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85 67

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

MOSTLY SUNNY

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ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS

— SPORTS COLUMN —

Birmingham may have seen the last of the Stallions

» PAGE 4

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Downtown library hosting block party June 8

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library is hosting its second annual Summer Reading Kickoff Block Party to celebrate the beginning of its summer reading program on Monday, June 8 from noon-2 p.m.

Cullman County Public Library System Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore said they will have local vendors and businesses visiting the library.

"We will also have food items, Cha Cha's shaved ice for the kids, crafts and activities," she said. "This is a great opportunity for families to visit the library and get registered for summer reading if they haven't already."

Cullman County Chamber of Commerce President Joey Orr said the Chamber is looking forward to kicking off the CCPL's summer reading program.

"There are so many wonderful things happening at the Cullman County Public Library," Orr said. "We are excited to be a part of the block party and to help the library have a summer of fun."

The CCPLS posted to Facebook: "Come by the library to visit some of our community partners, grab food and treats, play yard games, make crafts, and celebrate the start of summer reading 2026!

"Thank you to our partners: Talley-Ho Farms, Cha Cha's Shaved Ice, The Friends of the Libraries of Cullman County, Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, the North Alabama Agriplex, Premier Bank of the South, Good Samaritan Health Clinic, The United Way of Cullman County, Cullman Parks and Recreation, The Alabama Extension, The Link of Cullman County, Curt's » PAGE 8

Wallace State Esports competitor Arian Kennedy reflects on national championship runner-up finish



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State Esports competitors Arian Kennedy, left, and Christopher Donahoo pose with the national runner-up trophy earned in the NJCAA Division II in the Fortnite Elimination Race (No Build) category. At right is Wallace State Esports Coach Greg Knight.

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College Esports competitor Arian Kennedy and his teammate Christopher James Donahoo had a strong run on the national championship stage, before falling just short in a 3-1 series. The team finished National Champion Runners Up in the NJCAA Esports Division II for the Fortnite Elimination Race (No Build) category.

Kennedy said his team's strategy developed as they advanced during the season. "During the playoffs, we found a strategy that works best for us," Kennedy said.

The duo adapted dynamically throughout the match. In the early game, aggressive positioning allowed one player to disrupt opponents immediately. By mid-game, they would regroup. "I go to him after I get as many kills as I can, and we both start taking their kills as many as we can try to keep them on the downside of it."

That coordination developed from the first day the pair met. Kennedy said he has known Donahoo since his first days at Wallace State, and their bond extends well beyond the game.

"I've known him since my first semester here. And we hang out all the time, and we play all the time," Kennedy said.

Being part of Wallace State's Esports program has sharpened their decision-making, Kennedy said. He noted learning to "pick and choose" fights carefully: "Because we're playing technically two versus a full squad... If I see a full squad that's grouped together, I'm not going to take it versus a squad that's grouped separately."

They credit strong communication with their coach as the most valuable school support this season. "The coach, and like the communication we have with him," stood out as key to their success, Kennedy said.

For Kennedy, the national championship holds a special weight. He and his cousin played the game together consistently when it first came out. His cousin helped create the gamer tag SolarKennedy; this name has become part of Kennedy's identity. Tragically, his cousin died by suicide in 2022. Competing at this level » PAGE 3

'The People's Artist': Brian Greer finishes 12th in art contest



FACEBOOK/THE FUN COMPANY

Brian Greer » PAGE 3

19 local students graduate from Alabama Connections Academy



ALABAMA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Alabama Connections Academy honored 991 graduates from across the state during its commencement ceremony on May 14, 2026, including 19 graduates from Cullman County. » PAGE 5

Cullman Sports Cooperative hosting 'Play it Forward' drive June 27 » PAGE 4

Tales & Tails reading program runs June 10-July 15 » PAGE 8

Summer Movies at Art Park returns June 26, July 24 » PAGE 5

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 5, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

June 1
- criminal mischief; CR 1342
- domestic violence; CR 401
- theft of property; Main St. NW Hanceville
- theft of property; Hwy. 278E

June 2
- harassing communications; CR 1669
- theft of property; CR 813
- theft of property; CR 813
- possession of marijuana; CR 490
- theft of property; harassment; CR 1720
- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Colony Rd.
- harassing communications; Randall Shedd Ln.

June 3
- harassing communications; Edmondson Rd. NE
- criminal mischief; CR 1141
- harassment; Edmondson Rd. NE
- theft of property; CR 1859
- criminal mischief; Edmondson Rd. NE
- theft of property; CR 437
- violation of protection order; CR 1073

ARRESTS

June 1-3

Bell, Chandler F.; 41
- PROBATION VIOLATION – DUI (controlled substance)
- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Blackmon, Joshua D.; 41
- auto theft
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hargrove, Corey L.; 32
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- DUI (alcohol)
- open container-alcohol in a vehicle

Hobbs, Joseph M.; 38
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – retail theft-2nd degree

Knott, Darwin; 75
- disorderly conduct

League, Cobie T.; 27
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia

Lowery, James M.; 59
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Malcom, Jerald E.; 43
- drug trafficking (2 counts)
- possession of opium or derivative
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Perez, Diaundre R.; 31
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – reckless driving

Purcell, Stephen R.; 59
- harassing communications

Shedd, Baylee M.; 28
- FTA – criminal trespass

Shiver, Walter S.; 66
- FTA – drug trafficking
- FTA – unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc., of wine or alcohol generally
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Stevens, Ashely N.; 34
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – drug trafficking
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia

Swafford, Cutessa G.; 43
- FTA – family offense-failure to make child attend school

Tubbs, Corey L.; 36
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – burglary-non-residence-force
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – theft-shoplifting

Weldon, Freddie D.; 54
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Westbrook, Leah D.; 35
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – harassing communications
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – theft-pickpocket (2 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – forgery-counterfeiting (6 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – theft-pickpocket, less than $500 (3 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – burglary-residence-no force

Wilks, William V.; 57
- cruelty to dog/cat

Wright, Windy S.; 43
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 3
- identity theft; person
- harassing communications; person

ARRESTS

June 3

McCall, George W.; 60
- DUI

Gallo, Jr., Moises; 44
- organized retail theft

Little, Susan A.; 46
- organized retail theft

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS

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COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

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.

Request for Proposals

The Town of Garden City is now requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide professional grant application development & grant management services which will be effective through Program Year 2029. Services required shall include all grant application development services as well as the overall administration of any federally funded grant projects upon grant award in accordance with all applicable regulations and procedures. Factors to be considered in the selection of qualified firms include experience of the firm in developing, writing & administering federally funded grant projects (30 points), appropriateness of the firm's proposed scope of services (30 points), the availability and qualifications of key personnel assigned to the application development and grant administration (30 points), and cost of administrative services to be provided (10 points). Proposals should be submitted to: Town of Garden City, Attn.: Tim Eskew, Mayor, by hand delivery to the Town Hall at 501 1st Ave South, Hanceville, AL 35077 or mailed to PO Box 172 Garden City, AL 35070 to be considered. Proposals must be delivered to the Town of Garden City by 2:00 p.m., on Friday, June 12, 2026.
If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this request for qualifications, please contact Amy Black, Town Clerk at (256) 352-5408.

Tim Eskew
Mayor
June 6, 2026

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CHARLES A. DANSBY, SR., Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2026-099

Case# PC2026-099 PB MIN Book 244 Page 68 Recorded in Above Book and Page 06/03/2026 2:35PM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s) WJC

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration with Will Annexed having been granted to Charla Maxwell, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles A. Dansby, Sr., deceased, on the 3rd day of June, 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.

Charla Maxwell
Personal Representative

David P. Dunford
317 W Market St, Suite 201
Athens, Alabama 35611

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-213

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANCES T. BELL, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Sandra B. Couey on the 4th day of June, 2026, by the Hon. 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.

Sandra B. Couey
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

ESTATE OF BERTHA WOOD DECEASED, * CASE NO. PC 2026-216 * PROBATE COURT

Letters of Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **LINDA BARTLETT,** on the 4th day of June, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Linda Bartlett
LINDA BARTLETT
Personal Representative/Executor

Billy W. Jackson
BILLY W. JACKSON
Attorney for the Estate of BERTHA WOOD, Deceased
JACKSON & WILLIAMS
416 1st Ave., SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-2546
bjackson@jacksonwilliams.org

To: _____
Publisher of THE CULLMAN TIMES

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

Tammy Brown
Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NANETTE LOVELL FORTENBERRY, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2026-217**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Bailey Neal Byrd as Personal Representative of the Estate of Nanette Lovell Fortenberry deceased, on the 3rd day of June, 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.

Bailey Neal Byrd
Personal Representative

Atty for Estate:
F. Wade Steed
1740 Oxmoor Road, Suite 100
Homewood, Alabama 35209
Telephone (205) 970-0034

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELISSA JUNE SHABEL, DECEASED CASE NO.: PC 2026-150

Case# PC2026-150 PB MIN Book 243 Page Recorded in Above Book 05/21/2026 12:52PM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF MELISSA JUNE SHABEL, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Pamela E. Nail on the 21st 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.

Pamela E. Nail, 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
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone: (256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of THOMAS A. HOWARD, Deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 199

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Chad Jordan Howard and Alan James Howard as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Thomas A. Howard, deceased, on the 20th day of May, 2026, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Chad Jordan Howard
Personal Representative

Alan James Howard
Personal Representative

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

Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-214

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BETTY F. SMITH, DECEASED.

Case# PC2026-214 PB WIL Book 138 Page 89 Recorded in Above Book 06/05/2026 9:58AM Tammy Brown Judge of Probate Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Lisa Faye Cox and Karran Michelle Rusk on the 4th day of June, 2026, by the Hon. 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.

Lisa Faye Cox and Karran Michelle Rusk
Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

Kennedy (from Front)

now serves as a tribute to him.

"This means a lot more to me just competing for a national championship. Being able to play in his honor. It's really good."

To incoming students thinking about joining Esports, Kennedy offered simple and inviting advice. "It doesn't take too much time. It's play here, play at home. It can be fun, especially if you have a friend to play with, and it's a good way to make new friends as well."

While Esports hasn't drastically shifted their career paths yet the experience remains meaningful. "If I ever become like a streamer full time, then obviously that'd be something pretty dope," Kennedy added with a laugh.

If you would like to watch this duo fight in this dynamic match, go to www.twitch.tv/videos/2753040444

Anyone interested in joining the Wallace State Esports team may contact Greg Knight at gregory.knight@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-8158.

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Greer (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man and his handmade jewelry company recently finished 12th in The People's Artist, an online nationwide competition presented by actor and artist Johnny Depp.

Brian Greer, owner of The Fun Company, is a jewelry artist and has been crafting unique jewelry for 40 years.

"We had a contract with the Friends of the NRA for 1,140 pairs of Freedom Flyer earrings that put eyes on the company," his wife Paige Greer said. "I saw the contest on Facebook and entered him into it late one night. He had no idea. He was then selected. Brian has said the whole time he didn't expect to win, he was excited to be chosen and get recognized."

Paige Greer said her husband finished 12th in his group of 70.

"The contest lasts for 90 days for promotion and fundraising and there are 10 rounds," she said. "It is presented by Johnny Depp and is administered by Colossal Management, a for-profit commercial fundraiser for the charity The Art of Elysium. The winner receives $25,000, appears in Artforum Magazine and exhibits their work at The Art of Elysium Salon in Los Angeles, California."

"What a ride and honor to have been chosen to participate in The People's (sic) Artist 2026," Brian Greer said. "I was blessed to have been able to make it to the second round and placed 12th in his group. Thanks to all who supported and voted for me. Who knows who saw my work and where this could lead to? May love, laughter and happiness be your constant companion in life. Fun Company on."

See his work at www.facebook.com/TheFunCompany and www.etsy.com/Shop/TheFunCompany.

COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS CLUB
GUN SHOW
June 13-14
CULLMAN OMNIPLEX
1634 Field of Miracles Drive SW
Sat 9am–5pm
Sun 10am–4pm
Admission: $$$
Cash or Credit
250 TABLES
Children 12 and under FREE
(Must be accompanied by an Adult)
334-322-8818

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Sunday, June 7 – 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. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

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.
• Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. TEEN Club "Bedazzle art design"
• 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
• Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m.-noon Storytime – Snead's Farmhouse is coming with animals and an outstanding presentation. Judy always does a great and fun program!
• Wednesday, June 17, 1:15 p.m. Crochet class
• Thursday, June 18, 10 a.m. Boy Scout Colin Hyde will teach us about bats!
• Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. Adult book club. Not too late to join!
• Wednesday, June 24, 10 a.m. Hanceville Fire Department will be here with firetrucks, fire safety presentations and demonstrations. Get sprayed with the hose! Bring suits and towels.
• Wednesday, June 24, 1:15 p.m. Crochet class
• July 1 BREAK
• Wednesday, July 8, 10 a.m. "My feathered friends" with Cullman Soil and Water – Millie Keel
• Wednesday, July 8, 1 p.m. Crochet class
• Wednesday, July 15, 10 a.m. "Raptor Outreach" by Cullman Extension 4-H Kerri Roberts
• Wednesday, July 15, 1 p.m. Crochet class
• Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m. Adult book club

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 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.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church FREE Community Yard Sale
Saturday, June 6, beginning at 8 a.m. The event is intended to serve the community by providing clothing and household items at no cost. Community members are invited to come browse available items and take what they need in a welcoming environment. Individuals and families throughout the community are encouraged to attend and take part in this day of fellowship and service.

Cullman NARFE Chapter Meeting
Monday, June 8, at Freddie Day's restaurant. The lunch will begin at 11 a.m.; business meeting and guess speaker will follow at noon. All federal retirees, spouses and guests are welcome.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 Sanit Joseph Dr. NW Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

Bates Reunion
Saturday, June 20, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Trimble Community Center, adjacent to the fire station. A potluck lunch will be shared at noon. This is for the descendants of Thomas Royal Bates and related families.

Phillips-Compton Reunion
Saturday, June 27, beginning at 10 a.m. Descendants of John Marion Phillips and Frances Compton Phillips and related families will meet at the Brushy Pond Community Center. Covered dish lunch at noon. From Bremen, travel on County Road 222 to Ryans Creek Baptist Church. Turn right next to the church and travel a short distance to the center, which is next to the fire station. Call 256-709-4956 for additional information.

Smith Lake Park 4th of July Fireworks Festival
Saturday, July 4, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Fireworks at 9 p.m. There will be a full lineup of live music, including More Cowbell, The Connection, Albert Simpson and Taylor Hicks. There will also be food vendors and arts and crafts vendors all day, plus games and golf cart parade Admission is $5 per person or $20 per vehicle.

Vinemont 4th of July Celebration
Sunday, July 5, at the Vinemont Sports Complex. Gates open at 6 p.m. Fireworks show starts at 9. Celebration of America 250 and 65 years of incorporation for the Town of South Vinemont. Food, kids' play zone and fireworks. Presented by the Town of South Vinemont and Vinemont Baptist Church.

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Checking in on the Trash Pandas and Barons as summer kicks off

Lucas Gray
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Local high school sports are done for the summer, but those looking for a day out at the ballpark don't have to look far. The Rocket City Trash Pandas and Birmingham Barons both play just under 50 minutes from downtown Cullman, and feature two of the top parks in Minor League Baseball and some of the most exciting professional talent in the state.

Rocket City Trash Pandas: The Trash Pandas, Double-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels, sit just ahead of the Barons in the Southern League, north standings with a record just over .500. Due to the Angels' aggressive promotion tactics with prospects, fans of Rocket City often miss out on some of the higher-end pieces in L.A.'s farm.

The Angels' 15th overall prospect, center fielder Raudi Rodriguez, is currently playing for the Trash Pandas, but may not be for long. The 22-year-old is currently third on the team in batting average (.295) and leads the squad in both home runs (seven) and hits (51).

On the mound, Los Angeles' 21st-ranked prospect, 25-year-old righty Joel Hurtado, leads the team in earned run average (2.89), is second in wins (four) and third in strikeouts (41).

Upcoming promotions

- June 7 vs. Columbus: Armed Forces Day and hat giveaway
- June 16 vs. Montgomery: Hawaiian shirt giveaway
- June 18 vs. Montgomery: Youth soccer jersey giveaway

Birmingham Barons: It's easy to look at the defending Southern League champion Barons' season thus far (20-31, 4th in the Southern League, north) and think of it as disappointing. Birmingham was never going to hang on to as much talent as they had last season, however. Pitcher Noah Schultz, outfielder Rikuu Nishida and infielder Jacob Gonzalez have all since made their big league debuts and contributed to a surging White Sox organization.

Still, the Barons ride a short win streak, have one of the top minor league parks in the country and a handful of fun players.

Leading the charge at the plate after the promotion of top 25 MLB prospect Braden Montgomery has been 25-year-old shortstop Jordan Sprinkle. While unranked in Chicago's top 30, he leads the team in batting average (.292), doubles (nine) and hits (40).

Birmingham also features former Cullman High School baseball star and former MLB Draft pick Jacob Heatherly, who has appeared in 13 games as a relief pitcher and has a 3.00 earned run average.



ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS

Rocket City's Toyota Field

Upcoming promotions

- June 11 vs. Biloxi: Bill Greason Day and Juneteenth T-shirt giveaway
- June 13 vs. Biloxi: WWE Night with pregame wrestling match and mask giveaway
- June 14 vs. Biloxi: Babe Ruff's (mascot) birthday and plush toy giveaway

COLUMN

Birmingham may have seen the last of the Stallions

Lucas Gray
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A long list of now-defunct professional Birmingham sports teams may sadly be getting a new chapter soon.

At the Birmingham Stallions' home opener on April 18 vs. Orlando, new UFL owner Mike Repole paraded himself around the sidelines of Protective Stadium in front of the largest crowd in team history.

He took every chance he got to take off his aviators, grab a microphone and tout the achievement, one that was born from an ultimatum he gave the city last August after reports emerged he planned to move the team. The message was clear: "If you want the team, kindly show up."

Dedicated fans purchased season tickets, local government pined for people to come out and players rallied support online.

The subsequent outpour made him think twice, so a reluctant Repole announced the team would be back for 2026 and affirmed on local radio station WJOX 94.5 that "as long as there is a UFL – and there will be – the Birmingham Stallions will be a part of it."

His approach to maintaining the franchise since then has been anything but that of someone who truly wants it to stick around, however.

Sure, he got the UFL a quick payday and some attention with his threat to move the team, but a "ticket sales" hiring of first-time head coach AJ McCarron and backhanding fans with alleged blacklisting of franchise favorites J'Mar Smith and Ricky Person Jr. led not only to controversy, but a disappointing product on-field.

A once-great team has become plagued by uncharacteristically sloppy play and an even worse locker room culture, with starting defensive tackle Perrion Winfrey quitting on the team mid season after creating a post on social media that said "Sorry Stallions nation that staff ain't it! I'd rather work out at home than deal with that madness. Giddy up, good luck this season."

Despite an exciting second half of the year after trading for quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson, plus some growth from McCarron, Birmingham finished 4-6 and missed the playoffs for the first time since their return five years ago.

After that crowd of over 18,000 watched the team suffer the first shutout in league history at the home opener, the crowds for the following four home games were disheartening, to say the least.

The reported numbers are:

- Week 5 vs. DC – 8,120
- Week 7 vs. Dallas – 4,705
- Week 8 vs. Columbus – 4,824
- Week 10 vs. Houston – 5,253

And who can truly blame Birmingham for not showing up?

Well, Mike Repole can, and will, but I think he's getting what he wanted all along. He'll get to hold attendance over Birmingham's head while ripping our team away after stripping it of everything that made it great.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Stallions edge Izayah Green-May celebrating a sack vs. Orlando earlier this season

If this was truly just a grievance with Birmingham, it showed he simply had no respect for the market. Why would an overgrown rich kid from New York City care about what he likely sees as a third-rate southern town, anyway?

If this is how he plans to run the UFL as a whole, however, as a circus act where names and merchandise made by his own clothing company matter more than becoming a feeder for the NFL, you can kiss this league goodbye.

Drive (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Sports Cooperative is holding its first "Play it Forward" sports equipment drive on Saturday, June 27, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, 1636 Field of Miracles Drive SW.

The drive will collect new and gently used sports equipment and athletic supplies for the Cooperative's first season in 2026-27. Organizers are looking for items like soccer balls, basketballs, frisbees, pickleball paddles, cones, pinnies, first-aid supplies, coolers, storage bins, pop-up goals, canopies and tumbling, cheer and dance gear.

The Cullman Sports Cooperative is a low-cost, parent-run sports and movement program for homeschoolers ages 6-19 in Cullman County. The group aims to make recreation more accessible and to help kids stay active, build teamwork, gain confidence and get involved in the community.

The Cooperative will offer rotating clinics with activities like soccer, basketball, lacrosse, track and field, community sports and PE-style games. Instead of focusing on high-level competition, the program encourages participation, wellness and skill-building in a friendly setting.

"Help support a sports cooperative focused on affordable recreational athletics, physical education, teamwork and community connection for local children," said the organization.

The first season will run from August 2026 to June 2027, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 pm. The annual cost is $60 per child.

To learn more about the Cullman Sports Cooperative, visit Facebook/Cullman Sports Cooperative.







Summer Movies at Art Park returns June 26, July 24

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism will host the Summer Movies at Art Park series June 26 and July 24, from 8-10 p.m. Art Park is located at 205 Second St. SW.

Christy Turner with CPRST said the series was started to give families an affordable way to spend time together during the summer. "We've been hosting Summer Movies at Art Park for several years now, and it really started with a simple idea: giving families a free, fun way to spend time together during the summer.

"Sometimes it's nice to bring a blanket or a chair, sit back, relax and enjoy an evening with family, friends and neighbors."

The series starts on Friday, June 26, with "Tron: Ares" and continues on Friday, July 24, with "Hoppers." Both movies will run from 8-10 p.m.

"When we're choosing movies, we're looking for something families can enjoy together," Turner said. "We want parents, grandparents and kids to have a reason to come out, spend time together and enjoy a fun evening in the park."

Guests can expect a relaxed atmosphere and are encouraged to arrive early to get a spot before the movie starts at dark, usually around 8 p.m.

Attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets and snacks.

Turner said the event is more than just entertainment.

It gives residents a chance to slow down and connect with each other during the busy summer season.

"Events like Summer Movies at Art Park give families a chance to slow down, enjoy a fun evening and connect with their community. Sometimes the best memories come from the simplest moments, and we're happy to provide a place where those moments can happen."

Summer Movies at Art Park is free and open to everyone. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/cullmanparksrec.

Students (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

ATHENS, Ala. — Alabama Connections Academy honored 991 graduates from across the state during its commencement ceremony on May 14 in Montgomery.

Of those, 19 students* are from Cullman County. Those graduates include:

- Maleah Ashley
- Owen Campbell
- Deven Edmondson
- Patricia Graham
- David Jones
- Jacob Mayo
- Alexander Nacilla
- William Privett
- Harley Reynolds
- Tinsley Walker

**NOTE: Not all students from the area are included due to privacy reasons.*

"The graduating class collectively earned $41,383,971 in scholarships and awards. This year's graduates have a wide range of post-graduation plans.

Thirty-eight percent of graduates have plans to attend two- or four-year colleges or universities and 44% have plans to enter the workforce directly upon graduation, while others plan to pursue vocational training programs, join the military or take a gap year," according to Alabama Connections Academy.

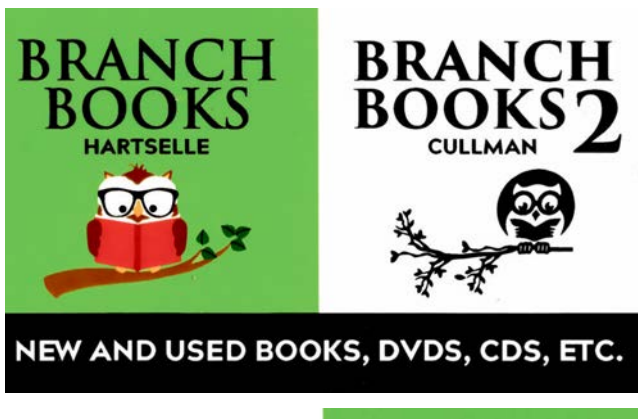
From the Academy's website:
"Alabama Connections Academy is a tuition-free online public school for students throughout Alabama in grades K–12.

Our unique program is focused on developing connections between teachers who specialize in online learning, engaged caregivers, and students in a strong circle of support."

www.connectionsacademy.com/alabama-virtual-school



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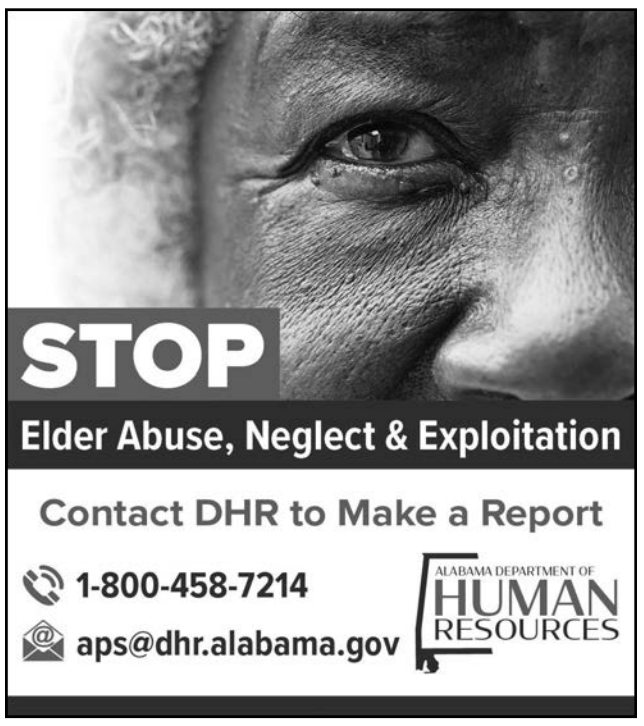
















Obituary Announcements: June 4-5

Irene Mary Welch, 86
Irene Mary Welch, 86, of Hanceville passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Cullman Regional Hospital. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Irene was born Aug. 16, 1939, to Max Carl and Vera Ogello Muller. She was a service worker for the United States Government. Survivors include her sons, Michael (Dana) Thomas, Eddy Shane (Ashley) Thomas, Jerry Craig Welch, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Nellie Harvell Green, 79
Funeral services for Nellie Harvell-Green, 79, of Cullman will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 9, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Duck River Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday June 8th from 6-8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Ms. Green was born Aug. 20, 1946, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Amos & Maelene Harvell. She passed away June 2, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Nellie had a heart full of love that she freely shared with everyone she met. She never missed an opportunity to tell others about Jesus and the goodness of God. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she found great joy in encouraging others, offering a kind word, and sharing the message of salvation with all who crossed her path. Above all else, she loved her family. She treasured every moment spent with her children, grandchildren, and loved ones, creating memories that will be cherished for generations. Those who knew her will remember her gentle nature, her compassionate heart, and her faith. She leaves behind a legacy of love, devotion, and Christian faith that will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her. Though she will be deeply missed, her family finds comfort in knowing that she is now in the presence of her Lord and Savior, whom she faithfully served throughout her life. Ms. Green is survived by her son, Robert Baker; grandson, Nathan Baker; great grandson, Cameron Baker; siblings, Danny Harvell, Joe Harvell, Brenda Hammond, Linda Briscoe, Arlene Hammond; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Ms. Green was preceded in death by her parents, Amos & Maelene Harvell, and her sisters, Jan Wisener, and Kathy Malon. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Green family.

Ruth Agnes Hayes, 69
Ruth Agnes Hayes, of Holly Pond, Alabama, passed away on Wednesday evening, June 3, 2026, at the age of 69. Ruth was born on May 5, 1957, in Potsdam, New York, to the late Richard Albert and Ruth Agnes Sullivan LaValley. Mrs. Hayes is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Richard LaValley; and sisters, Sally Beebe, Mary Smith, and Jane McCuin. Those left to cherish the many memories of Mrs. Ruth include her husband, Tim Hayes; son, Edward Hayes; brother, Pete LaValley; sisters, Bonnie Stiles, Patricia Houston, Dawn Lyons, Kim LaValley; grandchildren, Aaiyden Hayes, Evehan Hayes; great-granddaughter, Melanie Ramos; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. Gifted with many artistic talents, Ruth was passionate about beautiful things. Her flower gardens were not just beds of flowers, but rather fields of beautiful blooms all tended with gentle hands and love. Paint brushes came to life in Ruth's hand and canvases were left transformed with detailed and intricate artwork. Ruth's talents also include stone masonry where her vision became reality, leaving those around her in awe of her skill and determination. While her artistic talents and ability to grow beautiful things were impressive, Ruth was also a gifted baker. Her cakes, pies, cookies, cheesecakes, and many other delicious creations were gifted to local businesses and families across the county as Mrs. Hayes enjoyed sharing her culinary blessings with others. Showering others with blessings was part of who Ruth was, and gifting baked goods was one of the many ways she loved those around her. A member of the Sacred Heart Church in Cullman, Alabama, Ruth was devoted to her faith and to serving others as a vessel of the love of Christ Jesus. She volunteered regularly at the St. Vincent de Paul Society where she helped minister with food to local families. Ruth loved with abandon and her magnetic personality created friendships with all who knew her. Married to her beloved for forty-six years, Ruth's love of family was also an important part of her life, and her dedication and passion for her family was evident in many ways. Mrs. Hayes was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend to many and her legacy of faith, generosity, and love for others will be remembered for generations to come. Please pray for the Hayes family and all those who grieve Ruth's passing. May God draw near to them, revealing His peace and strength. May their hearts be consoled by His presence and the promise of Resurrection. Ruth's life will be remembered in a service in Potsdam, New York, with Garner Funeral Services directing. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to have served the Hayes family. A poem left by Ruth for her family and friends.....

I'm Free
Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Henry Charles Guthery, Jr., 63
Henry Charles Guthery Jr., age 63, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on May 30, 2026. He was born on Sept. 7, 1962, in Birmingham Alabama. Henry's life reflected steady determination and strength of spirit—qualities that carried him from early athletic excellence to a life marked by service, work, and deep devotion to those he loved. In his youth, Henry distinguished himself as a two-time 1,000-yard All-American running back at West Point High School in Cullman, Alabama, a testament to both discipline and drive. He later served in the Air Force, carrying forward a sense of duty and resilience. In civilian life, he was a proud business owner of 278 Scrap Metal Recycling, known for his hard work and perseverance. Henry also set high standards for himself in personal pursuits. He won 1st place in Light Heavyweight and was awarded Mr. Alabama in a bodybuilding competition. He enjoyed attending the gym, riding bicycles, and was an avid reader—interests that spoke to a lifelong commitment to self-improvement and curiosity. Along the way, his humor remained a welcome gift to those around him, offering lightness and warmth in everyday moments. Henry is survived by his two sons, Dr. Henry Guthery III (Kilsy) and Andrew Guthery (Kelly); his brothers, Rodney Guthery and Scott Guthery; and five adoring grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Henry Charles Guthery Sr. and Sherry Lee Guthery. Henry will be remembered as devoted and beloved—steadfast in purpose, generous in presence, and enduring in the love he gave to his family and all who knew him.

Larry Eugene Britton, 79
Larry Eugene Britton, age 79, passed peacefully into the presence of The Lord on June 3, 2026, surrounded by the family he loved so dearly. Born on Jan. 28, 1947, Larry was the son of Herbert "John" Britton and Beatrice Britton. He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved son, Brad Britton; and his brothers, Harold Britton, Ronald Britton, Thomas Britton, and David Britton. Larry leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion through his cherished family. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Sandra Britton; his son, Adam Britton (Kellie); and his daughter, Kendall Overton (Charles). He was a proud and devoted Papa to Tyler Hawkins (Skyli), Olivia Britton, AnnaKayte Hawkins, Zeke Britton, and Jake Overton (Savannah). He was also blessed to become a great-grandfather to Reese and Keaton Overton. He is further survived by a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. A proud veteran, Larry faithfully served his country in Vietnam as a member of the United States Army. Following his military service, he built a successful career in automobile sales, where he developed countless friendships and earned the trust and loyalty of generations of customers. While Larry worked hard throughout his life, his greatest accomplishment and deepest joy were found in his family. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an extraordinary Papa. His grandchildren were truly the light of his life. Whether hosting summer pool parties, taking family beach vacations, sneaking extra desserts with the grandkids, or joining them on shopping trips, Larry treasured every moment spent with those he loved. He took great pride in maintaining a beautiful yard, enjoyed discovering new restaurants with family and friends, and never missed an opportunity to create lasting memories. Larry was a faithful member of St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church, where he served in numerous capacities throughout the years. He deeply loved his church family and found great joy in serving others and sharing his faith. An avid Auburn football fan, Larry could often be found cheering on the Tigers and sharing one of his many jokes. His warm smile, quick wit, generous heart, and unwavering love for his family will be remembered by all who knew him. Though his presence will be deeply missed, his family finds comfort in the countless memories he created, the values he instilled, and the love he shared so freely throughout his life. A service to celebrate and honor Larry's life will be held at noon at Cullman Funeral Home on Monday, June 8, 2026. The family will receive friends from 10:30 a.m.-noon prior to the service. A graveside service will follow immediately afterward at Cullman City Cemetery. The service will be led by longtime friend Bob Burgess and the graveside service will be led by Reverend Robert Lancaster. Pallbearers will be Tyler Hawkins, Zeke Britton, Charles Overton, Jake Overton, Beau Leverett, and Clay Tankersley. The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to all who have offered prayers, love, and support during this time.

Brian O'Neal Sanford, 58
A Memorial service for Brian O'Neal Sanford, 58, of Cullman will be at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends at the funeral home beginning at 5 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Sanford passed away June 4, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born Dec. 20, 1967, to Ray Lloyd Sanford and Myrtie Jo Woodard Sanford. He was a hard worker, working side by side with his dad logging for over 40 years, worked farming, cutting and baling hay and various farm work. He loved to fish. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hughel Ray and Evelyn Sanford; sister, Tammy Sanford; brother, Norman Ray Sanford. Survivors include his parents, Ray (Hazel) Sanford; wife, Rachel Sanford; brothers, Clyde Sanford, Roger Paul (Wanda) McBrayer; sisters, Diane Johns, Linda Arndt, Teresa Arndt; nieces, nephews, family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to Cullman Child Development Center. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Rhoda Echols, 99
With grateful hearts for a life well lived, we celebrate the life of Rhoda Echols who passed away on June 4, 2026, at the age of 99. Rhoda spent her life bringing joy, kindness, and laughter to everyone she met. She built a life centered on faith, family, friendship, and making others feel welcome. Whether tending her garden, gathering family around the table, serving her church and community, and creating traditions that will continue for generations, Rhoda had a gift for loving well. Rhoda is lovingly remembered by her family as follows: Children: Tessa Smith, Peggy Chambers, Gerald (Jackie) Echols and Eddie Echols. Grandchildren: Danielle (Roy) Poe, Kristy (Wayne) Day, James (Kathy) Coker, Ray (Wendy) Echols, David (Stephanie) Chambers, Brian (Brenda) Echols, Stephen (Emily) Echols, Amanda Echols. Great Grandchildren: Alexa (Patrick) Kelly, Haylee (Nathan) Waddell, Raelynn Coker, Chelsey (Kevin) Schmale, Chase Laney, Christian Echols, Chandler Echols, Jackson (Hannah) Chambers, Camilla Chambers and fiancé -Tyler DeWaard, Dalton (Maria) Echols, Hannah Echols, Gabe Echols, Thomas Echols. And a host of great great grand children. She was welcomed into heaven by (Husband) James Eugene Echols and (Son) Eddie Echols. Funeral services will be Sunday, June 7, at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Burial will follow the service at Riverside cemetery. Visitation will be Saturday, June 6, from 5-7 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A porch goose on the loose

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Have you seen them? They first arrived in America about 40 years ago. Back then, there seemed to only be a small gaggle of them and after a little while they seemed to disappear. Now, after all those years, they have flown back in and this time they've grown into a great gaggle of geese. They are not just any ole geese; they are what's known as porch geese. You see these popular featured friends roosting on front porches and lawns everywhere. Now they even have a Facebook group known as The Porch Goose Club of America. And, get this, they boost of a honking huge number of 300,000 members!

Porch geese don't have feathers, because they are not real geese. They are usually made of plastic, concrete or a synthetic material. I guess because they do not have feathers, like real geese, they have to be dressed so they don't freeze to death in cold weather or get arrested for indecent exposure. To dress a real goose means to pluck its feather and prepare to have it for dinner...not as a guest, but the dinner.

Part of the fun of having a porch goose is to dress it according to the holiday, season or weather. For rainy weather, a goose may don a yellow rain slicker. For the Christmas season, there is a red Santa outfit. There are hats, ties, shoes and other accessories.

Long before the modern porch geese became a fad, I had one. My porch goose was a real live honking, biting, flapping but not flying, goose. Her name was Lucy. We called her Lucy Goosey.

When I was growing up, I had all kinds of animals. One day, much to my surprise, Dad brought us two new ones. We had had several ducks, but they were all gone. One day I looked outside and a multi-colored duck and a gray duck stood in the yard. The gray one didn't quack like a duck; she honked like a horn.

I told Dad there was something wrong with the new duck because it made the strangest quacking noise I had ever heard. Dad explained that was because she was a goose and geese don't quack, they honk. I soon realized that our honking goose was as good as any guard dog we ever had. Any time anyone came down our drive, she sounded the sentry alarm.

Porch geese are named that because they are often placed on the front porch. Lucy Goosey longed to be a porch goose, long before the current fad came into being. Our porch seemed to be her favorite resting (or roosting) place, but she and Mama did not see eye to eye on the matter.

The problem with this was that she was a real live goose, and real live geese make a real mess where they roost...if you get my drift. Mama liked Lucy Goosey, but she liked for her to roost down on our creek and not on the porch. Mama strongly encouraged Lucy to become a goose on the loose, rather than a goose on the porch. I don't believe Mama would have ever caused any harm to any of our pets, but I do think she may have threatened to "cook Lucy's goose" if she didn't stay off the porch!

I begged Mama for a gander, so we could have ourselves some little goslings. I still don't understand why she was so dead set against that. I think if our goose had been a fake porch goose, Mama might have gone along with my gander idea!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: June 6, 1946

From the files of June 6, 1946

Joppa Sergeant Arrives Home

Purple Heart Sergeant Clyde Hotten of Joppa, arrived May 9th at the New York Port of Embarkation aboard the "Pomona Victory". Besides the Purple Heart, he displays the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with three battle stars for taking part in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns, and the Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantry Badge. He was wounded at Colmar, France, by the shells from morter, he received wounds in the left knee, shoulder and the back.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Hotten, Joppa, the young soldier entered the service in July '44, trained at Camp Roberson, Arkansas and shipped across the ocean in Dec. 1944. He served with the 75th Division as a Machine Gunner. When he was asked how it felt being home again all he could reply was "Swell".

New Hope North News

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Grant and Mildred Grant of Birmingham spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Grant.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Johnson and son Billy spent Sunday with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Lott.

Mrs. Marie Hopkins of Birmingham spent Sunday and Sunday night with her mother, Mrs. R. Blankenship.

Mrs. Eva Dye is suffering with a broken arm.

Mrs. Blankenship, Mr. Sam Crumby and daughters, Darvis and Freda Sue, spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Powell of Vinemont.

Mr. and Mrs. Lenard Young and Mr. and Mrs. Eskel Grant of Birmingham spent Saturday night with Mrs. Myrtle Young.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Prince and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Butler.

Mrs. Virgie Light spent Sunday with Mrs. J. D. Hadley.

Clabern Young is visiting relatives in Birmingham this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lott spent Sunday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Grant.

Cullman County Residents Asked To Fast

In cooperation with the American Red Cross program against starvation overseas, the citizens of Cullman are asked to fast one meal during the week of June 15-22.

People all over the nation are asked to eat one less slice of bread at each meal so that the starving millions in Europe and Asia can have a little more food.

The Red Cross program is a four-way plan against starvation with the nutrition committees, Production Corps, Junior Red Cross and Foreign Civilian Relief group joining in the campaign to assist the needy of the world.

Three Cullman Students To Graduate At A. P. I.

Three Cullman residents were among the 123 students receiving degrees from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, 2:00 p. m. Friday, May 31, Langdon Hall.

Ruth Margalene Bain received her Bachelor of Science in the Home Management field of Home Economics.

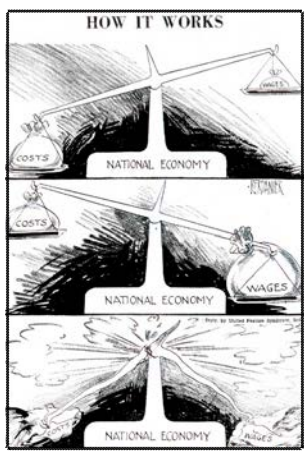
Cullman people receiving a Bachelor of Science in the School of Science and Literature were Dorothy Elizabeth Clisby and William Edgar Glasscock.

Harry G. Moock, Managing Director of Chrysler Conference of Business Management, delivered the commencement address.

West Welti News

Mrs. Alvin Teague of Cullman spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Driver.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Armstrong and children of Bethsadia spent last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Armstrong.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson and family spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Alice Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Nichols have returned from Florida.

Lewis Allmond called on Sheardon Nichols Saturday evening.

Charles Armstrong visited Preston Bentley Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Fowler and daughter Helen of West Point and Mr. Edd Parker and son and Grandma Parker of Missionary Grove called on Mr. and Mrs. Alice Parker, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson called on Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bentley Sunday afternoon.

Agnes Johnson of Cullman spent part of last week in this community visiting friends.

POET'S CORNER

Till Death Do Us Part

By: Randy C. Hale
Randyhale62@yahoo.com

"I feel your absence like the ringing
of bells silenced" (Robert Duncan)

Marriage is like a bell that rings,

and rings and rings and rings.

Sometimes with excitement

from time to time.

Often the habituation of the ringing

filters out the sound, yet a comfort

of its presence remains.

Ringing, ringing, ringing until,

it goes silent.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JUNE 6

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

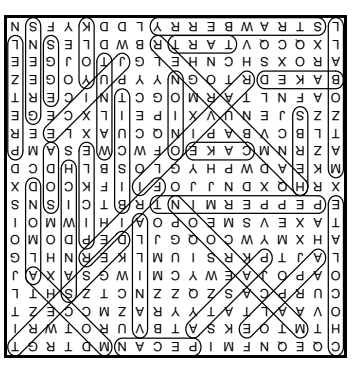
Almond
Apple
Baked
Biscuit
Cake
Chocolate
Dessert
Eggs
Frier
Greens
Hamburger
Herbs
Juice
Macaroon
Matzo ball
Mocha
Onion
Pasta
Pecan
Peppermint
Pickle
Pretzel
Ravioli
Sandwich
Soda
Strawberry
Tart
Vanilla
Walnut
Yolk

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JUNE 6

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

ANSWERS:



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

Tales & Tails reading program runs June 10-July 15

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Critter Crew is launching a six-week reading program called "Tales and Tails," which will run Wednesdays from 9-10 a.m. June 10-July 15. The program will take place at Cullman Christian School, located at 1803 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman.

The program is described as: "Where reading meets the wild! We will read a new story and meet a new critter each week!"

Dates are June 10, June 17, June 24, July 1, July 8 and July 15.

Classes are $10 each and parents attend free.

The crew said parents are welcome to drop their children off for the program, though children younger than 5 will be required to have a guardian present.

Visit crittercrewedu.org to register.

AARP Alabama warns of new 'Publishers Clearing House' scam using FaceTime technology

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – AARP Alabama is alerting residents across the state to a troubling new scam in which criminals impersonate representatives of "Publishers Clearing House" and use FaceTime calls to exploit victims through facial recognition technology.

According to reports received by AARP's Fraud Watch Network, scammers are contacting individuals – often older adults – claiming they have won a large cash prize or sweepstakes. The criminals then persuade victims to engage in a FaceTime video call under the guise of verifying their identity or confirming prize details. During these calls, scammers capture images or video of the victim's face, which they may attempt to use to access banking or financial accounts that rely on facial recognition security features.

"This is a particularly alarming twist on a long-running scam," said AARP Alabama State Director Candi Williams. "Criminals are combining familiar tactics with newer technologies to gain access to people's personal and financial information. We urge all Alabamians to remain vigilant and skeptical of unsolicited prize notifications."

Warning signs of the scam

- Unsolicited calls, texts or messages claiming you've won a prize
- Requests to join a FaceTime or video call for "verification"
- Pressure to act quickly or keep the winnings confidential
- Requests for personal, financial or account information

How to protect yourself

- Do not engage with unexpected prize notifications.
- Never share personal or financial information with unknown contacts.
- Avoid video calls with unsolicited callers, especially if they request identity verification.
- Secure your devices by limiting or disabling facial recognition for financial apps if possible.
- Report suspicious activity immediately to your financial institution and local law enforcement.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it is," added Williams. "No legitimate organization will ask you to verify a prize through a video call or request access to your financial accounts."

AARP encourages Alabamians to stay informed and protect themselves and their loved ones by visiting the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork. The site offers up-to-date fraud alerts, prevention tips and resources for victims.



Party (from Front)

Closet, Redstone Federal Credit Union, the Cullman Power Board."

The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman.

Get more info at www.facebook.com/cullmancountypubliclibrarysystem.

