HEATING & AIR LLC
CULLMAN
Cullman
HEATING AND AIR
MONDAY–FRIDAY: 7AM–7PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 7AM–12PM
1761 US HWY 278 WEST
CULLMAN, AL 35057
256-747-6050

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 153 • 50¢ PER COPY | *TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 81

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



TRIBUNE.STORE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Winford Charles Gregory, Timmy Lemark Hines, Patsy Jo Wilson, Allen Theron McSwain, Kitty Karla McClendon

» PAGE 7

WEATHER

88 70

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

CHANCE T-STORMS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3



ADDISON VOGELAAR

— SPORTS —

Cullman's Addison Vogelaar discusses her faith, life-changing trip to Guatemala, religious influences

» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

Records show Cullman Police Department's Flock camera system expanded as retention policy changed

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Flock Series: Part 1

CULLMAN, Ala. — Public records obtained by The Cullman Tribune show the Cullman Police Department's automated license plate reader (ALPR) system has expanded over several years, while the department's current policy allows captured data to be retained longer than the 30-day period listed in the original Flock Safety order form.

The Cullman Tribune obtained documents through open records requests for this article.

This is the first in a three-part series by The Tribune examining public records, policies and agency responses related to Flock Safety ALPR cameras in the Cullman area. This article focuses on the Cullman Police Department. Later articles will focus on Hanceville, Wallace State Community College and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

Cullman City Council President Kim Hall said the city views the technology as a public safety tool while also recognizing the importance of public trust.

"Advanced technological tools are available for law enforcement to provide for the public safety of our community, citi- » PAGE 8

Dripping Springs DAR dedicates Minuteman statue at Veterans Memorial Park



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on Friday, July 3, 2026, dedicated a Minuteman statue and memorial at Veterans Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake Park in Cullman.

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on Friday, July 3, dedicated a Minuteman statue and memorial at Veterans Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake Park. The event was a celebration of America 250.

The City of Cullman posted, in gratitude, "The monument honors the American Revolutionary War patriots who sacrificed their lives and fortunes for the principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity, helping establish a government "of the people, by the people, and for » PAGE 5

Alabama Strawberry Festival named 'Alabama's Best Music Festival' by Alabama Magazine



CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

Russell Dickerson performs at the 2025 Alabama Strawberry Festival. » PAGE 5

Smith Lake Park celebrates America 250 and 4th of July



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Tyler Phillips, Kyle Taylor and Roger Mixson » PAGE 5

Call for volunteers: Help Hanceville celebrate America 250



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

From noon-9 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, C.W. Day Park will be transformed into a bustling hub of patriotism, family fun and community spirit for the Hanceville America 250 Community Celebration. » PAGE 3



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 6

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 6, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 2
- trespassing; CR 421

July 3
- menacing; CR 1592
- harassment; Holly Pond Rd.
- assault; CR 1592
- possession of marijuana; CR 386
- harassment; CR 522
- harassment; 5th St. SW Garden City
- theft of property; CR 1291
- assault; CR 522

July 4
- harassing communications; Industrial Park Rd.
- menacing; CR 384
- domestic violence; CR 1386
- criminal mischief; CR 1223
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; obstructing governmental operations; CR 596
- trespassing; Hwy. 67
- theft of property; CR 1614
- domestic violence; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 518
- domestic violence; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 436
- violation of protection order; CR 1332
- burglary; Hwy. 69N
- stalking; Hwy. 157
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 278E

July 5
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 233
- trespassing; CR 1605
- menacing; CR 895
- permitting livestock and dogs to run at large; CR 447

ARRESTS

July 2-5

Bazzell, Hunter S.; 22
- public intoxication
- disorderly conduct

Branum, Anna M.; 32
- DUI (alcohol)

Cobb, Kimbley M.; 20
- assault-aggravated assault-a to m aggravated assault (attempted murder)
- discharging firearm into unoccupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile, truck, or watercraft

Cooper, Cody B.; 34
- FTA – forgery-counterfeiting
- FTA – forged instrument

Copeland, Christain D.; 41
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Cunningham, Kayden C.; 19
- minor in possession of alcohol
- public intoxication

Engel, Roger D.; 50
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

Fillmore, John W.; 53
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Ford, Jamie A.; 43
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- FTA – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card

Fulton, Brandon K.; 42
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – failure to register vehicle
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Givens, Malynda J.; 55
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- GJ – auto theft
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – leaving the scene of an accident-death or person injury

Grant, Tressie A.; 59
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Harbin, Jarrod W.; 48
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs
- obstruction-governmental operations
- DUI (alcohol)

Harland, James B.; 60
- auto theft

Herron, Jason E.; 50
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone

Hughes, Michael D.; 20
- assault-aggravated assault-a to m aggravated assault (attempted murder)
- discharging firearm into unoccupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile, truck, or watercraft

Hyde, Logan B.; 26
- GJ – sex offense-juvenile sex offender - violation of community notification and/or residence restriction

James, Matthew S.; 35
- PROBATION VIOLATION – resisting arrest
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession stolen property

Johnson, James R.; 58
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs
- PROBATION VIOLATION – sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft-pickpocket, $500-less than $1500

Laney, Brandon C.; 30
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft-pickpocket, $500-less than $1500

Marler, David A.; 48
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Martz, Koltin C.; 25
- public intoxication

Nelson, Michael A.; 28
- FTA – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (no theft or damage)
- FTA – fraudulent use credit/debit card
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Self, Amber L.; 41
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Spain, Micah L.; 27
- public intoxication

Sparks, Felicia G.; 40
- public intoxication

Ward, Wesley S.; 47
- FTA – drive thru traffic control device
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – failure to register vehicle
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Young, Jimmy L.; 54
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

July 1
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damage to '25 Toyota Tacoma; $1,500; CR 1601

July 2
- harassment; person; 1st Ave. NE
- theft of property-4th degree; person; cash; $350

July 3
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges
- theft of property-3rd degree; Harbor Freight; generator, tools; $850; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $31; Olive St. SW

July 4
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $484; Olive St. SW
- harassment; person; Dripping Springs Rd. NW

ARRESTS

July 2-4

Thomas, Wesley D.; 48
- GJ – possessing forged instrument-4th degree

Parker, Jordan B.; 31
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Busby, Karen J.; 44
- theft of property-4th degree

Wilkins, Toby A.; 52
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while revoked
- FTA – switched tag

Cofield, Joseph C.; 37
- FTA – fail to yield

Sandlin, Mary A.; 69
- DUI

Wiles, Kimberly L.; 42
- trafficking
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- fugitive from justice

Bowden, Annie M.; 26
- theft of property-4th degree

McNair, Adam T.; 36
- DUI (combined substance)
- reckless endangerment

Smith, Jefferey W.; 37
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA – fail to signal

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY

COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Tiny pest, big problem: Researchers take on tomato virus outbreak

Kacey Watson
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — When carefully inspecting produce, many consumers look for visible, physical imperfections like blemishes or bruises. Meanwhile, out in the fields, horticultural researchers focus on issues shoppers cannot see, like thrips. These pests get beneath the surface of produce while it is growing and pack a serious punch.

In 2020, a major outbreak of tomato spotted wilt virus — a thrips transmitted virus — was reported in the Chandler Mountain region of northeast Alabama. That region produces a large percentage of Alabama's tomatoes, so employees of Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University moved quickly to study the spread.

Paulo Gimenez Cremonez is a specialist with Alabama Extension at Auburn University and an assistant professor of entomology and plant pathology with the Auburn College of Agriculture. His research focuses on fruit and vegetable production and integrated pest management. With his work through the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Cremonez is tackling thrips pressure in tomatoes.

"There have been occasional outbreaks of this virus over the last few years," Cremonez said. "Planting resistant varieties is currently our best response, along with strategic management."

A closer look

Tomato spotted wilt virus is not a fungus or bacterium. Instead, it is a virus that infects hundreds of plant species. The virus is mainly spread by western flower thrips, among other thrips species, which are barely visible to the naked eye.

Thrips act as vectors by picking up the virus and transmitting it to uninfected plants. Once acquiring the virus in their larval stage, the thrips carry and spread it for the rest of their lives.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 64% of Alabama's tomato production is within St. Clair and Blount counties. From 2020 to 2025, there have been three major outbreaks of tomato spotted wilt virus in the state, effectively disrupting production. These outbreaks resulted in major losses for Alabama tomato producers over the last two growing seasons.

Seeing the need for action, Cremonez proposed a specialty crop research project with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This multistate project uses research and Extension outreach to help growers in Alabama and the Southeast manage outbreaks and reduce the risk of future spread. Cremonez said an active monitoring and scouting plan is the first line of defense against thrips.

"Preventative management is vital," Cremonez said. "The tools in our toolbox — biological and cultural control, incorporation of reflective mulch, surveying, resistant varieties, trapping and weed control — all help growers protect their tomatoes."

Mapping detection

For early detection, growers can incorporate blue sticky traps to catch early movement. This also helps with timing insecticide applications and identifying hot spots in fields. Tomato spotted wilt virus symptoms emerge after infection, but thrips usually show up on sticky traps before symptoms become obvious.

Early signs of damage include stunted growth, bronzing, ring spots, necrosis and deformed fruit — indicators that a biological culprit may be at work. By the time these symptoms appear, the issue is already established, which is why early scouting and trapping is important.

Even though tomato is in the name, other fruits and vegetables are vulnerable to tomato spotted wilt virus. Eggplant, lettuce, peanuts, peppers and potatoes are all susceptible. Even some ornamentals, like impatiens and begonias, act as hosts and spread the virus.

While this virus is concerning because of its longevity and spread, researchers are using management tactics to help mitigate its impact. From rotation to insecticides, the team is trying a variety of methods to analyze outcomes.

"We're seeing moderate-to-high efficacy with one of the newest chemistries, Incipio from Syngenta. It has a long residual and, so far, has performed very well on thrips, whiteflies and even caterpillars," Cremonez said. "We'll keep testing both old and new insecticides to find what's most beneficial and cost-effective for our growers. New options also allow for better rotation schemes, which are important for managing insecticide resistance."

Expanding efforts regionally

Cremonez is not limiting this project to the state. He said he hopes that this research will provide guidance to growers across the Southeast.

"Currently, the Southeast does not have a coordinated stakeholder-driven roadmap for addressing this problem across states," he said.

"Growers need better information on how resistance-breaking affects production, which management gaps are most urgent and what tools are needed to support decisions."

With this initiative, Cremonez and collaborators will provide research and Extension outputs including advisory board discussions, Extension events, grower visits, listening sessions, needs assessments, online communication, regional meetings and scouting guides and surveys.

To share practical advice on scouting and monitoring, Cremonez created a video about thrips and tomato spotted wilt virus. It is available on Alabama Extension's YouTube channel at YouTube.com/@AlabamaExtension.

Call for volunteers: Help Hanceville celebrate America 250

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville will celebrate America 250 on Saturday, July 25, and the city needs your help to make it an unforgettable success.

From noon-9 p.m. that day, C.W. Day Park will be transformed into a bustling hub of patriotism, family fun and community spirit for the Hanceville America 250 Community Celebration. Organizing a milestone event of this scale takes a village, and the City of Hanceville is officially calling on dedicated community members to step up and volunteer.

Whether you're looking to give back, earn community service hours or simply be at the heart of the action, there is a role for everyone.

Where help is needed
Volunteers are the engine that will keep this celebration running smoothly. The city is looking for assistance in a variety of areas, including:

- Family and fun zones: Supervise and bring joy to the Kid Zone and Chalk Zone (operating under the direction of a city employee supervisor)
- Logistics: Assist with vendor check-in and staffing the main information table
- General operations: Provide general event support throughout the day, evening support and assist with the crucial post-event clean-up

Volunteer requirements
To ensure a safe, welcoming and organized environment for all attendees, the city has established a few basic guidelines for volunteers:

- Age limit: Volunteers must be at least 16 years old
- For teens (Ages 16-17): A parent or guardian's information and signature are required
- Documentation: All applicants must complete an official volunteer sign-up form and provide a copy of a valid photo ID
- Safety first: All volunteers must strictly adhere to the City's event safety rules

How to sign up
Don't wait until the last minute! The official deadline to submit your volunteer form is Friday, July 17, 2026. While late submissions might be considered if additional help is required, early registration ensures you get your preferred slot.

Volunteer forms are available now at city hall.

Contact information
Have questions or need more details? Reach out to the event coordinators directly:

- David Wasilewski: Email dwasilewski@cityofhanceville.net or call 256-735-6549
- Garrett Gilliland: Email ggilliland@cityofhanceville.net or call 256-595-7763

C.W. Day Park is located at 100 Michelle St. NW, Hanceville, AL, 35077.

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS
SFTWI
PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
•• Wednesday, July 8 – 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 10 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Special guest – The Lovelady Center
• Sunday, July 12 – 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.
• 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! Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information contact the Guy Hunt Library at 256-796-5226, or guyhuntlibrary@gmail.com.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Summer Revival
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.

America 250 Genealogy Workshop
Thursday, July 9, 1-3 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at the Traditions Bank Annex, 109 Second Ave. NW. Open to the public. Bring your laptop if you wish. Sponsored by Dripping Springs Chapter DAR.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

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.

Cullman Eagle Forum Movie
Monday, July 27, at 6 p.m. We will be showing the movie "A Great Awakening" at the VFW located at 112 Veterans Dr. SW, Cullman. https://alabamaeagle.org/event/movie-showing-the-great-awakening-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



Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden FAMILY PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

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

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

FAITH

Cullman's Addison Vogelaar discusses her faith, life-changing trip to Guatemala, religious influences

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's Addison Vogelaar will be a senior next month, and God has been for her every step of the way. A mission trip to Guatemala completely changed her perspective on life.

"God means so much to me. He has been such a constant presence in my life. He gives me peace when I step on the racing line, and He gives me the strength to cross the finish line. No matter the outcome of the race or the challenges I face, I know He's always with me, guiding me, giving me confidence, and reminding me to trust His plan for my life," Vogelaar said.

"God has changed my life in tremendous ways. I just came back from a mission trip to Guatemala not too long ago, and in just one week, He has changed my perspective on life. I met children who were little, yet they were some of the happiest and most joyful people I've ever seen. They were incredibly thankful for something as small as a piece of candy, while we often get caught up in wanting more and focusing on what we don't have. Many of these families lived in mud homes with bamboo roofs, and some children went home not knowing if they would have food to eat, yet they still had joy and gratitude. That experience opened my eyes to how blessed I truly am. God used that trip to teach me to be more grateful, less focused on material things, and more about serving others."

Addison added, "The people there have so little, yet they are huge in their faith. Experiencing what a third-world country is like and then coming back home with all the luxuries is eye-opening. It was sad to leave the kids behind knowing what they go through every day. While we go there to serve, they truly impact us more than what they think."

A certain Bible verse and song has had a huge impact on Addison's life, and she wants to use that experience as motivation to help people of all ages find God.

"My favorite Bible verse is, 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters' (Colossians 3:23). This verse has had a huge impact on my life, because it reminds me to give my best effort in everything I do, whether it's school, sports, serving others, or every day tasks. It teaches me that my worth is not found in the approval of other people but in honoring God. When I become discouraged or feel like my efforts go unnoticed, this verse reminds me that I am ultimately working for Him. It encourages me to work with purpose and integrity, knowing that even the smallest things I do can glorify God. My favorite song would have to be 'At The Altar.' This song is about coming to Jesus as you are and surrendering everything. You don't have to clean yourself up to go to Him, but He invites you in, so He can change you. I think this song has changed my life, because I know I'm not perfect, and I can go to Him at any point in my life, whether I'm in a deep hole or the happiest part of my life." Vogelaar said.

Addison added, "Helping people of all ages find God is important to me, because I truly believe it's never too late to seek Him. God meets people wherever they are in life, and no one is ever too old or young to experience His love. I want others to know that no matter their age or past, they can still find hope, purpose, and a relationship with Him."

Addison wants to be that kind of role model for younger kids, and two role models have played a huge part in helping her become the person that she is today.

"I believe it is very important to share the love of Christ, because we are called to do so. I feel like as time goes on, many people, especially the younger generation, seem to drift farther from God, and become influenced by the world's culture. By showing them the goodness and love of God, I hope it creates an impact on their life," she said.

"My two role models are definitely my cross-country/track coach, Trent Dean, and my youth pastor, BJ Shelton. They have had a huge impact on my life. I have been running for coach Dean for six years. He doesn't only teach us how to become better runners; he teaches us how to become better people.

"Many times during practice, he connects what we are doing to lessons from the Bible. Whether it's perseverance, discipline, or trusting God's plan, he constantly reminds us that our character matters more than our accomplishments. At first, they seemed like simple lessons, but over the years, I realized they were shaping the way I view life, faith, and hard work."

Addison added, "BJ has had a huge impact on my life as well. I have been going to Wednesday nights at First Baptist for over a year, and during that time, he has shown me what it truly means to live out your faith. From the moment I started attending, he made me feel welcomed and loved, and he does the same for everyone who walks through the doors. His lessons have challenged me to grow closer to God and think differently about how I live my life. Watching the way he loves everyone so intentionally has taught me the importance of showing Christ's love to others and making everyone feel valued."

She gave people some advice when it comes to having that kind of relationship with Jesus Christ, and faith has played a huge part in helping the cross-country/track team get even closer on and off the track.

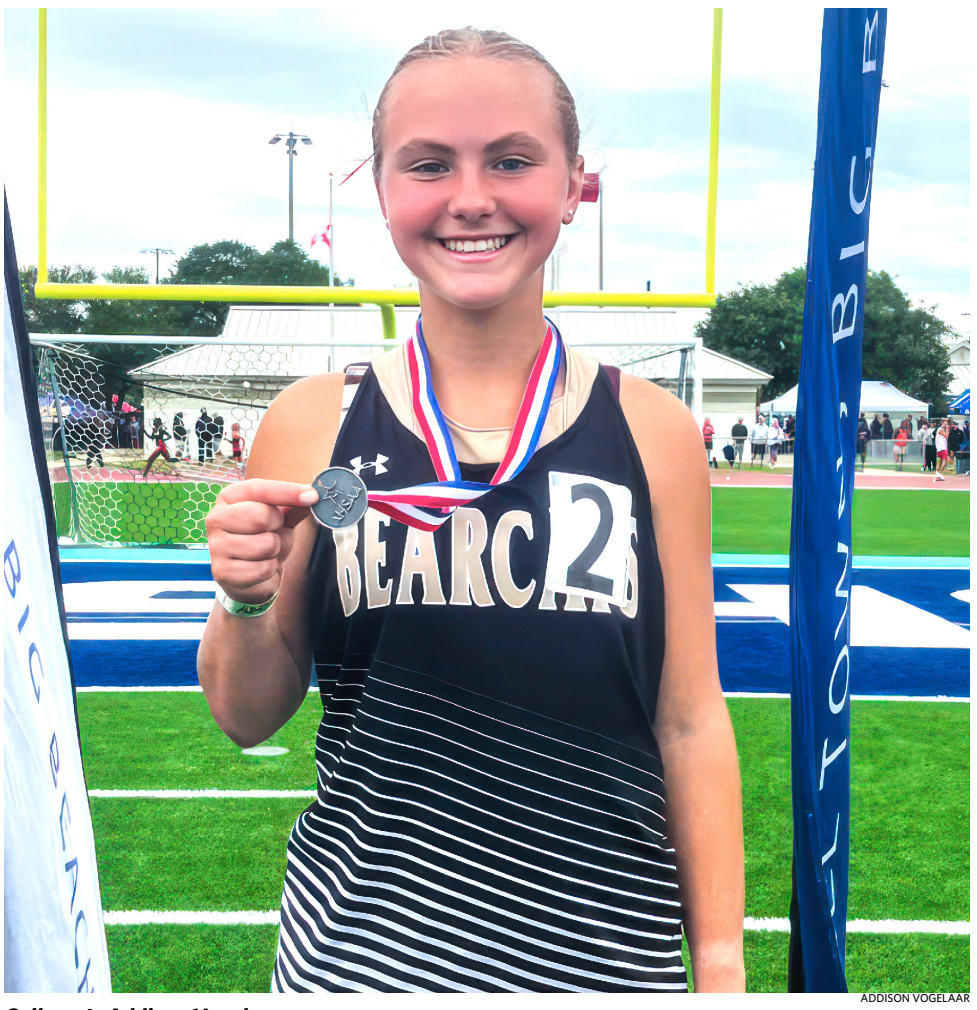
"My advice would be to keep seeking, and don't give up. A relationship with God grows over time, and if you surround yourself with Godly people, it will have an impact. Just focus on Him and His plan," she said.

"My teammates are truly amazing. We go through some very difficult workouts together. We stay determined and disciplined, so that each one of us can become successful. We like to use the quote from the Bible, 'Iron sharpens iron,' because if we are all out there suffering, we only get stronger. At the same time, though, we go through the 'runners high' runs, so we experience all the highs and lows together."

Addison added, "I started attending First Baptist, because my teammate's dad is the pastor, and two of my other teammates went there as well. After going for a while, we decided to invite the rest of my team. Almost our entire team was showing up every Wednesday night. We got to worship together and grow in faith. Being in church together, we all became incredibly close, and we still continue to attend."

She has taken away a very important thing during her walk with Christ.

"The biggest thing I've learned during my walk with God is to trust Him. Even when I don't understand what happening, He always has a plan, He is always faithful, and I know I can trust in it."



ADDISON VOGELAAR

Cullman's Addison Vogelaar





WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

Warehouse Discount Groceries
5754 AL- Hwy 157 North
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4310

Warehouse Discount Groceries
1615 Town Square S W
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4380

Warehouse Discount Groceries
780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL 35077
256•352•6245

We Welcome Food Stamp Shoppers & W.I.C. Vouchers Accepted

Prices Effective - Wednesday, July 8 through Tuesday, July 14, 2026

SUMMER PICNIC

T- BONE STEAKS
Beef
Family Pack
$6.99 LB.



WHOLE PORK LOINS
Boneless
$1.99 LB.



SEEDLESS GRAPES
White, Red or Black
California Grown
$1.99 LB.



IDAHO POTATOES
U.S. #1
8 Lb. Bag
$2.49 EA.



CRYSTAL GEYSER SPRING WATER
32 Pk.
16.9 Oz. Bottles
3 for $12



CAPRI SUN JUICE DRINK
10 Pk.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



FOOD CLUB VEGETABLES
14-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
88¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB SUGAR
4 Lb. Bag
$2.88 EA.



FOOD CLUB COOKING OIL
40 Oz. Canola
or Vegetable
2 for $5



TOTINO'S PARTY PIZZA
9-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL



Product Availability May Vary • Good Only While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Not Responsible For Typographical Errors • No Sales To Dealers At These Prices



GROUND ROUND
Fresh 85% Lean
Family Pack
$5.99 LB.



SIRLOIN TIP ROAST
Beef
$6.99 LB.



T-BONE STEAK
Beef
Family Pack
$12.99 LB.



COOK'S SHANK PORTION HAM
Hickory Smoked
$1.79 LB.



CATFISH FILLET PORTIONS
2 Lb.
USA
$8.99 EA.



PRAIRIE FRESH PORK TENDERS OR FILETS
18.4-22 Oz. Marinated
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



BREADED CHICKEN TENDERS
2 Lb.
Restaurant Quality
$4.99 EA.



TENNESSEE PRIDE SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild, Hot or Sage
$4.29 EA.



HORMEL BLACK LABEL BACON
1 Lb.
Regular or Thick
$5.69 EA.



LIL BUTCHER SHOPPE SMOKED SAUSAGE
14 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



BRYAN BOLOGNA
12 Oz.
Regular or Thick
$1.79 EA.



CLAUSSEN PICKLES
24-32 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



BRYAN BACON
12 Oz.
Regular or Thick
$3.89 EA.



BRYAN HAM OR TURKEY
10 Oz., 4x6 Pkg.
Selected Varieties
$2.99 EA.



HORMEL SIDES
19-20 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



CALIFORNIA NAVELS
4 Lb. Bag
Sweet Seedless
$3.99 EA.



YELLOW ONIONS
3 Lb. Bag
Good for Cooking
$2.69 EA.



TOMATOES ON THE VINE
Hothouse
Grown
$2.29 LB.



DOLE SALADS
Bag Spring Mix
or Baby Spinach
$2.99 EA.



BROCCOLI CROWNS
Great Source
of Fiber
$1.99 LB.



PILLSBURY GRANDS! OR SWEET OR CRESCENT ROLLS
8 Ct.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



FOOD CLUB CHEESE STICKS OR SNACK SQUARES
9-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



WIDE AWAKE CREAMER
32 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



TINA'S BREAKFAST OR BIG BURRITOS
or Chimichangas 4-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



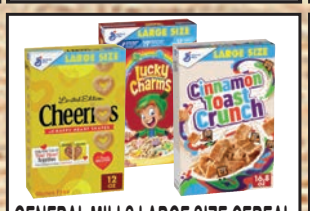
STOUFFER'S FAMILY SIZE ENTREES
32-40 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$8.99 EA.



HUNGRY-MAN DINNERS
14-16 Oz. Swanson
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



TOMBSTONE PIZZA
19-20 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $9



GENERAL MILLS LARGE SIZE CEREAL
16.7 Oz. Reese's Puffs, 16.8 Oz. Cinnamon Toast Crunch, 14.9 Oz. Lucky Charms, 16 Oz. Golden Grahams, 12-15 Oz. Cheerios Original, Honey Nut or Multigrain
$3.00 Ea. – $1.00 Off = **$2.00 EA.**
w/Digital Coupon Applied
• ON ONE ITEM •



KELLOGG'S POP•TARTS
20 Oz., 12 Ct.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



FOOD CLUB INSTANT OATMEAL
8-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



SPAM LUNCHEON MEAT
12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



VELVEETA SKILLETS
11.5-13.6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



RED GOLD TOMATOES
14-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



PRINGLES SNACK STACKS
12 Ct. Original, Cheddar or Sour Cream & Onion
$5.99 EA.



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



CHARKING CHARCOAL
15.4 Lb.
Original or Hickory
$5.99 EA.



PEPSI, MTN DEW, STARRY OR DR PEPPER
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
2 for $9



PEPSI, MTN DEW, STARRY OR DR PEPPER
10 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Mini Cans
2 for $10



PEPSI, MTN DEW, STARRY OR DR PEPPER
6 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Mini Cans
2 for $7



RUFFLES POTATO CHIPS
5.5-10.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

GOLDEN FLAKE CHEESE CURLS OR PUFFS
6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
3 for $5

GOLDEN FLAKE OR UTZ SNACKS
Barrels
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.

LEWIS BAKE SHOP BUNS
15 Oz., 8 Pk.
Burger or Hot Dog
2 for $5

BLUE BELL PRO ICE CREAM
Pint
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

BLUE BELL SHERBET
Quart
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

LITTLE DEBBIE OLD FASHIONED DONUTS
15.43 Oz. Big Packs
Original or Chocolate
2 for $9

CORONA, CORONA LIGHT OR MODELO
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$17.99 EA.

BUDWEISER OR BUD LIGHT
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$14.99 EA.

BAREFOOT WINE
750 mL Bottles
$6.49 EA.

CUPCAKE WINE
750 mL Bottles
Still
$8.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE HAM OFF THE BONE
Deli Sliced
$8.39 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE PROVOLONE CHEESE
Deli Sliced
$5.69 LB.

KENTUCKIAN GOLD DEEP FRIED TURKEY
Deli Sliced
$14.99 LB.

ANNA MARY'S POUND CAKE
42 Oz.
Assorted Flavors
$9.99 EA.

CLYDE'S VARIETY CAKE DONUTS
12 Ct.
$7.99 EA.

FRIED CHICKEN
Fresh 8 Piece
Bone-In
$8.99 EA.

Smith Lake Park (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Smith Lake Park hosted its annual 4th of July Fireworks Festival Saturday, following a week of stifling temperatures and heat warnings that persisted throughout the majority of the day. That didn't stop the festivities.

Several first responders were stationed at numerous areas around the park as the crowd grew to ensure the public remained safe.

Cooling tents were also set up for the public to stop and take breaks throughout their visit.

The event featured live music, a multitude of vendors, golf cart parades, a balloon toss and even rides on a Huey helicopter.

The 3Sixty Jeep Club is an organization that aims to bring communities together and provide for the less fortunate.

Members on-site told The Tribune that, to them, America as a whole and the Fourth of July are a celebration of the ultimate sacrifice.

Vendor Wade Miller said, "It's that one day a year where we get to stop fighting with each other and be Americans."

All agreed that the holiday went beyond fireworks and cooking on the grill.

This year was even more special, as it marked the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The celebration was capped off by a fireworks show over the water, a favorite annual tradition.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cooling off with Cool Shavings shaved ice



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

(Left to right) are Owen Alfano, Emily Wingo, Clarence Wingo, Oakley Alfano and Allison Wingo.

Statue (from Front)

the people." Thank you to the Dripping Springs Chapter, NSDAR, for this meaningful contribution to our community and for helping preserve and share the history of those who helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today."

This reporter's thoughts: Imagine waking up in the middle of the night to the sound of loud church bells ringing, drums beating and a rider shouting outside your window: "The British are coming!" What would you do? Pull the covers over your head?

If you lived in America 250 years ago, and you were a Minuteman, you would do something brave. You would jump out of bed, grab your gear and run out the door into the dark — ready to defend your town in just 60 seconds.

The Minutemen didn't wear fancy uniforms, and they weren't professional soldiers. They were regular people who decided to protect their families and their freedom.

Today, you can see a statue of a Minuteman holding a rifle in one hand and resting the other hand on a farm plow.

It reminds us that America was built by everyday people who were ready to step up when their country needed them most — in just one minute.

And that's exactly what you'll see when you wander the grounds of Veterans Memorial Park.

The right hand grips a musket, ready to fight. And the left hand rests upon a plow, showing that he was working the land just moments before the alarm sounded. The coat draped over the plow indicates he shed his civilian life in an instant to answer the call of duty

He is a standing reminder that the Minutemen proved that a community doesn't need a massive, professional army to be safe.

When people trust each other and work as a team, regular citizens can stand up to the biggest forces in the world.



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Roberta McClellan



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dr. Nancy Horton



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Julia Floyd

Festival (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama Strawberry Festival has been recognized as Alabama's Best Music Festival in the 2026 Best of Bama Awards by Alabama Magazine.

The Best of Bama Awards celebrate outstanding attractions, events, restaurants, businesses and destinations across Alabama, recognizing organizations and experiences that exemplify the very best the state has to offer.

"Held each April in downtown Cullman, the Alabama Strawberry Festival has grown into one of Alabama's premier destination events, blending nationally recognized entertainment with local agriculture, family-friendly attractions, artisan vendors, food and community traditions. In 2026, the festival welcomed nearly 70,000 guests from 35 states, demonstrating its growing reputation as both a statewide and regional tourism destination," said a media release announcing the award.

"Featuring nationally recognized artists, more than 125 vendors, carnival attractions, contests, agricultural traditions and family-friendly entertainment, the Alabama Strawberry Festival has become one of the Southeast's fastest-growing spring festivals while celebrating the agricultural heritage that inspired its creation."

"This recognition belongs to our entire community," said Nathan Anderson, executive director of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism. "Receiving this honor from Alabama Magazine is incredibly meaningful because it reflects what so many people have worked tirelessly to build.

"The Alabama Strawberry Festival has become much more than a weekend event. It has become an economic driver, a tourism asset and a source of tremendous community pride. Welcoming nearly 70,000 guests from 35 different states this year demonstrates that people aren't just coming for a concert — they're coming to experience Cullman. This recognition belongs to every volunteer, sponsor, employee, vendor, performer, public safety partner and community member who has helped make this festival one of Alabama's very best."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said the statewide recognition reflects years of intentional investment in creating experiences that strengthen the community while attracting visitors from across the country.

"The Alabama Strawberry Festival has become one of the signature events not only for Cullman, but for the entire State of Alabama," Jacobs said. "It showcases everything that makes our community special — our hospitality, our partnerships, our downtown and our commitment to creating experiences that improve quality of life while supporting local businesses and tourism. We're honored to receive this statewide recognition, and I couldn't be more proud of everyone who has helped make the Alabama Strawberry Festival such an incredible success."

Harmony Heard, executive director of Cullman Area Tourism, said the festival continues to elevate Cullman's reputation as one of Alabama's leading travel destinations.

"Tourism is about creating experiences that inspire people to visit, stay longer and return," Heard said. "When tens of thousands of vistors from 35 states choose Cullman for a weekend, the impact reaches every corner of our community — from our hotels and restaurants to our retail shops and local attractions. Recognition like this helps introduce even more travelers to everything Cullman has to offer and reinforces Cullman's reputation as one of Alabama's premier destinations."

Festival Manager Daniel Wyatt said the honor reflects the dedication of countless individuals who spend months preparing for the annual event.

"Every year we challenge ourselves to raise the bar," Wyatt said. "Whether it's securing outstanding entertainment, improving the guest experience, coordinating vendors or adding new attractions, our focus is creating an experience families want to come back to year after year.

"Being recognized as Alabama's Best Music Festival is incredibly rewarding because it reflects the experience our guests have helped us build together."

Since its inception, the Alabama Strawberry Festival has grown into one of Alabama's largest free festivals and an important economic driver for Cullman, generating increased visitation for local restaurants, retailers, hotels, attractions and small businesses while introducing thousands of first-time visitors to the community each spring.

With this recognition, the Alabama Strawberry Festival joins Cullman Christkindlmarkt among Alabama's most celebrated events. Earlier this summer, Cullman Christkindlmarkt was named the Alabama Tourism Department's 2026 Event of the Year, meaning two of Cullman's signature festivals have now received statewide recognition in 2026.

The next Alabama Strawberry Festival will be held in late April 2027 at Depot Park in historic downtown Cullman.



3 local students graduate from Ole Miss

Jacob Batte
Contributor

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — More than 3,800 students graduated from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in May 2026. Undergraduate and graduate candidates received degrees from the College of Liberal Arts, General Studies and schools of Accountancy, Applied Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Journalism and New Media, Law and Pharmacy.

Graduates included three local students:

• Anna Hulsey, of Cullman, AL, is one of the May 2026 graduates. Hulsey, who majored in Law Studies, received a Bachelor of Science in Law Studies from the School of Applied Sciences.

• Tanner Kilgo, of Bremen, AL, is one of the May 2026 graduates. Kilgo, who majored in Banking and Finance, received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the School of Business Administration.

• Krislyn Scroggins, of Cullman, AL, is one of the May 2026 graduates. Scroggins, who majored in Integrated Marketing Communications, received a Bachelor of Science from the School of Journalism and New Media.

"Our May 2026 graduates are distinguished by their commitment to academic excellence and are prepared to build legacies that began here at Ole Miss," UM Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. "Their impact on the world around them is already taking shape, and they have bright futures ahead."

May 2026 graduates were invited to walk across the stage at the University of Mississippi's 173rd Commencement exercises, which were held by individual colleges and schools May 7-9. The universitywide morning Convocation took place Saturday, May 9 in the Grove, with Brett Young, country music artist and former Ole Miss baseball pitcher, giving the keynote address.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business. Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action. Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss' main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country's best college towns.

VIRGIL B. FOWLER
Real Estate and Insurance
AGENCY
Quality Since 1935
734-3821
vbfowlerinsurance.com
Successors to
WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF: JARED LEE CURL & JAMIE ANN CURL — **CASE NUMBER: AD2025-046**

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PETITION

TO: PAUL A. JOHNSON, ALLEDGED FATHER AND ANY OTHER UNKNOWN FATHER OF A MINOR CHILD J.G.V.J., BORN JULY 25, 2020 TO TIFFANY DANIELLE WOODFIN
TIFFANY DANIELLE WOODFIN, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER OF A MINOR CHILD J.G.V.J., BORN JULY 25, 2020

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Jared Lee Curl and Jamie Ann Curl, Petitioners. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 200 2nd Avenue S.W., Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this 26th day of June 2026.

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

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Avenue Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-246-9600

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SUSAN CLUXTON RIX, Deceased. — CASE NO PC 2026-081

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO STAY PROCEEDINGS UNTIL HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH WILL ANNEXED

TO: JASON MURPHREE, JACKIE MURPHREE COUCH, NIKKI DALE WILBOURN and all known and unknown heirs of the estate of SUSAN CLUXTON RIX, deceased.

The Petition of Robert Cluxton to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Susan Cluxton Rix, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **22nd day of July, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, Judge of Probate Office, Room 101.

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

Done this the 22nd day of June, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Seth B. Thompson
Attorney for Petitioner
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ESTATE OF WILLIAM GLENN HIPP
AMBER NICOLE JOHNSON,
Plaintiff,
VS.
MARKS VIRGINA HIPP
HIPP SHANNON
HIPP JOEY
HIPP ONECIE ET AL,
Defendants.
CASE NO. CV-2023-900045.00

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 30 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order in the above-styled cause rendered by the Honorable Emily N. Johnson, Circuit Judge, on the 9th day of June, 2026, I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of the Cullman County, Alabama Circuit Court, shall on the 6th day of August, 2026 2:00 pm, proceed to sell at public auction the following described real estate on the front steps of the Cullman County, Alabama Courthouse at 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama for cash to the best, highest and last bidder:

Beginning at the intersection of he North line of SE 1/4 of NE 1/ 4 Section 13, T10S, R1W and the Westerly line of a public road. Thence N87 °-50' W° along the South boundary of a road or drive and a fence 360 feet/ Thence along a fence 360 feet. Thence along a fence and accepted property line S15°- 00'W 100 feet and S22°-00'W 215 feet to a point. Thence N89°-12'E 354 feet, more or less, to the Westerly boundary of a public road. Thence N20°-00'E along said boundary 295 feet to the point of beginning. Said land being in the SE 1/ 4 of NE 1/ 4, Section 13, T10S, R1W, Cullman County, Alabama and being 2.3 acres, more or less.

AND

The Northwest part of the Northwest 1/ 4 of the Northwest 1/ 4 of Section 14 and North part of Northeast 1/ 4 of the Northeast 1/ 4 of Section 15, all in Township 10, Range 1 East and more particularly described as follows to wit:- Commencing where the public road running by the former residence of Levi W. Hipp and H.Q. Smith leave the Summit and Blountsville public road; thence running West along the center of said road to where the line between Section 10 and 15 leave said road: thence running West with said line to the Northwest corner of the Northeast 1/ 4 of the Northeast 1/ 4 of Section 15 thence South to the land formerly owned by S. O. Hearn; thence East by South with the Northern boundary line of he said S.O. Hearn land to the said Blountsville and Summit public road; thence North with the center of said road to the beginning point, known as the Levi W. Hipp land where he died, and all of said land lying and being in Blount County, Alabama.

Done this 30th day of June, 2026

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Court Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage 106 13th Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055 to satisfy a lien on July 22, 2026, at Time 10:00 A.M. at Storagetreasures.com: Unit 717 Tiffany Morgan and Unit 916 Austin Gentry.

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of JOHN THRASHER, Deceased. — CASE NUMBER: PC2026-175

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary have been granted to SHEILA WHITLOCK, as the Executor on this 30th 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,
Attorney for The Estate of John Thrasher

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
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GEORGE CARROLL COLE, Deceased. — CASE NO PC 2026-091

NOTICE OF HEARING
VERIFIED MOTION TO SELL PERSONAL PROPERTY and MOTION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: AMANDA COLE, BROOKELYN COLE and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF GEORGE CARROLL COLE

Verified Motion to Sell Personal Property, filed by Deborah Kay Cole Busby, Administratrix, through Attorney Shay Persall, and *Motion for Service by Publication* filed by Shay Persall, Attorney, has been scheduled for the **22nd day of September, 2026, at 10:00 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 16th day of June, 2026.

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

. FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given

that LED SOLUTIONS, LLC
(Contractor Company Name)
Contractor, has completed the Contract for ☐(Construction) ☐(Renovation) ☐(Alteration) ☐(Equipment) ☒(Improvement) of *(Name of Project)*:
WEST POINT HIGH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LIGHTING INSTALLATION

at WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL
(Insert location data in County or City)
for the State of Alabama and the (County) (City) of CULLMAN COUNTY,
Owner(s), 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 notify
CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
402 ARNOLD STREET NE
CULLMAN, AL 35055
ATTN: WESLEY LANEY *(Architect / Engineer)*

LED SOLUTIONS, LLC
(Contractor)

1809 McCAIN PKWY
PELHAM, AL 35124
(Business Address)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-251

Filed in Probate Court, Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KENNETH RAFIE HOLLINS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

WJC

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Cynthia Hall 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.

Cynthia Hall
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

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-4721

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage 769 County Rd. 1435 Cullman, AL 35058 to satisfy a lien on July 22, 2026, at Time 10:00 A.M. at Storagetreasures.com : Unit 1231 Haley Layfield, Unit 1047 Steven Lovett

---

Notice of Sale

The contents of storage unit A2-Timothy Williams will be sold at 10:00 A.M. on August 1, 2026. West Point Mini Storage , 5677 Co.Rd. 1114, Vinemont, Alabama, 35179, 256-338-1759.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: LINDAN JEROME HILL, Deceased. — CASE NO. PC2025-263

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted ASHLEY HILL, as Administrator of the Estate of LINDAN JEROME HILL, deceased, on the 26th 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.

DONE this the 26th day of June, 2026.

Ashley Hill
Administrator

Dean R. Smith
Smith & Kilgo Law, LLC
421 Third Avenue SE
Post Office Box 156
Cullman, AL 35056

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BILLY JAMES SMITH, Deceased. — CASE NO.: PC 2025-377

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ASHLEY MARIE FULENWIDER SMITH as Personal Representative of the Estate of BILLY JAMES SMITH, deceased, on the 29th 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.

Ashley Marie Fulenwider Smith
Personal Representative

Andrew M. Herren
Attorney for Petitioner
Lowry, Herren & Cline
409 First Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FLOYD DYER, Deceased. — CASE NO.: PC2025-446

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL, AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL and OBJECTION TO THE ESTATE BY PAMELA DYER PIERCE

TO: SCOTT DYER and all Known and Unknown Heirs of the estate of FLOYD DYER, deceased.

The Petition of Pamela Dyer Pierce to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Floyd Dyer, deceased, has been set for hearing on **24th day of September, 2026, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown Judge of Probate, Room 101.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition if they see proper.

DONE this 22nd day of June, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Thomas E. Drake, II
Attorney for the Petitioner
419 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

EDITORIAL

Facebook is not a free-for-all

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

There is a dangerous misunderstanding on social media that needs to be addressed.

Just because something is posted on Facebook does not mean it is free to copy, paste, screenshot, crop, repost, monetize or pass off as your own.

Facebook is public-facing. It is not public property.

Every day, individuals, small businesses, photographers, media companies, designers, schools, churches, nonprofits and public officials post original content online.

That content may include photos, graphics, written posts, flyers, logos, videos and other creative work. Much of it may be protected by copyright, trademark or both.

Facebook's own intellectual property policies make that clear. Meta states that users may only post content on Facebook and Instagram that does not violate someone else's intellectual property rights.

In plain language, if you did not create it, do not own it, did not license it or did not receive permission to use it, you should not treat it as yours.

This does not mean basic facts are off limits. Facts cannot be copyrighted. A meeting date, a game score, an event time or the fact that something happened may be reported by anyone.

But the original words used to present those facts may be protected. The photo attached to the post may be protected. The flyer design, logo, graphic, headline, caption or video may be protected.

That is where too many people cross the line.

There is a difference between reporting information and stealing work.

A legitimate news outlet, business page, community organization or individual may use Facebook to inform the public.

That does not give a blog, page or person the right to lift the post word for word, grab the photo, crop out the logo, remove the credit and publish it somewhere else for clicks, shares, ad revenue or attention.

Giving credit is not the same as getting permission.

Writing "credit to the owner" does not cure infringement. Saying "no copyright intended" does not cure infringement. Finding the image on Facebook does not make it free.

The same is true for the phrase "fair use."

Fair use is real. It protects commentary, criticism, parody, education, research and news reporting in appropriate circumstances. But it is not a magic shield.

Under U.S. copyright law, fair use depends on four factors: the purpose and character of the use, the nature of the copyrighted work, the amount and importance of the portion used and the effect of the use on the market for the original work.

Commercial use matters. If a page or blog is making money from traffic, ads, sponsorships, subscriptions, boosted posts or engagement built on someone else's work, that can weigh against fair use.

So does the amount copied. Taking an entire photo, entire article, entire graphic or entire post is much harder to defend than using a limited portion for legitimate commentary or reporting.

So does market harm. If the copied work replaces the original, diverts readers away from the creator, weakens traffic, damages a brand or allows another page to profit from work it did not produce, that matters.

This is especially important for local journalism and small businesses.

Photos, reporters, designers and the time all costs money. A community newspaper, photographer, nonprofit or small business may spend hours creating work, only for another page to copy it in seconds and benefit from it.

That is not community service. That is taking.

The penalties can be serious. In copyright cases, a rights owner may be able to recover actual damages and profits tied to the infringement.

In applicable cases, statutory damages can range from $750 to $30,000 per infringed work.

If willful infringement is proven, that amount can rise as high as $150,000 per work. Courts may also award costs and attorney's fees in certain cases.

Trademark violations can also carry consequences, including recovery of profits, damages and costs. In some cases, courts may increase damages, and attorney's fees may be available.

Facebook and Instagram may also remove infringing content. Repeat intellectual property violations can lead to limits on posting, loss of features, account disablement or removal of a page.

This is not about stopping people from sharing public information. It is not about keeping community news quiet. It is not about silencing criticism.

It is about basic accountability.

If you want to share a post, use Facebook's share function when available. That keeps the content connected to the original source.

If you want to use a photo, graphic, article, flyer or video, ask permission.

If you want to quote from a story, quote only what is necessary, attribute it properly and direct readers to the original source.

If you want to report the same information, do your own work. Make calls. Confirm facts. Write your own copy. Use your own photos. Create your own graphics.

That is how honest publishing works.

If someone steals your content, document it immediately. Take screenshots. Save the link. Note the date and time. If it involves a business, organization, photographer, media outlet or individual creator, notify the original rights holder so that person or organization can decide whether to file a complaint.

Facebook's direct copyright complaint form is available here: www.facebook.com/help/contact/copyrightform

Facebook's direct trademark complaint form is available here: www.facebook.com/help/contact/trademarkform

Meta's intellectual property help center is available here: www.facebook.com/help/intellectual_property

Only the rights owner or an authorized representative should file an intellectual property complaint. False or misleading reports can also carry consequences, so complaints should be made carefully, truthfully and with documentation.

But when content is stolen, it should be reported.

Not ignored. Not excused. Not defended as "everybody does it."

The internet did not erase ownership. Facebook did not erase copyright. A screenshot did not erase permission.

If a community wants honest information, it must also respect the people who produce it.

Obituary Announcements: July 3-6

Winford Charles Gregory, 69
Winford Charles Gregory, born on Aug. 14, 1956, in Alabama, passed away peacefully on July 3, 2026, at Cullman Health Care. His departure left those who had the privilege of knowing him with fondness and gratitude. Though words cannot fully capture the impact of his presence or the depth of the loss felt by those who mourn him, Winford's memory lives on in the hearts of all who knew him. His legacy is carried forward through the recollections of friends, acquaintances, and all those whose lives were enriched by his kindness and sincerity. As we reflect upon Winford Charles Gregory's life, we honor his memory by remembering the way he loved people. He was always happy. He loved westerns and went around saying "pow pow" and jokingly shooting people. This is why his friends he loved at the nursing home called him by his nick name, 'pow pow'. Arrangements for services are respectfully noted as follows: His funeral will be Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Etha Cemetery, Jason Vinson officiating. The family will receive friends from 9-11 a.m. Winford was preceded in death by his parents, Willard Elmer and Imogene Lawrence Gregory; brother, Voyt Gregory; sisters, Judy Ramey, Brenda Reasonover. Survivors include his brothers, Willard Gregory, Jr., Paul David Gregory, Marvin Gregory, Kenny (Jamie) Gregory; sister, Juanita Jones; nieces, nephews, family and friends. May Winford's memory bring comfort and peace to those who grieve and may the example he set inspire others for years to come. Cullman Funeral Home is truly honored to serve the family during this time. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them Romans 8:28

Timmy Lemark Hines, 63
Funeral service for Timmy Lemark Hines, age 63 of Cullman, is Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Bro. Tim Aris officiating. Visitation will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Enon Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Timmy Lemark Hines, son of Willodean and Junior Hines of Cullman, Alabama, family of seven brothers, four sisters, one daughter, Keisha Hines McDonald, one son, David Wells, and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Patsy Jo Wilson, 74
Patsy Jo Wilson, age 74, passed on June 15, 2026; born May 11, 1952, of Cullman, Alabama. Patsy Jo was preceded in death by her parents, H.B. and Vola Adaline Ragsdale Wilson; her husband, Steven Wilson; and her sister, Melinda Ann Graves. She is survived by her brother, Harold Ray Graves. Patsy Jo will be remembered with respect and quiet gratitude by those who knew her and shared in the seasons of her life. A Celebration of Life Memorial Services will be held Sunday July 12, 2026, 2 p.m. at Pleasant View FCM Church. Burial will follow at Emeus Baptist Church Cemetery.

Allen Theron McSwain, 95
Allen Theron McSwain, age 95, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 2, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. After enjoying a long life blessed with remarkably good health, Allen's health declined following a sudden illness on March 25, 2026. Though physically and mentally strong throughout his life, he never fully recovered. His family finds comfort knowing that he is now healed and reunited with loved ones who have gone before him. Allen was born on March 24, 1931, to Thurman and Pearlie McSwain. On Nov. 6, 1949, he married the love of his life, Lexie Hancock McSwain, and together they shared 66 wonderful years of marriage until her passing in 2015. Their marriage was a beautiful example of faithfulness, love, and devotion. A hardworking provider, Allen dedicated many years to his career, working at HN Donahue and Lummus-Roberts in Birmingham, and at Good Hope Contracting and Sosebee Contracting in Cullman. He believed in honest work, taking care of his family, and living with integrity. Each year, he made it a priority to take his family on vacation, creating cherished memories that will be treasured for generations. More than anything, Allen was a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, and faithful Christian. He was a longtime member of Johnson Grove Church in Brushy Pond and later attended Church of Christ in Sundown. His faith guided his life, and he quietly demonstrated kindness, humility, and steadfast love to those around him. Allen was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lexie Hancock McSwain; his parents, Thurman and Pearlie McSwain; his daughter, Donna Allred Pitt; his son, Jerry Allen McSwain; and his grandson, Randy Allred. He is survived by his loving daughter, Judy Baker (Randy); his grandchildren, Dale Allred (Kimberly), Ronnie Allred (Holly), Keisha McSwain Hurt, and Ross Allen Baker; and fourteen great-grandchildren: Cody Allred, Shay Todd, Kyle Allred, Jaci Baker, Rhett Baker, Carson Baker, Austin Allred, Addison Allred, Payton Allred, Hannah Allred, Mason Allred, Braxton Hurt, Carson Hurt, and Lexi Hurt. He is also survived by his cherished great-great-grandchildren: Finley Allred, Noella Allred, Athena Todd, Rylie Todd, Felix Allred, Everett Allred, Aria Allred, Reese Allred, and Blair Allred. Allen's legacy is one of faith, hard work, unwavering love for his family, and quiet strength. He was truly blessed with a long and meaningful life, and those who knew him will forever remember his gentle spirit, dependable character, and the example he set for future generations. The family rejoices in the promise of eternal life and the assurance that Allen is now at peace in the presence of his Savior. I would also recommend adding a closing sentence that reflects Moss Service Funeral Home's style: The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered prayers, love, and support during this time. Allen's life was a testament to God's faithfulness, and his memory will forever be treasured by all who knew and loved him. A Celebration of Life Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Friday, July 10, 2026, from noon-2 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life Funeral Service at the same location on July 10, 2026, from 2-2:45 p.m. The Graveside Committal Service will take place at Johnson's Grove Cemetery, 275 County Road 151, Bremen, AL 35033, on July 10, 2026, from 3:30-3:45 p.m. To leave condolences for the family, please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Kitty Karla McClendon, 67
Kitty Karla McClendon, 67, passed away on July 4, 2026. Born on Feb. 13, 1959, in Clay, Alabama. She was the beloved daughter of Brice & Ruth McClendon. A devoted member of Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Kitty lived her faith through quiet acts of kindness and steadfast loyalty to the people she loved. She was a faithful friend, known for her remarkable dedication to remembering special dates and milestones. Through thoughtful cards and handwritten letters, she made sure others felt seen, celebrated and cared for. Kitty is survived by her brothers Kent (Denise) McClendon and Kelly (Esther) McClendon, and her sister Kay Gibbs. She is also survived by multiple nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother-in-law Lindsey Gibbs. A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 11, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m. Her generous heart, and the simple, meaningful ways she showed love will be deeply missed by all who had the blessing of knowing her. Her affinity for Alfred Hitchcock, Andy Griffith and Dachshunds' dogs will always be remembered.

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

CULLMAN'S ON-SITE STATE OF THE ART CREMATORY NOW OPEN
DIRECT CREMATION $1,695 | NO HIDDEN COSTS

100% Locally Owned & Operated by Steve and Hilda Rodgers

(256) 734-3144
461 U.S. Highway 278 East
Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 7, 2026

South Vinemont celebrates Fourth of July

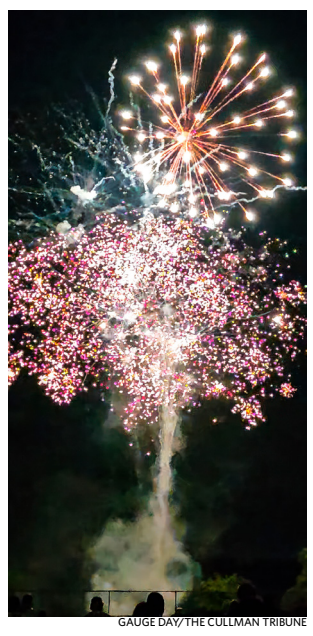
The Town of South Vinemont and Vinemont Baptist Church held their annual Fourth of July celebration on Sunday, July 5. The event also recognized 65 years of incorporation for the town.



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



Flock (from Front)

zens and visitors," Hall said. "Public safety and public trust go hand in hand, and we are committed to supporting both as we continue to serve the citizens of Cullman."

The records reviewed by The Tribune include:

- Flock Safety order forms
- Invoices
- Policy documents
- A camera list
- A redacted audit spreadsheet
- A sharing spreadsheet
- City correspondence

The Tribune is not publishing a full map of camera locations or camera angles. The records reviewed show the system is concentrated along major entrances, highway routes, business corridors and key intersections.

The documents also show the system is connected through Flock sharing settings to agencies outside Cullman.

The city produced a sharing spreadsheet with columns labeled "Organization Name," "Networks Shared With Me" and "Networks I'm Sharing."

The Tribune is not characterizing every listed organization as having identical access or unlimited search authority. The record shows CPD's system was connected through Flock sharing settings to agencies beyond the city.

What the system does

Flock Safety's order forms and product descriptions describe the company's license plate reader cameras as devices that capture license plate information and vehicle attributes.

The records describe tools that allow law enforcement to search by:

- Time
- Location
- Full plates
- Partial plates
- Temporary plates
- Vehicle type
- Make
- Color
- License plate state
- Missing or covered plates
- Features such as bumper stickers, decals and roof racks

The documents also describe FlockOS features such as community camera access, license plate lookup, vehicle fingerprint search, real-time National Crime Information Center alerts, custom hot lists, state network access and nationwide network access.

The system can create a searchable record of where and when a vehicle was captured. It can compare plates to wanted, missing, stolen or locally entered lists. It can also allow investigators to search across multiple cameras and, depending on access, broader Flock networks.

Alabama rules governing license plate readers require LPR data to be used for criminal justice or public safety purposes. Those rules also require agencies to maintain logs showing who accessed the data, when it was accessed and the purpose for the access.

Cullman's Flock system

The City of Cullman's main Flock Safety order form identifies the customer as "AL - Cullman PD."

CPD can purchase equipment and enter vendor contracts with Cullman City Council approval.

The city's main Flock order form lists:

- A 36-month initial term
- A 24-month renewal term
- 16 Flock Safety Falcon cameras
- FlockOS
- A $44,900 first-year subtotal
- A $40,000 annual recurring subtotal
- A $124,900 contract total

The order form is signed by Flock Group Inc. on Dec. 20, 2023.

The customer signature page shows then-Chief David Nassetta signing for AL - Cullman PD on Dec. 19, 2023.

A separate invoice dated Dec. 31, 2024, bills AL - Cullman PD $40,000 for 16 Flock Safety Falcon cameras at $2,500 each. The invoice states it was year two of a 36-month term for 2024-2025.

The city later added an LPR trailer.

The trailer order form lists:

- A 36-month initial term
- A 36-month renewal term
- $11,500 due at contract signing
- A $10,000 annual recurring subtotal
- A $31,500 contract total

The trailer invoice is dated Oct. 13, 2025. It bills the city $10,000 for an LPR Trailer - Radar Speed Sign subscription and $1,500 for trailer delivery.

A camera list produced in the records identifies city Flock installations beginning in December 2020. The list also shows additional installations in 2021, 2024 and 2025.

The list includes 18 numbered camera entries and one trailer entry.

The 2024 and 2025 installations show the city system expanded beyond the earlier listed locations.

Retention period

The records show a change in the listed retention period.

The City of Cullman's original Flock order form listed a 30-day retention period.

The current Cullman Police Department ALPR policy, published in February 2026, says the department will coordinate with the approved vendor to ensure all stored ALPR data is retained for no more than five years.

After that, the policy says ALPR data should be purged unless it has become evidence, is reasonably believed to become evidence, is subject to discovery or is otherwise subject to a lawful action to produce records.

The city's current policy allows retention up to the maximum period permitted under Alabama's LPR rules, rather than the 30-day period listed in the original Flock contract documents produced to The Tribune.

The policy also says notice must be sent to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency when data is retained beyond the retention period.

CPD policy

The Cullman Police Department's ALPR policy is labeled Policy 423 and was published through Lexipol.

The policy says its purpose is to provide guidance for the capture, storage and use of digital data obtained through ALPR technology.

The policy states that:

- CPD uses ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing established privacy rights.
- All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for official use.
- Because the data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review.
- ALPR data should be accessible only through a login and password-protected system capable of documenting access by name, date and time.
- ALPR data may be shared only with other law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official law enforcement purposes or as otherwise permitted by law.
- Outside agency requests should include the agency name, the person requesting the information and the intended purpose.
- Approved requests should be retained on file.

The policy lists several law enforcement purposes for ALPR use. Those include identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons.

It also says the system may be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

One section states that an ALPR may be used with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. The same section states that reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.

The policy says officers should, when practicable, verify an ALPR response through an appropriate official law enforcement database before taking enforcement action based solely on an ALPR alert.

What the city produced

The Tribune's April 2 records request to the City of Cullman sought records related to CPD's use of ALPR systems.

The request included contracts, funding records, camera deployment records, policies, procedures, access records, sharing records, usage data, performance metrics, complaints and oversight records.

The city's public records form was marked approved, with no charge. The form noted that records were emailed April 13, 2026.

The city provided Flock camera order forms, billing schedules, invoices and policy documents. Records reviewed by The Tribune also included a city sharing spreadsheet and a redacted audit spreadsheet.

The city sharing spreadsheet listed organizations, networks shared with CPD and networks CPD was sharing. The "Networks I'm Sharing" column repeatedly listed "Cullman AL PD" and "Cullman AL PD - Flex."

The city audit spreadsheet reviewed by The Tribune contained 567 rows from March 2026.

The spreadsheet listed:

- Users
- Time frames
- Redacted license plate fields
- Reasons
- Redacted case numbers
- Filters
- Search times
- Search types

The reasons visible in the audit included larceny/theft offenses, burglary or breaking and entering, missing or endangered person/runaway matters, motor vehicle theft or stolen vehicle matters, welfare checks, hit-and-run or car accident matters and property damage or vandalism.

The records do not show the outcome of each search. They do not show whether each search led to an arrest, a recovered vehicle, a warning, no enforcement action or another result.

What the city withheld

A memorandum from Chief Joey Duncan to City Clerk Pam Leslie said much of the requested information could not be released.

Duncan's memo said the following records or details were exempt from disclosure:

- ALPR camera deployment details, including specific locations, installation information and internal system mapping
- Records that could compromise law enforcement operations or create security risks
- System audit logs, search history, investigative use and case-related outcomes
- Records involving interagency access, data-sharing practices or coordination with outside or federal agencies where disclosure could disrupt law enforcement cooperation or expose sensitive procedures

Duncan cited Alabama Code 12-21-3.1(b), court cases and a 2025 Alabama attorney general opinion.

"Accordingly, most of the requested records are exempt and will not be released," Duncan wrote in the memo.

The memo said Flock camera order forms, policy, billing schedules for cameras and trailers and related invoices were being provided as responsive public records.

The Tribune is not asserting that every withheld record must be public.

The records show some information about access, retention, sharing, auditing and system use was released. Some was redacted. Some was withheld.

What remains unanswered

The records reviewed by The Tribune show:

- The city's Flock system grew through multiple phases, beginning with installations listed in 2020 and expanding with later cameras and a trailer.
- The city's main Flock agreement had a $124,900 contract total.
- The city later added an LPR trailer with a $31,500 contract total.
- The city's original order form listed 30-day retention.
- The current CPD policy published in February 2026 allows ALPR data to be retained for no more than five years.
- The city produced a spreadsheet identifying organizations, networks shared with CPD and networks CPD was sharing.
- The system is used for criminal investigations and public safety matters such as theft, burglary, stolen vehicles, missing or endangered persons, welfare checks, crashes and vandalism.
- The system captures vehicle data without requiring reasonable suspicion or probable cause before ALPR use, as stated in CPD policy.

The documents reviewed do not show:

- A complete outcome report showing how many local arrests, convictions, stolen vehicle recoveries or missing person recoveries were directly tied to the system
- A complete public record of every outside agency request for Cullman-area ALPR data
- Whether any local users were disciplined for improper access
- Whether annual reports, audits or misuse findings required under Alabama's LPR rules have been posted in a way that is easily accessible to the public
- How broad network searches are reviewed internally
- How the city documents that each search meets a criminal justice or public safety purpose

That places the system within routine law enforcement operations while also leaving unresolved questions about access, retention, sharing, audits, misuse findings and public reporting.

Part 2 of this series will examine Hanceville's Flock camera system, the city's police department dissolution and questions about how local camera access and control changed after the Cullman County Sheriff's Office assumed law enforcement authority in Hanceville. Referenced documents available at CullmanTribune.com.

