

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

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Right-of-way work helps keep Cullman clean, safe and moving

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The City of Cullman is recognizing the employees who help keep public rights of way clean, safe and attractive, while also reminding residents that proper lawn care plays a role in roadway safety.

The city recently thanked members of its Right-of-Way Maintenance Department in recognition of Right of Way Professionals Week, which was observed June 8-14.

"While we're a little late, we still want to recognize and thank the dedicated employees of the City of Cullman's Right-of-Way Maintenance Department," the city stated in a release Tuesday.

According to the city, right-of-way crews maintain public rights of way and easements across Cullman throughout the year. Their work includes mowing and trimming roadside areas, managing vegetation, picking up litter and helping keep the city clean and attractive.

The work often happens behind the scenes, but the results are visible across the community.

"These employees play an important role in protecting public infrastructure, improving visibility and safety along roadways, and preserving the appearance of our city," read the statement. "Their hard work helps create a positive first impression for residents and visitors alike."

Right-of-way maintenance is about more than appearance. Keeping grass, weeds, brush and debris controlled along streets, drainage areas and public easements helps improve visibility for drivers, protects public infrastructure and supports safer travel for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and motorcycle riders. » PAGE 4

Local Boy Scout shares love of bats with young readers



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville on Thursday, June 19, 2026, welcomed Boy Scout Colin Hyde, who presented a program titled "Bats, Bats and More Bats!" The presentation was part of the library's summer reading program and also part of Hyde's Eagle Project.

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

HANCVELLE, Ala. — The Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville on Thursday, June 19, welcomed Boy Scout Colin Hyde, who presented a program titled "Bats, Bats and More Bats!" The presentation was part of the library's summer reading program and also part of Hyde's Eagle Project. Hyde, a member of Boy Scout Troop 219, is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

Hyde covered many topics, such as where bats live and shelter, how to provide said shelter, how they benefit the ecosystem, their diets and more.

Hyde told the audience they should not be afraid of bats, but welcome them. He said bats are very beneficial and active during the summer months – eating over a thousand mosquitoes in one night – and that many species (including the local Big Brown Bat) eat major agricultural threats like beetles, moths, stink bugs and flies.

To find their next meals, bats will emit rapid clicks (30-60 clicks a second) to the detect size, speed and density of an insect.

Hyde also advised how to properly house these bats, by building or buying cedar wood shelters. They can be placed on the west side of buildings, at about 12-16 feet or higher off of the ground. Many designs exist, and some species require specific depth and wood type. Hyde said it's important to research the specific local bat that you are wanting to house.

He said there are a whopping 1,600 bats worldwide; however, here in north Alabama you're likely to find only 15-16 bat species, including the Big Brown Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Brazilian Freetailed Bat or, if you're lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of the endangered Gray Bat.

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SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Six Sweet Reasons



SIX SWEET REASONS

Blue candy box » PAGE 8

Inaugural Run for Good 5K & Fun Run supporting Good Samaritan June 27 » PAGE 2

Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden opens near downtown



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden is located at 104 Fourth Ave. NE, Cullman. » PAGE 4

6 local students named to UA Early College Spring 2026 Director's List » PAGE 8



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 19

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 19, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
June 15
- criminal mischief; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 565
- harassment; Hwy. 278W
- harassing communications; CR 549
- theft of property; CR 327

June 16
- burglary; Arkadelphia Rd. NE Hanceville
- theft of property; US. 31
- theft of property; CR 648
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- harassment; CR 747
- theft of property; CR 368
- domestic violence; CR 19

June 17
- theft of property; CR 1718
- domestic violence; Helen Warren Vogel St. NE
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 1850

ARRESTS
June 15-17

Anders, Tyler C.; 32
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – theft-shoplifting

Armer, Ryan T.; 42
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-3rd degree – domestic violence

Baker, Frank R.; 51
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – robbery-residence-strong arm
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – violation of a domestic violence protection order
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Baker, John S.; 60
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Bliss, Timothy E.; 39
- PROBATION VIOLATION – sex offense-electronic solicitation of a child

Bussey, Christopher J.; 33
- possession of methamphetamine

Cawthon, Jeffrey C.; 34
- harassing communications

Clements, Rachel G.; 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Coker, Michael J.; 51
- PROBATION REVOCATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Evans, Cameran A.; 32
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Finch, Jr., Earl D.; 41
- criminal trespass

Ford, Montero J.; 33
- PROBATION VIOLATION – auto theft
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft of property-2nd degree, $500-less than $1500

Hamilton, Mary A.; 65
- GJ – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Hood-Jones, Lisa B.; 43
- harassing communications
- violation of a domestic violence protection order (2 counts)

Jones, Kevin J.; 53
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Jones, Kimberly D.; 52
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Leipert, Keith V.; 62
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

McClusky, Drew A.; 25
- DUI (alcohol)

McKinnon, Roger K.; 28
- burglary-residence-no force

Morris, Ryan H.; 29
- financial exploitation of the elderly-1st degree
- theft-miscellaneous

Prater, Katrina L.; 34
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Sandlin, Jr., Billy R.; 67
- FTA – sex offense-failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restrictions

Smith, Benjamin C.; 42
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Stephens, Brandon C.; 21
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – receiving stolen vehicle
- FTA – assault-reckless endangerment
- FTA - attempting to elude a police officer

Stevens, Ashley N.; 34
- FTA – family offense-NS non-support-child

Thursby, Jr., Terry W.; 38
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – possessing stolen property, less than $500
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – resident license – freshwater fishing

Weissend, Jerrard H.; 36
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
June 17
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 7th St. SW
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $5,760

June 18
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $214; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS
June 15-18

Fleur, Wilder F.; 30
- domestic violence-3rd degree
- interference with domestic violence emergency call

Willingham III, Joseph E.; 52
- FTA – expired tag

Mannery, Joshua I.; 47
- GJ – retail theft of property-2nd degree (2 counts)

Saenz, Anah N.; 30
- theft of property-4th degree

Moore, Shayla D.; 30
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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



Run (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Flores Eyecare will host the inaugural Run for Good 5K &Fun Run on Saturday, June 27, with proceeds benefiting the Good Samaritan Health Clinic. The event will begin at 7 a.m. at the future home of the clinic on Veterans Drive in Cullman and will feature both a competitive 5K and a family-friendly Fun Run.

"We are super excited about the run and the positive impact it will have on the Good Samaritan Health Clinic and everything they provide for our community," Flores Eyecare Owner Romero Flores said.

The newly approved 5K route will take participants past several well-known Cullman establishments, including Mary Carter Store, 412 Public House and the Busy Bee Cafe.

According to Flores, the idea for the run began with his son, Reed, who will be a senior at Cullman High School this fall and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

"This run actually came to fruition due to an idea my son had last year," Flores said. "He wanted to find a way to impact the community in a positive way. He came to me for help, and that led us to reaching out to Mrs. (Jolanda) Hutson at the Good Samaritan. She was 100 percent on board with our idea and helped make the run a reality."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Good Samaritan Health Clinic as it continues serving local patients and works toward completing its new facility.

"The Good Samaritan Health Clinic provides free healthcare for those in need," Flores said.

"What a great cause to help with. We hope the proceeds from the run can help make a difference in the care they provide."

He continued, "We are also hoping this can turn into an annual fundraiser. Part of why our family has loved Cullman and the surrounding areas so much is because of the people here and the way they support each other."

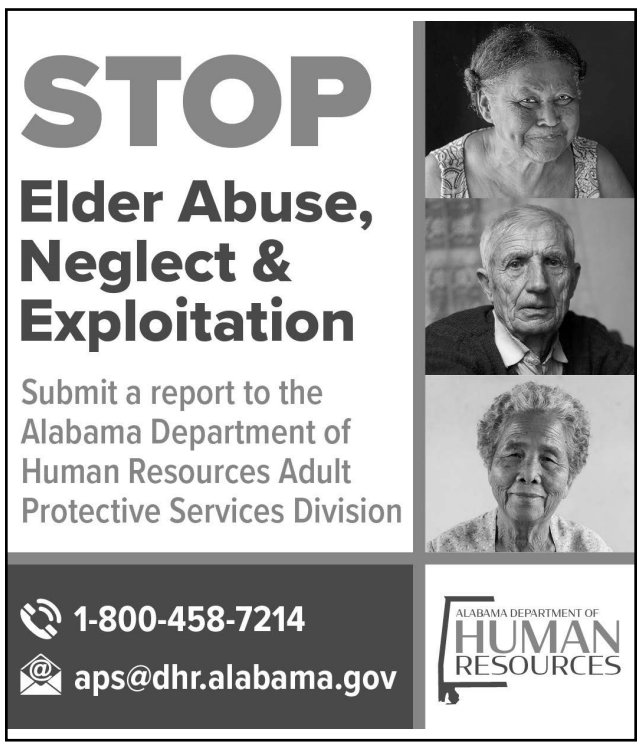
Participants in the 5K will receive a race T-shirt, sponsor-filled race packet and 5K finisher medal. Awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers in several age divisions, while the overall male and female winners will each receive a new pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses courtesy of Flores Eyecare.

Race-day registration and packet pickup will begin at 6 a.m. and continue until 6:45. The 5K will start at 7, followed by the Fun Run at 7:50. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 8:20.

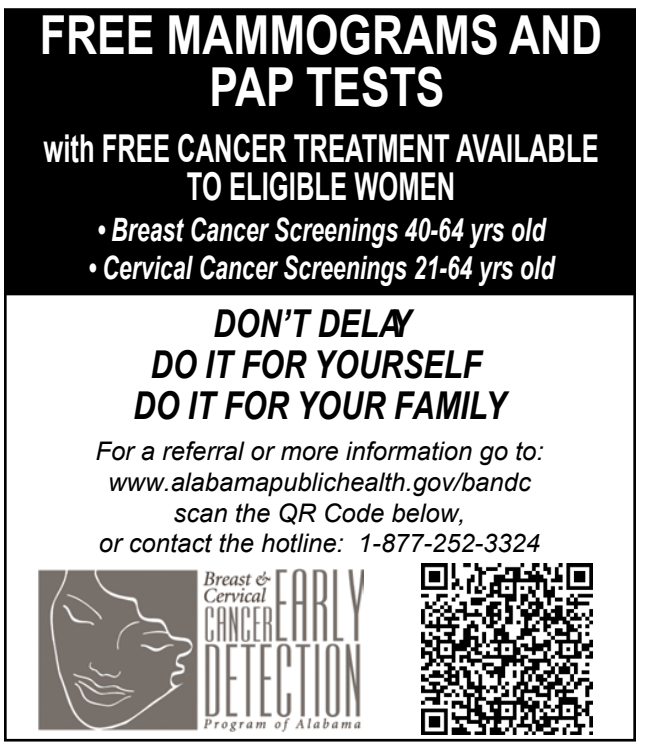
For those interested, early packet pickup will be available Friday, June 26, from 4-6 p.m. at Flores Eyecare, located at 324 Fourth Ave. SE in Cullman.

There is still time to register for the event. Those unable to participate are encouraged to support the cause through donations. 5K registration is $30 per runner. The Fun Run is $20 per runner. Prices will increase after June 25. To register, visit https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Cullman/RunForGoodCullman.

For more information or to hear about available scholarships, call 205-902-2432 or email floreseye24@gmail.com.













Input (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County residents are being asked to share their concerns about roadway safety as the county develops a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan.

Cullman County Economic Development announced the county is working on the plan through the federally funded SS4A grant program. Public input is an important part of the process, and residents are encouraged to complete an online roadway safety survey focused on county-maintained roads.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the SS4A program was established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and provides funding for local, regional and Tribal initiatives aimed at preventing roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

Cullman County received an SS4A grant to conduct a data-driven, comprehensive study focused on improving roadway safety. The study will look at safer roads, safer people, safer vehicles, appropriate vehicle speeds and improved post-crash care.

County officials said the survey gives residents an opportunity to identify concerns, share feedback and help guide the county's safety planning process.

"Cullman County is developing a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, and public input is an important part of the process," the announcement said. "Please take a few minutes to complete the roadway safety survey and share your concerns about county-maintained roads."

The county is asking residents to add their voices to the study by completing the online survey. Once the survey page opens, users should scroll down to the Introduction section and look for the area marked "survey here" to begin.

The survey is available at https://bit.ly/CullmanCountySS4A.

The county said the goal of the SS4A planning process is to gather information that can be used to develop strategies for safer roads and improved transportation safety across Cullman County.

Residents with concerns about roadway safety, dangerous areas, problem locations or other issues involving county-maintained roads are encouraged to participate.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Saturday, June 20 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, June 21 – 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.
• 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
• Friday, June 26, 6 p.m. Poetry Night
• 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
• Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m. Teen Club
• Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m. "Lasting Impressions- Fossils-artifacts" by Chris & Jake, AL State Museum, Montgomery
• Wednesday, July 29, 10 a.m. "Quest to the Core" McWane Science Center
• Friday, July 31, 6 p.m. Poetry Night
• Wednesday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Children's author Ernie Swindle (bringing Matilda the Donkey for petting, located in the back parking lot)
• Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. "Larry the Magician" a happy, interactive program full of laughter. This is his last season performing; he is retiring after this summer.
• Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. Storytime Cullman Extension 4-H Kerri Roberts
• Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. Adult book club
• Wednesdays, 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 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.

Knights of Columbus Bingo Fundraiser
The Knights of Columbus Council 1484 at Sacred Heart Church in Cullman would like to invite the community to our upcoming Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, June 20. The event will be held from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart gym, located at 217 Second St. SE, Cullman. Guests can enjoy a full day of bingo, food, refreshments, fellowship and opportunities to win great prizes. This family-friendly event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend. The event serves as a fundraiser supporting the charitable works of Knights of Columbus Council 1484.

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.

Little Pink Dress Benefit
Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Stone Bridge Farms. Tickets on sale now! www.cullmanbosombuddies.com/service/little-pink-dress-event





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PREP BASKETBALL

Swindall stepping up for Cullman; Loftin leads with 20 in final summer game vs. Thompson

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala. — On Friday morning, head coach Stu Stuedeman and the Cullman Bearcats wrapped up their summer games with a trip to Guntersville's Supreme Courts.

Coming off another incredible season that saw their chaotic identity take them all the way to another State Championship game, the Bearcats' starting five is full of new faces after the graduation of Sam Dorough, Owen Graves and Gray Hopper.

Slotting in as a primary ball handler, ninth grader Everett Swindall looked like a natural.

After playing primarily as a spot-up shooter off the bench as an eighth grader, he he handled running the offense more than well, scoring 13 points (stats are unofficial) and feeding a Cullman offense that outscored Thompson 58-37.

"Swindall's a ninth grader, and he's a real player. His first week he struggled, but he has a real chance to be a great player for us for the next four years, and he was already a great player for us last year. I'm pleased that we have young players out there that are gonna be here for three to four years that are going to have to step up their role already, and they're getting better and better each week," Stuedeman said.

The Bearcats largest returning piece (literally and figuratively) is Brooks Loftin who, as the number one option and leader for Cullman, will see an expanded role in 2026-27.

"He's such a fun, loving person that we struggle with him getting that killer mentality in games, especially in the summer, but he's also changed positions.

"He's handling the ball on the perimeter and has just made incredible progress, so if he keeps making the progress he's made in 2-3 weeks into the fall, he's gonna be nasty," Loftin's head coach said.

In the win today, the 6-7 forward showed all of the post dominance fans saw last season, but Loftin's growth as a ball handler was evident. Additionally, while he was already an above-average outside shooter for a big man as a sophomore, Loftin sunk three from beyond the arc today on the way to putting up 20 points.

Surrounding Loftin and Swindall is an exciting supporting cast including Emory Bonds, who heads into his senior year as one of the Bearcats' top three point shooters.

Guard John Luke Witcher will also see more time, with Stuedeman noting the growth but still wanting to expand his offensive game.

"Our expectations are the same every year. We want to be the best version of ourselves at the end of the year, playing the best basketball that we can. It's been a grind of a June just because we have a lot of new faces and a lot of people playing different positions, and this isn't the system to just be learning on the fly," Stuedeman said on his team's progress.

He added, "I'm pleased with where we finished. If you would've gotten me the first week, I don't know if you would've gotten a good comment, But I'm pleased with where we finished."



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Everett Swindall

Cullman Christian names Matt Heaton head cross-country, track and field coach

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN CHRISTIAN.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Christian School has named Matt Heaton its new head cross-country and track and field coach.

Heaton brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to the program, according to the school. His background includes coaching at the middle school, junior varsity and varsity levels in cross-country, track and field, basketball and baseball.

Heaton has previously coached at Holly Pond High School, Good Hope High School, Harmony School and West Point High School.

Cullman Christian stated Heaton has built a reputation for developing successful teams and athletes throughout his coaching career.

His programs have earned multiple county championships at the junior varsity and varsity levels, and he has coached numerous All-State athletes and individual state champions.

Among his accomplishments is coaching the 2014 Good Hope High School Wheelchair Track and Field Team to a state championship. Cullman Christian stated the achievement reflects Heaton's commitment to helping each athlete reach his or her full potential.

The school said Heaton views athletics as an opportunity to teach discipline, perseverance, leadership, teamwork and character.

He is expected to focus on building a positive environment where student-athletes are challenged to compete at a high level while also growing as individuals and leaders.

Heaton joins Cullman Christian with plans to continue developing the school's cross-country and track and field programs.

Cullman Christian said Heaton is excited to join the school community and looks forward to building a program that honors Christ, pursues excellence and makes a lasting impact on student-athletes.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Arboreadum (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A new independent bookstore opened in Cullman this week, combining a love of books with a passion for gardening. Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden is housed in a historic home near downtown Cullman.

Owner Shannen Cottingham offers new books in many genres, along with a variety of plants and gardening supplies. Cottingham said she started the store because she has always loved reading and gardening.

Bringing these two interests together seemed like a natural way to create something special for the community.

Inside, visitors can browse fiction, nonfiction and children's books, plus a special garden room with books about gardening. Outside, customers are welcome to walk through the garden and buy plants for their own yards.

Along with regular books, Arboreadum also offers audiobooks. Cottingham said she likes to listen to them while gardening or doing things around the house.

Even though the store just opened, Cottingham said, she is eager to learn about what people like to read and grow.

She enjoys getting book suggestions from customers and finding new titles through chats with other readers. The same goes for gardening. Visitors often share their favorite plants, helpful tips and personal stories.

Cottingham hopes Arboreadum will become a lively part of the Cullman community. She plans to start book clubs, hold garden walks focused on audiobooks and create ways for readers and gardeners to meet each other.

Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden is located at 104 Fourth Ave. NE, Cullman. Find it online at Facebook/Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden or www.arboreadum.com.

Boy Scout (from Front)

sentation, Hyde read a story to the young listeners called "Bats at the Library" by Brian Lee, a fitting choice considering the location. Hyde was engaging, reading the book and showing the illustrations and afterward answering questions from the curious children in the crowd.

Hyde said he's been fascinated with bats for quite some time. He said his future project is to bring bat houses to both Sportsman Lake Park in Cullman and the Veterans Park in Hanceville.

He said he hopes that by hosting the event Thursday, he brought awareness to younger generations to get more involved with preserving these endangered winged mammals.

Work (from Front)

It is also a reminder that residents and property owners can help with roadway safety through careful lawn care.

One common seasonal hazard is grass clippings blown or left in the roadway.

While it may seem minor, grass clippings can create a slick surface, especially when wet.

That can be particularly dangerous for motorcycle riders, who rely on a small contact patch between the tires and pavement.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency has previously included grass clippings in its motorcycle safety guidance, warning riders to watch for clippings on roadways because they may be slippery and cause crashes.

For drivers in larger vehicles, a thin layer of grass in the road may pass almost unnoticed. For someone on two wheels, that same patch can affect traction, braking and stability.

The safety concern is simple: what comes out of a mower should stay out of the road.

Residents mowing near streets are encouraged to point mower discharge away from the roadway, sweep or blow clippings back into the yard, clear sidewalks and driveways and avoid leaving grass, leaves or other yard debris where vehicles, bicycles or motorcycles travel.

Those steps also help keep storm drains and drainage areas clear. Grass clippings and yard debris can wash into drainage systems during heavy rain, contributing to blockages and localized water problems.

The City of Cullman's recognition of its right-of-way employees highlights the daily work required to keep roadways, public areas and easements maintained. It also points to the shared responsibility residents have in helping keep the community safe and clean.

Right-of-way maintenance crews help protect visibility, improve roadside safety and preserve the appearance of the city. Residents can support that work by keeping clippings, litter and debris out of streets and drainage areas.

The city thanked the department for its service to Cullman residents.

"Thank you to our Right-of-Way Maintenance Department for your expertise, professionalism and dedication to serving the citizens of Cullman," read the statement. "We appreciate all you do to help keep our community looking its best."



SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Blooming Joy Farmstand

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Jesslyn Williams and her mother Pam Draper started Blooming Joy Farmstand in the summer of 2025.

Williams said her parents have lived in Fairview her whole life. "My parents met at Fairview, got married and are still in the area." Her mother and father, Robert Draper, have been married for 41 years.

"It's something we've talked about for years and then we just kinda got it all into motion last summer," she said of the business.

Williams stated it started from a passion to create and craft, but the message centers around Christ and meeting new people.

The stand itself was inspired by their faith and a specific Bible verse: Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

"We wanted it to be faith centered and share the gospel through what we do," she said.

Blooming Joy Farmstand features bouquets and other crafts, and sometimes offers baked goods.

The blooms range from $5 to $20, but pricing can vary. They accept requests for arrangements for graduations, recitals, birthdays, housewarming parties and more. These requests start at $25.



BEKAX PHOTOGRAPHY

Blooming Joy Farmstand is located at 931 County Road 1488.



BEKAX PHOTOGRAPHY

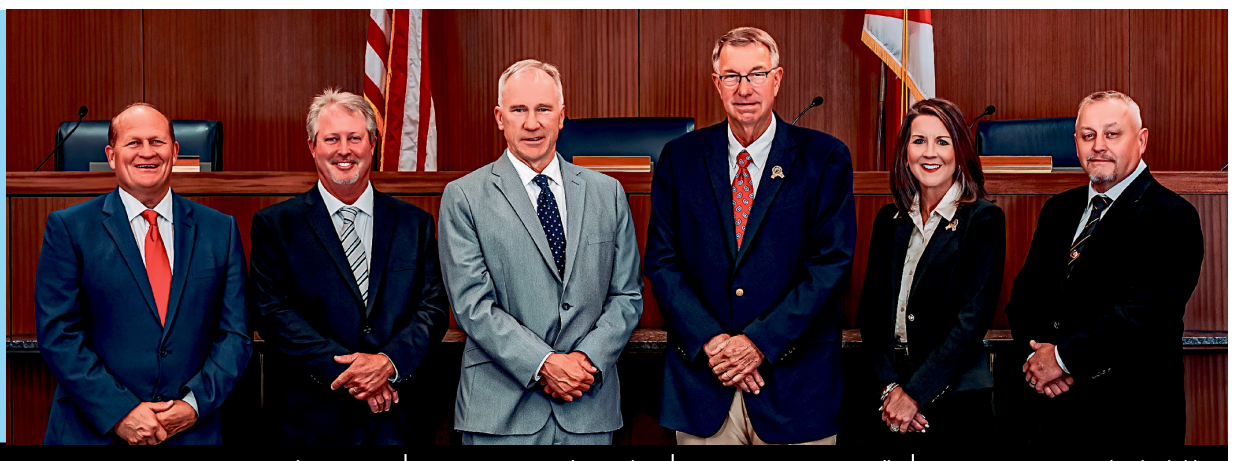
Blooming Joy Farmstand bouquets

Williams advised that the stand is open to those who would like to use it for photo shoots, though they're encouraged to contact the stand prior for pricing information.

Blooming Joy Farmstand is located on 931 County Road 1488, Cullman, AL 35058 and is open every Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Get more information at Facebook/Blooming Joy Farmstand.

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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.

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 Travis Stewart, a married man and Tommie Rea Stewart, his wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns dated May 9, 2024; said mortgage being recorded on May 14, 2024 in Deed Book 2083, Page 794 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2169, Page 221 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, 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 July 16, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT A POINT (IPS 1/2" REBAR CAPPED STAMPED PLS20637) THAT IS NORTH 02 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST 857.05 FEET AND NORTH 88 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST 390.75 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, SAID POB BEING LOCATED ON THE APPROXIMATE WEST RIGHT OF WAY (40') OF DAY GAP ROAD; THENCE FROM THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING NORTH 88 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY 208.63 FEET TO A POINT (IPS 1/2" REBAR CAPPED STAMPED PLS20637); THENCE NORTH 23 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST 109.31 FEET TO A POINT (IPS 1/2" REBAR CAPPED STAMPED PLS20637); THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 21 SECONDS WEST 152.32 FEET TO A POINT (IPS 1/2" REBAR CAPPED STAMPED PLS20637); THENCE NORTH 70 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST 93.93 FEET TO A POINT (IPS 1/2" REBAR CAPPED STAMPED PLS20637), SAID POINT BEING LOCATED ON THE APPROXIMATE WEST RIGHT OF WAY (40') OF DAY GAP ROAD: THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG AND WITH SAID APPROXIMATE RIGHT OF WAY THE FOLLOWING BEARNGS AND DISTANCES: SOUTH 22 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 22 SECONDS EAST 97.64 FEET, SOUTH 28 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST 101.05 FEET, SOUTH 33 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST 103.67 FEET; AND SOUTH 41 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST 33.21 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Said property is commonly known as **1447 Day Gap Rd, Cullman, AL 35057**.

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
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. 26-08412AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
06/13/2026,06/20/2026,06/27/2026

26-08412AL

Legal Notice

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given that First Team Construction Co., Inc., Contractor, has completed the Additions & Renovations to Cullman Middle School at 800 2nd Ave NE Cullman, Alabama 35055, for Cullman City Board of Education, Owners, and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately contact Lathan Associates Architects, P.C., 300 Chase Park South, Suite 200, Hoover, AL 35244.

First Team Construction Co.Inc.
475 North Dean Road
Auburn, AL 36830

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO PC 2025-460
GLADYS L. CARR, *
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: GLENDA BRUAZ, KEVIN YATES ANDANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF GLADYS L. CARR

Petition for Probate of Will, filed by Brian Carr, Petitioner, through Attorney Warren "Bo" Burke, Jr., has been scheduled for the **18th day of August, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 17th day of June, 2026.

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF * **IN THE PROBATE COURT OF**
ROSE W. SWANN, * **CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**
DECEASED * **CASE NO.** PC 2026-718

NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS

Letters Testamentary as Personal Representative of the Will of ROSE W. SWANN, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 10th day of June, 2026, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama, 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.

RICKY D. SWANN
Personal Representative

Terry Gillis, LLC
Attorney for Personal Representative
204 4th Street SW
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Phone: 256-845-9800

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in your newspaper and forward your publisher's certificate together with your statement of charges to this office.

Tammy Brown
PROBATE JUDGE

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-250

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JANICE EASON TUCKER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to JANA T. MCAFEE and RITA A. RODGERS on the 17th 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.

JANA T. MCAFEE and RITA A. RODGERS
Joint 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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
MAX BLANE DANIEL) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 248
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Douglas E. Harris, as Administrator of the Estate of Max Blane Daniel, deceased, on the 17th day of June, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Haley Hock
Petitioner

Hunter Daniel
Hunter Daniel
Petitioner

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

Attorney for Co-Petitioners

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
RUTH ETTA DOTY,
Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2026-176

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to TERRY DOTY, as the Personal Representative of the Estate of RUTH ETTA DOTY, Deceased, on this the 11th day of June, 2026, by the Honorable Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Sara Doty
SARA DOTY,
Attorney for The Estate of Ruth Etta Doty

Sara Doty, Attorney at Law, LLC
4725 Whitesburg Drive, Suite 202
Huntsville, AL 35802
Phone: 256-519-9970
Fax: 256-519-9952

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN,
Cullman County, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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)

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

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

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 86
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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Rowdy really wasn't rowdy

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I've heard it said that our first friends are our first cousins. I had a bunch from which to choose, but one of my favorites was Rowdy Pritchard. He was 18 months older than me. Rowdy's mother, my Aunt Lula, was my dad's sister. When I was young, we spent many weekends there. One Sunday morning Rowdy and I were getting ready for church and sporting new flattop haircuts. Aunt Lula brought us a new pushup tube of butch wax to make our hair stand up. Since she didn't tell us how much to use, we rubbed on about half of the tube! We didn't even have to comb our hair again for quite some time!

Rowdy's real name was Carroll. Our grandmother King gave him the nickname Rowdy. She lived with them during her final years when she was bedridden with crippling arthritis and cancer. She died when Rowdy and I were young boys.

My "much older" cousin explained to me that she had gone to heaven. I imagine grandma gave Rowdy that nickname because she was sick and Rowdy was the typical rambunctious boy running in and out. The nickname stuck, but I believe it might have been a good thing for him.

Rowdy and his older brother were both born with albinism. Albinism is a rare genetic disorder that diminishes the body's pigmentation.

It causes pale skin, white hair, unusual eye color and weak vision. Rowdy really wasn't rowdy. He always had a kind heart and a welcoming smile, but a boy named Carroll was similar to Johnny Cash's song called "A Boy Named Sue." That name, along with those physical differences, could be an easy target for bullies.

He had to be tough as a kid and that nickname probably helped. That toughness, no doubt, helped him deal with the multitude of difficulties he faced in life.

We had another cousin, named Wade, who was about our age. He and Rowdy thought it would be funny to lock me inside an outhouse. I slammed my shoulder into the door and it smacked the two of them in the head. I found Wade crying and rolling on the ground, but Rowdy just rubbing his head and laughing. That toughness, combined with his spirit, would serve him well.

Rowdy had more than his share of problems and heartaches. When we were teenagers, Rowdy's dad and my dad died suddenly within a week of one another. His dad was killed in a car accident, which happened in front of their house. We both lost our dad and an uncle just days before Christmas. As an adult, Rowdy also lost a young daughter in a terrible accident.

Then, for 16 long years, Rowdy courageously fought the fight of his life. During those years he battled cancer seven times! That journey began with colon cancer, which required surgery and 12 chemo treatments. One year later, it returned in his liver. He had another surgery and 12 more treatments.

He is the only person I've ever known personally who defeated liver cancer. Unfortunately, his enemy was not finished. Three years later, it showed up in his lungs, which required more surgery and more chemo. It bounced back and forth several more times. Eventually, it spread to his brain. Rowdy never gave up but fought with that toughness and faith he had acquired until he was healed eternally. His wife of almost 30 years was right by his side through those 16 years of rough road.

Caroll "Rowdy" Prichard was a man of tough courage, a kind spirit and deep faith. He was an inspiration and witness to many, and will be greatly missed.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: June 20, 1946

From the files of June 20, 1946

Concord News
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hunter are the happy parents of a baby boy.

Mrs. Caldonia Hawkins of Arkadelphia spent last week here with her daughter, Mrs. Henry Martin.

Nolen Abbott and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Abbott of Birmingham spent the weekend here with relatives.

Lois Smith spent Sunday at Etha with her cousin, Edna Smith.

Elsie Gene and Nadean Yeager spent Sunday with Dessie Bee and Charlsie Pike.

Cathrean Lamamie spent Saturday night with Peggie Wilkins.

Dewitt Pinkard and family spent last week here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Pinkard.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Yeager spent Sunday afternoon at Vinemont with relatives.

Daniel Watson and family spent Saturday night with Mrs. Rosie Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Watson spent Sunday with, Mr. and Mrs. Grady Yeager.

Travis Livingston who has been ill with rheumatism is improving.

Leon Lambert and family were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Pinkard, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Latham spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mackson.

Cordis Blackwood is home on furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Blackwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Yeager of Childersburg spent the week-end here with relatives.

Mrs. Iris Pike and daughter, Ellen, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wilkins of Cullman spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Wilkins.

Mt. View News
Grandmother Norris who has been ill for several days, is slowly improving.

This community was shocked Sunday when news reached here that Mrs. Jack Crumbley had died at 11:00 o'clock Sunday at a Mobile hospital after she was injured in a car wreck, Friday.

James Burnett returned to Birmingham Sunday after a weeks visit here and at Gold Ridge.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cole and Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cole visited Mrs. Jewel Ratts in Indiana several days ago. Mrs. Jewel Ratts is announcing the arrival of a daughter.

Mrs. Bulah Craft and Mrs. Tonie Scott visited grandmother Norris, Sunday.

J. P. Scott of Birmingham and Mae Dyer were married several day ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Vester Benefield of Gold Ridge visited Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Walker, Sunday.

Cold Springs News
Cold Springs Boys won the ball game between them and Brushy Pond Saturday.

Former teachers visiting our community during the week-end were: Misses Lorene Bailey, Vivian Landers, Lura Brown, Alberta Phillips, and Ravanell Thompson and Margaret Graff.

Verlon Cruce and family near Cold Springs Church have moved on their new farm.

Messrs Nolen and Gilbert Florence and wives visited Mrs. Howard Ponder Saturday night.

Messrs Milton and Jackson Dooley spent Saturday in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Parker visited the home of Mr. Delmar Sandlin, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stricklin spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Odie Stricklin.

Holly Pond News
Mr. and Mrs. Clemon Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Fowler spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Daniel.



Mrs. C. W. Woods is attending summer school at the university.

Mr. and Mrs. George Summers spent the week-end in Anniston.

Mrs. Emmit Wise left last week to visit her husband in South Carolina.

Up from Birmingham for the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Morgan and child.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ellard, formerly Henrietta Story, of Auburn spent the week-end here.

From Birmingham to visit relatives were, Roy Crutchfield, Addie Lee Gorham, Mrs. Hubert Stisher.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Henry visited Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ellard, Sunday.

POET'S CORNER

Jesus sings
By: April McCay

Worship is transformational
Renewing hearts, igniting praise,
Whether in rhythms, words or songs
Exalting God, the Creator of our Days

Worship is a moment
Of sweet obedient awe
A desire to connect in reverence
In surrender, many knees fall.

Worship beckons all walks of life
On mountaintops high above,
To the depths of valleys low
Everyday moments wrapped in God's love.

I'm reminded of worship in between
The Lord's Supper and the Garden Prayer,
As Jesus and His disciples sing
On their way to "over there." Matthew 26:36

No greater example
Of worship than He,
Whether through His song, prayer,
Cross, death or risen victory!

A living sacrifice
Of worship to guide me,
I am His hands and feet
Encountering God in the view of His mercy.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
JUNE 20

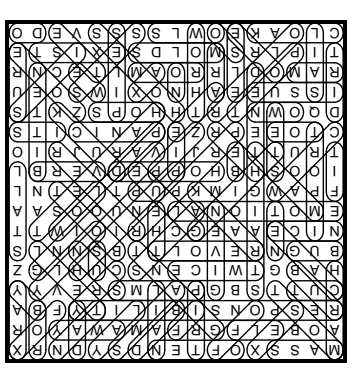
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Proper
Punish
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Revolt
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
JUNE 20

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

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Six Sweet Reasons

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

BLOUNTSVILLE, Ala. — An area mom made her dream into a reality. Destiny Blackwood began running a small business from her home in Blountsville. Six Sweet Reasons allows her to stay home with her children while she provides flavored goodies to her customers.

"I put a lot of love into everything I make," Blackwood said. "I truly enjoy seeing people get excited over treats that are made fresh and made with care."

She specializes in candied fruit, sour candied gushers and candied apples, though Blackwood said Six Sweet Reasons will soon be expanding its menu.

"Everything is handmade fresh in small batches from my home kitchen," said Blackwood.

She credits a cherished family member for her dedication to the craft. "I got my love for cooking thanks to my late grandmother, who taught me that food is about bringing joy to people."



SIX SWEET REASONS

"Dad" assorted candied fruit box

Though the name of her business she credits to her children, saying, "I'm a mom to six, my 'Six Sweet Reasons.'"

Find Six Sweet Reasons online at www.facebook.com/sixsweetreasons or www.sixsweetreasons.com.



Blountsville to celebrate America 250 with July 3 community event

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

BLOUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Town of Blountsville will celebrate America's 250th birthday with an afternoon and evening of family-friendly activities, contests, hometown pride and fireworks Friday, July 3, at Blountsville Town Park.

The celebration is part of America's semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Festivities will begin at 2:50 p.m. with reduced pool admission of $2.50 per person. The celebration will continue throughout the evening with activities for all ages before ending with a fireworks finale.

"Join us for a free, family-friendly community celebration as we honor America's 250th birthday," event organizers said. "Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs and patriotic spirit for an afternoon and evening packed with fun activities, friendly competition and hometown pride."

The event will include a cannonball contest, watermelon eating contest, patriotic hairdo contest, classic car show and tractor show. Free popcorn will also be available.

Participants in contests must register on-site the day of the event and sign a waiver before participating. Space is limited, and participation numbers for contests may be capped.

Attendees are encouraged to bring coolers, chairs and picnic blankets. Alcohol will not be allowed.

The event is designed as a once-in-a-generation community celebration, giving residents and visitors a chance to gather for Independence Day weekend while recognizing the nation's milestone anniversary.

"Come celebrate our nation's history, our town's heritage and create memories with family and friends at this special once-in-a-generation event," organizers said.

The celebration will take place Friday, July 3, at Blountsville Town Park. Activities begin at 2:50 p.m. and will continue until the fireworks show.

6 local students named to UA Early College Spring 2026 Director's List

Stephanie Pettis
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A total of 672 students enrolled in UA Early College during Spring Semester 2026 at The University of Alabama were named to the Director's List with an academic record of 3.6 or higher.

Local students include:

- Lily Dollar of Addison attends Addison High School
- Jerry Garcia of Holly Pond attends Home Schooled
- Khloe Nalley of Cullman attends Cullman High School
- Landon Pitts of Hanceville attends Cullman High School
- Madeline Watwood of Cullman attends Hanceville High School
- Kelsy Wilson of Crane Hill attends Brookwood High School

The Director's List recognizes students enrolled in classes through the UA Early College program. UA Early College allows high school students to get a head start on their college courses. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled in UA Early College can choose from more than 80 different online and on-campus courses and earn up to 30 hours of college credit.

Obituary Announcements: June 18-19

Shelia Ann Willoughby, 68
Shelia Ann Willoughby, cherished by her beloved family, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2026, at CRMC. Born on Aug. 6, 1957, in Alabama. Sheila's love for nature was often spent outdoors, finding joy in feeding animals and basking in the beauty of her surroundings. Known for her quick wit and sassy charm, she possessed a lively personality that made gatherings a delight for all who knew her. Above all, Shelia deeply treasured her family and found her greatest happiness in their company and in her devoted husband. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Barry Willoughby; her parents, Jack and Inez Cindy Blaylock Ayers; and her brother, Danny Ayers. Their memories remain forever intertwined with hers, a testament to a life filled with love and connection. Shelia leaves behind a large and loving family, including her children: Eli (Tracy) Hood, Tara (Wesley) Alldredge, Todd Willoughby, Cole Willoughby, Missie Knight, and Mamie Pound. She is also survived by her brothers Jack (Diane) Ayers and Jerry Ayers, and sister Leta Miller. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Dakota and Jamie Morgan, Cameron Morgan, Ross and Maggie Bailey, Jacob and Hannah Bailey, Allison Alldredge, Dawson and Sterling Alldredge, Ashley and Chris Ralph, Kelli and Adam Tuley, Eren and Salma Horton, Ethan Knight, Christian Knight, Murphy Pound, Theo Pound, Lauren Willoughby, Parker Willoughby, and Caroline Blue Willoughby. Great-grandchildren Waylon Morgan, Haizley Morgan, Stetson Bailey, Silas Bailey, Paxton Alldredge, Drennen Alldredge, Vera Hall, Valyn Hall, and Alden Tuley also proudly carry forward her memory. Many nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends remain touched by her life and spirit. A funeral service to honor Shelia Ann Willoughby's life will be held on June 20, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory, located at 461 US-278, Cullman, AL, 35055. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday from 12-2 p.m. Interment will be in Cullman City Cemetery. Wesley Alldredge will officiate. Shelia's genuine zest for life, unconditional love for her family, and her radiant joy in everyday moments leave an indelible imprint on all who were fortunate enough to know her. She will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever celebrated for the remarkable woman she was. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Lorraine (Lori) Marie Cole, 61
Lorraine (Lori) Marie Cole, 61, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on June 15, 2026. Born Jan. 25, 1965, in Alabama, Lori was a lifelong daughter of Cullman, graduating from Cullman High School in 1983. Lori's early years were shaped by a deep devotion to family and a spirit of discovery. She and her mother, Jan, shared a love of travel that carried them across the world, yet they returned again and again to Gulf Shores—where they made a tradition of reserving the exact same condo each time, a small ritual that reflected both Lori's thoughtful nature and the steady loyalty that defined her life. With quiet determination and a strong work ethic, Lori pursued an education that matched her calling to serve others. She attended the University of North Alabama for her basic education, then Auburn University for nursing, and later earned her master's in anesthesiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A proud Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, she found genuine purpose in her work and in helping people, following in her mother's footsteps and making Jan incredibly proud. Those who knew Lori will remember not only her competence, but the gentle wisdom she carried into everyday life. She had an extraordinary memory—recalling dates, numbers, and times with remarkable clarity—and she was an eager seeker of information. In conversation, she was often the first to look something up, quickly becoming well-informed and generously sharing what she learned. Her humor, steady resilience, and kind-hearted presence brought comfort in ways that were often understated, yet deeply felt. Lori's love was steadfast and selfless. She devoted her life to her mother and grandmother, who were the focus of her heart and home. The bond between Lori and Jan was marked by profound affection and mutual devotion. She was also a devoted friend to Mike Gandy, her best friend of over 30 years; theirs was a friendship defined by unwavering loyalty—ready to act at any hour, without hesitation, whenever the other was in need. True to her nature, Lori found joy in being a quiet helping hand. She gave freely, asked nothing in return, and preferred no public recognition for her good deeds. In the lives she touched—through family, friendship, and service—she leaves a legacy of generosity, gentleness, and enduring love. Lori held a deep love for her church and found a family through friends within the sacred walls. She loved and was loved deeply by her community and will be greatly missed during Sunday prayers. Lori is preceded in death by her grandmother, Vera Davis; mother, Jan Cole; and uncle, Charles Davis. She is survived by her cousins, Sandra Armistead (Al) and Rhonda Dewalt (Gregg), as well as many other loving cousins across the nation.

Timy Joe Williams, 68
Timy Joe Williams passed away on Friday, June 12, 2026, at Cullman Regional. He was born March 7, 1958, in to Cordis Ed and Lydia Estelle Williams. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Williams was a devoted and hardworking father that loved fishing, SciFi; especially Godzilla and classic rock music. He loved his grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and will be missed by all that knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Roger Dale Williams and sister-in-law, Brenda Williams. Survivors include his son, Joseph (Misty Davis) Williams; daughters, Stacy (Bobbie) Rodgers, and Mary Lynn Williams; grandchildren, Brandon Davis, Blake Harding, Allie Davis, Marcus Rodgers, and Elizabeth Rodgers; brothers - Billy Williams and Kerry Williams; sister, Donna Shedd; and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends.

Amanda Leigh Sandifer, 32
Funeral Service for Amanda Sandifer, age 32 of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Richard Roberts officiating; burial at Etha Baptist Cemetery. Visitation was from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Amanda passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Cullman Regional. She was born, February 24, 1994, to Danny Sandifer and Pamela Sandifer. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Harold (Wynell) Jenkins and Dan Sandifer, Sr. Survivors include her parents; older sister Ashley Jones; uncles, Daug (Anita) Jenkins, Mike (Carol) Jenkins, David (Tammy) Jenkins, Jim (Carol) Sandifer and John (Sue Ann) Sandifer; aunts, Trish Jenkins, Kim Jenkins and Dawn (Jeff) Collins and a host of cousins and friends.

Juanita 'Emma' F. Johnson, 80
Funeral Service for Juanita "Emma" F. Johnson, age 80 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Stanley Owensby officiating; burial at Valley Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Johnson passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at Cullman Regional. She was born October 31, 1945, to Doc Freeman and Ola Elliott. She was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law, Neal Smith; brothers, Dennis Freeman and Douglas Freeman. Survivors include her husband, Dewey "Tommy" Johnson; daughter, Gloria Smith; sons, Dolly (Tracy) Johnson and Phillip (Angie) Johnson; daughter, Candy (David Sizemore) Smith; grandchildren, Bridget (Ryan) McMinn, Brittany (Justin) Prince, Dustin (Linda) Johnson, Katie Johnson, Nathan (Dusten) Johnson, Kayla (Brandon) Prather, R.J. (Sydney) Bynum, Bethany (Austin) Parmer, Kyle (Amanda) Smith, Hannah Smith; great grandchildren, Cameron & Landyn Reid, Gracie Prince, Jayce Duke, Parker & Deklyn Johnson, Bella White, Kannon & Kallaway Johnson, Trinity & Sebastian Prather, Sutton Bynum, Dallas & Corsalin Parmer, Kylee, Malachi & M'Kynlee Smith, Wrenlee Barrett, sister, Debra (Willie) Shirley and a host of nieces and nephew.

Manuel Jesus' Cerro, 82
Manuel Jesus' Cerro, born June 11, 1944, in Lima, Peru, passed away on June 19, 2026. He was a devoted poultry farmer whose passion for birds, especially pigeons and doves, was well known to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Manuel's love for animals extended beyond his feathered friends; he treasured his dogs, who were often found resting on his lap or faithfully by his side. Manuel was a man of simple joys and enduring commitments. He delighted in fishing, enjoyed the challenge and entertainment of games on his phone, and above all, cherished his family. He attended Logan Methodist Church. Manuel is survived by his beloved wife, Betty Auston Cerro; his daughter, Deborah Thornton; his step-sons, Greg Thrasher and Lance Thrasher (Susan); and his step-daughters, Kathy Burks (Greg) and Rebecca Kimbrough (Greg). He also leaves behind his cherished sister, Sylvia Cerro; grandchildren Zakary and Lacey Thornton; and a host of step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom remember him with love and deep respect. The family is joined by many friends. Manuel was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Cerro and Graciela Freyre Cerro. A funeral service to honor and celebrate Manuel's life will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2026, from 3-4 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory, located at 461 U.S. Highway 278, Cullman, Alabama. Interment will be in Crossroads Cemetery, Bro. Steve Bryan officiating. Family, friends, and those whose lives were touched by Manuel are invited to attend and pay their respects. His presence will be deeply missed but forever treasured. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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– "Sincere Compassionate Care" –

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