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WORKING FOR YOU!



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PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
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WSCC SPORTS INFORMATION

– SPORTS –
Brooks wins National Title as Wallace State finishes third at NJCAA Division II Championship
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Tuesday, May 19 is Primary Election day!

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Alabama voters will head to the polls Tuesday, May 19, for the 2026 Primary Election, with statewide, congressional, judicial, local and constitutional amendment races appearing on ballots across the state.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen is reminding voters to prepare before Election Day by checking their voter registration status, confirming their polling location and reviewing sample ballots at AlabamaVotes.gov.

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

"Before heading to the polls on May 19, I encourage Alabama voters to visit AlabamaVotes.gov, where they can check the status of their voter registration, verify their polling location, and view their county's sample ballots," Allen said. "I want all Alabama voters to be fully prepared as they plan to exercise their constitutional right to vote on May 19."

Voters are required to present a valid » PAGE 2

ELECT
Mike PITTS
CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER
DEDICATION
EXPERIENCE
LEADERSHIP
VOTE MAY 19TH
PD POL ADV BY FRIENDS OF MIKE PITTS 431 COUNTY ROAD 591, HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

Dinner on First raises funds for community arts center



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Guests enjoy outdoor dining at Dinner on First in the Cullman Warehouse District on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's annual Dinner on First was held in the Warehouse District on Saturday, May 16, offering a pleasant evening of outdoor dining and fundraising to support local arts and culture programs.

The event took place along First Avenue and featured catering by Dyron's Lowcountry, complimentary table wine and a cash bar.

Organized by the Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Foundation, Dinner on First brings the community together and raises money for projects that improve life in Cullman. This year, the focus was on ongoing renovations for the future Center of the Arts Community Theatre, a planned 200-seat performance hall in the historic First United Pentecostal Church building, located at the corner of Third Avenue Northeast and Clark Street Northeast, behind Cullman City Hall. The theater will host local plays, concerts, workshops, youth programs and other arts events. The project will not only restore a historic building, but also support local artists and give young people in the Cullman community more opportunities to get involved in theater and the arts.

The first official Dinner on First took place on May 14, 2016, and raised funds for the Connected Park Project. The Connected Playground at Margaret Ingle Park opened in 2018 and offers inclusive play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

For a decade, Dinner on First has brought residents together to support important community projects and build connections among neighbors, local leaders and foundation board members.

Habeas petition filed by Cullman County inmate held on 2023 drug, firearm charges

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Memorial Day weekend events planned across Cullman County



UNSPLASH

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Hanceville council talks parks, new generator, rezoning, more



LIZ TANKERSLEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville City Council is seen on May 14, 2026.

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CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 2
HELP MOVE CULLMAN FORWARD
VOTE
RICHARD BARNETT
Pd. Pol. Adv. by Richard Barnett
915 County Road 1224 • Vinemont, AL 35179



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 18, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
May 14
- burglary; US. 31
- theft of property; CR 783
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Hwy. 69N
- theft of property; CR 1652
- harassment; criminal tampering; CR 588

May 15
- menacing; CR 1524
- harassing communications; CR 601
- domestic violence; CR 1258
- assault; CR 1224
- theft of property; Hwy. 278E
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E

May 16
- domestic violence; CR 1169
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; CR 223
- theft of property; CR 564
- possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; I65NB MM 304
- assault; Hwy. 278E

May 17
- domestic violence; CR 1467
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 703
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 488

ARRESTS
May 14-17
Boyles, Kameron J.; 20
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Briscoe, Brianna L.; 22
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Collum, Benjamin J.; 45
- family offense-NS non-support-child

Elliott, Jordan E.; 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hyde, Jamie B.; 28
- FTA – family offense-NS non-support-child

Kanaday, Brandon H.; 33
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)
- FTA – reckless driving

Lands, Mitchell C.; 58
- attempting to elude a police officer

Mickle, Daniel J.; 43
- attempting to elude a police officer

Nunnelley, Jacky L.; 51
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Oliver, Daniel M.; 39
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pendrey, Shayla; 29
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Pennington, Christopher C.; 64
- PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Randolph, Finis J.; 56
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Salter, Dashawn C.; 30
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – reckless driving

Scott, James T.; 42
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Sloan, Misty A.; 45
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – counterfeiting
- FTA – forged instrument
- negotiating worthless instrument

Smith, Jr., John T.; 42
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Sneed, Shane A.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – retail theft-3rd degree

Speegle, Marty H.; 28
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Sturgeon, Christopher M.; 37
- FTA – counterfeiting
- FTA – forged instrument
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Vigil, Dustin E.; 37
- organized retail theft
- robbery-business-other weapon
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – improper lights

Watson, Braden H.; 28
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Wheeler, Justin M.; 24
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
May 15
- theft of property-4th degree; Werner's Trading Company; clothing; $226; 4th St. SW

May 16
- harassment; person; Lee Cir. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Town Square SW

May 17
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Economy Inn; 2nd Ave. NW

ARRESTS
May 15-17
Sturgeon, Christopher M.; 37
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree

Christianson, Zachary M.; 24
- possession of controlled substance (2 counts)
- possession of marijuana
- certain person prohibited of possessing firearm
- sale/possession of unlawful hemp products
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Prince, Ariana D.; 25
- possession of controlled substance (2 counts)

Watson, Braden H.; 28
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – interference with domestic violence emergency call
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Goodman, Jennifer C.; 50
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Patterson, Dawson J.; 29
- FTA – public intoxication

Self, Amber L.; 41
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Bavar, Seth W.; 26
- FTA – insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Hanceville (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville City Council at its Thursday, May 14, spoke about park improvements, a new generator, rezoning and more.

The Council discussed a $310,000 bid for fencing adjustment options at C.W. Day Park. The work would replace rusted fencing around the park, tennis courts and ball field complex.

"That's a lot of money for a fence that isn't falling down," said Mayor Nolan Bradford.

The Council said residents expressed that the fence is in need of work and is essential to public attraction and to bring in revenue.

The Council came to an agreement to negotiate the price of the bid and revisit the matter at a future meeting.

Next up was the approval of a maintenance contract and purchase of a new generator for city hall for $1,248. The Council said the current generator is roughly two years old and, per professional opinion, doesn't need to exceed three years of age due to a multitude of issues that can arise.

Council members discussed rezoning recommendation for a portion of Elm Street due to houses that will be built in the area.

"This is at the end of Elm Street on the dirt road by the church," Bradford stated. "This went from one lot to four lots, which means (rezoning) from R1 to R2. So we will need to have a public hearing on that. Not at the next meeting, but the one after that."

The Council discussed the matter and decided to schedule the public hearing for Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Regarding an American Legion donation, Bradford suggested the Council take no action at this time.

An invoice from Fuller, Willingham & Carter, which was for billing that wasn't addressed in 2025, was approved for payment.

Two people were appointed to the library board. Councilwoman Kim Brown motioned for Lauren Bentley to be approved for place 4 and Cathi Bradford to take place 5, with each serving a term of four years. Both appointments were approved.

The Council discussed the possibility of enrolling a member in a three-year class for community development training. The class would cost roughly $1,800 and is aimed at community leaders, council members and city workers who want to be more educated about grants.

Bradford advised that Councilman Robert Powell would likely be selected for the program, although the Council voted to table the discussion for now.

The Council had a first reading of a procurement policy for federal funds.

Regarding Azul Tequila Mexican Cantina, LLC, alcohol license, the Council set a public hearing for Thursday, May 28.

The Council advised that the credit card machine has been updated at city hall, allowing new payment options for city services, permits and other payments. They advised a small processing fee may apply to card transactions.

The Shirley Burden Public Library requested a new terminal. The Council voted to postpone the discussion until a later meeting.

The Hanceville City Council will meet next on Thursday, May 28, at 6 p.m. for a work session at Hanceville City Hall. A meeting will follow immediately.

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315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

Election (from Front)

form of photo identification before voting at their polling place or by absentee ballot.

According to the Alabama Secretary of State's 2026 voter guide, Alabama does not have party registration, meaning voters do not register by party. In a primary election, voters must choose which party's ballot they want when checking in with a poll worker or when requesting an absentee ballot.

Voters who do not wish to participate in a party primary may still vote on any constitutional amendments appearing on the ballot.

For Cullman County voters, local races on the Republican ballot include Cullman County sheriff, Cullman County revenue commissioner, Cullman County Commission District 1, Cullman County Commission District 2, Cullman County Board of Education Hanceville District 4 and certain Cullman County Republican Executive Committee races.

Some races are district-based, meaning not every race will appear on every voter's ballot. Voters are encouraged to review their sample ballot before going to the polls.

Cullman County voters will also see statewide races, including governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. Senate, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, commissioner of agriculture and industries, Alabama Public Service Commission and Alabama State Board of Education District 6.

Cullman County is in Alabama's 4th Congressional District. The Republican ballot lists Robert B. Aderholt and Tommy Barnes in that race. The Democratic ballot lists Amanda N. Pusczek and Shane Weaver.

Two statewide constitutional amendments will also appear on ballots. Statewide Amendment 1 deals with whether judges may deny bail under certain circumstances for additional offenses. Statewide Amendment 2 deals with whether compensation for a district attorney may be reduced during that district attorney's term of office.

Allen also addressed voter confusion following recent developments in Alabama's congressional redistricting case and a special primary election called for Aug. 11.

"Here is what I want every Alabama voter to remember: Go vote on May 19. Votes for statewide constitutional offices, local races, state legislative and judicial races, as well as statewide constitutional amendments will count on May 19. If you live in Congressional Districts 1, 2, 6 or 7, your vote for those races on Aug.11 will decide those races," Allen said.

The special election WILL NOT include District 4, which includes Cullman County.

The 2026 Primary Runoff Election, if needed, will be held Tuesday, June 16.

Under Alabama's crossover voting law, a voter who votes in one party's primary may vote only in that same party's runoff. A voter who does not vote in the May 19 primary may choose either party's runoff ballot if a runoff is held.

Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown has previously urged voters to prepare ahead of election day when district-based races or polling place questions may cause confusion.

"These special elections are district-based, not countywide," Brown told The Tribune in 2025 during a separate election cycle. "Voters need to make sure they know which district they live in."

Brown said at the time that voters can verify district and registration information through the Cullman County Board of Registrars or online, and she encouraged voters to review sample ballots before election day.

Voters who make a mistake on their ballot should not erase it. According to the Secretary of State's voter guide, voters may ask a poll worker for another ballot before placing the ballot in the tabulator. The spoiled ballot will be placed in a secure area so it cannot be counted or reused.

Election results will be posted on a door or other visible location at each polling place. Cumulative results will be posted on the Alabama Secretary of State's website at www.AlabamaVotes.gov.

The Tribune will be sharing updates on Cullman County results at www.Facebook.com/CullmanTribune.

Allen also thanked local election officials ahead of Tuesday's primary.

"As secretary of state and a former probate judge, I will always support Alabama's dedicated local election officials. Our probate judges, circuit clerks, sheriffs, boards of registrars and poll workers do the hard work to ensure Alabama elections are conducted in a secure, transparent and accountable way," Allen said.

Voters can verify their polling location, registration status and sample ballot at www.AlabamaVotes.gov. Cullman County voters with local registration questions may contact the Cullman County Board of Registrars at Cullman@vote.alabama.gov, 256-775-4697 or 256-775-4698. The Board of Registrars is located at 500 Second Ave. SW, Suite 112, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

View The Cullman Tribune's guide to the May 19 Primary Election at www.cullmantribune.com/2026/05/16/guide-to-may-19-primary-election.

CORRECTIONS



WSCC

In the May 14, 2026, issue of The Cullman Tribune, the photo that accompanied the story "Wallace State Nursing celebrates May 2026 graduates" had two names misspelled in the caption. The correct caption is: "Nightingale Award winners are, from left, Dylan Carr, Trey Batchelor, Johnnie Sue Mims and Amanda Parker."

In the story "Small Business Spotlight: Hagar Guitars," which ran Saturday, May 16, we said one of the owners of the business is Greg Hagar. His name is Craig Hagar. We regret the error.

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Cullman City Schools recognized nationally

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools "continues to demonstrate strong academic achievement and student growth, according to data from The Education Scorecard, a collaboration between two of the nation's leading education research centers: the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University and the Educational Opportunity Project (EOP) at Stanford University," the system said.

The District said the recently released Education Scorecard highlights Cullman City Schools as one of Alabama's highest-performing public school systems, with students outperforming state and national averages in both reading and mathematics.

"Compared to similar districts across Alabama and the nation, Cullman City Schools ranks higher in both math and reading performance, placing in the 89th percentile nationally in math and the 94th percentile nationally in reading. The district also ranks in the 87th percentile nationally for learning rates, showing consistent academic growth across race, income, and gender groups.

"One of the report's most significant findings illustrates just how well Cullman City students are performing academically. According to the data, a typical Cullman City fifth grade student is performing at a level comparable to a typical seventh grade student nationally.

"The report includes trend data from 2009-2025 showing steady academic growth in both math and reading achievement for Cullman City students when compared to Alabama averages and similar districts across the state. The district's performance in both subjects continues to exceed state and peer averages, highlighting consistent progress over time, but most notably are the upward trends since the 2020-2021 school years when formal education was interrupted by the COVID pandemic.

"The report also reflects positive progress in student attendance. Data included in the report shows chronic absenteeism rates in Cullman City Schools trending downward over recent years and remaining below both state and peer district averages. Fewer students are missing significant amounts of school, which continues to support stronger academic achievement and a more positive learning environment.

"The chronic absenteeism data tracks the percentage of students missing 10% or more of the school year and reinforces the district's continued emphasis on student engagement, family communication, and school attendance.

"These findings are a direct reflection of the hard work taking place every day in our classrooms," Kyle Kallhoff, superintendent of Cullman City Schools, said. "Our educators continue to provide high-quality instruction and meaningful support for students, and our students continue to rise to the challenge academically. We are proud of the progress being made across our entire school system."

District leaders emphasized that the report not only highlights strong academic outcomes, but also reinforces the importance of school attendance and family engagement.

"This report solidifies how well our educators prepare and teach in Cullman City Schools and how hard our students work each day," Kallhoff added. "It is important that parents and families continue to make school attendance and academic success a priority. When students are present, engaged, and supported, great things happen."

He added, "This is a great time in the city of Cullman to have your children enrolled in public education."

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PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

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
• 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.

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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Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

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CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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Chasady Woods - Reporter
Lauren Estes - Reporter
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Anabelle Howze - Reporter
Lucas Gray - Varsity Sports Editor
Sammy Confer - JV Sports Editor
Rhonda Richie - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

PREP SOFTBALL

Previewing Hanceville's first round State Tournament matchup with T.R. Miller

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After defeating Randolph County 3-2 to advance to their first ever State Tournament, head coach Kim Lewis and the Hanceville Bulldogs' matchup is set. In round one, they'll face T.R. Miller from Brewton, AL, who qualified out of the south region.

All tournament games will take place at Choccolocco Park in Oxford, AL, but the Bulldogs' opening game will be played Thursday, May 21 at 9 a.m.

THE OPPONENT

The Tigers currently sit just under a .500 record (19-20), and qualified for the State Tournament with a 6-3 win over Thomasville to come out of the 3A, south's elimination bracket. Against eventual region champion Wicksburg in the semifinals, T.R. Miller fell 13-0 and only produced four hits.

Before that loss, the Lady Tigers were riding a five-game win streak where they scored almost eleven points per game on average. Leading the offensive attack is shortstop and leadoff batter Ashlee Reeves, who, over the last five games, has hit .478 (11-23) with three doubles, a triple and brought in five runs.

KEYS TO THE GAME

The Lady Bulldogs possess a strong balance of defense, led by pitcher KK Butler, and offense, pushed by the bats of Kynzlee Farr and Isabella Spinks. Where they truly excel, however, is in their base running.

While they still have an arsenal of base running weapons (Farr, Butler, Peyton Mariano and more), Hanceville will be without their most dynamic runner, Bentley Childers, after she suffered an ACL injury late in the Region Championship on Thursday, Lewis told the Tribune. Without Childers, by far their most effective bunter as well, the second base spot in the infield will also need filling.

As long as the Bulldogs can maintain their energy, defensive discipline and chaotic but effective nature on the base paths, however, they'll be in prime shape to make a run in the 3A bracket.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville's Peyton Mariano tagging a runner during Hanceville's 3-2 Region Championship win over Randolph Co.

Brooks wins National Title as Wallace State finishes third at NJCAA Division II Championship

WSCC Sports Information
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Wallace State capped a strong week at the NJCAA Division II Women's Golf National Championship with a third-place team finish Friday at Ol' Colony Golf Course while freshman Mallory Brooks claimed the individual national championship after a two-hole playoff.

The Lady Lions finished third overall at +164, trailing only national champion Shelton State (+121) and runner-up Murray State (Okla.) (+133). Southern Union placed fourth at +189, followed by Jefferson State at +191.

Brooks delivered one of the top rounds of the tournament on Friday, shooting a 1-under-par round to finish tied for first at +16 overall. Her final-round performance marked only the second under-par round recorded during the championship. Brooks then secured the national title in a two-hole playoff.

Alyssa Warren also finished strong for Wallace State, placing tied for 12th overall. Jazmin Conn finished tied for 24th, while Shea Kelley placed tied for 42nd. Maggie Chastain finished 82nd overall.

Wallace State entered the final day tied for third before holding its position to secure a podium finish at the national tournament.



WSCC SPORTS INFORMATION

WSCC's Mallory Brooks





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DOLE SALADS
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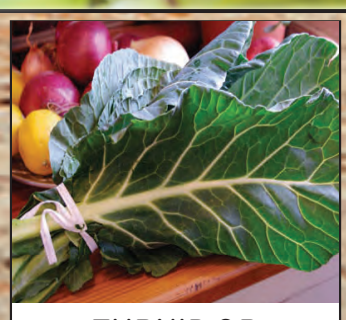
FRESH BLUEBERRIES
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PERO FAMILY FARMS BROCCOLI FLORETS
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Deli Sliced
$10.39 LB.



CHARTER RESERVE PROVOLONE CHEESE
Deli Sliced
$5.69 LB.



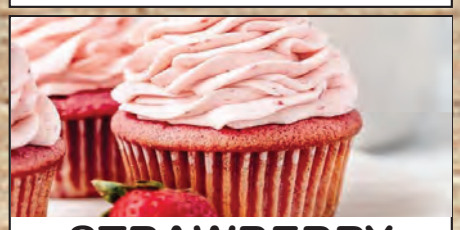
KENTUCKIAN GOLD HICKORY PIT HAM
Deli Sliced
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KING'S HAWAIIAN ROLLS
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MILO'S TEA
Gallon
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FRITO LAY DORITOS
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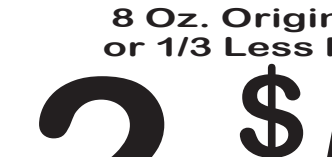
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Hamburger
2 for $4



KRAFT SALAD DRESSING
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



OSCAR MAYER REAL BACON BITS OR PIECES
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Selected Varieties
2 for $6



TEXAS TOAST CROUTONS
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Selected Varieties
2 for $3



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Selected Varieties
2 for $5



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2 for $5



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$3.99 EA.



JET-PUFFED MINI MARSHMALLOWS
10 Oz. or 7 Oz. Jar
Marshmallow Creme
2 for $3



BUD'S BEST VANILLA WAFERS
10 Oz.
2 for $3



NABISCO RITZ CRACKERS
11-13 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



PLANTERS DRY ROASTED PEANUTS
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Selected Varieties
2 for $5



KOOL-AID JAMMERS
10 Pk.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



DOLE PINEAPPLE
8 Oz. In Juice or Syrup
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



MARTHA WHITE MUFFIN MIX
7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



THAT'S SMART! FOAM PLATES
30 Ct.
99¢ EA.



SIMPLY DONE PARTY CUPS
100 Ct.
Red Plastic
$6.99 EA.



SIMPLY DONE FOAM PLATES
130 Ct.
$3.99 EA.



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Selected Varieties
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All Natural
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Cullman, AL

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Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL



A sanctuary: Sportsworld Skate Center

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Gentrys' story starts before the skating, neon lights, birthday parties and concession stand shenanigans at Sportsworld Skate Center.

The story began 27 years ago when Shae and Valerie shared a phone call. Shae, at the time, was a director with Merchants Home Delivery and Valerie, a corporate travel agent for Seven Seas Travel. Shae was on the line calling Seven Seas Travel and let it continue to ring.

"It rang at least 30 times," he said. "She came out and asked, 'Is anyone going to answer the phone?' She answered it and we've been together ever since."

"He had a wonderful Southern accent. Me, being a California girl, I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I'm in love! That accent – that's a Southern gentleman,'" Valerie recalled.

Together they lived in California, but in 2020 decided to move. Shae, having family in Cullman and growing up near the area, frequently visited his family.

"We fell in love with Cullman and the community, the Warehouse District and the festivals," Valerie said.

When the pandemic happened Shae, Valerie and their two daughters, Savannah and Victoria, traveled in a camper across the country, ultimately making their way to Cullman.

Shae said they met with a real estate agent to find their forever home.

"At one point she looked at me and said, 'Shae, I don't know where we're going.' So she handed me the keys and said she would show up at any house we took her to, but I was driving."

Shae said he was a fan of speed skating in previous years. He had been skating since age 3, though he and his family enjoyed skating together. After they moved to Cullman, they frequented the local skating rink in Vinemont.

One night, Shae said, he looked at his wife and said, "I want to buy this rink."

Valerie said she laughed and told him to go get a cold drink. Though five years later, in February 2025, after celebrating 25 years of marriage, they did in fact buy the rink.

"We're not here to make a buck," the couple said. "If we can change just one life that will be enough."

The couple not only enforces family friendly regulations and strict no bullying or foul play rules, but strongly lead by faith.

"We had a young man come in that spoke with one of our workers and we prayed with him and gave him a Bible." Shae explained that a small act of kindness and compassion changed his life.

He said the individual turned his life to Christ and regularly visits Sportsworld to be with his newfound family.

The impact on patrons doesn't stop there! Sportsworld recently hosted its Catch the Rhythm for Autism event and impacted a Florida DJ so much, he wrote a song specifically for Shae and Valerie Gentry, as well as their devotion to skating.

Watch the video at https://tinyurl.com/3v97kray.

The Gentrys' hospitality has touched many. Previously bullied children struggling to branch out have found their confidence through the skating community.

"You wouldn't recognize some of these kids from in and out of the rink," they said.

With the safe haven it has provided, children who normally walk with their heads down, headphones in and staying to themselves are outgoing chatterboxes at Sportsworld.

Valerie said with a nod, "This is a place where kids can come be accepted."

Get more information about Sportsworld Skate Center at www.facebook.com/CullmanSkating.

The rink is located at 90 County Road 1223, Cullman, AL 35058.



SHAE AND VALERIE GENTRY

Left to right are Savannah, Shae, Valerie and Victoria Gentry.



SHAE AND VALERIE GENTRY

Crowd at Sportsworld Skate Center



Obituary Announcements: May 16-18

Michael Kevin "Mike/Kello" Kelly, 70

Michael Kevin Kelly of Deer Lodge, Montana, formerly of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on May 11, 2026, in Deer Lodge, Montana. He was 70 years old. Mike was born on August 12, 1955, in Augusta, Georgia, to Robert Kelly and Anna Rose Branch Kelly. Known affectionately as "Mike" or "Kello" by those who truly knew and loved him, he lived a life deeply rooted in music, family, and friendship. Music was more than a passion for Mike — it was who he was. Whether he was performing on stage with lifelong friends or working in his beloved music store, he found joy in sharing music with others. He fulfilled a lifelong dream when he opened Montana Music Company in downtown Deer Lodge, where he created a place for musicians and music lovers alike to gather. A gifted bass guitarist, Mike came alive on stage, where his talent and love for performing could truly be seen. Above all else, Mike's greatest pride and joy was his family. He loved deeply and was most proud of his children and the family he helped build. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Kelly and Anna Rose Branch Kelly. Mike is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Nancy "Becky" Kelly; his children, Randy (Nancy) Culbreath, Stephanie Culbreath, Harmony Kelly (Nicky), Patrick (Janet) Kelly, and Carrie (Celeste) Keltinez; his grandchildren, Matea', Tylie, Trevor, Nathan, Caleb, Luke, Levi, Khloe, Lola, Lennox, Emmett, Rowan, and Ezra; and his great-grandchildren, Swayze, Rhett, Nylie, Abilene, and Milah. He is also survived by his siblings, Tony Kelly, Tim (Donna) Kelly, and Collette (Dan) Short, along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. Mike will be remembered for his love of music, his larger-than-life spirit, and the unwavering love he had for his family and friends. His memory will continue to live on through the music he shared and the lives he touched. Memorial services will be held at the following locations and times: Sunday, May 17, 2026; Elks Lodge; Deer Lodge, Montana; 4-8 p.m. | Sunday, June 7, 2026; Blair Congregational Methodist Church; Battleground, Alabama; 2-4 p.m.

Donna Faye Green, 72

Funeral services for Donna Faye Green, 72, of Decatur, Alabama will be noon, Tuesday, May 19, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Hopewell Cemetery in Hanceville. Rev. James Fields will be officiating services. The family will welcome friends for visitation on Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon at Hanceville Funeral Home. Donna Faye Green, a cherished mother and grandmother, died on May 16, 2026, in Decatur, Alabama. Born on Nov. 9, 1953, in Fort Rucker, Alabama, Donna's life was a testament to love and devotion to her family. Her family was the center of her world, and she poured her heart into creating lasting memories that will endure through generations. The gentle kindness and strength she exhibited touched all who knew her, leaving a legacy of compassion and affection. Donna is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Terry (Josh); grandchildren: Luke Brown, Mason Brown, Kielynn Terry, Briceton Terry, and Bella Terry; sister, Charlotte Upton and brothers, Dennis Green and Jason Green (Jessica); niece, Kelly Upton; and nephews Wesley Upton and Heath Upton. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Marie Green, and her sister Patricia Green. Serving as pallbearers will be Luke Brown, Mason Brown, Julius Baker, Rodney Terry, Canyon Allan and Josh Terry. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Green Family.

Nancy Alice Reichwein, 77

Nancy Reichwein passed away peacefully at her home in downtown Cullman on May 15, 2026, at the age of 77. Nancy was born in Cullman, Alabama, on Dec. 12, 1948, to Walter Martin Reichwein Sr. and Sarah Deloris (Burns) Reichwein. She graduated from Cullman High School, then completed both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in History at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, as well as a Master of Business Administration from The University of Alabama in Birmingham. Nancy began her career teaching at Cullman College where she served as Director of Student Personnel. She transitioned to Wallace State Community College, where she taught and inspired countless students across the South for over 27 years. Nancy was known for her love of history, which she generously shared beyond classroom walls, never shying away from an opportunity to learn through rigorous discussion or an adventurous expedition, especially with close friends and family. Nancy worked to establish two historic districts in the City of Cullman and gave her time generously to benefit many community organizations including serving as past President of the Cullman County Historical Society. Nancy was full of stories, clever humor, and keen insights, and the loss of Nancy will be felt deeply by those who knew her. She is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother Walter (Kay) Reichwein Jr., nieces Sarah (Nick) and Joan (Will), nephew Trey, and great nieces and nephews Kayleigh, Colin, Wilson, Lydia, and Ian. The family wishes to thank Nancy's loving and devoted caregivers Maureen, Sandy, Sharon, and Teresa for their years of friendship and service. A service for close family and friends will be held at 11 a.m. on May, 23, at Cullman Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation made to the Cullman Historical Society.

Lee Carey Thompson, 48

Lee Carey Thompson, age 48, of Alpharetta, Georgia, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2026, at Northside Hospital Forsyth, following a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer. He was surrounded by family and close friends in the hours before his passing. Lee was born on January 8, 1978, in Gadsden, Alabama, and spent much of his childhood in Cullman, Alabama. There, he attended St. Paul's Lutheran School, Cullman Middle School, and St. Bernard Preparatory School. He later graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 2000. Lee proudly served his country for more than two decades, including five years in the United States Army and sixteen additional years in the Alabama Army National Guard, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His distinguished military career included 12-month deployments to Kuwait as an Air Defense Officer, service in Iraq during Desert Storm with the 7th Cavalry Regiment as a Forward Fire Control Officer, and two deployments to Afghanistan as an Engineer Officer. In recognition of his exemplary service, Lee received numerous military honors, including three Bronze Star medals and a Legion of Merit medal. Following his military career, Lee worked as a VP, Senior Development Leader for Synchrony Financial. Outside of work, he greatly enjoyed traveling with his wife, Dedra, and spending time outdoors camping with his two sons. He had a passion for Porsche automobiles, WWII history, and maintaining lifelong friendships. Lee remained deeply connected to many of his Army comrades—both officers and enlisted soldiers—and often traveled to reunite with them over the years. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Dedra Thomas; mother-in-law, Kathie Thomas; sons, Brennen Thompson and Graham Thompson; father, Carey Thompson; sister, Brook McNew; former wife, Lindsay (McBride) Sutton; uncles, Bill Thompson and Scott Thompson; aunt, Becky Hall; and numerous cousins and dear friends. Lee was preceded in death by his mothers, Beverly (Hicks) Thompson and Becky (Camp) Thompson. He will be memorialized by a Celebration of Life service at Ingram Funeral Home in Cumming, Georgia, at 3 p.m. on May 28. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to St. Paul's Lutheran School at website: https://stpaulscullman.com/

Brenda Kay Landers, 71

Funeral Service for Brenda Kay Landers, age 71 of Cullman, was at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. David Hadley officiating; burial at New Home Cemetery. Visitation was from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Landers passed away on Friday, May 15, 2026, at her residence. She was born May 10, 1955, to Curtis Chumley and Mary Nell Sears Chumley. She was preceded in death by her parents and baby brother, Larry Chumley. Survivors include her husband, Roger Landers; sons, Daniel (Carla) Landers and David (Maria) Landers; grandchildren, John Curtis Landers, Olivia Landers, Henry Landers and James Landers; sisters, Betty (Sheryl) Lawson and Cindy (Wayne Bright) McKenney; nephews, Jeff (Stephanie) Lawson and Josh (Nicole) McKenney; great nieces, Lauren (Aaron) Colvin and Anna (Jordan) Wright; great nephew; Walker McKenney and a host of family and friends. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, beloved sister, valued member of the community and a God-fearing woman. Her love for Jesus helped her touch many lives, and the world is a better place from her loving presence.
In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Cullman Caring for Kids.

Annette Marie Luttrell, 66

Annette Luttrell, age 66, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Baptist Medical Center - Princeton. She was born Sept. 14, 1959, to Lester Reagan and Beverly Reagan. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her daughter, Jodi (Johnny Stewart) Mitchell; sons, Cody Ray and Richard Hunter Ray; stepdaughter, Kristin (Zach) Nickles; grandchildren, Skylar (Raleigh) Mitchell, Kenslie Mitchell, AJ and Riley Nickles; great grandchildren, Lylah and Whitleigh Mitchell; sisters, Brenda (Michael) Sohovich and Tina Reagan; and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Terry Mobley Graham, 73

Funeral Service for Terry Mobley Graham, age 73, of Logan, will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Northbrook Baptist Church with Jonathan Reid, Charles Freeman, and Dennis Reid officiating; burial at Logan Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Northbrook Baptist Church. Terry was born Oct. 17, 1952, to Woodfin and Octavine Graham. He was called home May 14, 2026, peacefully at his home. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Johnny Graham, father and mother-in-law James and Bonda Robinson and son-in-law Josh Calvert. Terry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Brenda Robinson Graham, daughters, Cassie Graham Swann (Mitchell) and Carrie Graham Campbell (Devon), grandchildren, Cotton Calvert, Chloe Campbell, Dex Campbell, Marley Kate Swann and Rhett Swann, brothers, Maurice Graham (Brenda) and E.D. Graham (Betty), nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends. Terry was a true servant. He was the kind of man that everyone should have in their lives. He loved his family and deeply cared for others. If it's possible to love too much, Terry did. He was what some may call a helicopter parent. He protected his kids and his grandkids and loved them so much. Anyone who knew him knew that his family was his entire world. You wouldn't carry on a conversation with him that he didn't mention Brenda, Cassie, Carrie, or his grandkids. His girls and his grandkids were his pride and joy. He worried over them, prayed for them, protected, and loved them. If you caused his family trouble, then you were on the short list of people that he did not like. He supported his family in all that they did. Cotton, Chloe, Dex, Marley Kate and Rhett Boy were his life. You would find him with a smile on his face, interacting and talking to the crowds of people at all of their school events. As many of you know he was kind of a big deal....and so was his family. Terry served as a Deacon of Sardis Baptist Church for over 25 years. He was a role model to many and a Christian example that so many looked up to and aspired to be like. If more followed in his footsteps of leadership, character, and integrity our homes, our communities and or world would be a much better place. He is the kind of Christian that poured into you to help develop you into the kind of Christian you should be. He didn't have hobbies. He never fished, hunted, or played golf. He spent his time working and he was happy to do so. He was a 52-year employee of the Cullman Electric Co-Op. Although he mentioned retirement a couple of times, when it came right down to it, he just wasn't ready. He enjoyed working with the crew and office personnel. You would also find him flagging traffic, riding along with the guys, riding out the lines to look for outage causes, or just bringing drinks and snacks to the workers during a power outage. He was a true servant. Even though he was more than 30 years older than any of the guys in the office he was quick to challenge them to a race, push-ups, and planking with full confidence he would win....and sometimes he did. He loved his work at the Co-op and he enjoyed feeding cows, being on his tractor bailing hay, and working his land. This work was what made him proud. Each day he would come home from his Co-op job and work another few hours on the farm. He worked hard and he had no patience for those who didn't. He continued to work to ensure that the lives of his kids and grandkids were taken care of. Every conversation with Terry consisted of many of the same things; his family, his faith, something that his daddy used to say, and usually always a good movie quote or reference. Watching movies and quoting them would probably be his biggest hobby. Every trip that he and Brenda ever went on he always managed to find a movie theater. He would try to catch a good movie and if he didn't like the way one movie in the auditorium looked, he would walk over to the next auditorium and give that movie a try. Cotton wrote in memory of him, "Death is a part of our curse from the beginning and is inevitable, but we can find comfort in God's promise to restore life to His people in the future. Our physical life in this world is fleeting but we have eternal life stored up for us if we follow Jesus, which pawpaw did". Revelation 21:4 tells us "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain no more, for the former things have passed away. This loss leaves his family and friends heartbroken, and they will have a void that will never be filled again. They do have a lifetime of memories and good times to hold dear to their hearts. They all have a strong faith in Christ that they will rely on in the days and years ahead. Terry leaves behind a profound legacy that our family, friends, church, and community will not forget. Living up to the legacy that he leaves will be our goal in life as we strive to continue to make him proud. Making him proud is what his family has always wanted to do. Mitchell said, "As a dad, all I have ever wanted is to be able to love like him". Terry Graham lived a full and complete life. We should all mirror our lives after the way he lived his. On Wednesday, Terry woke up and went to a job that he loved. He went and watched one of his grandkids at a school awards ceremony. He spent the afternoon taking a farm trailer for repair, eating dinner with his wife, putting in a new pool pump, talking to his family on the phone. He went in the house and got in his favorite recliner and watched Gunsmoke and Fox News. He drifted off to sleep and woke up face to face with a Savior he loved. All in all, I'd say it was a pretty good day for Terry. Thank you so much for all the prayers and all the love and support that have been shown so far. We are thankful and we know he would be so proud!

Carol "Combs" Rigsby, 84

Funeral services for Carol "Combs" Rigsby, 84, of Merritt Island, Florida (formerly of Hanceville, Alabama) will be noon, Saturday, May 23, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10 a.m.-noon at Hanceville Funeral Home. Ms. Rigsby was born Oct. 20, 1941, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Guyles and Estelle Combs. She passed away May 13, 2026, in Merritt Island, Florida. Ms. Rigsby is survived by her nieces, Leigh Ann Combs, Sherrie Wise (Wayne), Cassie Kirpan (Paul), and Tara Defreitas (Ivan). Ms. Rigsby was preceded in death by her parents, Guyles and Estelle Combs; daughter, Michelle Rigsby; brother Tommy Combs; and her nephew, Guy Combs. Serving as pallbearers will be Brandon Combs, Ryan Combs, Zachery Wise, Andrew Wise, Michael Coggins, and Brayden Coggins. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Rigsby family.

Nathan Aaron, 77

A graveside service for Nathan Aaron, 77, of Crane Hill will be 4 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Bowman's Chapel Cemetery. Reverend Kenneth Allen will be officiating the service. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1-3 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Aaron was born Oct. 24, 1948, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Willis and Loraine Aaron. Nathan Aaron, a devoted father, proud veteran, and respected member of his community, passed away on May 15, 2026, in Crane Hill, Alabama. His life was marked by service, dedication, and a deep love for those closest to him. Mr. Aaron served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, where he was attached to the famed 173rd Airborne Brigade. His military service was one of the greatest honors of his life, and he carried that pride with him always. Following his service, he continued his career at Ft. Benning, where he faithfully worked for 25 years before retirement. Above all else, Nathan was a loving father who treasured his family. He loved deeply and provided support, guidance, and encouragement throughout his children's lives. After retiring, he returned home to Cullman, where he enjoyed being closer to family, and friends. Education was also important to Nathan, and he took great pride in being a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He believed in hard work, perseverance, and setting an example for others through dedication and integrity. Mr. Aaron will be remembered for his patriotism, quiet strength, and the love he shared with those blessed to know him. His legacy of service and devotion to family will continue to live on in the hearts of all who loved him. Mr. Aaron is survived by his children, Michael Aaron, Cynthia Aaron-Crew; grandchildren, Blake Morgan (Mike), Jacob Crew; great grandson, Thomas Morgan; sisters, Anita Harden, and Judy Guthrie; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mr. Aaron was preceded in death by his father, Willis Aaron, and his mother, Loraine Aaron. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Aaron family.

Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory
– "Sincere Compassionate Care" –

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Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

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Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130

Wallace State hosting STEAM camps in June

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College will host two STEAM camps next month for students entering fourth through seventh grades. The camps will be split between two groups, with fourth- and fifth-grade students June 15-16 and sixth- and seventh-grade students June 17-18.

"The STEAM camps will have a little bit of something for everyone," said Wallace State Biology Instructor Susanna Heinze. Heinze and other Wallace State faculty from various college departments will facilitate activities.

STEAM Camps will be held from 8 a.m.-noon each day, with snacks provided.

The STEAM camp for students entering fourth and fifth grades will participate in activities focuses on computer science, dairy science, automotive, choreography, art and forensics. Those sessions will be held at the School of Nursing and Center for Science.

The STEAM camp for students entering sixth and seventh grade will focus on radiation therapy, occupational therapy, robotics, marketing, art and nuclear decay. Those sessions will be held in the Bevill Health Science Building.

Registration fees for the camps are $15 per camper or $10 per camper for children of Wallace State employees. Register at https://steam-camp-26.cheddarup.com.

For more information, contact Susanna Heinze at susanna.heinze@wallacestate.edu.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
PATSY DELORIS SLAYTON,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC 2026-153

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to TAMMY FRANKS as Personal Representative of the Estate of PATSY DELORIS SLAYTON, deceased, on the 8th 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 be barred.

Tammy Franks
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey
Attorney for Estate
Hankey Law Firm, LLC
409 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

EST. 1873

CULLMAN

ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
201 2nd Avenue NE 256.775.7203
Cullman, Alabama 35055 www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday June 2, 2026, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Preliminary subdivision – Brock Trace Subdivision – County Road 1464 & County Road 1466

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: AD 2026 - 020

Case# AD2026020
PB ADT Book 74 Page 32
Recorded in Above Book and Page
05/01/2026 4:15PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of:

ROBBIE R. BAGGETT and
JEREMY L. BAGGETT

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: DESTINY BOATWRIGHT, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY ROBBIE R. BAGGETT AND JEREMY L. BAGGETT, PETITIONERS, FOR THE ADOPTION OF B.R.H., A MINOR. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONERS, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS THE 1st DAY OF May, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JUANITA Q. LATTA, *
Deceased. *

CASE NO.: PC 2026-177

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to LINDA FOX, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JUANITA Q. LATTA, deceased, on the 30th day of April, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Linda Fox
Personal Representative

Seth Thompson
The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
Attorney for the Estate
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
HAZEL MARIE JACKSON, DECEASED

CASE NO. PC 2026-195

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF HAZEL MARIE JACKSON, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Jackie Flack on the 15th day of May, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Jackie Flack, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

CHRISTOPHER GENE FINCHUM, deceased.

CASE NO. PC 2026-186

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER GENE FINCHUM, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Donald Gene Finchum on the 8th day of May, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Donald Gene Finchum, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
SAMUEL ASHFORD, JR., *
Deceased. *

CASE NO.: PC2026-122

Case# PC2026-122
PB MIN Book 243 Page 128
Recorded in Above Book and Page
05/04/2026 10:13AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Precious Mae Harris, as Personal Representative of the Estate of SAMUEL ASHFORD, JR., deceased, on the 1st day of May, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Precious Mae Harris
Personal Representative

David B. Dobson
DOBSON LAW FIRM
121 1st Avenue East
Oneonta, AL 35121

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 1st day of May, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Bryan C. Holcombe and Jennifer K. Holcombe, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns dated July 20, 2020; said mortgage being recorded on September 21, 2020 in Deed Book 1930, Page 439 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 389, Page 855 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on June 8, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.0 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS AND BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER ALL IN SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A OLD PIPE LOCALLY ACCEPTED AS THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 15 AND RUN SOUTH 88 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 353.95 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST, AND RUN ALONG AN OLD FENCE LINE, A DISTANCE OF 651.17 FEET TO A SET REBAR MARKING THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 735 AND BEING IN A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 01 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 14 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 7,152.63 FEET AND A CHORD BEARING OF NORTH 19 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST; THENCE RUN ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE AN ARC DISTANCE OF 243.93 FEET TO A SET REBAR MARKING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN NORTH 67 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 57 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 420.40 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE RUN NORTH 21 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 205.34 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE RUN SOUTH 67 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 43 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 418.55 FEET TO A SET REBAR MARKING THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY ROAD NO. 735; THENCE RUN IN A SOUTHEAST DIRECTION FOLLOWING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 207.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said property is commonly known as **1737 County Road 735, Cullman, AL 35055**.

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

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

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

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

* The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, FKA QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-08417AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
05/05/2026,05/12/2026,05/19/2026

26-08417AL

Petition (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A man held in the Cullman County Detention Center on drug trafficking, controlled substance, firearm and marijuana charges has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in Cullman County Circuit Court, arguing that his continued detention and current bond violate his constitutional rights.

The case, Christopher Johns v. Sheriff Matt Gentry, was filed May 15 in Cullman County Circuit Court. The civil filing names Gentry, Cullman County sheriff and a Republican candidate for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1, as the respondent/defendant.

The petition was filed on behalf of Johns by Cullman attorney Thomas E. Drake II.

According to the petition, Johns is being held in the Cullman County Detention Center, which is under the direct control and supervision of Gentry as sheriff. Johns argues through counsel that he is "illegally and unlawfully imprisoned and detained."

The petition states Johns was arrested and charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, possession/receipt of a controlled substance, firearm possession by a person forbidden and second-degree possession of marijuana.

An attached criminal complaint in the case lists charges against Christopher Wayne Johns including trafficking in methamphetamine, possession/receipt of controlled substances, firearm-persons forbidden/possession and second-degree possession of marijuana.

The complaint states the alleged offenses occurred on or about Aug. 4, 2023, at or near County Road 1288 in Cullman County.

The complaint alleges Johns was in actual or constructive possession of 28 grams or more but less than 500 grams of methamphetamine, or a mixture containing methamphetamine.

It also alleges he had controlled substances including alprazolam, amphetamine and psilocybin mushrooms, along with a .22-caliber pistol and .22-caliber rifle.

The Cullman Tribune previously reported in its Aug. 21, 2023, arrests and incidents report that Christopher W. Johns, 43, was listed by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office on charges including two counts of drug trafficking, three counts of possession of dangerous drugs, ex-felon in possession of a firearm and second-degree possession of marijuana.

In the habeas petition, Johns disputes the basis for his continued detention. The petition alleges the drugs were recovered during a search at 6 County Road 1288 and states Johns was not present during the search. It also states Johns had been living in Morgan County after moving there for employment.

The petition alleges Johns was neither in actual nor constructive possession of any of the items recovered during the search.

The petition further argues that Johns' current bond, listed in the petition as $250,000, is excessive and amounts to "not bail at all." It also claims Johns' rights to due process, equal protection, fundamental fairness and protection from excessive bail have been violated.

The petition also alleges Johns' right to a speedy and public trial has been violated and includes notice that Johns demands a speedy trial. It states the case remains in district court.

Johns is asking the court to issue a writ directing Gentry to produce Johns before the court and, after a hearing, grant what the petition describes as constitutionally permissible bail.

Cullman County Circuit Judge J. Chad Floyd reviewed the petition and set the matter for a hearing Tuesday, May 19, at 10 a.m.

The order setting the hearing does not rule on the merits of Johns' claims. It only states that the petition was received and reviewed and that the matter was set for hearing with notice to all parties.

Court documents also show electronic notice was sent to Drake and Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker.

Gentry announced in June 2025 that he is running for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1. He officially qualified for the race in January.

The Primary Election is Tuesday, May 19, the same day the habeas hearing is scheduled.

Gentry announced in August 2024 that he would not seek a fourth term as sheriff. His current term ends in January 2027.

Johns is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



Trident hosts 4th annual Boatin' and Boilin' event

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Trident Marina hosted the fourth annual Boatin' and Boilin' crawfish boil on Saturday, May 16, an event supporting Alabama Lakewide Charities and its search-and-recovery efforts on Smith Lake.

Jason West, a founding director of the organization, said the event served as a kickoff to the summer season and drew one of the largest crowds in recent years.

Attendees spent the afternoon enjoying crawfish, live entertainment and time on the lake while gathering with the Smith Lake community. West said many visitors especially enjoyed the crawfish and the chance to reconnect at the start of summer.

The event raises awareness and support for Alabama Lakewide Charities, which assists with search-and-recovery operations on Smith Lake. West explained the organization purchased its first underwater remotely operated vehicle three years ago, capable of depths over 500 feet, to aid recovery missions. Earlier this year, it also acquired its first dedicated vessel to support those operations.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Trident Marina hosted the fourth annual Boatin' and Boilin' crawfish boil on Saturday, May 16, 2026, an event supporting Alabama Lakewide Charities and its search-and-recovery efforts on Smith Lake.

"What we do at Alabama Lakewide Charities at Smith Lake is bring closure to any drowning victim or event that happens here," West said.

Boatin and Boilin is one of three major events hosted annually by the organization. Other events include the Poor Man Poker Run in August and the Spook the Lake event in October.

West said community support has grown over the years, noting this marked the ninth year of hosting the event series at Smith Lake.

"To see the community come together for so many years and support each other doing what we do is something nobody's ever seen," West said. "I see it grow every year." West encouraged people to learn more about the organization's mission and the role it plays on Smith Lake. "It's not a great thing to talk about, but it's a great thing to support. Closure is the main thing."

Learn more at www.facebook.com/lakewide.

Events (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Memorial Day weekend will bring remembrance ceremonies, festivals, fishing events, youth baseball, water park activities and outdoor recreation across Cullman County.

Memorial Day will be observed Monday, May 25. Locally, events are scheduled across the long weekend, with activities in Cullman, Hanceville, Bremen and the Smith Lake area.

Senior Fishing Day in Hanceville

Hanceville Parks & Recreation, along with the Cullman County Commission on Aging, will host Senior Fishing Day on Friday, May 22, at Veterans Memorial Park, 503 Park St. in Hanceville. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., fishing starts at 8 and final weigh-ins are set for 11. The event is for participants ages 55 and older. Lunch will be provided, and multiple trophies will be awarded.

- For more information, contact Hanceville Parks & Recreation Director David Wasilewski at 256-735-6549 or parkdirector@cityofhanceville.net.

Kids Fish-O-Rama in Hanceville

Hanceville Parks & Recreation will host its annual Kids Fish-O-Rama on Saturday, May 23, at Veterans Memorial Park, 503 Park St. in Hanceville. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with fishing from 8-11 a.m. The event is open to children ages 14 and younger. Registration is free.

- Lunch will be provided, and trophies and door prizes will be awarded.
- For more information, contact Hanceville Parks & Recreation Director David Wasilewski at 256-735-6549 or parkdirector@cityofhanceville.net.

Cullman VFW and VFW Auxiliary Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony

Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary Post 2214 will host the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, at Veterans Memorial Park in Cullman, beside Sportsman Lake Park.

- Families planning to attend may want to bring lawn chairs in case seating is limited.
- The park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman.
- www.facebook.com/cullmanVFWPost

Smith Lake Park Memorial Weekend Festival

Smith Lake Park will host its Memorial Weekend Festival from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Smith Lake Park, 403 County Road 386, Cullman. The festival will include entertainment, food trucks, arts and crafts vendors and other activities throughout the event area.

- Admission is free.
- www.facebook.com/SmithLakePark

Hanceville Grilled Cheese Festival

The Hanceville Grilled Cheese Festival is scheduled for 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 23, in downtown Hanceville. Downtown streets in Hanceville will close to traffic for the festival, which features grilled cheese offerings ranging from traditional sandwiches to more creative versions.

- www.facebook.com/thecityofhanceville

Stony Lonesome OHV Park Memorial Day Weekend Night Ride

Stony Lonesome OHV Park will host its Memorial Day weekend night ride Saturday, May 23, at 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South in Bremen. Trails will be open from 8 a.m.-midnight.

Riding rates are listed as $20 per person for ages 13 and older, $10 per person for ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger. The event is not guided. Riders must have fully functioning headlights and taillights. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited, and coolers are allowed on trails but must be checked at the gate.

- http://stonylonesomeohv.us hance

WildWater Cullman opening weekend

WildWater Cullman will open Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. WildWater is located at 1707 Main Ave. SW in Cullman. Parking is free. The park's rules state outside food and drinks are not allowed, outside alcohol is not permitted, bags are inspected at entry and re-entry, pets are not allowed except service animals and guests under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

- Check ticket prices or purchase tickets online at www.wildwatercullman.com/tickets.

Memorial Weekend Honoring Our Heroes at JG's Campen Life RV Campground

JG's Campen Life RV Campground will host Memorial Weekend Honoring Our Heroes from Friday, May 22, through Monday, May 25, at 2060 County Road 438 in Cullman. Activities will include a remembrance flag display, rock painting at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 24, movies at the Silo Pavilion and games throughout the weekend.

The event is exclusive to guests who have booked a campsite at the campground, and admission is included with the campground stay.

- https://jgscampenlife.com

OP-ED

Local community assistance and volunteer opportunities

Chasady Woods
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Have you ever wondered what volunteer opportunities are available for you to assist the Cullman community? Doing your part has never been so easy! Here is a list of several community efforts in the area.

DONATING

There are many things you can do to assist area residents, but let's start with donations. A simple closet cleanout can benefit several households. You can donate winter or summer clothes to help families plan ahead, and so much more!

When donating clothes and other items, consider the following locations:

- Curt's Closet, 1101 Third Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
- First Source for Women, 203 Commercial St. NE, Hanceville, AL 35077
- Unsheltered International Ministry Center, 479 County Road 827, Cullman, AL 35057

There is also a need for produce and pantry items. There are several free food pantries around the Cullman area, but here are a few establishments to keep in mind:

- Cullman Caring for Kids, 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste. W1, Cullman, AL, 35055
- The Pantry at The Link, 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL, 35055

There are plenty more places that will likely need donations of all kinds in the future. The best way to keep updated is to follow their social media pages and keep up with local news!

CLEAN UP

Remember the quote from Smokey Bear, "Only you can prevent wildfires." It truly starts with you! Pick up after yourself, and occasionally, even though it's not fun, help pick up after others.

It can be small, tiny efforts throughout your day that can make a huge difference. If you see a piece of trash on the ground after you get out of your car to go into the grocery store - throw it away!

- Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) often seek volunteers for cleanup efforts. www.facebook.com/Cullman-CountyPALS

Senior assistance

Seniors are the backbone of our community! They've paved the way for us and we can help them by showing our appreciation. One way to do this is by volunteering to deliver meals to the homebound. There are several senior centers in Cullman that are in need of individuals to make these deliveries.

- Cullman County Commission on Aging can be contacted at 256-734-1241 for more information on meal deliveries.

Any of these establishments are a great place to start to volunteer. Though don't stop there. Speak to local church members, council members and more to make a difference in Cullman today.