 overall and will face No. 2 seed Southern Union on Friday at 1 p.m.



Purple Heart (from Front)

said, "It's been a long time coming. I never thought I would be able to get it."

Leigeber said he first applied for the Purple Heart about 25 years ago but was unable to secure the award on his own. He said the effort later went through Aderholt's office.

"I applied to try to get it 25 years ago and was unable to on my own, so I did go through Congressman Aderholt," Leigeber said. "He came through for me and got the Purple Heart presented on honor from the United States."

The Purple Heart is awarded to service members wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act by an enemy or opposing armed force, according to the U.S. Army.

For Leigeber, the meaning of receiving the medal after 58 years was simple.

"I was grateful," he said. "I was just grateful for him to be able to get it while I was still alive and be on my record."

Leigeber's military service has been recognized previously in Cullman County. In 2024, he was inducted into the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame.

According to Tribune coverage of that ceremony, Leigeber served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 with Company A, 4th Battalion, 23rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade in the 25th Infantry Division, known as Tropic Lightning.

His service included Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 in the Cu Chi Valley during the Tet Offensive.

The 2024 Hall of Fame article listed Leigeber's awards and recognitions as the Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device, Vietnam Service Medal, 1st Class Gunner for the M60 machine gun and Sharpshooter for the M16 rifle.

The same article noted his continued service after Vietnam, including his life membership in the VFW and American Legion, and his membership in the American Flag Detail for Highway 31.

It also cited his work leading the White Crosses Memorial honoring Cullman's fallen heroes, fundraising through his love of fishing and supporting the Veteran Memorial Burial Team with the "Slow Salute" for fallen heroes.

Leigeber was also among the veterans recognized during VFW Post 2214's fourth annual Heroes Dinner in 2017, when more than 40 area veterans were honored in Cullman.

That earlier Tribune report listed him among the evening's honored heroes.

Asked whether the event that led to the Purple Heart was something he thought about every day, Leigeber said not really.

For much of his life, he said, staying busy kept the memories from being constant.

"The older I get, the more I thought about it, I guess," Leigeber said. "I kept my life busy all through these 58 years to where I didn't think about it as much, but as you get older and got more free time, I guess, and you think about it a little more."



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

For Leigeber, the formal presentation closes a chapter that had remained unfinished for decades.

After the interview, Leigeber responded quietly to a thank-you for his service.

"Well, I appreciate it," he said. "Appreciate it and thank you."

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Mother's Day (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

Mother's Day has always served as a day when we honor and celebrate the cherished mothers and mother-like mentors in our lives.

It's a day where young kids scribble their names on printer paper, draw sticks figures of themselves holding hands with Mommy and go to the store with Dad to pick out her favorite candy. They get to stay up just a little later that night setting everything up for the big reveal the next morning, not realizing Momma knows every move they make but cherishes it all the more because of it.

It's a day to look to serve the one who always serves selflessly. The house looks a little cleaner just for a day because Dad wanted to make sure Mom got to prop her feet up for a bit. The weeds in the garden bed get pulled without question because the son or daughter in-law wants to make sure it looks its best for her. Flowers arrive at her place of work because the student she poured into 20 years ago remembers the life-changing influence she had on them.

For some, it's a day of reflection, honoring the heroic women in our lives who are no longer here. Families gather to decorate headstones, sharing stories of their mothers and reconnecting with relatives they may only see a few times a year. If your family is anything like ours, it also becomes a reason to eat a little too much, take plenty of pictures and add another memory to the collection.

The reason behind Mother's Day is a beautiful one, and my hope is that for everyone who can, the day is filled with joy and intentionality toward the motherly figure they celebrate, no matter who that may be.

But what happens when Mother's Day loses some of that joy? The celebration part of it? Is that even possible?

A month ago, my wife was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. It came like a whirlwind. What appeared to be routine surgery revealed far more than we could have ever prepared for. In just a month, we have had surgery, questions, scans, more questions, another surgery ahead and endless changes to the rhythm of our daily lives.

We've had to explain to our 8-year-old what cancer is and what it means for Mom. To our 5-year-old that Mommy is sick. I've watched my mother-in-law break down in the silent moments between comforting her daughter and being ever present and strong for everyone else.

And I would be a liar if I didn't say I was scared too, wrestling with God through the "Why?" while also trying to lean into the hope found in His "I am."

It's been a lot. And honestly, we are just at the beginning.

So, what do I say to my wife this Mother's Day, who is about to face her biggest mountain yet? What do we say to those mothers who are in the thick of it, on a day meant to make them feel special, when finding joy feels harder than ever?

I'm not really sure what the perfect words are, but I think it would go something like this:

To my wife, mother of our two feral dragons,

First, let me say how proud I am of you.

I know that this year, especially these past few months, has been one challenge after another for us, yet you have held your resolve through it all.

We went from stressing over weekend ball tournaments, fighting over unmade beds, eating far too much Waffle House with friends and our favorite "American Idol" date nights, to hanging on every word the doctor says at the next appointment.

It's strange how quickly the things that once exhausted us now seem so small compared to the mountain standing in front of us.

But here you are, still being a mother to two relentless boys, being a wife to a husband who needs you for balance and a youth pastor's wife to students who see you as a source of strength.

I admire you.

In all of this, you haven't missed a ball game. You wanted to be back in church right after your first surgery. You are singing again. You stress over your clients who "need their hair did" like they are your own family. You still vacuum and mop every other day, which still drives me absolutely nuts.

Even in the midst of all this mess, you continue choosing to be the very best parts of yourself.

And yes, there have been moments, understandably so, of being overwhelmed and seeing the very same "Why?" in your eyes. I've seen the silent struggles that you have, trying to shield it from our children's eyes. I've felt the nights where you tremble next to me. I can feel the exhaustion in the words of your texts after a long day.

I want you to know it's okay to have those moments you need to let it all out. I'll be there however you need me, every step of the way.

From you, I am learning what real strength actually requires. In the face of your hardest Mother's Day yet, you keep showing up for us, even when we just want you to slow down and rest a bit. I could never fully express how thankful I am that, in the very hour we received the news, you chose to put your hope in the Lord and trust Him in the unknown.

While I sank like Peter, you poured out your alabaster jar, trusting in Jesus.

You chose hope. You have faith. You believe that there is still purpose in this valley. That is real strength.

And I can't help but think about the story that you will one day have to tell after all of this. The encouragement, your perspective and strength that you can bring to mothers who are facing their hardest days, too.

You have everything you need to win this battle. You are enough. The Lord created you so.

I admire your courage and faith in the face of pain, and I challenge you to keep showing up with both. Carry them with you as you climb this mountain.

And on the days that come when it all feels like too much, we will be there to help carry you through it. Like Sam carried Frodo, I'll be your Sam.

"I can't carry it for you, but I can carry you."

All of us. Me. Our boys. Your family. Our friends, church and all of those baseball moms who pray for you relentlessly. We are here.

You are truly loved.

You are my favorite person.

Love you, wife,
Gauge

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

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

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

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ADDITIONS TO THE CULLMAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
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NOTE: This notice must be run once a week for 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.

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 *
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.
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

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

Case No. PC 2026-160
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

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

1 Page(s)

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Mama was in her garden

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



When I was growing up, I often wondered who my mother planned on feeding with all that food we grew in her vegetable garden. My siblings were all older than me. They married and left long before I was grown and gone. Mama didn't have as many mouths to feed, but she never decreased the amount she grew.

To say she was a gardener would be akin to saying that Noah was a boat builder. Noah built a huge boat because he had a huge group of animals to put on his boat.

He had two of every kind of unclean animal known to man and seven of every kind of clean animal. Mama made sure everything we grew was clean or we cleaned it. I believe we grew far more than seven of each kind, and there were quite a few kinds in the King's garden.

So, to say that Mama had a big ole garden is an understatement. Winnie the Pooh has his Hundred-Acre Wood, so I call our garden Mama's Hundred-Acre Garden. The vegetable garden was not the only one she had. She also had a couple of flower gardens, not to mention the flowers she planted in other places.

Mama's vegetable garden was not really 100 acres, but to a boy who had rather be playing, swimming or fishing, instead of planting, hoeing or picking, it seemed like 100 acres.

If it could be grown in our northern Alabama climate, and was legal, I think we grew it. We had rows of peas, beans, corn, squash, okra, tomatoes, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, turnips, melons, etc. I hated most of that stuff back then, so I hated working in Mama's garden. Mama always made me take a gallon of water to garden when we went. That started after I went to the house to get a drink and managed to end up on the creek or pond with a fishing pole rather than returning to the garden.

I told Mama I was doing my part by going fishing. She was supplying the vegetables to eat and I was supplying the fish. I don't think she bought my logic.

I was always excited when we finished picking for the day, but I also knew that meant it was time to shell, string, shuck and silk. At lease we did that on the front porch where we had some shade.

If it sounds like I'm grumbling about having to do all that work, I probably am, but I would do it again in a heartbeat. Those memories put a smile on my face that's a mile wide and love in my heart that's 2 miles deep.

I can still hear Mama saying, "Let's get up and get out there in the garden, so we can get finished before it gets so hot." I can still see her in the garden-wearing a dress, usually that she made, with a cloth bonnet on her head. No wonder she got so hot!

What would I give to sit on that old porch again and snap, shell, shuck and silk... even if I didn't like some of that stuff. Besides that, I love most of it now...except the okra.

These days the garden is grown up, the house and the porch have been torn down and Mama has gone on to Heaven, along with most of my family, but the memoires are still there and just as precious as ever. This Mother's Day, I give thanks for those days and even that 100-acre garden and those precious memories.

Thanks Mom, and happy Mother's Day to all!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: May 9, 1929

From the files of May 9, 1929

B & P W Club Notes
The Business and Professional Women's Club held its regular meeting by invitation of Misses Alberta and Gertrude Ziegler, at their home in north town with lovely refreshment of cake and pink ice cream served.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Mrs. Morrow made a talk of what the club is planning to do through the summer months. Many interesting things, such as tacky parties, watermelon cuttings, lawn parties, baseball games, etc. The handy helpers sale held recently netted about $75.00. A prize of $5.00 will be given to the member who has the best project in making money on sales or anything on the line such as selling candy or as the project appeals to the member. Also a prize will be given for good attendance of members at meetings.

The girls are working or rather trying to get cooperation from the business men of the town with reference to obtaining one-half day off during the hot summer months. The Kiwanis and Lions clubs have heartily endorsed their support for which we thank them very much.

A piano and violin duet, "Rose Dreams" was beautifully rendered by Mrs. Imbusch and Miss Margaret Schlosser. A musical song contest was carried out. Miss Rosa Watson received a pretty wall vase as a prize for answering the most questions. Four birthdays came in April of club members. Each received a pretty memo book with mirror back.

First Vitaphone Presentation At Strand Received Enthusiastic
"The Lights of New York," first Vitaphone picture presented by the Strand Theatre in Cullman, was shown to packed houses all during its run at this theatre.

Promises of perfect synchronization in all-talking pictures were fulfilled and even those who were skeptical as to its probability after seeing and hearing this picture came away from the theatre with enthusiastic praise for it.

Manager Griffin is receiving congratulations from Cullman theatre goers for offering this new invention in Cullman and states that in the future the programs at his theatre will be even more interesting.

Walter News
Steppville R. 1, May 6.—Several people of this place, attended the singing at Holly Pond Sunday afternoon and reported some good singing.

Sam and Jim Louis of Birmingham, called on Miss Jessie Mae Bagwell and Omva Howard Sunday.

Percy Foust has returned home after spending about six months in Oklahoma in the U. S. army. Everybody was glad of his returning and are hoping he will spent quite a while with us.

Jahue Foust of Blountsville, spent Sunday with friends and relatives of this place.

Misses Belle and Bernice Barnett spent the week end in Winston county and reported a nice time.

Miss Grace Harding of Arkadelphia, spent Sunday with Miss Annie Mae Spradlin. Percy Foust and Emmett Fallin called on them.

Mrs. Juanita Ryan spent the week end with her husband in Birmingham.

There will be a play, given at Walter school auditorium Saturday night, May 11, entitled "Kicked Out of College," beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Everybody come and enjoy yourselves. Admission 15 and 25 cents.

Simcoe News
Cullman R. 3, May 6.—It is still raining. There has not been any planting done yet and the land is not all prepared. Strawberries are rotting in the field.

Lewis Bryant and family spent Saturday night with kindred up near Welcome church.

Lewis Camp, who was operated on for appendicitis, is resting very nicely at home now.



Mr. Hankey of our burg, who was carried to Birmingham last week for an operation, died at that place last week. His remains were broughts back to Center Grove for burial Sunday. The family has the sympathy of the entire community.

Mrs. W. C. Waldrop, who got her arm and shoulder broken last week, is resting very well.

Jim Carter got the news Sunday that his brother at Arab, was struck with paralysis and is in a serious condition.

J. L. Nunnelley and sons, Jessie and Marvin, Mrs. Jim Carter and children and several others were visiting W. C. Waldrop and wife Sunday night.

POET'S CORNER

Treasures

By: Randy C. Hale

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



The emerald tractor plods out the
dusty field with eyes shining on
terrace rolls near the white farmhouse
with blue shutters and a weather vane
on top spinning a red rooster in the summer wind.

Tomorrow, the farmer will meet his
daughter, and she'll eat up the pet
names and the language of love
they both know.
The old house will lose its lonely feel
to aromas of cooked meals, perfume,
and laughter permeating the
fading walls.

At church, he'll wear the new shirt
she brought and sit beside her
on the familiar pew, where memories
will flood both hearts.
He'll grin from ear to ear
with her home again.

The week's visit will soon pass,
looking through pictures,
going on picnic's and pond fishing,
and they will separate once again
as the plane taxis to the runway,
lifting into gray clouds against the
persimmon sun with his most prized
possession aboard.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 9

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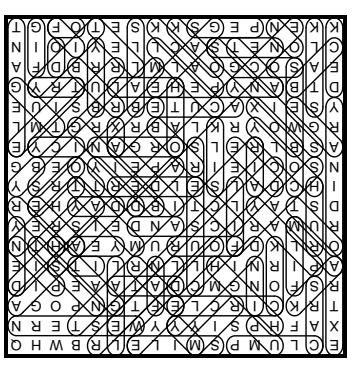
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 9

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ANSWERS:



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



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Berlin Farmers Market ribbon cutting

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Berlin community members and town leaders gathered on Friday, May 8, 2026, for a ribbon cutting at the Berlin Farmers Market. Its completion has been heavily anticipated by residents and council members for some time.

Refreshments, including lemonade and cookies, were offered.

The Holly Pond Bread Company provided sourdough and Burks Farm had a selection of fresh produce.

The market will be open from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2026, and will proceed every Saturday until Oct. 31, 2026.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



Obituary Announcements: May 7-8

Robert Jerald "Jerry" Calloway, 86
Robert Jerald "Jerry" Calloway, age 86, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026, at the Folsom Center. Born on Dec. 11, 1939, to Jenkins William Callaway and Deura Irene Butler Callaway. Funeral service will be Monday, May 11, 2026, at 1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Flint Creek Cemetery, Bro. Larry Brown officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jerry lived a life marked by faith, music, service, and dedication to his family and community. Jerry devoted more than 60 years to church music ministry, faithfully serving as music director for multiple churches throughout his life. His love for gospel music touched countless hearts, and he was well known for singing in several quartets over the years. Whether leading congregational worship or sharing music in quartet harmony, Jerry's passion for ministry through song remained one of the defining joys of his life. In addition to his ministry work, Jerry built a successful career as an insurance agent with Liberty National Insurance, where he was recognized with numerous awards and honors for his dedication, professionalism and service to others. Jerry will be remembered for his strong faith, kind spirit, warm friendship, and unwavering commitment to serving both God and his community. His legacy lives on in the many lives he influenced through music, ministry and personal kindness. He leaves behind a host of family members, friends, church families, and former colleagues who will cherish his memory and celebrate a life well lived. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Doris McAdams; brother, James Calloway; two infant daughters, Susan and Sherry. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Linda Eloise Calloway; son, Barry (Leslie) Calloway; daughter, Dena Doyle; stepson, Cary (Tina) White; stepdaughter, Tracy (Bobby) Davis; sisters, Patricia 'Pat' (Jimmy) Moore, Carolyn Hinkle; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Gail Hanvey, 85
Funeral service for Gail Hanvey, age 85 of Eva, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Richard Saylor, Lisa Holmes, and Pastor Bruce Grimmet officiating. She will be laid to rest next to her husband at Daniel's Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Hanvey passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. She was born December 19,1940, to Ernest Bates and R.V. Vincent Bates. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband John Paul Hanvey; brothers, William Pop Bates, Jack Bates; sisters, Barbara Humphrey, and Diane Bates Jullian; brother-in-law, Lamar Harbison. Survivors include her son, Kelly (Kerry) Hanvey; daughter, Trena (Mike) Guthrie; grandchildren, Tara (TJ) Hamm, Josh (Maggi) Sellers, Brandon Guthrie & Keleigh Woods; great grandchildren, Ashlin, Ella, Rivers & Evelyn; a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends. Gail was a loving wife, mother, mother-in-law, and "Granny" to so many. She loved her flowers and trees. Her greatest joy though, was her family – her children, grandchildren and all the many people she gathered in with love over the years. If you spent much time around her at all, before long, you were calling her "Granny" too. She had a way of making children feel like they were her own.

Michael Lynn Stricklin, 76
Michael Lynn Stricklin, age 76, of Cullman, passed away on May 7, 2026. A devoted husband, minister, veteran, and faithful servant of God, Michael dedicated his life to sharing the Gospel, serving others, and loving his family and community. Funeral service will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in New Prospect Cemetery, Bro. Tommy Graves and Bro. David Johns officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday evening from 5:30-8 p.m. Born on June 9, 1949, to Leldon and Maye Stricklin, Michael was raised with strong values of faith, hard work, and compassion that guided him throughout his life. He graduated from Cold Springs High School in 1967 and continued his education at Wallace State Community College. Michael faithfully served his country after being drafted into the United States Army. Following his military service, he worked at Cullman Products for 40 years, where he was respected for his dedication, integrity, and strong work ethic. Above all else, Michael was a man of deep and unwavering faith. He answered the call to preach more than 50 years ago and spent decades ministering to congregations throughout Cullman County and surrounding communities. For 33 years, he faithfully shared the Word of God through radio ministry, touching countless lives with his messages of hope, salvation, and encouragement. He preached at numerous churches throughout the area and remained committed to serving the Lord throughout his life. Michael also loved volunteering and helping others whenever he could. Whether through church work, community service, or quiet acts of kindness, he never hesitated to lend a hand. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, studying Scripture, and encouraging others in their walk of faith. He was blessed to share 57 wonderful years of marriage with the love of his life, Hellen, building a legacy of faith, devotion, and family that will continue for generations. Michael will be remembered for his humble spirit, steadfast faith, servant's heart, and the love he showed to everyone he met. His life was a testimony to God's grace and faithfulness. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Gideons International in honor of Michael's lifelong commitment to spreading the Gospel. He was preceded in death by his mother, Maye Stricklin; a brother, Greg Stricklin and his fur baby, Max. Those left to cherish his memory are his father, Leldon Stricklin; his wife, Hellen Stricklin; son, Jeff (Melissa) Stricklin; brothers, Billy (Phyllis) Stricklin, Donald (Rita) Stricklin; grandchildren, Jordan Stricklin, Paige (Wes) Clabo, Waid Harbison; family and friends. Friends may sign the guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com "Well done, good and faithful servant." – Matthew 25:23

Peggy Sue Freeman, 76
Funeral service for Peggy Sue Freeman, age 76, of Logan, will be Monday, May 11, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. prior to the service at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Peggy will be laid to rest at Fairview First Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Peggy Sue Freeman was born on Sept. 16, 1949, to James David and Ester Humphrey Curvin. She was welcomed as the youngest of thirteen children. Peggy was a devoted mother, mawmaw, and great-mawmaw, and most recently, great-great-mawmaw. Her three daughters, Myra, Tina, and Vickie, were the pride and joy of her life. Nothing brought Peggy more happiness than her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who were the light of her life. She loved her family fiercely and unconditionally. Her home was always filled with love, laughter, advice, and the kind of strength that most people lack. Peggy loved Jesus with everything she had. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and even in difficult times, she never stopped praising Him. Her love for the Lord was evident in the way she cared for others, showed kindness, and remained strong in her faith through every season of life. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Junior Freeman; daughter Myra Deese; brothers James, Lewis, John, Milton, Willie, Melvin, and Paul Curvin; and sisters, Catherine McCormick, Nellie Curvin, Lousie Wambles, and Rosie Curvin. Though we grieve her absence, we take joy in knowing she is finally with her heavenly Father. Her journey on Earth may have come to an end, but her memories and legacy live through her survivors; sister Ilean Kimbril; daughters Vickie (Robby) Khan, Tina Slaughter; grandchildren Joshua Willingham, LaKrishia (Jesse) Hailey, Skylar Holloway, Bailey (Sara) Raymond, Taylor (Joe/Rambo) Deese, great-grandchildren Caleb (Abby) Willingham, Jacob Willingham, Keileigh Feria, Olivia Holloway, Mason Holloway, Jimbo Raymond, Waylon Raymond, Truett Raymond, Novalee Hailey, and Blair Hailey. She most recently welcomed her first great-great grandchild, Tatum Willingham. Peggy will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her fierce love for her family, and the strength she carried through every season of life.

Evelyn Underwood Sams, 61
A memorial service for Evelyn Underwood Sams, 61, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Monday, May 11, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Mrs. Sams was born Jan. 12, 1965, in Birmingham, Alabama to Ray and Phyllis Underwood. She passed away May 5, 2026, in Huntsville, Alabama. Mrs. Sams is survived by her husband, Danny Sams; children, Scott Sams, Latisha Sams Redmond; grandchildren, Emily Sams Vogelaar, Allyssa Sams, Landon Redmond, Kason Redmond, Karter Redmond; and her parents, Ray and Phyllis Underwood. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sams family.

Kenneth Rafie Hollins, 79
Kenneth Rafie Hollins, of Holly Pond, Alabama, entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior on Wednesday morning, May 6, 2026, at the age of 79. Ken was born to Grover Green and Anna Marcella Smith Hollins on Dec. 12, 1946, in Fireco, West Virginia. Mr. Hollins is preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Teresa Worley Hollins; and his grandson, Alex Morton. Those left to cherish Mr. Hollins' memory include his children, Michael Hollins (Evelyn), Patricia Tuckwiller (Steve Dubay), Cynthia Hall (Wes); grandchildren, Felicia Macias (Cesar), Kaylah Lawson (Josh), Allison Hall; several great-grandchildren; and his cherished church family at Redan Missionary Baptist Church. Ken was born and raised in West Virginia, and while he called Holly Pond his home for many years, he was always homesick for his beloved childhood home. Prior to the family moving to Alabama in mid-1986, Ken served honorably in the United States Marines as a jet engine mechanic with much of his service time stationed in Southeast Asia. Mr. Hollins was proud of his service time and became a member of the American Legion upon his return to the states. Mr. Hollins enjoyed the outdoors and was passionate about visiting state parks where he enjoyed the beauty of God's creation. Ken was a loving husband, father, and Paw Paw Ken and he adored his family. Mr. Hollins' love for his family was second only to his love for his Heavenly Father. Kenneth enjoyed studying God's word and growing in the knowledge of our Savior. Ken could be found reading his Bible at any given time, and he cherished his church family and the time they spent worshipping together. Mr. Hollins encouraged his family and friends to attend church with him, hoping they would find joy in the Father as he did. Ken was a true man of God, and his many prayers and gentle spirit will be missed by all who knew him. Friends are invited to join the family on Sunday, May 10, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. for a time of visitation. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m., with Pastor Mike King officiating. All services will be held at Redan Missionary Baptist Church. Ken will be going home where he will be laid to rest alongside his beloved, Teresa, in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, 5251 Robert C. Byrd Drive, Beckley, West Virginia, 25801, following a visitation at Melton Mortuary and Cremation Center, 1200 Harper Road, Beckley, West Virginia, 25801. In lieu of flowers, Ken has asked that donations be made to Redan Missionary Baptist Church. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hollins family.

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