

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

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Hanceville Council approves municipal software upgrade, delays rezoning vote

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — At its meeting Thursday, June 25, the Hanceville City Council approved funding for a municipal operations software modernization project and postponed a vote on a rezoning request for Elm Street.

Municipal operations software modernization

The council approved a budget amendment to fund the modernization of the city's payroll, permitting receipts, human resources and timekeeping systems.

Mayor Nolan Bradford is authorized to enter into agreements with BS&A Software and Andrew's Technology for the implementation of the new systems. The first-year cost is not to exceed approximately $107,850, including a proposed $97,155 for BS&A Software and $10,695 for Andrew's Technology's UKG system, pending final contract review.

Currently, the city uses QuickBooks to manage state and federal grants. Officials said they were advised to transition to a more secure platform better suited for municipal grant management.

Councilman Robert Powell said, "QuickBooks is really used for nonprofits and small businesses, so we began looking at different companies that kind of cater to small municipalities."

The city currently relies on a paper-based system. Officials said the new software will streamline administrative work, unify departments and modernize daily operations.

Residents who prefer to complete transactions on paper will still have that option after the new system is implemented. » PAGE 8

Cullman's SOAR Counseling named Best of Alabama in Therapy and Counseling Services



SOAR COUNSELING & CONSULTING, LLC

From left to right are Brianna Gleen LPC, Sarah Daily LPC, Caitlin Teuscher ALC and Josie Vines LPC.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — SOAR Counseling & Consulting, LLC has been recognized as a 2026 Best of Alabama winner in the Counseling & Therapy Practices category, earning statewide recognition for its work supporting the mental health needs of individuals and families across Cullman and beyond.

The award, presented through the Best of Alabama Awards, places SOAR among a select group of businesses recognized by readers and editors of Guide to Alabama. According to award organizers, fewer than 10% of Alabama businesses receive the distinction each year.

"We are so honored to share that we have been voted Best of Alabama 2026," said Sarah Daily, founder and Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPCS) at SOAR. "This recognition reflects the dedication, compassion and professionalism of our team, who work each day to support the mental health and well-being of individuals, couples, children and families throughout Cullman and the state of Alabama."

Located in Cullman, SOAR Counseling & Consulting specializes in helping clients navigate challenges such as anxiety, trauma, » PAGE 2

Fairview's Samantha Sprouse publishes mystery book



CONTRIBUTED

Samantha Sprouse » PAGE 4

Cullman Bowling Center celebrates 50 years

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78 dogs rescued; Alabama man gets 10 years on federal dog fighting, firearms charges

USDOJ

This caged dog was recovered from one of Adams' properties. Photo was an exhibit in case United States v. Carlton Adams, No. 2:24-CR-00122, NDAL. » PAGE 8

OP-ED

Do your part to prevent child hunger

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 26

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 26, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

June 22

- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; 2nd Ave. SW
- domestic violence; CR 601
- domestic violence; theft of property; CR 735
- failure to deliver title; Main St. NW Hanceville
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- burglary; CR 1371
- domestic violence; Hwy. 157

June 23

- domestic violence; CR 1196
- domestic violence; CR 1611
- menacing; CR 1247
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; CR 735
- violation of protection order; CR 1195
- domestic violence; CR 1082
- assault; Hwy. 157

June 24

- possession of controlled substance; Hwy. 278E
- harassment; CR 617
- criminal mischief; Edmondson Rd. NE
- harassing communications; CR 1194
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1339
- assault; Beech Grove Rd.
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; US. 31
- harassment; impersonating law enforcement officer; I65NB MM 312
- theft of property; CR 222
- domestic violence; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 222
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 436

ARRESTS

June 22-24

Abad Rivera, Michelle; 28
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Buckelew, Ethan K.; 36
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Cammon, Michael E.; 62
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Couch, Thomas D.; 30
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – switched tag

Cox, Windy M.; 47
- possession of methamphetamine
- driving under the influence of alcohol and/or 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in blood

Evans, Cameran A.; 32
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Frock, Donovan M.; 39
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Gay, Tiphani B.; 25
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Hester, Bradley D.; 44
- assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon

Holt, Tammy W.; 58
- auto theft

Hudson, Sr., Charles S.; 52
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large

Infantino, Joshua R.; 18
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Laney, Brandon C.; 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Maddox, Jr., James D.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone

Maldonado, Eric J.; 41
- assault-domestic-menacing-gun
- obstruction-governmental operations

Marshall, Robert J.; 48
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

McCurry, Kelly J.; 51
- PROBATION VIOLATION – retail theft-2nd degree

McDonald, Mandy M.; 46
- FTA – public intoxication

Mullennix, Joshua C.; 38
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Navarro, Candace L.; 28
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Norwood, Daniel A.; 53
- assault-harassment

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

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

Sloan, Misty A.; 45
- negotiating worthless instrument

Strong, James E.; 62
- FTA – possession – barbiturate – no drugs seized
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Weese, Steven L.; 60
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 24
- theft of property-4th degree; person; tag; $250

ARRESTS

June 24

McKinney, Matthew C.; 25
- public intoxication

Mullennix, Joshua C.; 38
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Coleman, Darryal D.; 60
- DUI

Golden, Kate M.; 32
- FTA – insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Vickery, Patrick B.; 54
- harassment

Hays, Jennifer L.; 36
- possessing forged instrument

McKeighan, Alissa S.; 40
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – driving while suspended

Knoblock, Brian A.; 44
- FTA – expired tag

Irving, Elliot J.; 46
- theft by fraudulent leasing

Weaver, Aaron R.; 41
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Walton, Nina A.; 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – improper lane change

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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





City of Cullman recognized by Liberty Learning Foundation

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The City of Cullman was recently recognized by the Liberty Learning Foundation for its continued support of the organization's civics education programs in Cullman City Schools.

During a visit to Cullman City Hall, Tricia Bobo, vice president of regional development for the Liberty Learning Foundation, presented Mayor Woody Jacobs with a special Liberty Learning Foundation commemorative coin in appreciation of the city's partnership.

"The City of Cullman's support helps make these programs possible for local students," said Bobo. "We appreciate the city's investment in helping students learn about citizenship, character, and civic responsibility.

Strong communities begin with educated and engaged young people."

Jacobs said he is proud to support a program that helps students better understand the country's history and the responsibilities of good citizenship.

"It's important for our kids to learn about the history of our nation, our founding documents and what it means to be a good citizen," Jacobs said. "Programs like this help prepare them to be informed, engaged members of their communities, and we're glad to support that effort."

The Liberty Learning Foundation is an Alabama-based nonprofit organization that partners with schools and local communities to provide programs focused on civics, character, financial literacy, career readiness and America's founding principles.

The organization's programs serve students from elementary school through high school at no cost to participating schools through the support of local sponsors.

SOAR Counseling (from Front)

depression and major life transitions.

The practice offers counseling services designed to help individuals process past experiences, manage stress and develop healthier paths forward.

SOAR describes its mission simply: "Life can be tough, and sometimes we all need a little help navigating challenges. At SOAR Counseling & Consulting, we get that. We're a group practice here in Cullman where licensed therapists use innovative, body-centered approaches to help you heal from past experiences and build a brighter future."

"We focus on the individual and take the time to understand their story and what matters most to them," Daily said. "We want to equip people with tools and strategies that help them improve their emotional well-being and reach their full potential."

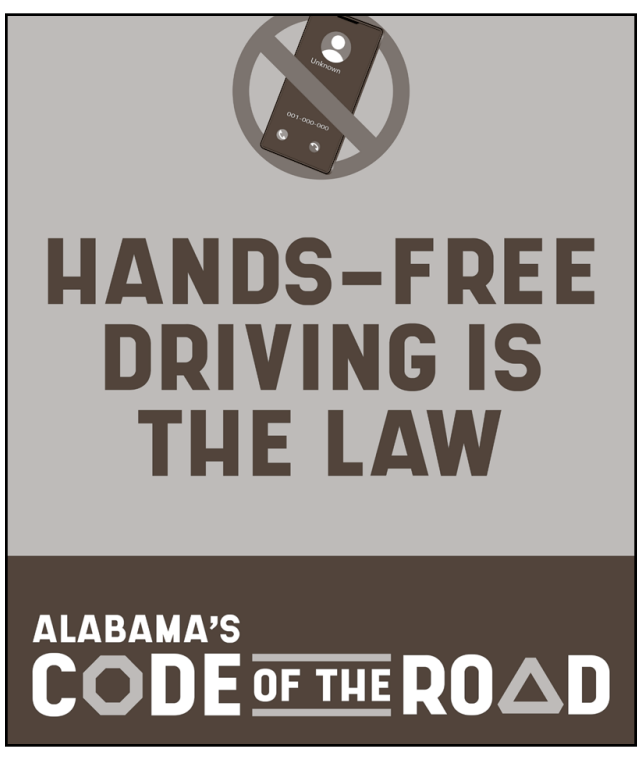
While the statewide recognition is an honor that Daily and her team are excited about, she hopes it also helps shine a light on the importance of mental health care and encourages those who may be struggling to seek support.

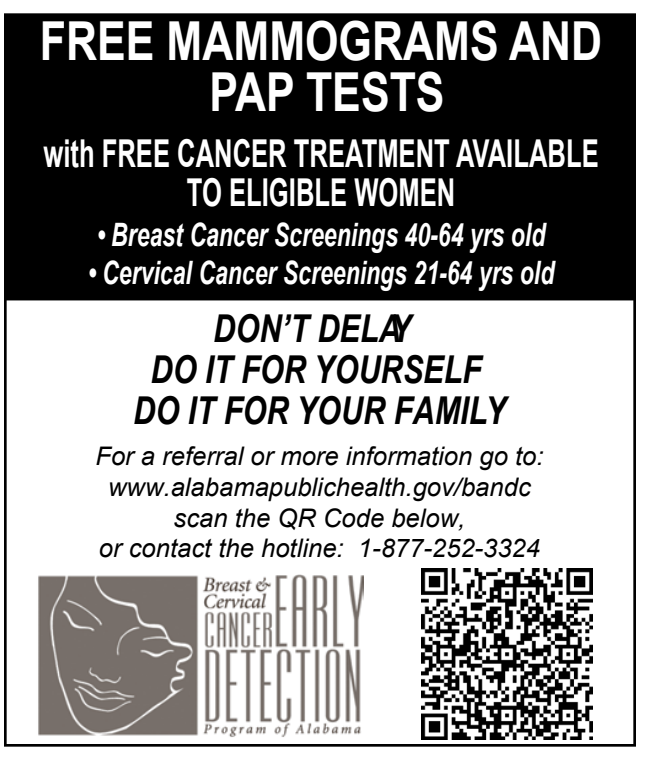
"As a locally owned counseling practice, we are beyond grateful for the support, trust and encouragement we've received from our amazing community," she said. "We hope this achievement helps raise awareness about the importance of mental health care and the resources available to those seeking support."

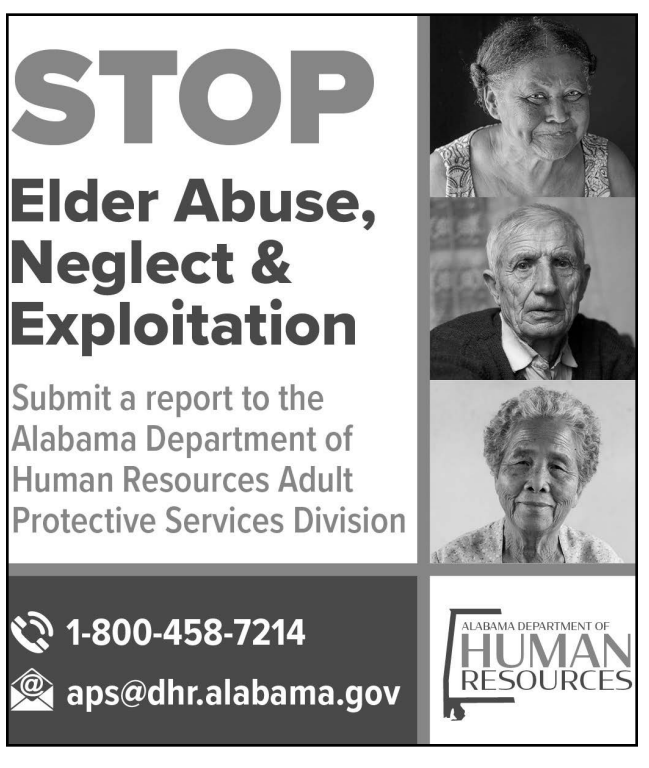
For more information about SOAR Counseling & Consulting, LLC, call 256-615-2324, email admin@soarcounselingandconsultingllc.com or visit www.soarcounselingandconsultingllc.com.

SOAR Counseling & Consulting is located at 109 Main Ave. NW in Cullman.









OP-ED

Do your part to prevent child hunger

Chasady Woods
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September is recognized as National Hunger Awareness Month, though awareness of child hunger extends beyond a single month. For some children and families this can span over the course of years, which feels like a lifetime.

Food-insecurity affects 14 million children in the United States. That's 1 in 5 children who experience hunger.

According to the nonprofit No Kid Hungry, "As you might imagine, hunger is a problem that most often affects children from families living on low incomes. A common way we measure poverty is the federal poverty level, a number set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal poverty level is the minimum amount of money a family needs each year to afford the necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter and transportation.

"In 2025, the federal poverty level was $32,150 for a family of four. Of course, this number is a minimum. Families making twice that much are still considered low-income by most experts, and many struggle to make ends meet."

How many Americans live in poverty? Nearly 44 million, or 12.9%, of all Americans.

"According to 2024 'Supplemental Poverty Measure' data from the U.S. Census Bureau 10 million of those are children.

"The child poverty rate is now 13.4%, remaining significantly higher than in 2021, when only 5.2% of children were living in poverty.

"This continued high is due in part to the expiration of the enhanced child tax credit, which was implemented in July 2021.

"The rise in child poverty highlights the need to strengthen and protect programs like the child tax credit, SNAP, WIC, and school nutrition programs, which invest in the future of our children and help stop child hunger in America."

You can make a difference by raising awareness, but also by doing your part as a member of the community. Awareness doesn't solve the problem.

The children and families in our community need action taken.

Local nonprofit Cullman Caring for Kids suggests the following to assist the cause:

- Donate nonperishable food items
- Make a financial contribution
- Volunteer your time

Examples of nonperishable food items:

- Canned fruits and veggies
- Granola bars.
- Instant boxed meals that just require adding water; mac n' cheese, instant noodles or pastas
- Canned soup

You can always reach out to local food banks to get a better idea of items they run out of frequently.

Cullman Caring for kids wrote, "No child should have to wonder where their next meal will come from. Together, we can help ensure that families in Cullman County have access to the food they need."

Some local foodbanks include:

- **Cullman Caring For Kids** - *Address:* 402 Arnold St. NE, Cullman; *Hours:* Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.
- **The Link of Cullman County** - *Address:* 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman; *Hours:* Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- **The Caring Center (a ministry of Northbrook Baptist Church)** - *Address:* 1335 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman; *Hours:* Tuesdays 9-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays 5:30-7 p.m.

Source: www.nokidhungry.org

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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
- Sunday, June 28 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
- Wednesday, July 1 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
- Friday, July 3 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Special guest – The Lovelady Center
- Sunday, July 5 – 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.
- 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 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.

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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Summer Revival
Sunday, July 5, at 5 p.m. Singing with Refined as our guest. Services will run day and night, Monday, July 6, through Friday, July 10. Morning services at 10:30 and evening services at 7 with preachers from our church preaching. Lunch will be served each day after the morning service and we will have a prayer room at 6:45 before each evening service. All are invited. If you can't come, please pray for us. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501.

Annual David Speegle Family Reunion
Sunday, July 12, 2026, at the Speegle Family Point (334 County Rd 321, Crane Hill, AL 35053) beginning around 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring a covered dish for lunch at noon. Contact Judy Shannon (256-338-0676) or Terry Phillips (256-656-3327) if you need additional information. Come eat and enjoy the day with us at the beautiful Speegle Family Point.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501 Fourth St. SW, Cullman.

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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Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

FAITH

Vinemont's Haley Millwood discusses her faith, National Honor Society and being a role model

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Vinemont's Haley Millwood will officially be a junior in August, and God has been there for her every step of the way. She leans on two very important Bible verses to help her get through everyday life.

"God has changed my life a lot. God has helped guide and shape me into the person I am today and continues to guide me every day," Millwood said. "Philippians 4:13 has always stood out to me. It reminds me that no challenge is too great when I trust in God.

"Whether I'm facing a difficult game, balancing school and school, or overcoming obstacles, my faith gives me the strength and confidence to keep moving forward. Colossians 3:23 also reminds me to always give my best effort in everything I do, no matter what the outcome may be. As an athlete and as a person, I believe that success is not just about winning, but about working hard, staying dedicated, and giving my all in every situation. These verses encourage me to trust God's plan, stay positive through challenges, and strive to be the best version of myself every day."

Faith has played a huge part in Haley's life, and she wants to help people of all ages have that same kind of relationship with God. She also wants to be a positive role model for younger kids in and outside of sports and school.

"Helping people of all ages find God is very important to me, because my faith has had such a positive impact on my own life.

"Knowing God's love, guidance, and support has helped me through challenges and has shaped the person I am today. Because of that, I want others to experience the same hope and encouragement that faith can provide.

"Whether it's through my actions, words, or simply being a positive example, I believe it is important to share God's love with others and help them grow in their faith journey," Millwood said.

"Being a positive role model for younger kids is very important to me. I want to set a good example through my actions, work ethic, and attitude both on and off the field or court. I hope to encourage others to work hard, be kind, and always do their best."

She takes part in a very special club at Vinemont, and serving the community is so important to her. She has so many role models in her life that she looks up to at school and in sports as well.

"At Vinemont, the National Honor Society gives us many opportunities to volunteer and serve our community. Being in the National Honor Society has helped me grow as a leader and has taught me the importance of serving others.

"It has given me opportunities to make a positive impact in my community, while also helping those around me through volunteer work and service projects," she said.

"My Godly role models are the coaches and teachers at Vinemont who live out their faith every day.

"They show me what it means to work hard, treat others with kindness and respect, and trust God through both successes and challenges."

Haley kept her advice short and sweet when it comes to those people that want a relationship with God but are either new or are struggling, and faith has brought her respective teammates even closer together on and off the field/court.

"My advice would be to keep trusting God, and take your faith one step at a time. Nobody is perfect, and God loves you, no matter where you are in your journey with Him," she said.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Vinemont's Haley Millwood

"Playing alongside so many great teammates has been one of the best parts of being an athlete. We've built strong friendships and learned how to support each other through both wins and losses. Faith has helped bring us closer together by encouraging us to uplift one another, stay positive, and trust God's plan, both on and off the field or court."

She has learned a couple of important things during her walk with God so far.

"Two of the biggest things I've learned in my walk with God is to trust His timing, and stay faithful, even when things don't make sense."

Around the world of sports: June 27, 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

- The United States lost 3-2 in their final group stage game of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. With their prior victories, however, the USA had already clinched a spot in the Round of 32, and will take on Bosnia on July 1.
- The New York Mets fired manager Carlos Mendoza amid a disastrous 34-47 start for a team with one of the top paid rosters in baseball.
- The NBA's Charlotte Hornets traded their star guard, 24-year-old LaMelo Ball, to the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday morning for a package including forward Naz Reid and draft capital.

Sprouse (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — A young Fairview woman recently published her first book after years of working to finish it. Samantha Sprouse said "In the Spot Light Mysteries' is a book about three women traveling for work, who somehow get wrapped up in a mystery.

"In eighth grade, my teacher Kimberly Williams challenged me and my classmates to write a short story," Sprouse said.

"This is where the idea started, but once I finished the short story, my creative imagination wandered down the rabbit hole to 'what came next for Lucy and Eve.' Through the different trips I've taken with my family, I was able to write in full detail on the places mentioned in the book."

For years she has been writing and editing the story, Sprouse shared.

"I started working with WestBow Press on Dec.18, 2025, and I published my book on June 7, 2026," she said.



CONTRIBUTED
Samantha Sprouse

"I am most excited about finally getting to share my book with friends and family. Also, for other readers looking for a clean mystery book to enjoy."

For anyone who has a dream, Sprouse encouraged: "Go for it!"

"Take the steps you need to make the dream possible," she said.

"Surround yourself with people who will encourage and pray for you along the way!"

Sprouse's book can currently be purchased for $15 at Branch Books or the Arboreadum Bookshop and Garden in Cullman.

For more information, follow Sprouse at www.instagram.com/texting_samantha.





Cullman Bowling Center celebrates 50 years

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com







PHOTOS: FACEBOOK/CULLMAN BOWLING CENTER

The Cullman Bowling Center celebrated 50 years on Saturday, June 20, 2026.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bowling Center celebrated 50 years on Saturday, June 20, 2026. The establishment was opened in 1976 and has maintained its reputation as a generational hot spot for all. Current Owners Bill Sandlin and his sons, Corey and Les, took over the business in 1986.

Manager Brian Vance said there were plenty of festivities for anyone in attendance at the anniversary celebration, from cruise-in car shows, inflatables, DJ Justin Pace and prize giveaways.

He reported they gave away a $300 birthday party pack as well as a $100 arcade card.

"We're also giving away a bunch of free game passes," Vance said.

In 2019 the center held a grand opening for Valley Tavern and Grille after months of renovation. The venue has food and beverages, but also allows local musicians to have the spotlight – artists like Just In Case, Key Lime Pie, Jesse Priest, just to name a few.

Pace, who is also the lead singer of Just In Case, leads karaoke every Wednesday night. Vance said there's live music Tuesday-Saturday nights.

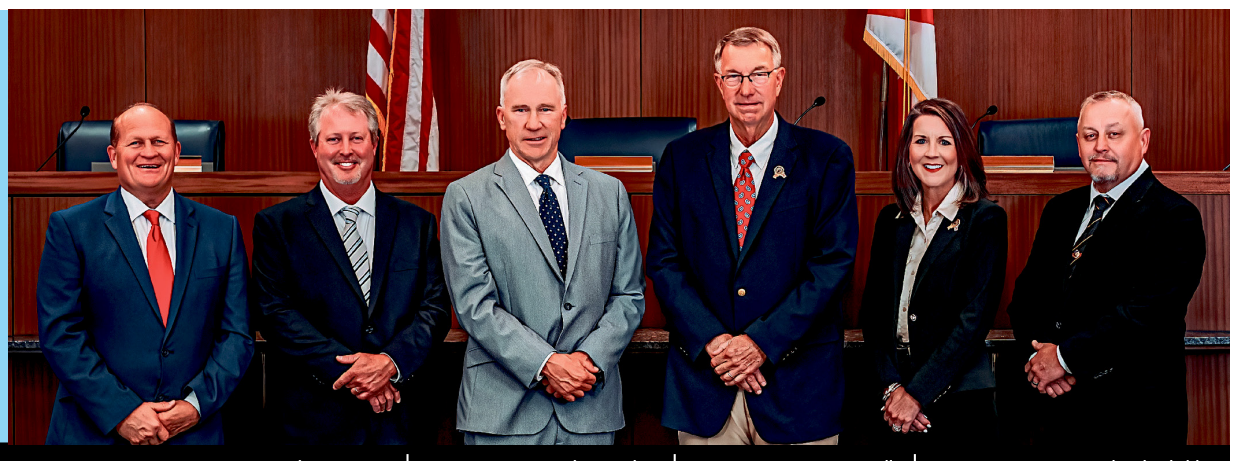
While the Tavern is a great addition, the heart of the establishment is the bowling community and the many memories made.

"We run leagues Monday through Thursday," Vance said. "Then on Saturdays we touch on form."

Visit www.cullmanbowling.com for info on upcoming events, bowling leagues and more!

The Cullman Bowling Center is located at 1710 Tally Ho St.

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BOOK REVIEW

'The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife' by Anna Johnston

Cathy Lay Mayor
Contributor

Let me set the scene for "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife." Frederick Fife is a kind and charming octogenarian who is broke and about to be evicted from his apartment. He spent his life savings on experimental cancer treatments for his wife, Dawn. He is not sure were his next meal will come from.

While sitting in the public park in his neighborhood, he sees what looks like a man slumped over in his wheelchair. Frederick hurries over to check on him. He is not sure if he is still alive. He starts pushing the chair toward a senior citizen bus nearby. As Frederick is pushing, he is getting hot and out of breath. He stops, takes off his jacket and drapes it over the wheel chair. As he is pushing the chair, he trips and hits his head on a rock. He is a little bit addled and as he is trying to stand the wheelchair starts rolling toward the river. The chair stops but the unconscious man falls out of the chair and into the river taking Frederick's jacket and driver's license with him. Frederick is not quick enough to help him.

He is exhausted and sits in the chair. Denise, a nurse's aide, comes over to check on him and due to their similar age and appearance, she starts pushing him to the bus while calling him Bernard. Frederick protests that he is not Bernard and that she has the wrong man. But oftentimes the elderly are ignored or considered demented.

Frederick tries several times that evening to explain who he is, but the staff thinks his dementia is worse. When dinner arrives and it is the best meal he has had in months, he thinks it will not hurt to stay one night. The next morning he is given arthritis medication – a huge blessing. He tries to leave, but the staff catch him and take him back. He stops protesting and just goes with it.

As a few days go by he begins to make friends and feel needed. He spreads kindness to the staff, other residents and residents' families. Frederick begins to mend the wrongs made by Bernard during his life.

There is more to this story, but I will not spoil it for you. This feel-good novel is the perfect summer read. It is heartwarming and funny. I highly recommend it.

The author includes the realities of nursing home life like the invisibility of the elderly, fear, grief, the smell of urine, stressed-out staff, the reality of dementia and the sad and lonely part of aging. Somehow the author can take the cold, hard truth of aging and make it seem less troubling with the power of a simple act of kindness. She manages to create loving and comical world among the elderly.

Find out more about Anna Johnston at www.annajohnston-author.com.

LEGALS

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

Legal Notice

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Kyle Byno Absher,) Case No. PC 2025-433
)
Deceased)

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Iva Absher Thomas as Personal Representative of the Estate of Kyle Byno Absher, deceased, on the 25th day of June, 20___, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Iva Absher Thomas
Personal Representative
Iva Absher Thomas

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

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

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 Hosk
Petitioner

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

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 * 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 2026-218

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

Legal Notice
Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2012 Chevrolet Cruze vin:1G1PH5SC4C7308174
2008 Jeep Patriot vin: 1J8FF28W58D786906
2016 GMC Canyon vin:1GTG6DE36G1310245
2011 Nissan Rogue vin:JN8AS5MT6BW565681
2016 Kia Soul vin:KNDJP3A57G7237601
2003 Ford Explorer vin:1FMZU62K83UC35316
2013 Hyundai SONATA vin:5NPEB4AC2DH532195
2000 Dodge Ram 1500 vin:1B7HC16Y7YS518751
2007 Ford Edge vin:2FMDK39C87BB25567
2005 Dodge Durango vin:1D4HD38N05F545437
2011 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 vin:3GCPKSE31BG383114
2007 Chevrolet Suburban vin:1GNFK16347J178033

These vehicles will be sold on August 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

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

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Dogs, weed-eaters and chainsaws

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Some of my longtime readers will remember Ginger (65). Ginger was our sweet yellow lab and Cocoa's (15) big sidekick. Ginger died back in 2020 at the age of 13. That's 91 in human years. Yes, that was the year of Covid, but she did not die from Covid.

Please don't tell Cocoa I said so, but Ginger was perhaps the sweetest dog that ever lived. She was definitely the sweetest one we ever had. We buried Ginger on the other side of the branch in our back yard, just in the edge of the woods. I placed Drew's old wooden climbing wall from his gym set (that he had outgrown) over her grave so nothing could disturb her remains. Drew and I fashioned a small cross marker out of two-by-fours and engraved Ginger "Darlin" King on it.

Since that time, the undergrowth of the woods has crept right up to the backside of her grave. As I was cutting the grass in front of her grave, I noticed some of undergrowth trying to slip overboard on Ginger's grave. I grew up on Sand Mountain, and on Sand Mountain to let the weeds and briars overtake a loved one's grave is considered shameful, if not sinful. Spring or early summer up there is decoration season. That's when family members clean up their loved one's graves and put new flowers on them. It's disrespectful to let you loved one's grave get overgrown or to have old, faded flowers on it.

Yes, I do know that Ginger was a dog and not a human, but I decided it was time to clean up around her grave. I did not put flowers on it, but once I started clearing away the briars and weeds, I didn't know where to quit. I cleared out a pretty large section in the edge of the woods, so they wouldn't creep back up on her grave again. It was not easy work, but my string weed-eater and chainsaw made it much easier than it was years ago.

My mind went back to a time long ago when I did such work around the pond and creek where I grew up.

My job was to keep them cleaned off so people, mostly boys, could fish and swim there. Keeping it cleaned up helped prevent the presence of those gigantic fishing worms (also known as snakes) that liked to hide in the weeds. My favorite four-legged friend, named Big Pud, was always by my side as I worked.

Back then I had never seen or heard of a weed-eater. Chainsaws existed, but not at my house. My weed-eater was a "man"-uel powered one, or maybe I should say a "boy"-uel powered one.

Some people called them sling blades. I don't believe I have enough "gas in my tank" to run one of those things these days! I usually didn't wear work gloves back then, so I remember getting blisters in the palms of my hands and wearing sweat-soaked clothes. I used my "boy-powered" axe, or a handsaw, to cut down the saplings that had sprung up. My handsaw was also boy powered but it served a dual purpose. I could saw down the saplings, leaving about a foot-tall stump, and then use my handsaw to cut across the stump top to fiddle up earthworms.

It was also a productive day because I had cleared off the bank, found free fish bait, and then caught supper! Those were good days and great memories, but I am certainly thankful for power tools and easier ways of cleaning things up these days.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: June 27, 1963

From the files of June 27, 1963

NEW PROSPECT NEWS
By BOBBY JACKSON

Mrs. Ila Casey and family of Garden City visited recently with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. H. R. Edwards.

Artist Aaron is sick and in the Cullman Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Laron Shelton of Birmingham visited over the week end with Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Shelton.

Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Cone and family visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Anderton of Bremen.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Chafen and family of Birmingham visited recently with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Murphree and Mrs. Bertha Chafen.

Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Dollar and family of Birmingham were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Edwards over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hall and family of Blount Springs visited Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fell and family of Gardendale visited over the week end with Mr. and Mrs. William Higginbotham.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Doss and family and Mrs. May Doss of Birmingham visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Burns of Cullman visited Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sapp.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dean visited Coy Dean in the Veterans' Hospital in Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Shelton visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cone.

A/1c and Mrs. Harold Dean and children of Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, were guests Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. Odis Jackson and Bobby.

WEST ELEMENTARY PARK

West Elementary Park was really jumping last week with various events. The youths in the park enjoyed free ice cream on Wednesday, June 21. The first 50 received the ice cream.

In the field events last Tuesday in the one-half mile run winners were: boys, first, Jughead Johnson; second, Reuben Tolbert; third, Rickie Swafford. Boys, 50-yard dash, first, Michael Tolbert; second, Randy Henry; third, Butch Johnson.

Winners in the girls' one-half mile run were: first, Janice Swafford; second, Marjorie Swafford.

In the coloring contest Janice Swafford took first place and her sister Marjorie Swafford, took second place, and Betty Faye Henry took third place.

A brand new camera will be given away Friday, June 28, at 10 a.m. In order to win the camera you must come by the park and register and be present at the drawing Friday.

Vinemont ZIP Code

ZIP Code, the Post Office Department's revolutionary new system of improved mail dispatch and delivery, goes into effect nationally on July 1st.

The five digit ZIP Code for Vinemont, Alabama is 35179, according to Postmaster Harry Tillery.

Everyone getting mail through this office should use the digits.

Cullmanites Now Call 11,000 Toll Free

Each time you lift the receiver of your telephone you command millions of dollars worth of electronic equipment, according to W. H. Sticher, local manager for Southern Bell Telephone Company.

Every main telephone which Southern Bell operates in Alabama represents an investment of nearly $660, and the cost of equipment needed to connect you with all the other phones in the country and the world is tremendous.

"We have about $311,000,000 invested in giving good telephone service. In the future, to provide all the communications needs of our state, this investment will likely continue to grow," Sticher said.

Why does it cost Southern Bell so much to provide you with telephone service? Part of the expense is readily seen in the complex, highly sophisticated electronic equipment of the telephone business. Here, too, is another reason:

To enable you to talk, separate wires have to be run to your house to connect you with other individual lines.

Each call is made-to-order, so to speak, and the service requires individual installation of equipment.

It would appear that the more customers the telephone company has, the lower the costs. This, though, is not so.

Unlike some other services, we cannot "plug in" additional telephone lines in the main cable. It takes a separate line for each telephone user.

In 1955 Cullman subscribers could call less than 5,000 telephones toll free and today they can call more than 11,000. However, rates have not changed during this period.

BENT CAN SALE
SATURDAY — 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
FIRST AVE. EAST — OLD APEL MACHINE SHOP
SWEET POTATOES
IRISH POTATOES
SOUP MIX
PEAS
BEANS
GREENS
$1.50 Per Case (24 CANS)
JOHN H. WHITE COMPANY
PHONE 734-1622

POET'S CORNER

In Between

By: Randy C. Hale



The birds and the wind move in the trees
The ground has many slithering things.
And I on top and in between,
walk the earth and dream.

I dream to fly from limb to limb.
And let the wind push up my wings.
If I were small as bugs or ants
I could explore the things I can't.

But I am not a bird that flies,
or tiny things that crawl.
I do not slither on the earth,
I'm not like that at all.

Yes in between these things am I
and only God knows reasons why.
I'm different from these things I see,
uniquely fashioned so to be.

Correction: In the Poet's Corner that ran April 25, 2026, "The Wild One" poem and photo should be credited to Makenzie Taylor.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JUNE 27

C O R G A N I Z A T I O N S N
R L H I D E S O S B D D F S O
U D A C L A M O A T E C R O F
E B L U E R Y A R N A O E L P
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W E B T I E V A S L A P P I T
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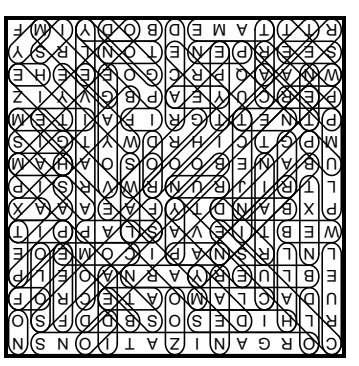
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Rid
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Run
Tyre
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Savage
See
Slap
Solo
Stamp
Tame
Tea
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Ton
Trap
Type
Tyre
Up
Voyage
Wave
Web
Went
Wet
Yarn
Yea
Zoo

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JUNE 27

	8	6		9				2
								5
		2			8	7	1	
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			2			5		
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ANSWERS:



3	5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9
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6	2	9	7	3	4	5	1	8
4	9	5	6	7	2	8	3	1
8	3	2	9	5	1	7	4	6
7	6	1	3	4	8	9	2	5
9	1	7	8	6	3	2	5	4
5	8	6	4	9	7	1	9	3
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Hanceville (from Front)

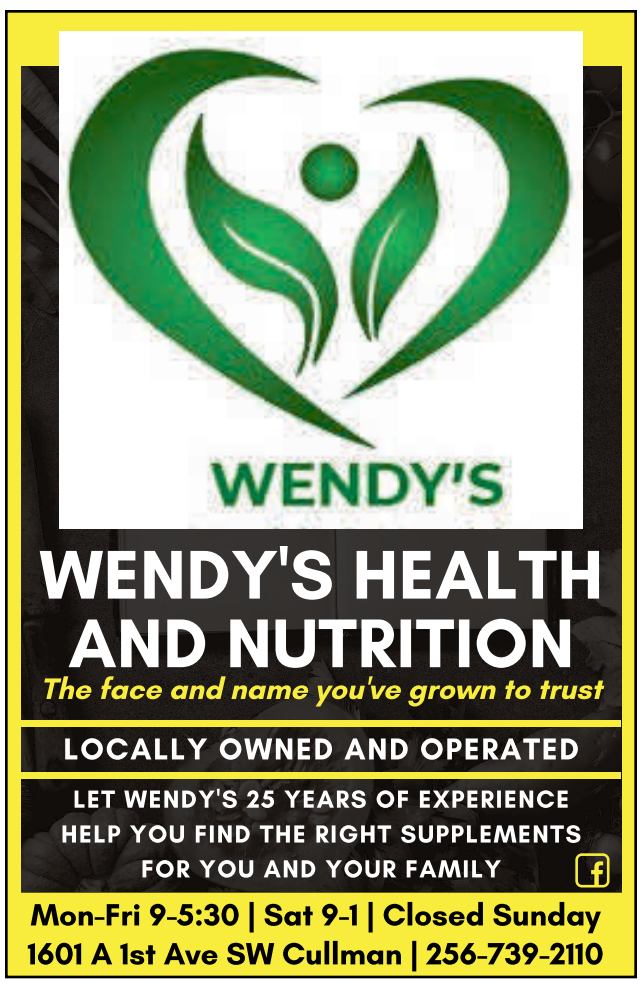
Rezoning

The council postponed a vote on Ordinance 2026-10, which would rezone property on Elm Street from R-1 to R-2. The decision was delayed after residents raised concerns about sewer access in the area.

Announcements

Hanceville's America 250 Celebration will be held Saturday, July 25, from noon-9 p.m. at C.W. Day Park. The event will feature food trucks, vendors, live music, a kids' zone and free pool access. Fireworks are scheduled to begin at 8:45 p.m.

The next Hanceville City Council work session and meeting will be held Thursday, July 9, at 6 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall.





Dogs (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Carlton Lenard Adams, of Bessemer and Adger, Alabama, was sentenced last month to 120 months in prison after pleading guilty in January to four counts of possessing dogs for fighting purposes and two counts of possessing firearms subsequent to a felony conviction. In addition to the prison sentence, the court on Friday, June 26, imposed a restitution of $548,449 for the costs of care of 78 pit bull-type dogs rescued in this investigation. At time of rescue, 78 dogs was the second-greatest number rescued from a single defendant in any federal case.

"This case demonstrates that the cruelty of dog fighting is not limited to the brutal injuries inflicted in the fighting pit," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Adam Gustafson of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD). "These animals suffer before, during and after the fights. We will continue to vigorously pursue Congress's mandate to snuff out this illegal industry."

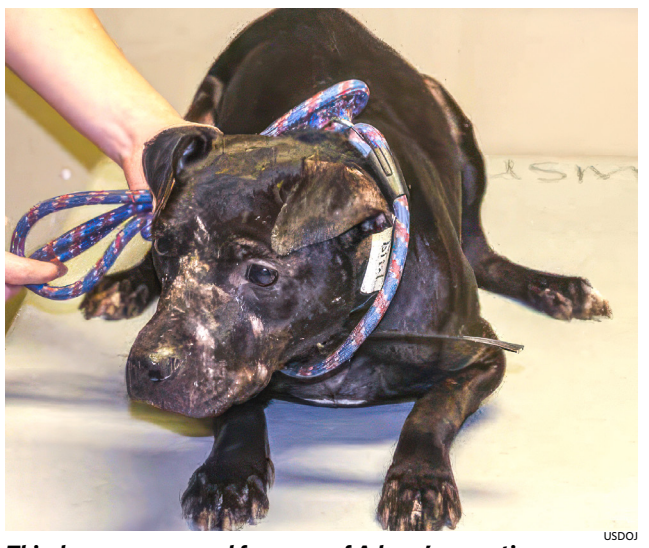
"This prior convicted violent felon is now off our streets. We will show no mercy to individuals in this District like Carlton Adams that torture animals for entertainment purposes," said U.S. Attorney Phillip W. Williams, Jr. "The Department of Justice has prioritized a whole-of-government approach to prosecuting crimes against animals, and we stand ready with our law enforcement partners to swiftly bring the full force of justice to bear."

"This case reflects the brutal reality of organized dog fighting operations and the appalling conditions these animals are forced to endure. It also exposes how dog fighting operations are often accompanied by broader criminal activity as evidenced by the presence of dangerous weapons such as the ones in the defendant's possession," said U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General John Walk. "USDA OIG will continue working aggressively with our federal, state and local partners to investigate animal fighting crimes and protect both public safety and animal welfare. We thank our partners in this case that helped bring this defendant to justice."

According to court documents, Adams maintained a stock of 78 fighting dogs at three properties — two in Bessemer, Alabama, and one in Adger, Alabama. When they were rescued, some of the dogs bore scars and other injuries, and some were living in conditions of extreme neglect. Adams was also found to possess two pistols and a semiautomatic shotgun, known colloquially as a "Street Sweeper." Under federal law, a Street Sweeper is considered a destructive device.

In addition to the dogs, guns and destructive device, law enforcement personnel also recovered from Adam's residences tools and supplies used in the training and keeping of dogs used for fighting. These items included modified treadmills to hold dogs in place for conditioning, injectable veterinary steroids, suture materials and syringes, skin staplers, intravenous bags and lines, a homemade breeding stand and a break stick device used to break the bite hold of a dog.

The dogs were rescued and cared for by a program administered by the U.S. Marshals Service. Following a separate, successful civil forfeiture action brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama, the dogs did not have to be returned to Adams. They were instead rehabilitated and evaluated for possible adoption.



USDOJ

This dog was recovered from one of Adams' properties. Photo was an exhibit in case United States v. Carlton Adams, No. 2:24-CR-00122, NDAL.

Under federal law, it is illegal not only to fight dogs in a venture that affects interstate commerce, but also to possess, train, transport, deliver, sell, purchase or receive dogs for fighting purposes.

The USDA OIG, FBI and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency investigated the case. Senior Trial Attorney Ethan Eddy of ENRD's Environmental Crimes Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan Rummage for the Northern District of Alabama prosecuted the case. Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Austin Shutt for the Northern District of Alabama handled the civil forfeiture case for the dogs.

Obituary Announcements: June 25-26

Debra Evelyn Burns, 64
Debra Evelyn Burns, 64, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2026. Born on Feb. 5, 1962, in Hueytown, Alabama, Debra lived a life marked by faith, compassion, and devotion to her family. She was a neonatal nurse for many years, dedicating her career to caring for some of life's most precious and vulnerable patients. Debra was a devoted mother and grandmother who deeply loved her family. She found joy in spending time with those she loved, tending her garden, and visiting the beach, which always held a special place in her heart. Above all, she loved the Lord and held firmly to her Christian faith throughout her life. Those who knew Debra will remember her caring heart, her love for her family, and the quiet strength that carried her through life's joys and challenges. Her legacy lives on in the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild she cherished so deeply. She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her children, Christy Burns, Jonathan Burns, Benjamin Burns (Holly), and Mary Burns; her grandchildren, Nicky Shipp (Christy) and her great-granddaughter Winry Shipp, Everly Alston (Christy), Jager Burns (Jonathan), Blake Barnett (Mary), Mason Croy (Mary), Caylee Burns (Benjamin and Holly), Tenley Burns (Benjamin and Holly), and Isabella Burns (Benjamin and Holly); her brother, Derrill Dunkling; and her niece, Shea Hartley, and nephew, Heath Laney, who were both like siblings to the family. A private cremation will take place. A Celebration of Life service is planned for September 2026, with details to be announced at a later date. The family appreciates the thoughts, prayers, and support extended to them during this time.

Rebecca Morris Eakin, 77
Rebecca Huddleston Morris Eakin was born on Oct. 15, 1948, in Alabama. On June 24, 2026, she peacefully passed away at Folsom Center, leaving behind a lasting legacy of love, kindness, and dedication to her family. Rebecca's journey through life was characterized by her unwavering devotion to those she held dear. The beloved daughter of Charlie and Wavoline Talley Huddleston, both of whom preceded her in death, Rebecca carried forward the values and warmth instilled in her from an early age. Her gentle spirit endeared her to friends and family alike, and she was always known for her compassion and strength. She shared her life and love with two husbands, Steve Eakin and Tommy Jones, both of whom have also passed from this life but remain significant parts of the story of her heart. Rebecca's family grew around her, and her ability to foster close and loving relationships was evident in each generation that followed. She enjoyed her art, drawing, stained glass work, water and boating. She attended Baileyton Methodist Church. Rebecca is survived by her devoted daughter, Kandy Widner, and son-in-law, Richard Widner. She was a cherished sister to Diann White. Rebecca's nurturing influence extended to her grandchildren: Johnathan Ralph, Elizabeth Ralph, Andrew Knop, and Bailey Knop, each of whom knew her as a steady source of encouragement and affection. Her role as a great-grandmother brought her immense pride and happiness, and she took delight in the company of Kensley, Karoline, Olivia Ralph, Langston, and Callie Knop, her adored great-grandchildren. Rebecca Morris Eakin's memory will be cherished always, and her legacy continues through her loving family. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Billy Joe Jackson, 70
Billy Joe Jackson, 70, of Cullman, Alabama, was born July 5, 1955, in Cullman, Alabama, and passed away June 21, 2026. Billy Joe will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude for a life rooted in family and community, and for the steady presence he held in the lives of those he loved Billy is survived by his son, Brandon Jackson (Aimee); his brother, Winford Coy Jackson (Jean); his grandchildren, Dameon, Immanuel, Raven and Hezekiah Jackson; and a host of Cousins, Nieces and Nephews. Billy was preceded in death by his parents, James Coy and Hazel Marie Allred Jackson: his sister, Doris Linda Flack: and his brother, Don Windle Jackson. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on June 26, 2026, from 5-8 p.m. A celebration of life funeral service will be held in the chapel at 11 a.m. June 27, 2026. A graveside committal service will be held at Bethsadia Baptist Church Cemetery, 1445 County Road 421, Cullman, AL 35057, on June 27, 2026, at noon.

Gary Lee Lasdon, 72
Gary Lee Lasdon, born on Nov. 27, 1953, in California, passed away in Cullman, Alabama, on June 24, 2026. He was 72 years old. Gary's life was marked by warmth, loyalty, and deep devotion to his family and friends. He loved to help people and could find the resources to do so. He loved history, political science and politics and was a very intelligent person. Gary was a drummer in his younger years and he loved to make people laugh. Gary is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Teresa Lasdon, who was his steadfast partner and friend. Gary and Teresa built a life together grounded in mutual respect, kindness, and shared joys. He is also survived by his brother, Steve Lasdon, and his sister-in-law, Alicia; his sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, family and friends and his beloved Je T'aime aka Fluffy Puppy. Among those who went before him are his beloved mother-in-law, Jean Sellers, and father-in-law, Leon Sellers, both of whom held a cherished place in Gary's heart and also his beloved sister, Nancy DeLillio. Gary's journey through life was enriched by his relationships and the steadfast commitment he showed to those he loved. Throughout his years, he was known for his gentle presence, his ability to listen, and his profound respect for others. Gary's legacy lives on in the hearts of his surviving family, who remember a man of integrity, quiet strength, and generous spirit. A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor on July 5, 2026, from 2-3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Family and friends will gather to remember and pay tribute to the enduring influence Gary had on their lives. Gary Lee Lasdon's life will be remembered and he will be deeply missed and forever cherished. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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