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Records show CCSO Flock system connected to broad shared-network list

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Flock series, part 3

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office operates its own Flock Safety automated license plate reader system, maintains a written policy for its use and produced audit records showing searches across local and outside networks.

This is Part 3 of The Cullman Tribune's series examining Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras in the Cullman area. Part 1 focused on the Cullman Police Department.

Part 2 focused on Hanceville's Flock cameras, the city's police department dissolution and Wallace State Community College.

This article focuses on CCSO's Flock contract, policy, audit records, shared-network document and the four former Hanceville cameras authorized for transfer to CCSO after Hanceville dissolved its police department.

Source materials for this article include:

- A Flock Safety order form
- Camera location and installation records
- A shared networks document
- An audit log
- A system-use acknowledgment
- CCSO policy documents
- Hanceville transfer records
- A Flock amendment adding four cameras to the CCSO agreement

The Tribune is not publishing a full map of camera locations or camera angles.

CCSO Flock agreement

CCSO's Flock Safety order form identifies the customer as "AL - Cullman » PAGE 2

Cullman Library hosts Rise Raptor Project



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Lorelei McElroy and Sassy

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Rise Raptor Project out of Huntsville visited the Cullman County Public Library on July 6. Nikki McElroy and her daughter Lorelei McElroy showered the audience with an abundance of knowledge.

They showed off three of their birds of prey, including Blue the male American Kestrel, who is a small falcon with outstanding vision but limited flight after an injury; Sassy the Red Tailed Hawk, who is a large soaring hunter with powerful feet; and Maximus the Eurasian Eagle Owl, a nocturnal hunter with facial disks, asymmetrical ears and silent flight.

They started off with a quick introduction, Nikki mentioned that she and her daughter have been with the nonprofit Rise Raptor for nine years. Rise, she said, stands for Raptors Inspiring Stewardship Through Education. She said she hopes she and the rest of the team can inspire others to take care of the world around them where these beautiful birds of prey reside.

Before showing the birds, Nikki and Lore- » PAGE 4

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
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Kids Loving Kids accepting 'Christmas in July' donations
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– SPORTS –
Volunteers sought for 9/11 tribute at Fairview High School football game
» PAGE 4

Bremen's Ella Stephenson selected for 2026-2027 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

Ella Stephenson, a participant in the upcoming 2026-2027 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals program, graduated from the University of North Alabama in 2025. » PAGE 6

ALEA reports significant reduction in 4th of July holiday traffic fatalities » PAGE 8

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Hanceville PTO hosting Back-to-School Backpack Drive » PAGE 4



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 10, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 6

- possession of controlled substance; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- possession of controlled substance; I65SB MM291
- domestic violence; CR 1196

July 7

- possession of dangerous drugs; I65SB MM 291
- criminal mischief; CR 557
- theft of property; CR 1568
- theft of property; Schwaiger Rd.
- reckless endangerment; CR 1866
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 91

July 8

- possession of dangerous drugs; I65NB MM 307
- criminal mischief; CR 431
- theft of property; CR 1614
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; Countryside Acres
- assault; CR 18
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 222
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

July 6-8

Borella, William J.; 68
- possession of methamphetamine

Boyd, Lacie M.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft-shoplifting
- PROBATION VIOLATION – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500 (2 counts)

Coker, Curtis E.; 34
- assault-harassment (2 counts)

Daw, Christopher D.; 52
- possession of dangerous drugs

Duke, Jimmy D.; 53
- possession of dangerous drugs

Fry, Donald; 60
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Hall, David R.; 71
- public intoxication

Hight, Chloe J.; 26
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Isbell, Rebecca L.; 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Angel D.; 40
- FTA – assault-harassment

Lee, William B.; 48
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Limbaugh, Oscar B.; 51
- GJ – fraudulent use of credit/debit card (5 counts)
- GJ – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

McClendon, Derrell W.; 81
- assault in the 2nd degree-with intent to cause physical injury to health care worker during or as a result of performance of duty

Navarro, Chakote M.; 27
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Nunnelley, Joshua C.; 41
- possession of dangerous drugs

Perez, Jose G.; 33
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA – tinted windows (2 counts)

Phillips, Jimmy C.; 64
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Poole, Jesse C.; 35
- FTA – DUI (controlled substances)
- FTA – driving while revoked, revoked or canceled
- FTA – ignition interlock misdemeanor
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Ray, Michael A.; 59
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs

Shelton, Cheri E.; 57
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs

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

Stanford, David O.; 45
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Tanner, Sr., James I.; 63
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

July 7
- theft of property-3rd degree; Belk; general merchandise; $962; Cullman Shopping Center

July 8
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; City of Cullman; damaged property; $900; 3rd Ave. NE
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '15 Buick; $5,000; Cherokee Ave. SW
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; person; Dripping Springs Rd. NW

July 9
- forgery-2nd degree; Cullman Overhead Door & Glass
- harassing communications; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 2nd St. SW

ARRESTS

July 8-9

Freeman, Logan L.; 37
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – driving while suspended

Phelps, Christy M.; 43
- possession of controlled substances
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- criminal trespass
- obstructing governmental operations

Linn, Rachel A.; 42
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Walter, Kristopher S.; 34
- theft of property-4th degree

Yarbrough III, William; 36
- possession of controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Phelps, Christ M.; 43
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card

Tackett, Erin K.; 25
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Robbins, Anthony W.; 44
- domestic violence-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Flock (from Front)

County SO."

The order form lists:
- A 24-month initial term
- A 24-month renewal term
- A 30-day retention period
- Nine Flock Safety Falcon cameras
- One Flock Safety Falcon Flex
- A $31,850 first-year subtotal
- A $30,500 annual recurring subtotal
- A $62,350 contract total
- The sheriff's office address as 1910 Beech Ave. SE in Cullman

County records also included a location list and map, installation dates, a shared networks file, an audit log and a system-use acknowledgment.

The location and installation records identify fixed camera locations and show installation dates in 2024 and 2025. They also identify a flex camera and two bundle entries.

CCSO policy

CCSO's license plate reader policy, General Order 34, became effective Jan. 14, 2025.

The policy says the purpose of the LPR system is to deter criminal behavior and, in certain circumstances, use recorded footage or photos in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activity.

It also says CCSO seeks to ensure its use of LPR technology conforms to constitutional principles and balances public safety with residents' rights, including:
- Privacy and anonymity
- Freedom of speech and association
- Government accountability
- Equal protection

The policy also recognizes it is in the best interest of citizens for CCSO to cooperate with homeowner associations, businesses and others operating LPR systems in Cullman County.

Under General Order 34:
- Fixed LPR is described as a passive system.
- Live data is not viewed.
- Fixed LPR systems monitor all license plates that come in contact with the camera.
- Historical data searches may be done only by staff with access.
- Searches must be for legitimate public safety-related purposes.
- A log of requests must be maintained by the system.
- LPR data is for official use only.
- Data may be shared only for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- Data disseminated outside the agency should be documented in a secondary dissemination log.
- Outside law enforcement agencies may request specific queries of the LPR database for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- Only matching returns will be shared with the requesting agency.
- Sharing the LPR database with outside law enforcement or other government agencies is prohibited except to the degree required by law.
- Sharing LPR data with third parties, including private litigants, is prohibited except to the degree required by law.

The county policy says LPR-related photos and data will be stored for a maximum of 30 days.

If LPR data is deemed evidence in a police-related case, it will be transferred to and retained in the agency's digital evidence storage system.

System-use acknowledgment

The county system-use acknowledgment states users are accessing a restricted information system for authorized use only.

The acknowledgment says users must comply with Flock's Privacy Policy and CJIS Security Policy.

It also states users consent to be monitored, recorded and audited by Flock and their agency.

The acknowledgment warns that unauthorized or improper use may lead to disciplinary action and criminal or civil legal penalties.

Shared networks document

CCSO produced a 62-page shared networks document listing law enforcement, public safety and related agencies across Alabama and other states.

The list includes:
- Municipal police departments
- Sheriff's offices
- Campus police departments
- Airport police
- State agencies
- Federal entities
- Railroad police
- Other public safety organizations

The county document is not the same type of record as the City of Cullman's sharing spreadsheet.

The city spreadsheet identified organizations, networks shared with CPD and networks CPD was sharing. The county document lists organization names but does not clearly state each listed agency's access level.

It also does not clearly state whether each sharing relationship is one-way, reciprocal or limited by request.

For that reason, The Tribune is not characterizing every agency in the county document as having the same kind of access.

The record does show CCSO's Flock system is connected to a shared law enforcement network beyond Cullman County.

Audit log

The county audit log is a 28-page document covering activity from April 11 through May 11, 2026.

It lists:
- User names
- Organization name
- Total networks searched
- Time frames
- Reasons
- Search times
- Search types

The reasons visible in the audit log included:
- Larceny/theft
- Motor vehicle theft
- Stolen property
- Drugs/narcotics
- Missing or endangered person/runaway
- Wanted person
- DUI
- Sex offenses
- Financial crime
- Robbery
- Threats/harassment

Some county entries listed hundreds or thousands of networks searched. Several entries listed more than 2,000 networks searched. Some listed more than 6,000.

The audit records do not, by themselves, show that those searches were improper.

They do show the scale of the searchable network available through the system and the importance of written access rules, user logs and agency review.

The audit 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.

Hanceville camera transfer

Hanceville's four-camera Flock system became part of CCSO's records after Hanceville dissolved its police department earlier this year.

Ordinance No. 2026-2, adopted by the Hanceville City Council on Feb. 12, 2026, abolished the Hanceville Police Department, eliminated all positions within the department and shifted law enforcement authority to CCSO.

CCSO's authority within Hanceville's corporate limits and police jurisdiction includes:
- Patrol
- Investigation
- Arrest authority
- Response to calls for service

Hanceville had four Flock cameras at or near the Alabama Highway 91 and U.S. Highway 31 intersection.

A March 24 text message screenshot shows a Hanceville official telling Gentry the city understood CCSO could still access data from the cameras, even though Hanceville no longer could.

The message said there was a monthly cost of approximately $850 and asked whether the sheriff's office would be willing to pay some or all of that cost until Hanceville got a police department back.

"I hate to have them disconnected if they have value," the message said.

Gentry responded that he believed the State of Alabama could access the cameras and asked how many cameras Hanceville had. The answer was four.

A later message attributed to IT said the cameras appeared to be the Hanceville cameras. The message said CCSO could access them but did not have control over them.

The same message said CCSO could absorb the cameras with:
- A copy of the police department dissolution
- A letter from Hanceville's mayor authorizing the transfer

On April 1, Mayor Nolan Bradford signed a letter to Gentry authorizing the transfer of the four Flock cameras at the 91/31 intersection from the City of Hanceville to CCSO.

The letter said Hanceville would pay all Alabama Power invoices through March 31.

An email from Bradford to Gentry that same morning said the letter and the signed police department dissolution ordinance were attached.

A separate Flock Safety amendment dated April 17, 2026, amended the agreement between Flock and AL - Cullman County SO.

The amendment listed:
- Four Flock Safety LPR fixed Falcon cameras
- A $12,000 annual recurring subtotal
- An amendment to the CCSO agreement

The materials show Hanceville authorized transfer of the cameras and CCSO's Flock agreement was amended to add four fixed Falcon cameras.

They do not include a separate final confirmation from Flock stating the exact date the transfer was completed inside the system.

What the records show

The records show:
- CCSO purchased its own Flock Safety system with nine Falcon cameras and one Falcon Flex.
- The county order form listed a 30-day retention period.
- CCSO adopted General Order 34, a written license plate reader policy effective Jan. 14, 2025.
- The county policy limits LPR data to official use and legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- LPR-related photos and data are stored for a maximum of 30 days unless deemed evidence in a police-related case.
- CCSO produced a 62-page shared networks document listing agencies across Alabama and other states.
- CCSO produced an audit log covering April 11 through May 11, 2026.
- Some searches listed hundreds or thousands of networks searched.
- Hanceville authorized the transfer of four Flock cameras to CCSO after dissolving its police department.
- A later Flock amendment added four fixed Falcon cameras to the CCSO agreement.

What the records do not show

The records do not show:
- A complete outcome report showing how many arrests, convictions, stolen vehicle recoveries or missing person recoveries were directly tied to CCSO's Flock system
- The outcome of each audit-log search
- Each agency's access level in the county's 62-page shared networks document
- Whether each listed shared-network relationship is one-way, reciprocal or limited by request
- A separate final confirmation from Flock stating the exact date the Hanceville camera transfer was completed inside the system
- Whether Hanceville retained any access after the transfer authorization
- A Hanceville-specific audit log from before the department was dissolved
- Whether any CCSO user or outside user was disciplined for improper access
- A public annual report listing CCSO Flock usage, case outcomes, audits or misuse findings

Series conclusion

Flock Safety automated license plate reader systems are now part of law enforcement operations in the Cullman area.

The documents show the Cullman Police Department, Hanceville and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office each had records tied to Flock systems, access or camera transfers.

They also show differences in policy, retention language, sharing records and the level of detail released by each agency.

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

The records show that camera ownership, network access, retention rules, audit records and public reporting can vary by agency.

They also show local Flock systems are not isolated from broader law enforcement networks.

The series leaves several questions for agencies to answer, including:
- How often ALPR searches are reviewed
- How access is approved
- How misuse is handled
- How outcome data is tracked
- What information can be released publicly without compromising active investigations or camera security

Read part 1 at www.cullmantribune.com/2026/07/07/records-show-cullman-police-departments-flock-camera-system-expanded-as-retention-policy-changed.

Read part 2 at www.cullmantribune.com/2026/07/09/records-show-hanceville-flock-cameras-authorized-for-transfer-after-police-department-dissolution.

Hanceville Council (from Front)

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville City Council at its meeting on July 9 approved several appointments, funding requests and community initiatives. These included the approval of a long-discussed rezoning ordinance and the relocation of the city's food pantry.

The council nominated Teja McIntyre to serve as city clerk. An official employment offer will be extended to McIntyre in the coming days. McIntyre will replace former clerk Tania Wilcox, who resigned earlier in the summer.

Council members also approved a recommendation from the Hanceville Historical Preservation Commission to appoint Garret Gilliland to Place 6, filling the commission's current vacancy.

The council approved payment of the Cullman County Commission invoice for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

It also approved the donation of three motors to the Cullman County Coroner's Office.

The council approved a $500 appropriation for locks and keys for the Hanceville Public Library. Before the vote, Councilman Robert Powell noted that the city is nearing the end of its current fiscal year and suggested a larger allocation could be considered during the next budget cycle.

Council members also approved relocating the city's food pantry from Bangor Street to the Hanceville Civic Center to make it more accessible for stocking and serving the community.

Under old business, the council adopted Ordinance 2026-10, rezoning property on Elm Street from R-1 to R-2, with the agreement that a passing lane will be added.

Looking ahead, Hanceville's America 250 celebration will be held July 25 from noon-9 p.m. at

C.W. Day Park. The event will feature food trucks, vendors, live music, free pool access and other family-friendly activities. Fireworks are scheduled to begin at 8:45 p.m.

The next Hanceville City Council meeting will be held Thursday, July 23 at 6 p.m., immediately following the work session, at Hanceville City Hall.

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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, 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 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.

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.

Save the Date!!! Cullman Chapter of NARFE Meeting
• Monday, July 13, at Freddie Day's, 1628 Second Ave. NW (U.S. Highway 31),
• 11 a.m.-noon: Lunch, $15 on your own
• Noon: Program: The Minuteman's Wife
• Speaker: Roberta McClellan (in 1776 costume)
• Please make plans to attend and bring a friend/federal retiree with you!

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

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 11, 2026

Volunteers sought for 9/11 tribute at Fairview High School football game

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Organizers are seeking active and retired military members, firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel and other first responders to help with a special 9/11 tribute before a Gold Star Football Game at Fairview High School.

The tribute is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at Fairview High School. Volunteers are being asked to arrive by 6 p.m. to practice carrying a large American flag onto the field and folding it back into its box before the game, according to the volunteer sign-up page created by Valerie Mckenzie. The listed time for volunteers is 6-8 p.m. (SignUpGenius)

During the National Anthem, volunteers will help display the flag as the community honors a Gold Star Family and the family of a fallen first responder.

"This will be a powerful tribute to those who have given so much in service to our country and communities," organizers shared.

Military members and first responders who volunteer will receive free admission to the game.

Organizers said the tribute is meant to recognize the heroes of Sept. 11, 2001, while also honoring the sacrifices made by military families, first responders and their families.

"If you have served or are currently serving, we would be honored to have you stand with us and help hold the flag as we remember the heroes of September 11th and recognize the sacrifices made by our military and first responder families," organizers shared.

The event is being planned as a community moment of remembrance, gratitude and respect before kickoff.

Volunteers may sign up through the SignUpGenius page shared by organizers. As of the posted sign-up page, three volunteers had confirmed. (SignUpGenius)

Organizers are also asking the community to help spread the word.

"We Remember. We Honor. We Will Never Forget," organizers shared.



Drive (from Front)

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is stepping up to ensure every local student is equipped for success. Driven by a mission to support every student and family within the district, the PTO is hosting its Back-to-School Backpack Drive, a communitywide initiative aimed at easing the financial burdens many families face leading up to a new school year.

Over the past few years, the organization has noted a rising awareness of local financial challenges. The backpack drive was born out of a desire to eliminate these hurdles, giving every child the opportunity to walk into their classroom feeling confident, included and ready to learn.

While a new backpack might seem like a small item to some, the PTO emphasizes that it carries immense weight for a child. Having the right tools fosters a sense of belonging and excitement for the upcoming year.

When students possess the basic supplies they need, they can focus entirely on their education rather than worrying about what they are missing. Ultimately, the PTO hopes this initiative shows students that their community fully believes in them.

The drive aims to help as many Hanceville Primary and Elementary School students as possible. Rather than focusing on a rigid numerical target, the PTO's philosophy is simple: every single backpack donated represents another child starting the school year prepared.

Families in need of assistance are encouraged to sign up, while community members are invited to contribute in whatever capacity they can.

The PTO places the utmost importance on protecting the privacy and dignity of participating families.

Registration is handled directly through the organization, and all backpacks will be distributed in a strictly confidential manner. The goal is to ensure every family feels completely comfortable requesting assistance without any privacy concerns.

"Protecting the privacy and dignity of our students and families is extremely important to us...," said the PTO. "We want every family to feel comfortable requesting assistance without concern for their privacy."

The group posted on Facebook: "Hanceville PTO is committed to helping families in the Hanceville community who are experiencing challenges this year.

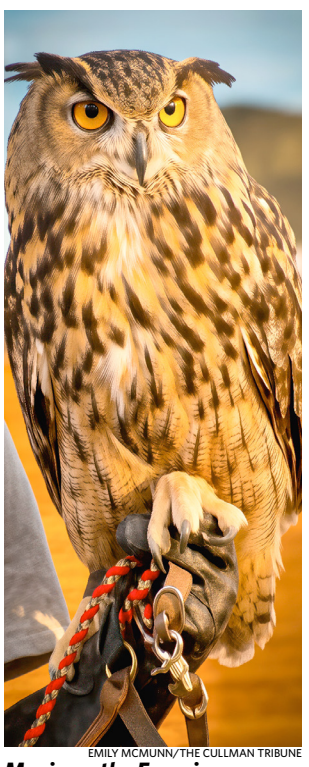
"We are particularly interested in assisting families needing backpacks for their school-aged children. If your child or children are in need of a backpack for the upcoming school year, please submit the form below. The last day to signup will be July 21, 2026. https://forms.gle/KxPzZLSwpdKW7sin9"

If you would like to donate, the PTO is accepting donations of new backpacks in all sizes for primary and elementary school. Gender-neutral styles are greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at Hanceville Primary School and Hanceville Elementary School through Aug. 3.

If you require an alternative drop off location, or have questions, email ptohanceville@gmail.com.


EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Audience participant with Lorelei McElroy, holding Sassy


EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Maximus the Eurasian Eagle Owl

Project (from Front)

lei quickly went over three core adaptations raptors share: exceptional eyesight, a hooked upper beak and strong feet with talons. These define birds of prey and determine hunting strategies.

Blue the male American Kestrel was first, "Now we can find this guy all over the place," Nikki said. She informed the audience that the American Kestrel is the smallest falcon in North Alabama. Blue eats many different things like small field mice, lizards, dragonflies and even grasshoppers. "Other small birds, he would catch those while they're flying. American Kestrels are incredible hunters."

She also said that with the American Kestrel you can tell the difference in gender based on the colors of their feathers. And on those feathers under the eyes are mustache marks or malar stripes that help them with the glare of the sun, much like how ball players put black face paint under their eyes to help with the bright stadium lights.

Unfortunately for Blue, he can only fly about 6 feet due to a broken wing that went untreated before he was found. However, he found himself to be in great care with the team's help. He became the ambassador for his species nine years ago.

Nikki said the American Kestrel struggles with habitat loss. "I don't know about Cullman, but in Huntsville and Madison, every field we have is being eaten up by apartment complexes or houses, neighborhoods and things like that. Unfortunately that means a loss of habitat for them."

She said that because they also eat bugs, they are being poisoned by toxic pesticide sprays as well.

Moving to the second raptor, Nikki said, "She's going to be impressive. Sassy, coming out, is probably the most common raptor in Alabama."

It was Lorelei who had the honor of telling the crowd about this bird of prey, and Sassy was indeed impressive. As she got her out, Lorelei joked with the young audience, "All right, this is Sassy, and she is our Red-Tailed Hawk. And after she poops, I will turn her around so you can see her red tail, but right now it'd be a little dangerous." The children giggled at the thought.

Lorelei said most Red-Tailed Hawks are found resting on power lines or soaring overhead in the sky. Using her sharp eyesight she can see long distances, allowing her to hunt from hundreds of feet up in the air.

Lorelei gave a great example to the children to demonstrate just how well a Red-Tailed Hawk can see. "If you could imagine yourself on a football field and imagine that Sassy was sitting on one goalpost and you were standing at the other goalpost while holding up a newspaper, she would be able to read the title of that paper."

Red-Tailed Hawks have the ability to lock their talons, acting as a zip tie in their feet. It not only helps them hold on to their perch, but also helps with hunting and taking their meal to safer locations.

They eat things like rats, mice, squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits. And if they have the opportunity they aren't shy about going after smaller birds, like chickens. They even go as far as eating bats; yes, these birds of prey are not picky.

Sassy is a good 3 pounds with a 3-foot wingspan. As if understanding she was being doted on, Sassy flapped her wings at full length with impressive force.

And just like that the magic was over and the children squealed with laughter as Sassy defecated. Lorelei, while chuckling, said, "That was a good one. Like other birds, Sassy is a nest builder, and to keep the nest clean they will actually shoot the feces out of the nest and it's called slicing a mute."

Sassy is originally from Illinois, where she was found in a neighborhood begging for food. Realizing this was clearly not normal behavior, and later finding out that most likely she had been imprinted on by a human and was kept illegally, she was sent to a wildlife rehabilitation center where she eventually landed in Rise Raptor's care.

Sassy, unfortunately, is blind in her left eye; she was deemed unreleasable. But, just like Blue, she has found herself in great care.

The last bird was the wise Maximus, the Eurasian Eagle Owl. Native to Europe and Asia, Maximus has incredible hearing. "So their hearing with their ears being asymmetrical, they can hear side to side, up and down; it's kind of like having surround sound," the children were told. And despite popular belief, owls cant actually turn their heads all the way around. But, they do have 14 vertebrae, unlike humans who only have seven, making their necks still very flexible.

Owls have such flexible necks because their eyes are so big they can't move. Nikkie joked, "That means he can't give us attitude by rolling his eyes at us." An owl of his size is also surprisingly quiet during flight, she said. "If other birds flew over your head you'd duck, but if Maximus flew over you, you would just get a beautiful gust of wind; there would be no noise at all."

The crowd was also surprised to find out that, despite his incredible size, Maximus was actually small compared to his female counterparts. "A female would be about 30% larger, and while Maximus is 5 pounds a female would be about 8 pounds."

Maximus is 15 years old and could easily live for 40 years in captivity.

The Rise Raptor Project hopes to inspire the young and old to look out for birds of prey in the wild.

Find out more at www.riseraptor.org.



Theatre (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Community Theatre will stage its production of "My Fair Lady" in late August.

The production will be directed by Kristy McCrickard, who is also the co-choreographer.

The production team also includes Rodney Basenburg, musical director; Debbie Johnson, pianist and asst. musical director; Wayne Cook, set designer and tech director; Laura Harris, costumer and stage manager; Aaron Johnston, tech director; and Madalyn Jordan, co-choreographer and public relations.

When choosing to stage "My Fair Lady," the group's big summer musical, McCrickard said, she had a devoted Cullman audience in mind.

"They have been so receptive to the Golden Age musicals, but we have found that 'My Fair Lady' is a classic story with a fresh perspective," McCrickard said. "Some stories never go out of style. 'My Fair Lady' is one of them. It's packed with iconic songs, sharp humor and unforgettable characters.

"This beloved musical follows Eliza Doolittle as she discovers the confidence to find her own voice and define her own future.

"Along the way, audiences will laugh, sing along to classics like 'Wouldn't It Be Loverly,' 'The Rain in Spain' and 'I Could Have Danced All Night' and experience a story that still resonates today."

Their production offers a fresh take on this timeless favorite, highlighting themes of identity, growth, resilience and finding your voice, McCrickard shared.

"Whether you're a longtime fan or seeing 'My Fair Lady' for the first time, you'll enjoy an evening of spectacular music, lively performances, beautiful costumes and memorable storytelling," she said.

"Come experience a classic reimagined for today's audience — and discover why 'My Fair Lady' continues to captivate generations."

Another reason to see this show? McCrickard said the Cullman Community Theatre truly embodies what it means to be a community.

"We cast actors from ages 8-73 in this show; we cast whole families, several sets of siblings, a husband and wife, and a father and his daughter," she said. "We have made this a family affair and a community affair."

Order tickets at cullmancotheatre.ludus.com.

Performances will be at the Cullman High School auditorium on:

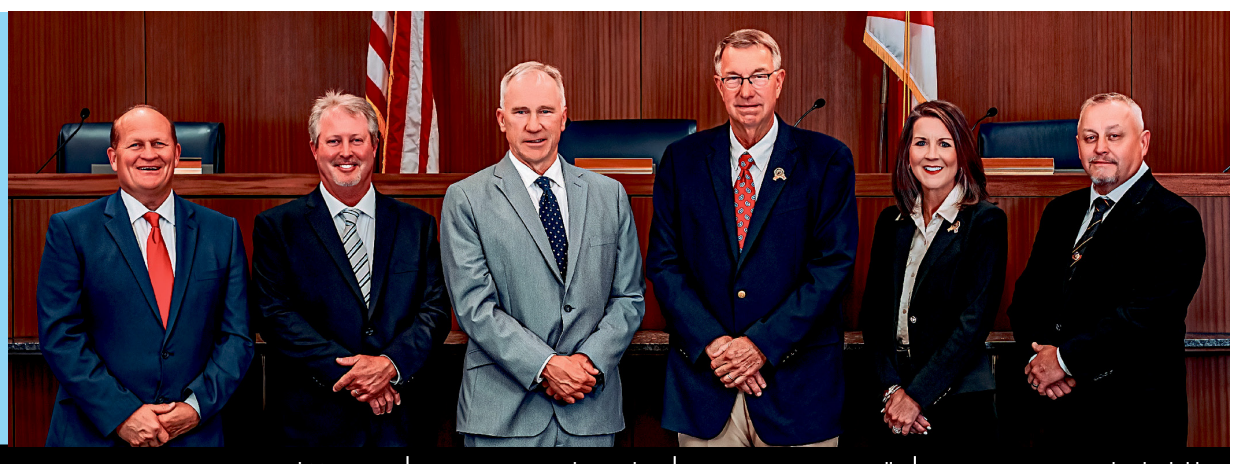
- Monday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 29, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.



KRISTY MCCRICKARD

The Cullman Community Theatre will stage its production of "My Fair Lady" in late August. Back row, left to right, are Tavian Fink, Rich Valenta, Skylar Valenta, David Whittaker, Ben Grimmett, Clark Johnson are Isaac Gross. Fourth row, left to right, are Reagan Phillips, Josie Johnson, Lorelai Johnston, Hadley Blackledge, Luette Benefield, Sophia Schuster, Antonio Cipollari, Sarah Glover and Destiny Gross. Third row, left to right, are Madison Billings, Layla Bowers, Cora DeRoos, Anna Armstrong, Ava Slinkard, Robin Hall, Mike Hall and Wayne Cook. Second row, left to right, are Rodney Basenburg, Madalyn Jordan, Karen Smith, Shellie Vines, Kristy McCrickard, Laura Harris, Felicia Macias, Adrian Burtis and Hanna Provolo. Front row, left to right, are Oscar Schuster, Petrus Gross, Loretta Johnson, Jaxon Dupree, Joshua Gross, Sabrina Schuster and Lily Glover. Not pictured: Julian Skinner, Savannah Smith, Anne Lunsford, Ava Bailey, Matt Farnum and Brittany McNeil.

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Stephenson (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of State and Cultural Vistas are pleased to announce that Ella Stephenson is one of 65 Americans selected to study and work in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals program – now in its 43rd year. The 2026-2027 CBYX Young Professionals cohort departs for Germany on July 29 and returns to the U.S. in June 2027. Participants come from a wide variety of career fields and from all over the U.S. This year about 420 young professionals vied for a spot in this prestigious program.

CBYX is a bilateral exchange program of the U.S. Congress and German Bundestag (Parliament). The program is administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through non-profit implementing partners such as Cultural Vistas.

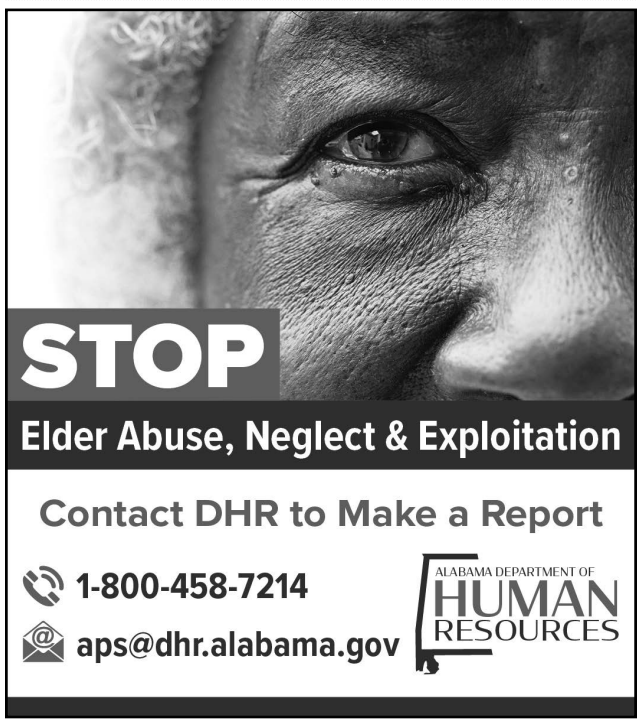
While in Germany, Ella will attend a two-month intensive language course, study at a German university and complete an internship.

Participants are usually placed with host families throughout Germany, where they act as citizen ambassadors of the United States, promoting a positive image of the U.S. abroad, creating lifelong friendships and professional connections to enhance German-American relations.

While Ella is in Germany, a group of 65 German CBYX participants will spend a year in the United States on a reciprocal exchange. German participants study at U.S. colleges and work at local businesses while living with American host families. If you or someone you know is interested in hosting a German participant, please fill out this form: https://culturalvistas.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Fr1y73z1gFRsq2.

While each exchange year is unique, over the last forty years, the program has positively changed the life trajectories for thousands of American young people. Find out about how the CBYX program builds the skills of American participants in the recently completed independent evaluation at www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-public-diplomacy/bureau-of-educational-and-cultural-affairs.

For more information about CBYX, visit exchanges.state.gov/cbyx or contact Cultural Vistas at cbyx@culturalvistas.org. Applications for the 2027-2028 cohort will open in September 2026. German language skills are not required to apply for the fellowship. More information about the program, including eligibility requirements, can be found at www.culturalvistas.org/our-programs/internships-fellowships/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange-for-young-professionals-cbyx.



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Kids Loving Kids accepting 'Christmas in July' donations

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Kids Loving Kids is requesting donations be brought to the Spirit Life Church throughout the month of July.

For "Christmas in July" they advise that those who want to make a difference may drop off toy donations or send monetary donations to Spirit Life Church.

Please ensure toy donations are gently used.

Kids Loving Kids wrote, "Make checks payable to Kids Loving Kids. Thank you for your support!"

Spirit Life Church is located at 1650 Saint Joseph Drive NW in Cullman.







LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR., Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-044**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to HOLLY WOMMACK ALLEN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of FREDERICK DONALD MERHOFF, JR., deceased, on the 9th day of July, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Holly Wommack Allen
Personal Representative

Nathan Johnson
Attorney for Personal Representative
909 E 2nd St
Sheffield, Alabama 35660

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
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JOSHUA WILLIAM ROBERTS,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900148.00**

VALARIE ROBERTS,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Valarie Roberts, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Joshua William Roberts' Divorce Complaint by September 7, 2026; or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-OR-2026-900148.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the ,8th day of July, 2026.

Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANNE1TE IRONS-PARKER
215 MAIN AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
STEVEN LARRY WALRAVEN, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-262**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to ERIN AMBER ROSE as Personal Representative of the Estate of STEVEN LARRY WALRAVEN deceased, on the 7th day of July, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Erin Amber Rose
Personal Representative

Greg Shelton
Shelton & Shelton
Attorneys at Law
247 E. Moulton Street, Suite A
Decatur, Alabama 35601

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

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-208

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF HENRY STEWART BEELER, JR., DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration With Will Annexed on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Rebekah Lili Speakman on the 8th day of July, 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.

Rebekah Lili Speakman
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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 CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MAXINE H. ELLIOTT, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-037**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to BRANDON L. ELLIOTT as Personal Representative of the Estate of MAXINE H. ELLIOTT deceased, on the 30th day of June, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Brandon L. Elliott
Personal Representative

Brandon L. Elliot
PRO SE

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

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

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A week that left me weak

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



It was the kind of week that most people would like to forget. There were definitely some highs in the week but some frightening lows as well.

It all began when I took a hard blow to my right eye one week prior to the week in question. Since I have a long history of retina problems, and have had numerous surgeries on the other eye, I asked my optometrist to take a look. He did not see any eye damage or retinal tears, so we both thought I had dodged a bullet.

A week later, I went to Birmingham to participate in the Southern Christian Writers' Conference. One of the highs was that I won a writers' award for one of the lyrical poems in my new book. One of the lows was that I would not be able to remain at the conference long enough to receive my award.

The morning the conference began, I noticed a small black spot at the top of my vision. By the end of the day that spot had grown to become a large cloud.

That evening I visited the Callahan Eye Foundation Emergency Room at UAB. Unfortunately, they discovered that my visual cloud was caused by a detached retina. The doctor said I would need surgery, but her prognosis was not encouraging.

They scheduled me for "nonemergency" surgery three days later because "the damage had already been done."

I didn't close my eyes for the remainder of the night. Thoughts of losing vision in my former "good eye" ran through my mind all night, but so did prayers that such would not happen.

I had an already scheduled CT scan in Auburn for Monday. My doctor had suspected a reappearance of a cancer that was surgically removed nine years earlier. They did the scan, then I headed back to Birmingham to have eye surgery the next day. We put out a plea for prayer.

An amazing retina surgeon successfully reattached the retina and put a temporary gas bubble in my eye to hold the retina in place until it adheres and heals.

Since I had been through that same procedure in my other eye 14 years earlier, I knew what was in store. I spent the next week keeping my head face down.

That forces the bubble to stay in the correct position, but it does not help a fidgety man stay in the right position. It is almost as hard as when Mama used to tell me to sit still during church! What can you do while sitting, walking or lying with your head and eyes facing downward? Not much! You can read with the other eye, listen to music, talk and pray.

The day after surgery, when they removed my eye shield, I could see! I couldn't see much, but when I realized that I could see at all, the eyes that saw poorly also leaked tears!

Now I'm reminded of that blind man of Bethsaida that they brought to Jesus. Jesus put spit on his eyes, laid his hands on him and asked if he saw anything.

He answered, "I see men like trees walking." Then Jesus put his hands on his eyes again and made him look up. Then the blind man's sight was restored and he saw clearly.

Now I have a much better understanding of what he meant by seeing men like trees walking.

I'm praying that as soon as I'm able to be fitted for new contacts/glasses, I too will see clearly.

I'm thanking God for the high of a successful surgery and the skilled doctors He used to do the miraculous.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: July 11, 1940

From the files of July 11, 1940

Good Hope News
Teams that played ball on the Fourth of July at Good Hope included Simcoe, Logan, Welti, Good Hope and a few others. Everyone who attended the picnic enjoyed it.

A game of soft ball was also played by the Logan and the Good Hope girls. The score was four to five in favor of Good Hope.

Mr. R. I. Hulsey and family of Gadsden, visited his sister, Mrs. J. R. Copeland, at Good Hope, Sunday.

An ice cream supper was given at Good Hope church, recently.

Mrs. J. D. Quattlebaum of Good Hope, spent two weeks with her mother, Mrs. W. E. Grimmett, and sister, Mrs. R. W. Quattlebaum, of White City.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmus Phillips have moved to Decatur, where he has accepted a position as a mechanic.

Mrs. J. D. Quattlebaum, mother and sister spent Thursday with Mrs. Elmus Phillips of Decatur.

Sardis News
Miss Norell Calvert spent Sunday with Miss Nell Duke.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Duke spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Duke.

Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Collins and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Jones and family and Mr. and Mrs. Dewey McAfee and family enjoyed a trip to Guntersville, Huntsville and Decatur on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Needhem, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Duke, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Needhem enjoyed a birthday dinner at Battleground on last Sunday.

Mr. Bonnie Hendrix, Mr. Erving Wilson spent Sunday with Misses Nell and Lola Duke.

Mr. Winfred Speegle spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Herrin.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Jones and family and Miss Francis Collins stayed a while with their aunt at Falkville when returning from their trip on last Sunday.

The ice cream supper given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Duke's was enjoyed by everyone.

Mr. and Mrs. Olan Calvert spent Sunday with Mrs. Ester Green of near Good Hope.

J. D. Jones visited his grandparents on Monday.

Mrs. Vassie McMinn is nicely recovering from a recent operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Parker spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips.

Mrs. W. B. Holden is ill at her home this week.

Miss Willie Lee Pledger, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Holden.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Nell spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Herrin.



Logan News
The spirits of this community are very low at the present because of the rain.

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. McClung's daughter of Decatur, spent the week with them.

Mr. E. W. Kilgo and Mr. Pierce Bailey attended the Mail Carrier's Convention in Birmingham on last Friday.

Thomas Moore Denson, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Oren Denson, died here recently.

Mrs. Otis Watson of Birmingham, was in Logan recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Entrekin and Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Nix and daughter, Juanita, enjoyed a trip throu the National Forest recently, where they visited Mr. David Patillo of the C. C. C. Camp.

Mr. Arnold Leak of Howard College, spent the week end with home folks.

Howard Entrekin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Entrekin, is suffering from an injury sustained when he stuck a pitch fork through his foot, recently.

New Hope News
Alene and Helen Sizemore spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Mandel Wright.

Lucille and Nellie Dean Howse, Lera Gay Wright and Geneva Thomas enjoyed a picnic on the creek Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Duffle of Decatur, spent last Sunday with Mrs. G. W. Turner and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Knopp and family spent Saturday night with Mrs. Bessie Bailey.

Quinton Wright left Monday for the C. C. C. Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt Hayes spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Coker Howse.

Mrs. R. V. Howse and Mrs. G. W. Turner visited Mrs. John Wright on Sunday afternoon.

POET'S CORNER

Tiny Kittens
By: Randy C. Hale



Playing with a kitten:
What fun it can bring.
To watch them jump
and chase a string.

They run and skedaddle
and climb your leg.
And when they're hungry,
they cry and beg.

When nap time comes
they get really close.
Then purr their motors
And scrunch their toes.

They're making biscuits,
some might say.
It kind of tickles when they
act that way.

Black and white
Grey and yellow
Hold them tight,
So soft and mellow.

Those tiny kittens
We watch them grow
So cute and cuddly
We love them so!

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
JULY 11

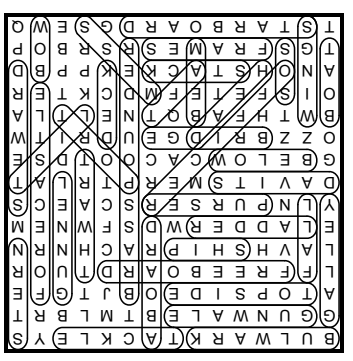
B U L W A R K T A C K L E Y S
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T S T A R B O A R D G S E W Q

Aboard
Aft
Beam
Below
Boat
Bow
Brass Pounder
Bridge
Bulwark
Davits
Deck
Fall
Forecastle
Frames
Freeboard
Galley
Gunnel
Gunwale
Head
Ladder
List
Mess
Officer
Port
Purser
Ship
SOS
Stack
Starboard
Stern
Steward
Tackle
Thwart
Topside
Wings

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
JULY 11

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

ANSWERS:



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

Fatalities (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) reported a significant decline in traffic fatalities following its statewide Fourth of July holiday enforcement campaign, which took place during the holiday travel period of Friday, July 3, through Sunday, July 5.

Through increased patrols and participation in national traffic safety initiatives including Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over on Alabama's roadways and Operation Dry Water on the state's waterways, ALEA Troopers focused on deterring impaired driving and boating, reducing dangerous behaviors and helping ensure Alabama residents and visitors reached their destinations safely.

During the 2026 Fourth of July holiday travel period, ALEA's Highway Patrol Division investigated 263 traffic crashes, resulting in 129 injuries and four traffic fatalities. This marks a substantial decrease from the 2025 Fourth of July holiday period, when ALEA investigated 314 traffic crashes that resulted in 155 injuries and 12 traffic fatalities, a reduction of more than 66% in roadway fatalities.

In addition to responding to crashes, ALEA Troopers conducted high-visibility enforcement across the state, issuing:

- 2,639 traffic citations
- 1,034 warnings
- 46 DUI arrests

ALEA's Marine Patrol Division also maintained an increased presence on Alabama's waterways throughout the holiday weekend. Troopers investigated:

- 9 boating incidents
- 1 serious boating incident involving a missing individual
- 555 vessel stops
- 235 citations issued
- 695 warnings issued
- 3 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests

A search and recovery operation remains ongoing at Lake Wedowee for an individual reported missing following a boating incident.

For comparison, during the 2025 Fourth of July holiday period, ALEA Marine Patrol investigated seven boating incidents. One non-boating fatality was reported during the holiday weekend, while a boating incident that occurred on July 5 later became a fatality after the victim succumbed to injuries on July 9.

"This year's Fourth of July holiday results demonstrate the positive impact that enforcement, education and personal responsibility can have on public safety," said ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor.

"Reducing traffic fatalities from 12 last year to four this year is a meaningful achievement and reflects the combined efforts of our Agency personnel, our public safety partners and the countless motorists who made safe, responsible decisions behind the wheel. While we are encouraged by this progress, our mission remains unchanged because even one life lost is one too many."

Secretary Taylor also reminded the public that safe choices extend beyond holiday weekends.

"Whether you're traveling on our highways or enjoying Alabama's lakes and rivers, every decision matters," he said.

ALEA extended its appreciation to its local, state and federal public safety partners, as well as the public, for helping make this year's Fourth of July holiday travel period safer for everyone.





THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Obituary Announcements: July 9-10

Nathan Ray Thomas, 62
Nathan Ray Thomas, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully on July 8, 2026, in Birmingham, Alabama. He was born on Aug. 31, 1963, in Alabama, where he began a life marked by devotion to family and a steadfast commitment to his loved ones. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Vinemont Christian Church with interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the church on Saturday from 10-11 a.m. Ministers Tom Thomas and Nathaniel Thomas will officiate. Visitation was Friday evening at Cullman Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. Nathan's warmth and kindness touched all who knew him. He built a life of love and support with his cherished wife, Linda, by his side for 41 years. Together, they created a family that was always his pride and joy. Nathan leaves a lasting legacy in his two sons: Nathaniel David (Lindsay) Thomas and Joshua Ray (Rachel) Thomas. Nathan's grandchildren—Austin, Gregory, and Joseph—were the light of his later years. He delighted in their laughter and accomplishments, and his memory will live on in their lives. Nathan was also survived by his niece and her husband, Katrina (Jason) Woodard. Nathan was preceded in death by his devoted parents, Arthur David Thomas and Minnie Josephine Blankenship Thomas. Their love and guidance shaped the foundation of his character, values, and unwavering loyalty. Nathan was a minister of the gospel for 46 years. He wanted to start preaching when he was three years old. He loved people and people loved him. He was energetic, charismatic and people were drawn to him. He loved sports, was a "Bama" fan and he loved his family. As the Thomas family remembers Nathan's life and legacy, they are comforted by the many treasured moments shared together and the enduring impact of his love. Nathan Ray Thomas will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His memory will be held dear in the hearts of his family and those whose lives he touched.

Duane Earl Hildreth, 75
It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Duane Earl Hildreth, who passed away on July 9, 2026, at the age of 75. Duane spent most of his life doing what he loved. For nearly 50 years of his life, he dedicated himself to being a truck driver, a career he truly enjoyed. The open road wasn't just his job—it was his passion. Those who knew Duane knew he had a kind heart, a friendly spirit, and a way of making people feel welcome. He was loved by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, and he leaves behind countless memories that will be cherished forever. Duane was preceded in death by his father, Forest Hildreth; his mother, Emma June Hildreth; his sister, Karen Kay Hildreth; his brother, Lavern Hildreth; and his beloved son, Anthony Patrick Everett Hildreth. He is lovingly remembered by his former wife, Nancy Wells; his daughter-in-love/caregiver, Ashley Hildreth; his treasured grandchildren, Alayah Hildreth, Alli Freeman, and Jaiden Freeman; along with several great-aunts, uncles, extended family members, and many dear friends. Though our hearts are broken, we find comfort in knowing Duane's journey has brought him peace and reunited him with those who went before him. His laughter, stories, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, forever remembered, and always loved. "Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always with us" His wishes were not to have a service. Please, pray for the family during this difficult time.

Sharon Ann Sparks, 77
Sharon Ann Sparks, 77, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on July 7, 2026. Sharon was a devoted Christian and a faithful member of Highway 157 Church of Christ, where she spent many years serving others and teaching Bible classes. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she loved sharing God's Word with children. She was especially proud to see that love of teaching continue through her family. Sharon was a gifted and creative woman who loved crafting, embroidery, and sewing. She used those talents to bless others, creating personalized gifts for weddings, baby showers, and family members. Her handmade creations were a reflection of the love and care she poured into those around her. Sharon graduated from Eastern Kentucky University, where she met the love of her life, Stephen Sparks. They were married on May 17, 1971, and shared 55 wonderful years together. Sharon and Stephen built a life centered around faith, family, and love. She later earned her master's degree from Indiana University Southeast and spent several years teaching elementary and preschool students. Above all, Sharon was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She treasured her family and found great joy in her grandchildren and great-grandchild. She was known for her kindness, humor, creativity, and the special ways she made memories with those she loved. Sharon faced many health challenges throughout her life, including ovarian cancer and breast cancer, with remarkable courage and determination. When doctors gave her a difficult prognosis many years ago, she continued to fight and trusted in God's plan. Her strength, positive attitude, and perseverance inspired everyone who knew her. She was preceded in death by her son, Brian Sparks, and her parents, Jewell and Charles Smith. She is survived by her husband, Stephen Sparks; daughter, Rebecca Provines (Ryan); brother, Timothy Smith; grandchildren, Dylan Provines (Katelyn), Abigail Irwin (Hunter), and Madeline Provines; and great-grandchild, Evelyn Provines. Sharon leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, determination, and service. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but they find comfort knowing she is no longer suffering and is resting in the presence of her Lord.

Eugene Reid, 60
A graveside service for Eugene Reid, 60, of Hayden will be Saturday, July 11, at 2 p.m. at Union Grove Baptist Cemetery in Hayden. Officiating the service will be Ronnie Nolen. Visitation will be the same day at Hanceville Funeral Home from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mr. Reid is survived by his wife, Joyce; siblings, Diane (Angel) Maymi, James (Christie) Reid, and Marcus (Tessa) Adams; mother, Mary Reid; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mr. Reid was preceded in death by his father, Colonel Reid. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Reid family.

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