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CITY OF CULLMAN

Jacobs proclaims May Mental Health Awareness Month in Cullman
» PAGE 7

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‘An incredible opportunity’

The Link receives $1M in state funding

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County this week received $1 million in state funding to support educational and enrichment initiatives for local families and students.

Executive Director Melissa Betts said that, according to an official letter from the Alabama State » PAGE 3



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Link of Cullman County Executive Director Melissa Betts (in bright blue) and Sen. Garlan Gudger (center) are pictured with, left to right, Board and Advisory Board Members Sara Manney, Brian Spaeth, Missy Haigh, Brent Peinhardt, Rob Werner, Stephen Freeman and Missy Gurley at the check presentation on May 13, 2026.

– PREP SOFTBALL REGIONALS –

Hanceville wins East Region with 3-2 thriller over Randolph County, advances to first State Tournament in school history



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville Bulldogs with their 3A, East Region trophy after their victory over Randolph County.

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. — In a year full of firsts for Hanceville’s softball program, the Lady Bulldogs just tacked on another.

On Thursday morning, Hanceville, with no losses to their name at Regionals, just needed one more win to secure their first ever Region title and move on to their first ever State Tournament. The Tigers put up a fight, and threatened down to the last out, but thanks to a clutch save from KK Butler, the Bulldogs took the game, 3-2, and will compete for a State Championship in Oxford next week.

Butler started the game for Hanceville, too, and continued an incredible Regionals run with a five-inning, four-hit, zero-earned run game while striking out six batters.

“First off, I want to praise God for everything he’s done for us through this entire season. I’m so proud of my girls, I could not have done any of this without them. On the emotions... just enthusiasm, proudness. I’m so proud of my girls. I’m so happy and I can’t wait to go » PAGE 5

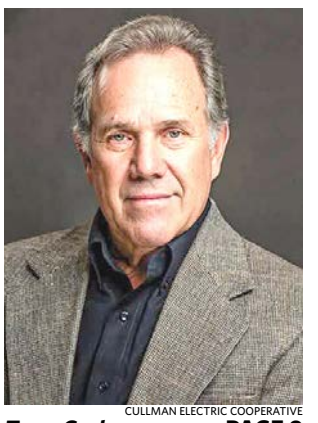


LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

ELECT
Mike PITTS
CULLMAN COUNTY
REVENUE COMMISSIONER
DEDICATION
EXPERIENCE
LEADERSHIP
VOTE MAY 19TH

Guide to May 19 Primary Election » PAGE 7

Terry Graham, 52-year employee, remembered as ‘heart and soul’ of Cullman Electric Cooperative



CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Terry Graham » PAGE 9

Fairview to honor Coach George Redding Jr. at retirement ceremony Sunday



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Coach George Redding Jr. » PAGE 6

2026 Memorial Day Festival May 23 at Smith Lake Park » PAGE 9

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 15

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 15, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 11

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Moehring Rd.
- violation of protection order; CR 771
- harassment; CR 1209
- theft of property; CR 1545
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 234
- discharging firearm into occupied dwelling; CR 1481
- theft of property; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 287
- assault; CR 127

May 12

- burglary; CR 134
- menacing; CR 1428
- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM 299
- domestic violence; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 1753
- domestic violence; CR 223
- domestic violence; US. 31N

May 13

- domestic violence; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 541
- domestic violence; CR 704
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; Beech Grove Rd.
- assault; CR 1488
- criminal mischief; CR 370
- criminal mischief; School House Rd.
- theft of property; CR 469
- domestic violence; Main St. NE Hanceville
- illegal possession of prescription drugs; Hwy. 91

ARRESTS

May 11-13

Anthony, Jr., Marvin R.; 63
- FTA – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500
- obstructing justice using a false identity

Barker, Harrison R.; 33
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Berryhill, Jr., Danny S.; 43
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Coker, Michael J.; 43
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Denton, Sara J.; 32
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Foster, Raphael M.; 42
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Garrett, Wesley N.; 44
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft-miscellaneous

Gracien, Gabriel D.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hall, David R.; 70
- public intoxication

Hasting, Kent M.; 39
- FTA – sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Holcomb, Terry J.; 68
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- resisting arrest
- obstruction-governmental operations
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Howard, Amber A.; 32
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Johnson, Matthew D.; 53
- FTA – driving while license suspended

McDonald, Joshua C.; 27
- GJ – attempting to elude a police/law enforcement officer-serious injury or death/speed exceeds 20 mph over limit

Melton, Amber A.; 43
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

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

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

Reno, Joey L.; 34
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Sharp, Sr., Michael A.; 44
- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-aggravated assault-menacing-other weapon
- PROBATION VIOLATION – attempting to elude a law enforcement officer
- PROBATION VIOLATION – resisting arrest
- PROBATION VIOLATION – auto theft

Sherman, Jason J.; 40
- FTA – auto theft

Simmons, Amanda R.; 43
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Smith, Michael C.; 25
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Spain, Dalton L.; 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Turney, Terry L.; 60
- arson-residence
- burglary-3rd degree – domestic violence
- certain person forbidden possession of pistol
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

White, Gary K.; 55
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Williams, Linda D.; 33
- burglary-residence-no force

Williams II, Phillip D.; 52
- menacing-aggravated assault

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 10
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $182; Olive St. SW

May 13
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '10 Hyundai; $500; Hwy. 157
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged window; $500; Mitchell Rd. NW
- retail theft of property-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $570; Hwy. 157
- identity theft; person

May 14
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $8; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

May 13-14

Hasting, Kent M.; 39
- criminal mischief-2nd degree
- GJ – theft of property-1st degree
- GJ – theft of property-3rd degree
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – false information to law enforcement officer
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts)
- FTA – insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA – run stop sign
- FTA – driving while revoked

Berryhill, Sr., Danny S.; 43
- FTA – driving while suspended
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – insurance violation

Cammon, Nathon D.; 47
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Batemon, Alexis F.; 23
- retail theft of property-2nd degree

Hill, Christopher S.; 50
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (3 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)
- FTA – run red light
- FTA – driving while revoked

Kirby, Heather D.; 38
- GJ – reckless murder
- GJ – chemical endangerment of child-death

Bryant, Sarah R.; 39
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – obstructing governmental operations

Green, Rhonda K.; 46
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – expired tag

Chapple, Charles C.; 38
- theft of property-1st degree
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card (2 counts)

Walton, Jerry D.; 40
- DUI
- reckless endangerment

Bogle, Malik A.; 21
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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







ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Dodge City Town Council is seen on Thursday, May 14, 2026

Dodge City Town Council notes: May 14

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. — The Dodge City Town Council at its May 14 meeting discussed financial updates, infrastructure projects and audit findings.

The council approved the March financial report, which showed a general fund ending balance of approximately $383,587. Additional account balances included more than $1 million in certificates of deposit and roughly $42,559 in sewer revenue funds.

During discussion of the town's recent audit, officials said the only discrepancy involved an altered check totaling about $1,946.

Officials said the fraudulent check was reported to the bank and that additional security measures have since been implemented, including daily approval of checks through the bank system.

Council members also approved renewing a certificate of deposit totaling approximately $169,037 at a 3.9% interest rate through Merchants Bank.

Updates on several ongoing projects, including repairs to a damaged guardrail on County Road 216. Officials said the repair is expected to cost about $5,250 and could begin sometime in June once the contractor is available.

The council also discussed obtaining a survey for the Buster property and shared that construction on the town's machine storage building is nearly complete.

The next Dodge City Town Council meeting is scheduled for June 11 at 6 p.m. at Dodge City Town Hall.



Opportunity (from Front)

Senate dated April 21, 2026, Sen. Garlan Gudger Jr., R-Cullman, alongside local delegation members Rep. Heath Allbright, R-Holly Pond; Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley; and Rep. Cindy Myrex, R-Cullman, secured the funding in support of The Link's ongoing efforts to provide tutoring, parental education, financial education and summer enrichment camps for local students.

"This support represents an incredible opportunity to continue strengthening programs that directly serve local children and families," Betts said. "We are deeply grateful for the support from Senator Gudger and our local delegation for investing in the future of our community. This support represents an incredible opportunity to continue strengthening programs that directly serve local children and families."

The funds will be administered through the Alabama State Department of Education.

In a statement on social media, The Link wrote:

"We are so incredibly grateful and honored to announce that The Link of Cullman County has been awarded $1 million in state funding, made possible through the leadership and advocacy of Garlan Gudger Jr., Alabama Senate President Pro Tempore.

"This investment will allow us to continue expanding programs that support local students and families through education, mentorship, outreach, and enrichment opportunities across our community.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to Senator Gudger and his team for their continued support, encouragement, and belief in the mission of The Link.

"Their leadership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening families, creating opportunity, and investing in the future of Cullman County.

"This funding represents more than dollars, it represents trust, collaboration, and a collective vision for a thriving community.

"Thank you to our board members, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make this work possible every day.

"Together, we are creating opportunity, strengthening families, and shaping the future of Cullman County."

Learn more about The Link and its services at www.linkingcullman.org or www.facebook.com/TheLinkofCullmanCounty.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• • Saturday, May 16 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, May 17 – 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.
• Wednesday, May 20 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, May 22 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Special guest speaker – Larry C. Hill Sr.
• Sunday, May 24 – 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.

May-June schedule:
• Tuesday, May 19, 3:30 p.m. Teenage Bead Class making bracelets, making friends etc.
• Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. "Let it Shine" puppet show, live singing, dancing, entertainment loved by many
• Wednesday, May 20, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class hosted by Regina Johnson
• Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. BOOK SALE! during the Grilled Cheese Festival; books starting at 50 cents! YARD SALE of items no longer needed at library

Start of summer program:
• Wednesday, May 27, 10 a.m. Animal Tracks and Habits presented by Milli Keel with Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District. What animals are wild and what animals are domesticated? Attend for answers and enjoy an animal track craft!
• Wednesday, May 27, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class
• Friday, May 29, 6 p.m. Poetry night (Announcement of Poetry contest winner!)
• Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m. Live SNAKES, let's replace fear with fascination, experts present an engaging, hands-on show that brings the world of reptiles and exotic animals to the Shirley Burden Public Library
• Monday, June 1, 6 p.m. Culture Club meets
• Wednesday, June 3, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class
• Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m. Birds' Beaks - Amazing Adaptations presented by Kerri Roberts Alabama 4-H
• Wednesday, June 10, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class

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.

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.

Senior Fishing Day
Friday, May 22, for participants ages 55 and older. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., with fishing starting at 8. Final weigh-ins will take place at 11. Multiple trophies will be awarded, and lunch will be provided for participants. Veterans Memorial Park, 503 Park Street, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Kids Fish-O-Rama
Saturday, May 23, at Veterans Memorial Park in Hanceville, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Fishing will take place from 8-11. The event is open to children ages 14 and younger. Registration is free. Participants will not only get to enjoy a morning of fishing, but lunch will also be provided. Trophies will be awarded throughout the divisions, as well as door prizes, during the event. 503 Park Street, Hanceville, AL 35077.

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COMMISSIONER
District 2
Pd Pol Ad: Friends of Richard Barnett 915 CR 1224 Vinemont, AL

"I was raised on a family farm in Cullman, where I learned the value of hard work, responsibility, and integrity. After high school, I built a career through real-world experience—working on oil rigs, managing warehouses, and owning a small business.

I bring proven leadership to the table. I've managed hundreds of employees, overseen million-dollar budgets, and made tough decisions while prioritizing safety, teamwork, and accountability. My background in distribution and business gives me the experience needed to serve as Cullman County Commissioner for District 2.

I'm not a career politician. I'm a Christian, a family man, and a proud citizen of Cullman County. I believe in putting people first, working together, and keeping Cullman the best place to live in Alabama."
Richard Barnett
Cullman CountyCommission
District 2


Softball (from Front)

further. I'm speechless, I'm really am. I have nothing to say other than I'm so proud of them,," Butler said after the win.

In typical fashion, the Bulldogs got on the board first thanks to stellar base running. Leading off the game for Hanceville in the first, Kynzlee Farr singled, made her way to second on a dropped ball by the catcher, then made her way all the way home on an errant throw after a pop-fly from Butler was dropped to make it 1-0 Bulldogs.

More chaos came on the base paths in the second, as Laila Lewis knocked a triple to right, then made it all the way home on yet another Tiger error to make it 2-0 Hanceville.

Randolph would strike in the fifth with Isabella Spinks on the mound, with Hannah Parmer grounding out, but Gracie Huckeba scoring after being walked earlier in the inning, making it just a 2-1 Hanceville lead.

The Bulldogs added some cushion to their lead just the next half-inning, with a Farr triple scoring Piper Butts who made it on thanks to yet another dropped pop-fly from Randolph.

With the score 3-1 in the top of the seventh, head coach Kim Lewis sent their ace, Butler, back onto the mound. Things were shaky, with two batters making it on safely thanks to errors and another due to a hit-by-pitch. A sac-fly scored one Tiger, and it looked like Randolph had seized momentum. Despite all the pressure on Butler, she was ice cold, and struck out two straight batters to seal the Regional title.

"I want more. From day one, I've I've wanted more. Nothing can satisfy me other than just more. I'm greedy with it. But again, I couldn't have done it without my team," Butler said.

Hanceville is among the first to punch their tickets to Oxford, but the team is reportedly set to play their first game on Monday at Choccolocco Park.

On the victory, and the emotions after, Lewis said, "To watch these girls cry because they won is a hard thing to watch. It just shows the sheer volume of the desire for them to actually do something that they're they've never done. They've never even had the confidence. We talked about that in the beginning of the year and how unconfident this community of girls is in themselves. To just to be able to restore that confidence- or do our best as coaches to restore that confidence, it truly means something."



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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PREP SOFTBALL REGIONALS

Hanceville opens regionals with two blowout wins, Meek eliminated by Appalachian

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. — Day two of the East Regionals at Sand Mountain Park took place Tuesday, and with Good Hope and Addison eliminated yesterday, Meek fought on and Hanceville played their first games since securing their first ever area title. Meek, already with one loss, suffered another from Appalachian and was eliminated, but Hanceville burst onto the scene with two run rule wins.

MEEK

Elimination Bracket Semifinals – Appalachian 17, Meek 9: After fighting off elimination with an 11-0 win yesterday, Meek faced 25-9-1 Appalachian, who knocked off Addison yesterday.

Along with the team, starting pitcher Sadi Farley recovered in their second game yesterday, but faced an offensive onslaught from the Eagles today.

In seven innings, Farley gave up 17 hits and 17 runs, all of which went down as earned.

Meek's offense did find traction, however. Carmyn Daugherty stood out at the plate, going 3-4 with three RBIs, and Farley went 2-3 with 2 RBIs.

The output at the plate wasn't enough to match Appalachians, though, and Meek was eliminated. The Lady Tigers' season ended at 24-11.

HANCEVILLE

Round One – Hanceville 10, Weaver 0: In their first game of the 2026 Regionals, Hanceville took on Weaver and made a statement with a 10-0 run rule win with a combined no-hitter from KK Butler (three innings) and Isabella Spinks (two innings).

Starting on the mound for the Bulldogs, Butler was lights-out, striking out eight Bearcats while giving up no hits.

At the plate, Hanceville got production from all over the lineup. The cleanup hitter, Spinks, went 2-3 with a double and Maddy Bryant, the nine-batter, went 2-2 with an RBI.

The most exciting play of the day came from Piper Butts, whose bunt in the bottom of the second turned into a 2 RBI little league home run thanks to an infield error.

Winner Bracket Round Two – Hanceville 16, Glencoe 2: Game two went even better for the Bulldogs, notching a second straight run rule win, this time over 17-19 Glencoe, to start their run in Albertville.

Taking the mound for Hanceville was Butler again, and while game two on the day wasn't as dominant, she only gave up four hits and one earned run over five innings.

Hanceville's offense produced again, putting up 16 hits over the five inning game. Giving herself some run support, Butler hit an inside-the-park grand slam in the bottom of the fourth to put the game fully out of reach.

Butler went on to finish 2-4 with four RBIs. Left fielder Laila Lewis also starred, going 2-4 with three RBIs.

With their two wins, Hanceville secured a spot in the semifinals where they faced 23-7 Randolph County.

See front page for story.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville head coach Kim Lewis watches a Bentley Childers at bat in the Bulldogs' 10-0 win over Weaver on Tuesday.

Redding (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview High School will honor Coach George Redding Jr. with a retirement ceremony Sunday, May 17, celebrating his years of service to Fairview athletics, education and the community.

The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. in the Keith E. Pattillo Auditorium at Fairview High School. A reception will immediately follow.

Fairview High School invited former players, coaches, colleagues, students, friends and community members to attend, saying Redding's career has impacted countless lives through his dedication, leadership, mentorship and commitment to students, athletics and education.

Redding's name has been tied to Fairview football for decades, first as a standout quarterback at Fairview under Cullman County Hall of Fame Coach Dafford Smith, then as the leader of one of the most successful eras in Aggie football history.

The Cullman Tribune reported in January that Fairview's 2025 season was one of the best in school history, with the Aggies finishing the regular season 10-0 before advancing to the third round of the Class 5A playoffs.

The same season, Redding became the winningest coach in school and county history during his 19th year leading the program.

That record-setting run followed years of steady growth under Redding. In 2021, Fairview posted a school-record 12 wins, scored a school-record 584 points and advanced to the Class 5A state semifinals for the first time in school history. Redding was later named the Alabama Football Coaches Association Class 5A Coach of the Year.

He also collected his 100th career win at Fairview that season with a 35-21 victory at Russellville in the second round of the state playoffs.

In a Jan. 15, 2026, Tribune feature about Fairview football's timeline wall, Redding spoke about the importance of preserving the stories and people who built the program.

"They call old things 'traditional,' and those stories will go away unless we tell them," Redding said at the time. "That's something that's always had a special place in my heart."

That effort to preserve Fairview's football history reflected much of Redding's larger impact on the school.

The timeline wall, created to showcase every Aggie team and its most notable players and coaches dating back to the program's creation in 1963, was designed as a reminder that Fairview football was built by generations of players, coaches, families and community support.

In that same article, Fairview defensive coordinator and now head coach Brian Simmons reflected on Redding's place in the program's history, noting that Redding had become Fairview's winningest coach and that Simmons had been part of every win with him.

Simmons was named Fairview's head football coach following Redding's resignation from that role in February. In March, The Tribune reported that Simmons had worked alongside Redding for 19 years and expected to continue the standard built during Redding's tenure.

Fairview High School has also announced that, pending board approval, Redding will continue supporting Aggie athletics in a part-time role as Fairview High School athletic director.

Dr. Brad Stapler, Fairview High School principal, said in the school's announcement that Redding's leadership will continue to benefit the athletic program.

"We are thrilled that he will continue to support our athletic program in this part-time role," Stapler said.

Stapler said Redding's impact across Fairview athletics has been meaningful.

"Coach Redding's leadership will have a meaningful impact across all of our sports programs, and we look forward to the continued growth and success of Fairview athletics under his guidance," Stapler said.

Sunday's ceremony will give the Fairview community a chance to recognize that legacy in person.

Retirement ceremony details

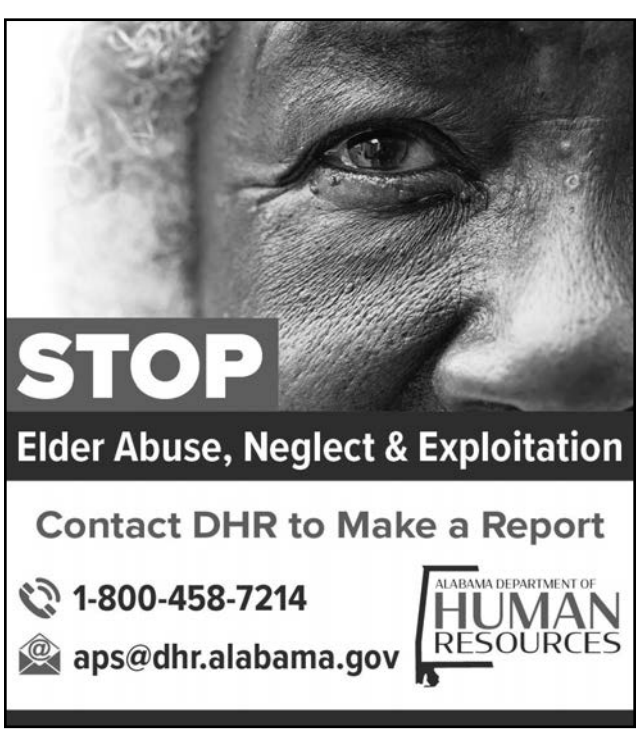
- Who: Coach George Redding Jr.
- When: 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17
- Where: Keith E. Pattillo Auditorium, Fairview High School
- Reception: Immediately following the ceremony
- Open to: Former players, coaches, colleagues, students, friends and community members

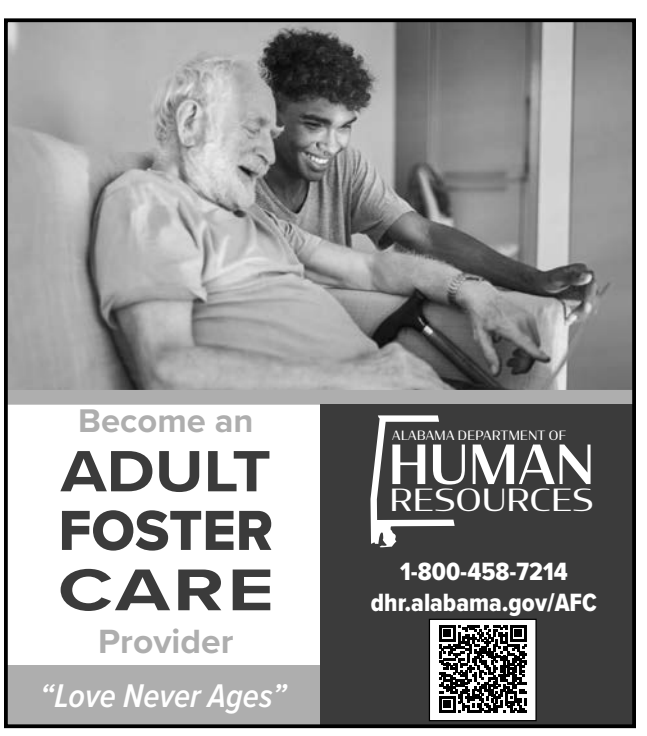


TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Coach George Redding Jr.







Jacobs proclaims May Mental Health Awareness Month in Cullman

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Mayor Woody Jacobs has proclaimed May 2026 Mental Health Awareness Month in the city of Cullman, recognizing the importance of mental wellness and continued efforts to expand awareness, support and access to care throughout the community.

The proclamation highlights that mental health is an essential part of overall well-being and acknowledges that mental health conditions affect individuals and families across every part of the community.

Local community assessments have also identified mental health access, crisis support, substance abuse recovery and availability of providers as ongoing needs within Cullman County.

"Mental health issues touch every household in some way," Jacobs said. "No one should feel like they have to face those challenges alone. When people know where to turn for help, our entire community grows stronger."

The proclamation recognizes the many healthcare providers, agencies, nonprofits, counselors and organizations working to support mental wellness in Cullman, including Cullman Regional Medical Center, WellStone Behavioral Health, The Sanctuary at the Woodlands, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and numerous other public and private organizations that provide counseling, behavioral health services, crisis support, recovery resources and community-based care.

The proclamation also acknowledges the partnerships among healthcare professionals, educators, public safety agencies, nonprofit organizations, churches and community leaders working together to improve access to services, reduce stigma and strengthen support systems for residents throughout Cullman.

"Mental Health Awareness Month is an important opportunity to bring attention to an issue that affects so many people, often quietly and behind the scenes," Jacobs said.

"I'm grateful for the organizations and individuals in our community who work every day to support mental wellness and help people find hope and healing."

Observed nationally each May, Mental Health Awareness Month encourages greater understanding of mental health conditions and promotes the importance of early support, treatment and ongoing mental wellness.

Jacobs encouraged residents to prioritize their mental wellness, support those who may be struggling and continue fostering a community where compassion, understanding and access to care remain priorities for all.



CITY OF CULLMAN

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs

Cullman Caring for Kids hosts successful first Kickin' it for the Kids event

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Caring for Kids recently hosted its first Kickin' it for the Kids event at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

CASA Case Manager Alyson Miley said the main goal was simple: to remind the community that it truly takes a village to care for and protect our most valuable residents — our children.

"I am proud to say that goal was not only met, but far exceeded," Miley said. "So many incredible organizations, local heroes and dedicated volunteers came together to support this fundraiser, and we could not be more grateful for the outpouring of love and support. This event was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when a community unites with a shared purpose."

Miley said it is the nonprofit's sincere hope that this year's success is only the beginning, and it will grow into an annual event the community looks forward to for years to come.

"I would like to personally thank the many people who helped make this day possible — our amazing co-workers, deputies, firefighters, paramedics, Justin Veal, Jesse Priest, the entire band, Dylan and Brylee, Kathy Gentry, our volunteers, fellow programs, Bouncer Inflatable Rentals, our food vendors and all of our generous sponsors," Miley said. "Your support and hard work made this vision a reality. On a personal level, I would especially like to thank my two biggest supporters, Daniel Bingham and Janet Fallin. Your encouragement and belief in this mission meant more than words can express."

Miley said she believes the first event was such a success because everyone involved understood and never lost sight of their "why."

"We want to help ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience the happy, safe childhood they deserve," she said.

"When we come together for our children, we create hope, healing and a brighter future for all."

Miley wanted to share a special thank-you to Kat Daddy's BBQ & Grill Co. for providing local heroes with meals at the event.



ALYSON MILEY

Left to right are Garlan Gudger, Steven Sutter, Alyson Miley and Javon Daniel.

Election (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Voters across the state will head to the polls Tuesday, May 19, for Alabama's 2026 Primary Election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

If you are unsure of your registration status or polling location, visit https://myinfo.alabamavotes.gov/voterview.

Voters participating in the Alabama Primary Election must choose either the Republican or Democrat ballot; however, voters who do not want to participate in a party primary may still vote on constitutional amendments.

The 2026 Primary Runoff Election, if needed, will be held Tuesday, June 16. Under Alabama's crossover voting rule, a voter who participates in one party's primary may vote only in that same party's runoff. A voter who does not participate in the May 19 primary may choose either party's runoff ballot, if a runoff is held.

CULLMAN COUNTY BALLOTS

View Cullman County sample ballots at:

- Republican: www.sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/files/sample-ballots/2026/pri/Cullman - Rep.pdf
- Democrat: www.sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/files/sample-ballots/2026/pri/Cullman - Dem.pdf

For Cullman County voters, all local races are between Republican candidates.

Cullman County Sheriff
- Chad Whaley
- Tim Creel

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner
- Kenneth Cornelius
- Mike Pitts

Cullman County Commission, District 1
- Kenneth Walker
- Reburn Miller

Cullman County Commission, District 2
- Josh Speakman
- Richard Barnett

Cullman County Board of Education Hanceville, District 4 (by district)
- Kenny Brockman
- Stephen McRea

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, City of Cullman (by district)
- G. Rhys Battles
- Alex J. Chaney
- Waid Harbison
- Michael Sapp

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, West Point, District 1 (by district)
- J.R. Bowling
- Samuel "Sam" L. Roberts

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, Fairview, District 2 (by district)
- Mike Ball
- Todd Floyd

Cullman County voters will also see statewide races on their ballots.

Alabama Senate, District 4 (Republican – there are no Democratic candidates)
- Garlan Gudger
- J.R. Bowling

United States Representative, 4th Congressional District (Republican)
- Robert B. Aderholt
- Tommy Barnes

United States Representative, 4th Congressional District (Democrat)
- Amanda N. Pusczek
- Shane Weaver

Alabama State Board of Education, District 6 (Republican – there are no Democratic candidates)
- Cathi Bradford
- Marie Manning

Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1 (Republican)
- Jeremy H. Oden
- Matt Gentry

Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1 (Democrat)
- James O. Gordon
- Jeff Ramsey
- John Northrop

Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 2 (Republican – there are no Democratic candidates)
- Brent Woodall
- Chris Beeker
- Priscilla Andrews
- Jim Ziegler

The Republican ballot includes a three-candidate race for governor: Ken McFeeters, "Alabama" Will Santivasci and Tommy Tuberville.

The Democrat ballot includes six candidates for governor: Will Boyd, Jamel J. Brown, Yolanda Rochelle Flowers, Doug Jones, Chad "Chig" Martin and Nathan "Nate" Mathis.

For lieutenant governor, Republican voters will choose among Wes Allen, Pat Bishop, George Childress, Rick Pate, Stewart Hill Tankersley, Nicole Jones Wadsworth and John Wahl. Democratic voters will choose between Phillip Ensler and Darryl D. Perryman.

The U.S. Senate race also appears on both primary ballots. Republican voters will choose among Seth Burton, Dale Shelton Deas Jr., Jared Hudson, Steve Marshall, Barry Moore, Morgan Murphy and Rodney Walker. Democratic voters will choose among Dakarai Larriett, Kyle Sweetser, Everett Wess and Mark S. Wheeler II.

For attorney general, Republican voters will choose among Pamela L. Casey, Jay Mitchell and Katherine Robertson.

For secretary of state, Republican candidates are Caroleene Dobson, Christopher Christian Horn and Glenda S. Jackson.

For state treasurer, Young Boozer and Steve Lolley are on the Republican ballot.

For state auditor, Republican voters will choose between Derek Chen and Andrew Sorrell.

For commissioner of agriculture and industries, Corey Hill, Christina Woerner McInnis and Jack Williams are listed on the Republican ballot.

Two statewide constitutional amendments will appear on both party ballots.

Statewide Amendment 1 would amend the Alabama Constitution to allow judges to deny bail under certain circumstances for additional offenses.

According to the ballot language, those offenses include shooting or discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling or other occupied space, or solicitation, attempt or conspiracy to commit murder.

A "yes" vote supports adding those offenses to the list of charges for which a judge may deny bail. A "no" vote opposes the change.

Statewide Amendment 2 would amend the Alabama Constitution to provide that compensation for a district attorney may not be reduced during that district attorney's term of office.

A "yes" vote supports the change. A "no" vote opposes the change.

Sample ballots note that some offices appear only in certain precincts or districts. Voters should review their sample ballots carefully. On the Republican sample ballot, voters are also instructed to continue voting on the back, where the statewide amendments appear.

Voters who make a mistake on their ballot should not erase it, but should ask a poll worker for a new ballot.

COLUMN

Have a nice bidet!

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I'm in my bathroom, standing in a nasty puddle of water, with a plunger in one hand and a bent coat hanger in the other. It's hard to believe that just 12 hours earlier, I was eating breakfast on a cruise ship, while a man in a white jacket asked me if I wanted more smoked salmon with my omelet. Now, I'm at home trying to unclog a toilet - talk about a fall to Earth.

After about an hour, all I had managed to do was slop disgusting water everywhere. So, it was time to move out of the coat hanger era of plumbing and into the 21st century.

I went to my laptop and booted up Chatty Cathy - my name for ChatGPT – aka, artificial intelligence. Despite having no real-world plumbing experience, which still puts her slightly ahead of me, she suggested that I bail out the toilet, then pour in a cup of dishwashing liquid and a half gallon of hot water.

Ol' Chatty was right - it unclogged, that is, until the next morning, when it backed up again. That's when I gave up and called a plumber - after all, I am a man who knows my limitations.

He cleaned out the line in minutes, and quickly found the source of the clog - one of my black socks. Not a kid's toy, not a paper towel. A sock. Mine.

The second he pulled it out, my wife gave me one of her patented "this is your fault" looks.

"I didn't do that," I protested. "Believe me, I know the difference between a commode and a washing machine."

"Yeah, I know you do. You actually use one of them on a regular basis." Ignoring that totally unnecessary sarcastic zinger, I stood there and tried to figure out how it happened. We have three dogs and no kids, so it quickly turned into a game of Clue. Mr. Plumber... with a sock... in the bathroom.

We came up with a couple of theories - but none of them were provable. I didn't care. I was just happy it was fixed, so I headed to the golf course, looking for some peace and quiet, which in hindsight, should have worried me.

When I got home, there was an unusual sound coming from our bathroom - a shriek followed by laughter. Nobody has ever made a noise like that on a toilet and had it go well. I got closer and my wife emerged, smiling.

"What just happened?" I asked. "Was it your IBS?"

"Don't be ridiculous. After the plumber unclogged the pipe, I had him install a bidet. I just used it for the first time."

She said it like someone who had just discovered fire. I peeked inside, and didn't like what I saw. Attached to our commode was a strange device with two silver adjustment knobs. It looked like a porcelain time machine.

I shook my head. "Why would you do that?"

This was not like buying a throw rug without checking with me. Installing a bidet in a bathroom that I use has long-term consequences - for me.

"Because you are always complaining about how much toilet paper I use, and this will take care of that. Besides, everybody in France uses these."

I bristled. "But we don't live there. We're closer to Paris, Texas than we are to Paris, France." However, it's true that for years I have been griping about her toilet paper consumption. At one point, I think Charmin was sending her birthday cards. Once, I got so frustrated, I made the mistake of suggesting she was using more paper because a certain part of her anatomy was... expanding.

That did not go well. Still, the fact remains that she uses more rolls of toilet paper than teenagers on Halloween night. I'm old school about this kind of thing. I believe in going paperless, just not in the bathroom. I do not like the idea of pressure washing my posterior. Besides, I already fought with that toilet for over an hour. I'm not about to sit down and give it a rematch - especially now that it was armed and possibly holding a grudge.

And I'm certainly not asking Chatty Cathy for her opinion on using a bidet. How could I trust her? She doesn't even have a butt. And considering what the plumber charged me, he'll probably be taking a cruise of his own pretty soon - while I'm at home, afraid to sit down and flush.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: www.mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.





CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A beautiful painting at a local thrift store

OP-ED

Turn the page

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Reading is whatever you would like for it to be. It can mean a long awaited vacation at your fingertips. Perhaps it is a magical garden, a cold case revisited with a harrowing new discovery or even a chance to live vicariously through a painter in Paris. An opportunity to start over, to dream.

The wonder doesn't just reside within each page, but those who have held them before. There is art and appreciation in the notes carefully jotted in the margins. Curiosity in the nearly illegible lines erased, but faintly visible. A coffee ring on one page or a few rips along the way.

More times than not if you buy a used book you will find a carefully placed bookmark. Perhaps the reader was fond of bending down the corners to mark where they had stopped reading. These placements or bookmarks are a mystery. Within them are many questions. Did they stop there with the intention of picking up the book later, but never got the chance? Were they so unimpressed that they marked where they stopped and didn't care enough about saving their bookmark for their next read?

Perhaps where they stopped will be where you decide to keep going. You will become more invested and wish they had just kept reading. The arts of reading and living are similar. Some days it is hard to persist and keep going. Though we continue to try because we want to see it through until the end. We pick up the book and read beyond the heartache, the lull or the hardship.

It can be easy to put the book down, but I encourage you to see it through until the very end. Turn the page, because one difficult chapter will not prevent your story from persisting.

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 *
FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR. * CASE NO PC 2026-044
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: **DARREN RENO MERHOFF, DEBORAH CAROL MERHOFF, BEVERLY LYNN WOMMACK, VIRGINIA WOMMACK GOTHARD and any other Next-of-kin and Heirs if the Estate of FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR., Deceased**

Petition for Probate of Will filed by Holly Wommack Allen, Petitioner, through Attorney Nathan Johnson for the Estate of Frederick Donald Merhoff, Jr. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **9th day of July, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

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

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 14th day of May, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper and send an affidavit of Publication to Judge of Probate

Nathan Johnson
Attorney for Petitioner
909 E 2nd St
Sheffield, Alabama 35660

Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DOROTHA DEAN RANDOLPH, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-193**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Yancey C. Rudolph as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dorotha Dean Randolph deceased, on the 13th day of May, 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 will be barred.

Yancey C. Randolph
Personal Representative

Atty for Estate:
Seth B. Thompson
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone (256) 734-4591

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

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

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

1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
TILFORD G. MILLER, deceased.) **CASE NUMBER: PC-25-383**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration with Will Annexed having been granted to KEVIN G. MILLER, as Personal Representative with Will Annexed of the Estate of Tilford G. Miller, deceased, on the 14th day of May, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

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

KEVIN G. MILLER
Personal Representative

JEREMY N. CLINE (CLI021)
Attorney for the Estate of Tilford G. Miller
Griffith, Lowry & Meherg, LLC
409 1st Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-0458

TO: The Publisher of the Cullman ~~Times~~ 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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LALA B. POWE aka * CASE NO PC 2026-171
LOLA B POWE, *
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF LALA B. POWE AKA LOLA B. POWE

Petition for Probate of Will, filed by Gregory C. Powe, Petitioner, through Attorney Steven C. Smith, has been scheduled for the **18th day of August, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 15th day of May, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper and send Proof of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398

Small Business Spotlight: Hagar Guitars

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Attendees came together at Cotton Creek Venue on May 14 for a ribbon cutting and live music event to celebrate the opening of Hagar Guitars, a custom guitar business started by Greg and Candace Hagar.

The Hagars said their business started because of Greg's lifelong love for guitars and music.

Greg said he grew up in a family where music was always present, which inspired his early interest in guitars. "I've always had guitars in my blood and in my family."

The couple said the business officially started when Candace encouraged Greg to turn his hobby into something bigger. After Greg built guitars and got positive feedback, Candace helped by getting a business license and supporting the company's growth. At the event, visitors could see the handcrafted guitars and also enjoy live demonstrations and performances that showed off the instruments' sound and quality.

"We really wanted to highlight the abilities of these guitars and the experienced hands and talent that we have up here today," Greg said.

The event featured local musicians who have supported Hagar Guitars from the beginning. The Hagars said some of these musicians had helped show off the guitars and promote the business before.

The couple said being involved in the community is a key part of their business and helps Hagar Guitars stand out from bigger stores.

"I think that Hagar Guitars offers something you can't get in a big box store," Candace said. "There's been a relationship built with the customers."

Greg said they hoped visitors left with a real appreciation for how well their guitars are made and how good they sound. "I hope they see that our guitars are as quality as they can be. That they cannot just look good, but play well, too."

Find Hagar Guitars on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hagar.guitars.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Attendees came together at Cotton Creek Venue on May 14, 2026, for a ribbon cutting and live music event to celebrate the opening of Hagar Guitars, a custom guitar business started by Greg and Candace Hagar.

2026 Memorial Day Festival May 23 at Smith Lake Park

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Smith Lake Park will host the 2026 Memorial Day Festival Saturday, May 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with free admission to the public.

Cullman County Parks and Recreation Marketing Director Sara Morgan said, "With this festival being a free event, it gives families a fun, free and safe event to kick off their summer with. We look forward to having another great event this year."

Morgan said the festival will have food, arts and crafts and other vendors and a DJ who will play great dancing tunes. There will also be a car show.

"We will also have our second annual Freedom & Octane Memorial Car Show," she said. "The gates will open at 9 a.m. and there will be judging at 12 p.m., with awards to follow."

Smith Lake Park is also hiring lifeguards for the season. Employee requirements include: "Responsible for: seasonal lifeguard duties for Smith Lake Park, all pool cleaning and maintenance, concessions for various parks and events, and working at all of the various county parks, as needed, in different capacities. (ex. concession, housekeeping, customer service) Other duties as assigned."

• Must have AED, CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Certifications
• Prior customer service experience
• Ability to work nights, weekends and holidays as needed
• Ability to work in a fast paced, multitasking environment

"This is a 'safety-sensitive' position. Successful candidates must pass a pre-employment drug test and will be subject to random unannounced drug testing throughout employment with the County in a 'safety-sensitive' position."

Employment applications are available at www.co.cullman.al.us, or from the Personnel Department at the Cullman County Courthouse, 500 Second Ave. SW, Room 109, Cullman.

Completed employment application, with current resume (if applicable) must be returned to the Cullman County Commission Personnel Department.

Smith Lake Park is located at 403 County Road 386.

For more information about the Memorial Day event, visit www.cullmancountyparks.com/ or www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyParks or call 256-739-2916.



CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Terry Graham



CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Graham (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Electric Cooperative is mourning the unexpected passing of longtime employee Terry Graham, whose 52 years of service touched generations of co-op employees, members and community leaders across the utility's service area.

The co-op announced Graham's death in a memorial post this week.

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the unexpected passing of our co-worker Terry Graham," the co-op said. "Terry was truly the heart and soul of this co-op for the past 52 years. His impact on our employees, members, and community will never be forgotten."

The co-op remembered Graham not only for his work, but also for the way he treated people.

"No one cared more deeply about serving others than Terry," the co-op said. "He led with humility, kindness and compassion, showing Christ's love through his actions every single day."

Graham's career stretched across more than half of the co-op's history. The co-op, organized in 1936, began when 14 Cullman County farmers worked to bring electricity to rural parts of the county after being turned down for service. According to the co-op's history, it energized its first lines Aug. 4, 1936, serving 350 customers across 30 miles of line.

Today, the co-op serves more than 48,000 member accounts across Cullman, Winston, Morgan and Lawrence counties.

For decades, Graham's role placed him in direct contact with co-op members and businesses. The co-op's public materials identified him as key accounts manager, a position focused on helping commercial and industrial members with questions and needs specific to larger electric service users.

The co-op's commercial and industrial member information noted that those members require "special attention and knowledge of the electric industry."

His 52-year tenure carried through a period of major change for the co-op, from traditional electric service and line work to modern grid upgrades, member technology and the launch of Sprout Fiber Internet.

Tribune archives show the co-op announced Sprout Fiber Internet in June 2020 as part of an effort to expand rural broadband access and later celebrated the first Sprout customers being connected in January 2021.

Those larger changes marked a new era for the co-op, but Graham's remembrance centered on something more personal: service.

In its memorial post, the co-op said Graham's care for others and steady presence would continue to shape the people who worked with him.

"His legacy of service and care will continue to inspire all of us," it said.

The co-op asked the community to remember Graham's family, friends, co-workers and all who loved him.

"Please keep Terry's family, friends and all who loved him in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time," it said. "He will be greatly missed."

Funeral arrangements had not been included in the co-op's public memorial post. The Tribune will update this story when official obituary or service details are released.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 16, 2026

Saved by conservation: Alabama's wildlife comebacks

Justin Miller
Contributor



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Rocky's rematch with Clubber Lang. Steve Jobs' return to Apple. The 2004 Boston Red Sox. People love a good comeback story. However, these stories are not exclusive to boardrooms and baseball diamonds. Some of the best comeback stories happen in forests and streams across the country.

Since 1973, the ripple effects of the Endangered Species Act and other conservation efforts have made it possible for many wildlife and plant species to write their own great American comeback stories. Celebrated annually, Endangered Species Day, set for May 15, highlights conservation efforts for endangered and threatened species. This year's theme — Celebrating America's Wildlife Comeback Stories — spotlights the results of those efforts and their real-world impacts.

"Some of the greatest wildlife comeback stories live right here in Alabama," said Wesley Anderson, an Alabama Extension wildlife specialist at Auburn University.

"From the American alligator to the bald eagle, Alabama has played an important role in the protection and conservation of many threatened and endangered species."

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act is a multifaceted piece of legislation. At its core, it federally protects threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. It also allows for species to be added to and removed from the official list of endangered and threatened species.

Scientific data largely drives adding or removing a species. The Endangered Species Act outlines five factors to use when considering a species for the list. These include habitat destruction, disease and overutilization of the species.

"We don't want any species to be on this list forever," Anderson said. "One of the key parts of the Endangered Species Act is the implementation of recovery plans for each species.

"The hope is that these efforts lead to them being removed from the list and their management returned to the states."

Protecting Alabama

Alabama is known as American's Amazon, thanks to its incredible biodiversity. With this title also comes the incredible responsibility of protecting these resources. Alabama has the third highest number of species currently on the endangered and threatened species list, behind Hawaii and California. Stepping up to the challenge, Alabama has been involved in some of the most influential conservation efforts in the past 100 years.

American alligators

In 1938, Alabama was the first state in the U.S. to protect the American alligator. This was almost three decades before it was listed federally as an endangered species.

"The American alligator faced near extinction in the early 1900s," Anderson said. "Thanks to decades of conservation efforts, alligator populations in Alabama are now thriving to the point where we have a regulated hunting season."

The federal government removed the American alligator as an endangered species by 1987. Today, it is still federally protected and listed as a threatened species. This is because it resembles the American crocodile, which is still an endangered species.

Bald eagles

The bald eagle is another species with a strong conservation story in Alabama. In a state where one of the unofficial greetings is War Eagle, it is hard to imagine that eagles were ever nonresidents. However, records indicate bald eagles did not successfully nest in the state for decades, from 1949 to 1991.

Across the U.S., one of the primary causes of the bald eagle's decline was the use of DDT, an insecticide developed in the 1940s. Because of its great harm to wildlife, particularly birds, and its suspected risk to human health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT in 1972. Thanks to this ban and later conservation efforts by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the bald eagle's 40-year hiatus in the state came to an end.

In 1984, the department began eagle restoration efforts, releasing 91 young eagles back into the wild between 1985 and 1991.

To date, the department has released more than 500 eagles, and there are more than 100 eagle nests in the state.

"The recovery of the bald eagle is one of the most significant comeback stories in our state's history," Anderson said. "We went from 40 years of no resident eagles to this year celebrating the 40th annual Eagle Awareness Weekend at Lake Guntersville State Park. That is a great example of how investments in conservation can go beyond just the environmental aspects to impact our social and cultural identities."

More work to do

Even with these great examples of conservation wins, there is still more work to do in Alabama and beyond. Many of the plants and animals that call the state home face serious conservation risks. Anderson said all residents can play a role in protecting these natural treasures.

"When people take part in citizen science, they become the eyes and ears that help protect our state's threatened and endangered species for generations to come," Anderson said. "Every observation matters and we need your help. Also, so many of our imperiled species in Alabama are a part of our aquatic systems. Simple things like keeping waterways clean go a long way in supporting conservation efforts."

More information on Endangered Species Day and other related projects is available on the Endangered Species Coalition's website at endangered.org. People can also reach out to a forestry, wildlife and natural resources Extension agent for information on local citizen science projects. Agent's contact information is available in the online directory at aces.edu.

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Obituary Announcements: May 14-15

David Joe Hayward, Sr., 84

A memorial visitation for David Hayward, Sr., age 84 of Cullman, will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 6-8 p.m. A private family graveside service will be held at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Hayward passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at his residence. He was born July 11, 1941, to Lawson R. Hayward and Gertrude M. Hayward in Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Lawson Wayne Hayward, Wendell R Hayward, Timothy C Hayward, Michael Hayward and Dennis Hayward. Survivors include his wife, Sarah Smith Hayward; daughter Leigh Moore Edge (Robert); sons, Philip Moore (Pam), Jim Rogers-Hayward (Matt), David Joe Hayward, Jr., and Jeff Hayward; grandchildren, Tyler Edge, Nathan Edge (Mariah), Oliver Edge (Isabella), Annalee Miller (Alexander), Nicolas Moore, Kimberly Moore, Michael Hayward, Ashley Hayward and Rebecca Hayward; great grandchildren, Grayson Andrews, Charlotte Hayward and Jacob Willingham; daughter-in-law, Angie Solomon.

Kenith David Rice, 48

Kenith David Rice, 48, of Cullman, Alabama, was born Oct. 27, 1977, and passed away May 13, 2026. Kenith will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude by those who knew him, and his life will be honored in the hearts of family and friends. Kenith will be remembered with deep respect and lasting affection by all who knew him. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Charles and Jane Rice; his aunt, Debrah Mann; and his uncle, Jim Rice. Kenith is survived by his mother, Myra Richardson (Scot); his brother, Nichols Richerson; his uncle, Charles Rice Jr.; and his aunts, Louise Rice and Ja Williams. A Celebration of life Graveside service will be held on May 18, 2026, at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, 275 County Road 1615, Cullman, AL 35058. Kenith's life, though far too brief, leaves a legacy of remembrance that will continue in the hearts of his family and friends. Kenith was a Beloved son and brother.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The miracle of running water

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Water is gift from God that we may take from granted. Water is a necessity of life, and as far back as I can recall, I have been able to go to the kitchen sink and instantly have this necessity at my fingertips. As a young child, that water was pumped out of our well and into our house. My mother called it "mineral water." Over time, it turned all our white clothes and linens orange. I don't remember the year, but during my childhood a huge water tower was erected in Rainsville and water lines were run out to residents. My family and many others were able to tap into what many in those days referred to as "city water." That meant fresh water on demand and no more orange-colored undergarments or clothes!

On our recent trip to Spain, we visited a couple of communities and palaces that had "city water" long before Rainsville, or Alabama, or even the United States had ever been founded or even thought about. The first place we visited with such a water system was in Granada. Olive oil is known as the "liquid gold" of Spain. With more than 300 million olive trees in the country, Spain is said to produce more than half of the olive oil in the world. We certainly consumed our fair share of that amazing oil while there. To say that olive oil flows freely through Spain is certainly true, but so does fresh water, and it has done so for hundreds of years.

In Granada, we visited the ancient palace, fortress and grounds there known as Alhambra. Alhambra is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The American author Washington Irving had visited there a few years earlier than us, in 1828, to be exact. Four years later, he wrote, "The Alhambra; Tales and Sketches of the Moors and Spaniards." I'm certainly no Washington Irving, but I felt compelled to at least write a column about this unbelievable place/palace.

Building there began in the 13th century, and some of the Islamic-built structures have been preserved to this day and may still be toured. Granada was the last capital of the Moors in Spain, before it fell to the Catholic Monarchs in 1492.

We spent an entire morning touring there with a local historical expert. The complex, with its buildings, miles of walls and 30 towers, sprawls across 26 acres of beautiful hillsides with gardens and orchards.

At the heart of the community is the Aqueduct of Alhambra. Fresh water has flowed through that aqueduct from the Darro River for over 800 years. The system used gravity to move the water with no pumps. It supplies water for the Court of the Lions Fountain in the courtyard.

The fountain, which was built in the 14th century, features 12 sculpted lions arranged in a circle. Water shoots from their mouths, which tells you what hour of the day it is. Beginning at midnight, the first lion shoots water. Another is added each hour until noon, when they start over. When we saw them, all 12 were spewing water. That told us it was lunchtime and time for us to leave.

Water is a requirement of any place that is a dwelling place, but getting water in every place is not always easy. Jesus had an encounter with a Samaritan woman who had to walk into the city well in her hometown of Sychar to draw her water. Jesus told her about living water that He could give her that would satisfy forever. He is the aqueduct for that living water!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: May 16, 1946

From the files of May 16, 1946

To and Fro
By EAGLE EYE

(Personal note from Eagle Eye)—Last Wednesday was the first time for me to be out-of-doors in years. I was taken to Wagner Studio, and you see how I look. It was my first trip from the office since the Strawberry Festival in '39. That time I got soaking wet in the rain. For the other festivals when big floats were used, beautiful girls got the nod. I stayed on my perch and listened to the talk about the colorful floats and the attractive young ladies. There's not been much let-up of this talk because a picture of the 1940 float is in the office and many folks still see it and make their comments. This year with only a Junior Parade I'll be on a float again, and after the ride I'll return to my perch in The Tribune office and continue my observations about this wonderful county and its people.

Sky Brook Rose Maxium's Prince is the newest Guernsey to make his appearance at the Carl Peinhardt farm. The purebred nine-months old bull, consigned by the Sky Brook Farms of Hendersonville, N. C., was purchased at the Quail Roost Farm Guernsey sale at Rougemont, N. C. Mr. Peinhardt was accompanied to Carolina by his father, Otto W. Peinhardt, and Karl Ruehl.

"Folsom 110,000 votes, Ellis 90,000, Poole 70,000, Boozer 55,000, Persons 35,000." These figures were predicted by John Stiefelmeyer, active Big Jim worker, on the morning of the May 7th primary. The closeness of John's predictions can be noted by these unofficial returns from this election—Folsom 101,501, Ellis 85,458, Poole 68,189, Boozer 55,518, Persons 42,650.

A telegram came this week to Mrs. Thomas Ezekiel from her son Captain Tom Ezekiel telling her that he had arrived in Furstenfeldbruck, Germany on May 10. Captain Ezekiel will be stationed in Germany with the A. A. F.

Although Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Oldacre knew that their son Sgt. Forrest Oldacre, who has been stationed with the air force in Iran, Egypt and Africa for quite some time, was leaving Casablanca, Africa on Friday, May 10th they were shocked, but very happily so, when the telephone rang on Friday night and when they answered there was their son's voice talking from Arlington, Va. With two stops — in the Azores and Bermuda — Forrest flew across the Atlantic and was in Washington, D. C. for the night with his sister Mrs. L. E. Creel and family. He is expected home with a discharge in a couple of weeks.

When Estelle Vines made her recent trip to Washington, D. C. to present the strawberries of Cullman County to the President she not only was a representative of Cullman County but was a walking model for Cullman stores. She modeled a dress from the Style Shop with a hat from Ponder's, bag from the Princess Art Shoppe, captivating perfume from Walgreen's Super Drug Store and accessories from Stiefelmeyer's. It is no wonder that she was the center of attraction at the luncheon given in the House of Representatives by the Alabama delegation on Thursday, May 9.

It was a mean thief (or thieves) who entered the Cullman Ice Factory on Sunday night and stole twenty-five sacks of sugar. Each sack weighed a hundred pounds. Authorities have one person under suspicion.

Notes Of A Cullman High Senior . . .

Monday was class rehearsal day. Exams were given on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with two two-hour periods each day.

Seventy-seven class members along with three of our boys who entered the service during the past year and fifteen servicemen and veterans were eligible for diplomas on Friday night of May 10 at the Commencement exercises. The program consisted of the following.

Processional—Miss Martha Kate Nash.

Invocation—Rev. C. C. Helmly.

"One World" and "Onward Christian Soldiers"—Cullman High Glee Club.



Salutatory Address — Evelyn Cordes.

Valedictory Address—Sue Brindley.

Introduction of Speaker—Mr. O. B. Hodges.

Baccalaureate Address—Dr. F. Fagan Thompson.

Presentation of Diplomas—Mr. O. B. Hodges.

Benediction—The Reverend M. J. Dick.

Recessional—Miss Martha Kate Nash.

Immediately following the Graduation Exercises was a reception given in honor of seniors and their parents by the faculty.

The senior class picture panel arrived on Friday night and small 8x10 miniatures were given to the seniors by Schlosser's Studio.

C. H. S. students received their Hilight Annuals this week.

We bid farewell to C. H. S. of which we feel indebted to a great extent. The memories of our enjoyable days will never be forgotten.

—Dignified

POET'S CORNER

Hitting Shore

By: Randy C. Hale

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



Wave upon wave, the tide is coming in
upon the shore of the emerald sea.
The white capping of the waves,
rolling in again and again. The wind,
an invisible force, commands, and the
ocean goes from me into the horizon.

Stretching out like a long skeletal rib
is a man-made pier where tiny outlines
of people appear so far away. Sand,
bleached white by the rays of the sun,
makes temporary art prints from
my own and different feet.

Seagulls and sanderlings walk here
on their spindly legs, looking for
morsels of food to eat.
A flock of sandhill cranes fly easily
over, with no rush to get anywhere
they intend to be.

And I am a part of all these things
as the seconds of my life hit shore.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 16

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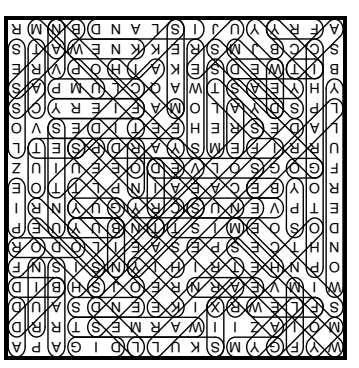
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 16

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ROMANS 5:8

PICK CORN IN MAY
VOTE
KENNETH CORNELIUS
MAY 19, 2026
REVENUE COMMISSIONER
FOR CULLMAN COUNTY
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PICK CORNELIUS

ALABAMA'S STRENGTH STARTS
IN OUR FIELDS
ENDORSED BY
FARMPAC
GARLAN GUDGER FIGHTS FOR OUR FARMERS
Garlan Gudger for State Senate
PRO-TRUMP H PRO-FARMER H PRO-ALABAMA

STATE SENATOR
Garlan Gudger
FIGHTING FOR ALABAMA AGRICULTURE
Standing Tall for Alabama Farmers
- Expanded affordable health coverage for farmers.
- Protected rural hospitals and healthcare farmers depend on.
- Invested in rural roads and broadband to power growth in rural Alabama.

Sen. Gudger is a conservative voice for farmers in this area, and we need his continued support."
— Darrell Lee, Winston County Farmers Federation President

President Trump is fighting for Alabama farmers, and Senator Gudger supports him 100 percent.

Paid for by Gudger for Senate, 314 2nd Ave SE, Cullman, AL 35055
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