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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

New-look Fairview Aggies enter 2026 season with the same winning standard and expectations

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West Point Intermediate named NAESP National Gold Star School

Staff Reports
Contributor

WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point Intermediate School has been named a National Gold Star School by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

The national recognition honors elementary and middle schools that demonstrate excellence inside and outside the classroom.

West Point Intermediate earned the distinction based on its performance in NAESP's Three Pillars of Effective Schools:

- A positive and established school culture
- Empowered students and faculty
- Strong systems that support effective decision-making

The application process also included recommendations from the superintendent, parents, school employees and community members.

School officials said the recognition reflects the work of Principal Mike Jones, students, faculty, staff, families and the West Point community.

The award also recognizes the school's commitment to continued improvement and its efforts to create a supportive learning environment for students and employees.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

West Point Intermediate School Principal Mike Jones

Cold Springs FCCLA members earn national gold recognition at 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference



CONTRIBUTED

2026 National Gold Winners were Isabelle Howell, Mimzy Mavers and Baylee Dye.

Staff Reports
Contributor

BREMEN, Ala. — Members of the Cold Springs FCCLA Chapter earned national recognition during the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference, held July 6–10 in Washington, D.C., by receiving gold ratings in the FCCLA STAR Events competition.

Baylee Dye and Mimzy Mavers earned a gold rating in the Chapter Project Display, Level 3 event, while Isabelle Howell received a gold rating in Chapter Project Display, Level 2. STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events provide FCCLA members with opportunities to demonstrate leadership, career readiness and Family and Consumer Sciences knowledge through competitive projects and presentations.

The Chapter Project Display event challenges members to develop and present projects that highlight FCCLA chapter activities, leadership initiatives and community impact while showcasing planning, organization and effective communication skills.

In addition to the students' success, Cold Springs FCCLA Adviser Stephanie Blair was recognized nationally as the recipient of the FCCLA Educated Adviser Award, honoring her dedication to FCCLA, Family and Consumer Sciences education and student leadership development.

The Cold Springs FCCLA Chapter joined delegates from Alabama and more than 10,000 FCCLA members, advisers and guests from across the nation, Puerto Rico and American Samoa who attended the conference.

The FCCLA National Leadership Conference brings students and educators together for competitive events, leadership development, career exploration, educational workshops and national recognition. The 2026 conference was especially historic because it was held in Washington, D.C., during the America 250 celebrations.

"Hosting the 2026 National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., during the America 250 celebrations created a powerful and historic opportunity for FCCLA members," said Sandy Spavone, CEO of FCCLA. "These students are building the skills, confidence and connections to make an impact in their schools, careers, families, communities and country right now."



CONTRIBUTED

The 2026 National Educated Adviser Award was presented to Stephanie Blair.

Aderholt backs permanent daylight saving time, raises concerns about dark school mornings
» PAGE 2

United Way hosting Stuff the Bus school supply drive throughout July



UWCC

United Way of Cullman County is collecting school supplies throughout July as part of its annual Stuff the Bus campaign.
» PAGE 3

Holly Pond's Aubrey Mayfield, Cullman's Stella Meyer earn $1K Alfa Foundation Scholarships
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Before Edinburgh Fringe debut, Wallace State presents 'I Am a Pilgrim' July 23-25



WALLACE STATE

Members of Wallace State's production of "I Am a Pilgrim: The Evolution of American Gospel Music," rehearse for the upcoming performance July 23-25.
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 17, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 13

- theft of property; Lovers Lane Rd.
- violation of protection order; CR 1062
- possession of controlled substances; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1354
- theft of property; CR 38
- theft of property; CR 1229
- domestic violence; CR 1711

July 14

- domestic violence; Commercial St. NE
- theft of property; CR 1634
- harassment; Main St. NW Hanceville
- theft of property; CR 644

July 15

- dog bite; CR 591
- theft of property; CR 844
- assault; Hwy. 157
- trespassing; CR 138

ARRESTS

July 13-15

Baker, Sara; 75

- assault-aggravated assault-family-other weapon
- soliciting a controlled substance crime (4 counts)
- assault-elder abuse and neglect-2nd degree
- illegal distribution of a controlled substance
- attempt to commit a crime-class A felony (3 counts)
- conspiracy to commit murder

Burnette, Marlynia M.; 47

- permitting dogs to run at large

Campbell, Brett A.; 26

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Jackson, Joshua B.; 44

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Lindley, Phillip J.; 30

- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- violation of a domestic violence protection order
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Lovell, Brandon L.; 37

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

McCay, Oscar R.; 44

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

McCown, Katelynn M.; 32

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Sills, Natalie P.; 22

- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone

Tarvin, Daniel J.; 24

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Watson, Jayden D.; 31

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Watson, Sarah O.; 27

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

July 15

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $28; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $52; Olive St. SW

July 16

- menacing; person; Olive St. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW
- burglary-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; Broadway Dr. SW

ARRESTS

July 13-16

Wiese, Caroline B.; 37

- theft of property-4th degree

Holt, Bridget N.; 41

- theft of property-4th degree

Evans, Sonya W.; 55

- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- theft of property-4th degree

Morgan, Alton W.; 63

- criminal mischief-2nd degree

Morgan, Cynthia R.; 63

- criminal mischief-2nd degree

Prater, Aaron G.; 29

- possession of unlawful hemp products

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Dockery, Thompson earn degrees from Mississippi State

A. Matthews
Mississippi State University

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. — More than 3,500 students are on the spring 2026 Graduation List at Mississippi State University, including two local students:

- Sarah Dockery, of Vinemont, received the Bachelor of Science Summa Cum Laude from MSU's Bagley College of Engineering.
- Claire Thompson, of Cullman, received the Bachelor of Science from MSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum congratulated graduates as the May ceremony's keynote speaker, emphasizing the world-class education they received and the core MSU values it reflects.

"Integrity, strong work ethic and respect for others – that's who we are, and that's what we're known for," Keenum said. "Embrace and live your life with these values."

Vinemont's Jordan Windham earns degree from University of Wyoming

Staff Reports
Contributor

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The University of Wyoming accorded degrees upon the following nonresident students from Alabama at the completion of the 2026 spring semester.

Vinemont's Jordan Windham earned a Master of Arts.

The University of Wyoming provides quality undergraduate and graduate programs to 10,819 students from all 50 states and 76 countries. Established in 1886, UW is a nationally recognized research institution with accomplished faculty and world-class facilities. Offering 200 areas of study, UW provides an environment for success. A low student/faculty ratio allows for individual instruction and attention, and undergraduates often participate in cutting-edge research projects.

For more information about the University of Wyoming, visit www.uwyo.edu.

Aderholt (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, voted this week in favor of legislation that would end the twice-yearly clock change by making daylight saving time permanent.

H.R. 139, known as the Sunshine Protection Act of 2025, would repeal the seasonal daylight saving time schedule and move states that currently observe the time change to year-round daylight saving time. States and areas already exempt from daylight saving time could retain permanent standard time under the bill.

"The twice-a-year time change has long been a source of frustration for families, businesses and workers across the country," Aderholt said. "I've heard from many constituents who simply want to pick one time and stick with it."

The House Rules Committee cleared the legislation for floor consideration Monday. The House approved the rule governing debate Tuesday by a 215-211 vote.

Although Aderholt supported the measure, he said permanent daylight saving time could create safety concerns for students in north Alabama during winter.

"In December and January, permanent daylight saving time would mean the sun would not rise until nearly 8 a.m. in much of north Alabama," Aderholt said. "That means many students would be standing at bus stops or walking to school before sunrise."

Permanent daylight saving time would not create additional daylight. It would shift an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening during the months when Alabama currently observes standard time.

That would mean later winter sunrises and later winter sunsets. Summer schedules would remain largely unchanged because Alabama already observes daylight saving time during those months.

Aderholt said school systems, local communities and state leaders may need to consider changes if the legislation becomes law.

"Whether that means reviewing bus schedules, adjusting school start times where practical or identifying other commonsense solutions, we should make every effort to ensure children are not routinely waiting for the bus in the dark," he said.

The bill was introduced Jan. 3, 2025, by U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Florida. Its House and Senate versions have received bipartisan support, though permanent daylight saving time has remained the subject of debate because of concerns about darker winter mornings.

Supporters argue that ending the clock changes would provide greater consistency for families, businesses and travel while preserving more evening daylight.

Aderholt said he believes lawmakers can end the time changes while addressing local safety concerns.

"Like many Americans, I believe it's time to end the twice-yearly ritual of changing our clocks," he said. "As we move forward, we'll continue working to ensure the transition is implemented in a way that best serves families here in Alabama."

The legislation would still require Senate approval and the president's signature before becoming law.

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Breast & Cervical CANCER EARLY DETECTION Program of Alabama

Mayfield (from Front)

Brooke Foster
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Aubrey Mayfield of Holly Pond was recently selected as one of 100 recipients of the 2026-27 Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program. Mayfield, a freshman at Wallace State Community College, received $1,000 to use toward tuition, fees, books or supplies.

Since 2014, the Alfa Foundation has awarded $1.25 million to deserving students through its scholarship program, which is administered by Kaleidoscope.

This year's recipients hail from 44 counties and will attend 27 academic institutions.

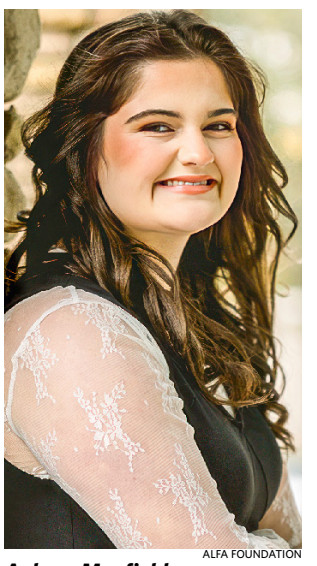
"On behalf of the Alfa Foundation, we are proud to support this outstanding group of students as they further their education within the state of Alabama," said Alfa Insurance® President Jimmy Parnell.

Scholarships were awarded based on grade point average, participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience and future goals.

To qualify, students must be enrolled – or planning to enroll – in a full-time accredited program at a two-year or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school located in Alabama.

Since 1946, Alfa Insurance has proudly supported the community through various programs, investments and donations.

The Alfa Foundation seeks to promote education and support organizations that are making an impact in the communities Alfa serves. Visit AlfaInsurance.com to learn more.



ALFA FOUNDATION

Aubrey Mayfield

Meyer (from Front)

Brooke Foster
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Stella Meyer of Cullman was recently selected as one of 100 recipients of the 2026-27 Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program. Meyer, a freshman at The University of Alabama, received $1,000 to use toward tuition, fees, books or supplies.

Since 2014, the Alfa Foundation has awarded $1.25 million to deserving students through its scholarship program, which is administered by Kaleidoscope.

This year's recipients hail from 44 counties and will attend 27 academic institutions.

"On behalf of the Alfa Foundation, we are proud to support this outstanding group of students as they further their education within the state of Alabama," said Alfa Insurance® President Jimmy Parnell.

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ALFA FOUNDATION

Aubrey Mayfield

Drive (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — United Way of Cullman County is collecting school supplies throughout July as part of its annual Stuff the Bus campaign.

Donations may be dropped off at EvaBank, Premier Bank, Cullman Electric Cooperative and the Cullman Police Department, according to United Way Office Manager Kayla Mize. Supplies may also be delivered during United Way's weekend collection event at Walmart.

"With Alabama's Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday (happening) July 17-19, we encourage everyone to pick up a few extra school supplies while shopping," Mize said.

She said a student's school supply list can serve as a guide for selecting useful donations.

The most-needed items include pencils, crayons, markers, folders, glue sticks, scissors, backpacks and other classroom essentials. United Way asks that all donated items be new so students begin the school year with quality supplies.

Monetary donations are also accepted through Venmo and PayPal. Families and supporters may also purchase items through United Way's Amazon Wish List.

"Every dollar donated goes directly toward purchasing school supplies for local students," Mize said.

United Way has organized Stuff the Bus for several years to help Cullman County students and families prepare for the beginning of school.

Mize said the campaign is intended to provide students with the materials they need while reducing some of the financial pressure on families.

"Many local families fall into the ALICE category," Mize said. "These are hard-working families who often struggle to make ends meet, and school supplies can be one more expense that's difficult to manage."

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

Mize said donations of any size can make a meaningful difference.

"Whether someone donates one pack of crayons or fills an entire backpack, every donation helps a local child start the school year with confidence," she said.

Stuff the Bus also has personal significance for Mize. She first became involved with United Way by volunteering during the 2024 and 2025 drives.

"One day I stopped by the office to drop off donated supplies, and they asked if I wanted to interview right then for the office manager position that I had previously applied for," Mize said. "It's a story I still laugh about today."

United Way will also host its inaugural Dolly Parton Imagination Library Graduation Party Saturday, July 18, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Depot Park.

The event will recognize local children who are turning 5 and graduating from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as they prepare to enter kindergarten.

Families may attend activities, learn more about the Imagination Library and speak with United Way staff about the program. School supplies will also be collected during the event.

"It's another great opportunity for the community to support local students while celebrating our youngest readers," Mize said.

For more information or to make a donation, visit United Way of Cullman County on Facebook or at www.uwaycc.org, or call 256-739-2948.

Drop-off locations include the Cullman Electric Cooperative, Cullman Police Department, EvaBank (Hwy. 157 and Cherokee Avenue) and all Cullman-area Premier Bank of the South locations.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Services: Spirit Life Church
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Saturday, July 18 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, July 19 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
• Wednesday, July 22– 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 24 – 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. END OF ADDICTION RALLY by Mickey Bell
• Sunday, July 26 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
• The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
• Saturday, 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.

West Point Class of 1967 Class Reunion
Saturday, July 25, at 4 p.m. at the West Point Brandin Iron. Hope to see you there.

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

Holly Pond Lions Club All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Aug. 15, from 6-9 a.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building. For a donation, guests can enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee, available for dine-in or takeout. All proceeds will support the HP Lions Club Project Fund and the local food pantry. Thank you community for supporting your local Lions Club.

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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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview quarterback Conner Scott receiving a snap

PREP FOOTBALL

New-look Fairview Aggies enter 2026 season with the same winning standard and expectations

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Turnover was the theme of the offseason for the Fairview Aggies, who, prior to the retirement of legendary head coach George Redding, went 12-1 with a run to 5A State Playoff quarterfinals.

Along with Redding, the Aggies lost superstar running back Jake Harper, quarterback Kolt Redding and wide receiver Zayden Cruce to graduation.

After 19 years as defensive coordinator, though, Brian Simmons has stepped into the head role, and looks to prove that, despite an almost entirely new coaching staff and offensive backfield, this is still the same Fairview.

"Our goal has not changed, our standards have not changed and our passion has not changed. That's what I've told the team, I say 'why would you change something that's worked for 19 years?' Coach Redding and I did it together for so long, so we agreed that those key things are what we need to be good at and have in order to succeed. The only thing that's changed is who's printing off the schedule," Simmons said earlier in the offseason.

The summer's been up-and-down for the Aggies, but in recent weeks those starting roles left behind by last season's 14 seniors have started to fill up. Replacing Kolt Redding at signal caller is Conner Scott, who started at wide receiver for the Aggies last season.

"He's doing a great job just taking command of the offense. He knows it well. He was a backup quarterback years prior, and a starting receiver, so he knows the offense well. He's just a natural leader, too, and a very good athlete," Simmons said on his new quarterback.

Helping Scott settle in is the fact that Fairview's offense will remain run-heavy. Filling the void that Harper and his 2100-plus yard 2025 season left, the Aggies have a duo of running backs they feel will both step up.

Describing sophomore running back Easton Fitch, Simmons said "This guy, man, he's got explosive speed and great vision."

Also taking reps will be senior Ernesto Vazquez, whose speed and vision both have stuck out to the staff as well.

Clearing the way for the duo, Sebastian Garcia, Evan Smith and Braxton Kilpatrick return on the interior offensive line, but both tackle spots are still being worked out.

Garcia, the team's starting center, has not only continued to anchor the offensive line, but has also emerged as one of the surprises of the offseason for the defensive staff.

"Last year, was a backup MIKE linebacker. Turns out, he's a really good defensive end- so he's moving. He may honestly be one of our starting ends this year. He's very quick off the ball, has good strength, very good football IQ- so that's kind of been a surprise for us, and definitely a good kind of surprise," Simmons said.

Along with the offensive scheme, the defense will remain the same after Simmons' bump to head coach. The Aggies' 3-3 stack scheme will stay in place, but with an influx of speed on the defense, they'll feature some new blitz looks.

Both sides of the ball will be tested, and early, as the Aggies will move into the reformed Class 4A, Region 8 alongside Good Hope, Hayden, Guntersville and Scottsboro (who knocked them out of the playoffs last year), among others.

"This region is just loaded. I believe there's five teams in there who have hosted playoff games the last two years, and there's only going to be four spots open. So, one team that's been hosting for two years is going to miss playoffs altogether- that tells you where this region's at. For us, we only have nine games because we never found a 10th, so eight of those nine are going to be region games.

"West Point will be the only non-region game, and that's the first. So from there, the rest of the year, you're playing games that are determining the playoff spots. But, we're also one of those five I mentioned that have hosted a playoff game, so we're just going to keep filling in these spots and keep rolling," Simmons said.



Before Edinburgh Fringe debut, Wallace State presents 'I Am a Pilgrim' July 23-25

Special to The Cullman Tribune



WALLACE STATE

Members of Wallace State's production of "I Am a Pilgrim: The Evolution of American Gospel Music," rehearse for the upcoming performance July 23-25.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Fine and Performing Arts program will present "I Am a Pilgrim: The Evolution of American Gospel Music" July 23-25, before taking the show to Scotland next month to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

"I Am a Pilgrim: The Evolution of American Gospel Music" will offer a musical journey through the history of gospel music, including shape-note singing, African American spirituals, Southern gospel and more.

Tiffany Richter, director of the vocal ensembles at Wallace State, said the research process in developing the production has been enlightening.

"I am a child of the church and digging into the history of how church music has evolved has been fascinating," she said. "Gospel music has touched every decade of American history, and really influenced our culture. If you like history or music or great harmony, or just want some great entertainment, there is absolutely something in this show for you."

Connections to gospel music history

The history of gospel music is especially relevant for two Wallace State alums who will be performing and acting as directors for the show. Siblings Tahauny and Duke Cleghorn serve as the show's choreographer and musical director, respectively, and are related to Otis McCoy, an editor of the Red Back Hymnal. The hymnal is often featured in gospel music conventions and local church singings. Classic gospel songs such as "Farther Along" and "I'll Fly Away" are found in the hymnal.

"Gospel music is something that runs deep in my family, in every sense," Tahauny Cleghorn said. "My great-great-uncle Otis McCoy edited what here in Alabama we call the 'red-back hymnal,' and composed many of its well-loved songs. And his great-uncle, Seaborn M. Denson, was one of the foremost teachers and writers of Sacred Harp music in the state. This is the music that my family listened to in the car, the music that we sang at family gatherings and that, in many ways, formed the basis of my musical education."

While the Cleghorns have an ingrained knowledge of the history of gospel music, some of the current students are learning more about the genre. Students have watched documentaries about African American Spirituals, learned about songsters who traveled the South teaching people how to read music, and the beginnings of Sacred Harp music.

Kaylie Ellis said she has appreciated the opportunity to "learn the rich history of gospel music and the power of the stories written in each song," and she's discovered how it can bring people together.

"As a nurse, I spend most of my time at work before heading to rehearsal for our upcoming show," she said. "I sometimes catch myself humming the tunes in the hall, and even have some people sing with me. I find this moment creates a special connection. I look forward to being a part of a movement as big as this show."

Jay Lee said the experience has taught him more about America's history. "It has shown me how influential gospel music is and how many people's hearts have been affected by it," Lee said. "It's a religious experience, a cultural experience, a personal one, and much more. It has truly opened my eyes to the connection we have with each other and to America's great melting pot."

"I Am a Pilgrim" traveling to Europe

After completing the show's run at home, the group will then prepare to take the production to Europe, where they will perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. The Fringe is a three-week festival that dates to 1947 when eight theatre groups arrived uninvited to perform alongside the Edinburgh International Festival, literally on the fringe of the event. By 1958, the Festival Fringe Society was created.

Wallace State will perform "I Am a Pilgrim" Aug.10-12, at St. Paul's & St. George's Church at 7 p.m., local time each night (1 p.m. CDT).

Richter expects audiences attending the show will be very receptive.

"We're bringing a uniquely American form of music to European audiences, and we've been told this is what they want to hear us sing," Richter said.

This will be the program's second trip to Europe in three years.

In 2023, the groups traveled to Germany, Austria and Italy with a similarly themed performance, "Down by the Riverside."

Performances will be held Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25, at 7 p.m., at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre in the Garlan E. Gudger Student Center. Tickets are a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children under 12, and can be purchased at the door or in advance through www.wallacestate.edu/fpa.

For questions or more information about Wallace State's Fine and Performing Arts programs, call 256-352-8277 or email amy.seymore@wallacestate.edu.



Cullman Amateur Radio Club hosts Hamfest

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

The Cullman Amateur Radio Club hosted Hamfest in the Vinemont High School gym. While you can buy new gear online, hamfests (gatherings of amateur radio enthusiasts) offer flea markets where you can find rare, vintage or discounted parts, cables and transceivers you wouldn't otherwise find. Many hamfests feature volunteer exam sessions, allowing attendees to get their first license or upgrade existing ones just like Ethan Taylor (KN4VXH) did July 11. New hams can also get mentorship from seasoned veterans.



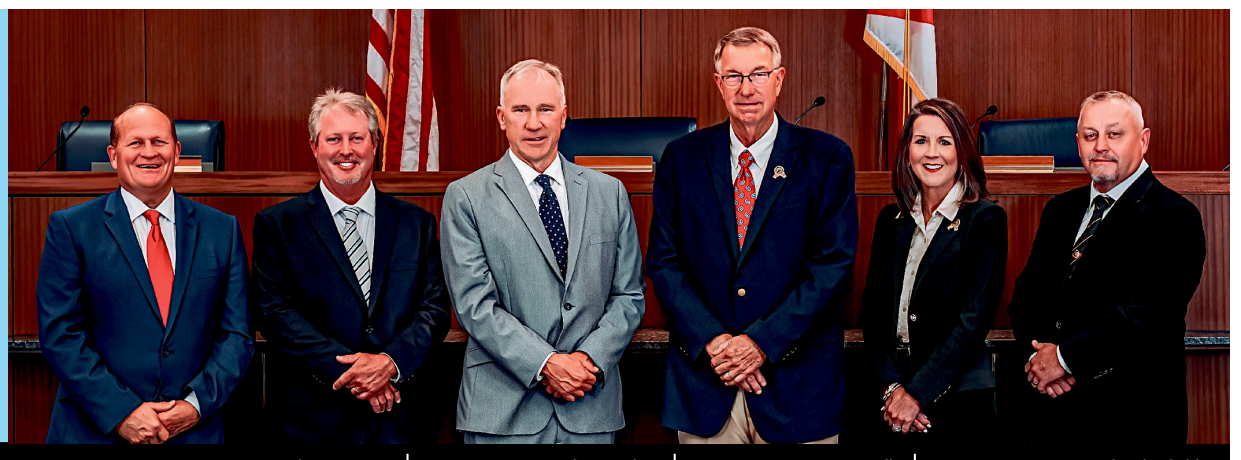
EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Allen McBroom (left) and Lynn McBloom



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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OP-ED

Proper hermit crab enclosures and care

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Summer is in full swing, and Alabama and Florida beaches remain popular vacation spots. If you traveled to the beach this summer, or at any point, you may have browsed a few souvenir shops!

There you can browse through keychains, keepsake sand, family photo boots, magnets and even request custom souvenirs such as airbrush shirts or hats. These shops even have beach themed items such as shells made into necklaces, windchimes and other variations of beach home decor.

Sand dollars, starfish and beach clothes for the remainder of the summer? It'll all be there for the small cost of an arm and a leg!

One item that may seem very out of place to find in a souvenir shop is hermit crabs! If you've ever been – this is no surprise to you.

They are typically placed in a large container among several painted shells or individually sold in travel crates.

Spoiler alert: these enclosures are too small and the paint is toxic for them. If they ingest paint, they will die. This includes paint on their shells and tank decorations.

Foods typically sold at pet stores are also toxic for them to consume. Hermit crabs need a specific combination for their meals or they will resort to cannibalism and eat their tank mates.

A complete hermit crab meal should include:

- 50% animal protein
- Plant protein
- Calcium
- Fat
- Fruit
- Veggies
- Harvestables

One hermit crab needs a 10-gallon enclosure, minimum! So, if you have two you should have a 20-gallon tank.

Also, hermit crabs are social critters and it's recommended to have two. Not to say that having only one isn't an option – just something to consider.

To have a proper enclosure you will need sand. The layer of sand will have to be deep enough for them to dig into in order to molt.



PIXABAY

Hermit crab

Something you may not have known is that digging up the crab while it's molting can kill them. By doing this you expose their new exoskeleton to air and light, which causes fatal shock.

To reduce stress you should also have five shells per hermit crab in their enclosure. If you don't provide this they will attempt to take each other's shells, which – you guessed it – leads to fatality.

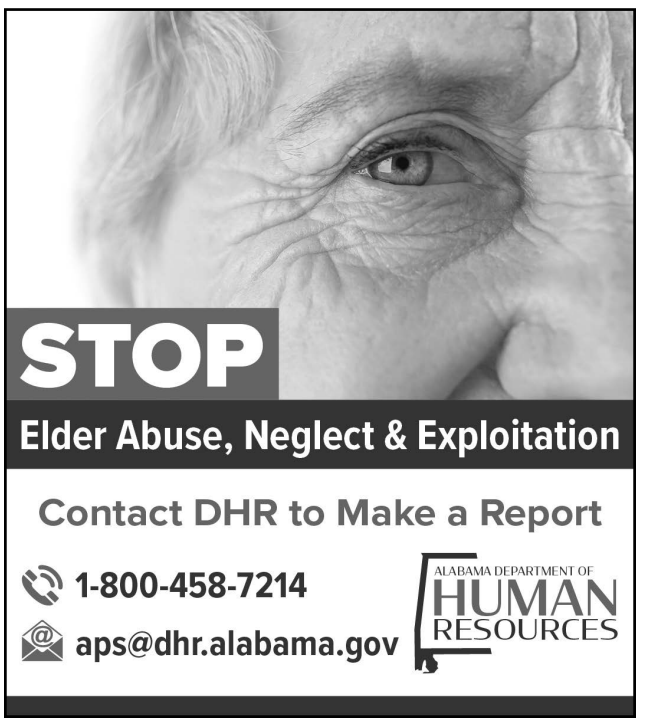
There is also a specific ratio of sand and eco-earth needed for their tanks as well as submersible saltwater/freshwater pools.

You want to replicate the natural environment they were taken from. Their tanks will have to have a certain humidity percentage in addition to things like a wheel for them to walk on since they would normally do so in the wild.

This also includes things for them to climb, hide in and natural aspects like plants.

If you brought home a hermit crab or want to get one, please do your part in researching beforehand.











LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

Case# PC2026-268
PB MIN Book:245 Page:45
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Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-2108

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

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

Case# PC2026-228
PB MIN Book:245 Page:262
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07/17/2026 11:49AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: *
MARY RUTH FLANIGAN, * CASE NO.: PC2026-228
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to **SYLVIA FLANIGAN TURNER**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **MARY RUTH FLANIGAN**, deceased, on the 17th day of July, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County.

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.

Sylvia Flanigan Turner
Personal Representative

Kalif R. Green, Esq.
Kalif R. Green, Attorney at Law, LLC
107 Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077
(256)735-6040
kalifrgreen@gmail.com

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 17th day of July, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The gift of sight

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Have you ever wondered or imagined what it might be like to not be able to see? The ability to see is one of the greatest gifts and senses we have as human beings. There are approximately 191 million people who can't see. There are a staggering 2.2 billion people around the world who have some form of visual impairment. I am one of those.

The gift of sight is one we may take for granted. I know I have, but not so much for the last 14 years and certainly not in the past few weeks.

Many of you are aware of my recent retina problems, but my eye issues actually began over 40 years ago. It was then that I was told that I have something called Lattice Syndrome.

This means the retinas in my eyes are thin and filled with holes making them resemble a piece of lattice.

My issue never caused me any significant problems until about 14 years ago. Then I began to see gnats and flashes of light that weren't actually there.

The retina in my left eye had developed multiple tears. This forced me to undergo multiple surgeries over the next year to repair retina and macula damage in that eye.

The retina in my right eye remained intact until a few weeks ago when I was informed that it had detached. The initial diagnosis was that my retina had completely separated and that I would likely be legally blind in that eye.

I spent that first night wondering what changes were about to take place for me. I also wondered if my other eye would continue to be okay and if there was the possibility of total blindness one day.

For the next few days, I considered what it might be like to be blind. I prayed. I prayed for my eyes, and I prayed for the millions of people who are blind.

After that diagnosis, and before my surgery, I had a strange experience partly due to my limited eyesight.

With over half of my vision in my right eye blocked by my detachment, and not great vision in my left eye, I did not see the huge rat snake. He was relaxing on the rail around our back porch.

The top of the rail is a 2x6 board that is about waist high. It is painted dark grey, about the same color as the rat snake.

Even though our uninvited guest was probably 6 feet long, I did not see him when I stepped out onto the porch. I reached for the rail and almost put my hand right on him before I realized he was there.

I may have said something spiritual, or possibly not, as I jumped back. I lost my balance and fell against the back door.

Obviously, I had not closed the door completely, because it slammed open, banged against the wall, and knocked off its curtain. I almost needed a dry pair of pants! The snake just laid there...perhaps laughing at the silly man.

I am thankful that my guest was not a rattlesnake! I am also most thankful for the gift of sight...even poor eyesight.

I give thanks to God for the many beautiful sights around much of the world I have been blessed to see, as well as the dangerous things I have seen in time.

I give thanks for my saved vision and am now praying for complete restoration of my sight.

I do plan to see the people in my life clearly again and much more of this big, beautiful world we live in.

Thank you all for your prayers!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: July 18, 1940

From the files of July 18, 1940

Logan News
Mrs. Mary Nix and Doris Nix were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Nix and Juanita.

Mr. and Mrs. Odis Watson of Birmingham spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Denson.

Mrs. Lucy Guthrey was the Sunday afternoon guest of Mrs. J. G. Nix.

Miss Imogene Hill is spending a few days with her cousin at Rhines Crossroads.

Louise Guthrey was the Sunday guest of her sister, Mrs. Calvin Kilgo.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Linke and children of Barberton, Ohio, are visiting relatives of Logan.

Cullman Jaycees Win Over Jasper 7-Up's 15-9
"County Agents" Eke Out Victory Over City School Team
On Tuesday night the Cullman Junior Chamber of Commerce defeated the highly touted Jasper 7-Up's by the score of 15 to 9.

Ben Holmes was on the mound for the locals with Funderburk behind the plate. McDonald pitched for Jasper with Stovall catching.

In the second game "County Agents" nosed out the City School team by the narrow margin of 11 to 10.

On Friday night of this week the Cullman Jaycees will play Cooper Wells Hosiery Mills of Decatur on the local athletic field beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Simcoe Wins Over Good Hope By Score Of 5 to 4
On July 13th the Simcoe baseball team defeated the Good Hope team. The final score of this close and exciting game which was played at Good Hope was 5 to 4. Calvert pitched for Good Hope and Jones for Simcoe.

On July 15, these two rivals met again at Simcoe, and again Simcoe defeated Good Hope both games. The score of the first game was 11 to 3 and the second game 4 to 0. In the first game Owens pitched for Good Hope and Hill for Simcoe.

The annual Simcoe picnic which was to have been held July 18, is postponed until August 10.

Sardis News
Misses Lila Mae and Laverne Jones spent the week-end with their aunt near Good Hope.

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Hancock visited her brother, Mr. Clifford Duke Sunday.

Mr. Winford Speegle spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Herrin.

Miss Nell Duke spent Sunday night with Mr. and Mrs. Grover Duke.



Mrs. Novil Herrin and daughter Peggie Sue spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Herrin.

Mr. David and Bonnie Hendrix and Mr. Gaston Speegle returned from Georgia on Tuesday.

Miss Flora Wooten from Akron, Ohio, is visiting her sister near Sardis.

All the boys are signing up for C. C. C. Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Collins and family from Akron, Ohio, are visiting their relatives here.

Mr. Bonnie Hendrix spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Duke.

Mrs. Pearl Persall and children are here from Texas.

POET'S CORNER

A Grand Love
By: Randy C. Hale

A grandmother holds a little girl.
She looks into her eyes,
imagines, and dreams of future things
unfolding over time.

She'll hold her now in her arms
and sing a lullaby.
And watch her slowly drift to sleep
as infant years go by.

These two shall share a special bond
That comes from God's own breast.
The nature of a tender love
that gives only its best.

In the years that pass, these two will learn
each other in so many ways.
As time sifts through the hourglass,
will be such special days.

They'll laugh and talk about the things
they both will wish to share.
And each will know the other's heart,
their burdens, and their cares.

Beneath the sky of heaven's dome
unfolds a unique splendor.
Grandmother and granddaughter's heart
so close and knit together.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JULY 18

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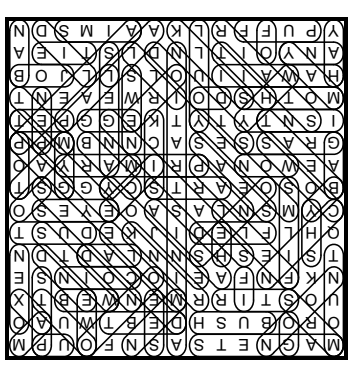
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JULY 18

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

ANSWERS:



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

West Blount 2026 Market at the Maze accepting vendor applications

Emily McMunn
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WARRIOR, Ala. — Organizers for the third annual Market at the Maze have officially opened the vendor application process for the fall 2026 season. Held annually at the West Blount Corn Maze, the two-day event functions as a combined community market and autumn festival, attracting regional families and local shoppers.

Unlike traditional standalone markets, this event integrates commercial booths directly into a seasonal agritourism attraction. Organizers said attendees typically remain on the property for extended periods to participate in various scheduled activities, creating prolonged foot traffic for participating businesses.

The market operates alongside the venue's standard fall entertainment lineup, which this year will feature an America 250 corn maze, hayrides, a barrel train, zip lines, inflatables and a petting zoo.

Management is currently seeking local and regional vendors, crafters, makers, boutiques, food trucks and small businesses to fill designated outdoor and indoor spaces.

Dates:
- Saturday, Oct. 10, and Saturday, Oct. 24

Times:
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Spaces:
- 12' x 12' indoor booth – $50
- 12' x 12' outdoor booth – $40
- Food truck – $60

Application:
- westblountcornmaze.com/market
- market@westblountcornmaze.com

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Hornworms: Masters of hide and seek

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

Hornworms are bright green and look similar to caterpillars, but are just hawk moth larvae. These seemingly innocent things are the biggest threat to your garden.

They are ravenous eaters and can be found in eggplant, pepper and tomato plants or any plants in the nightshade family.

Their bright green color makes it hard to differentiate between your plant and the hornworm itself.

A tip to tracking down these creatures, aside from following the buffet trail, is to use a black light. Hornworms have bioluminescent properties which allows them to glow under a black light.

Cullman County Master Gardeners advised that you can tell their location and size by their droppings, and the bigger the dropping the bigger the worm.

"Their droppings are almost neon green and dry brown, so if you see neon green, or even a lighter green, you should look around in that area. If the droppings are dark brown they may have moved on."

Though locating them is half the battle. Once you've found them, you will have to search for the hornworm eggs.

"You have to pick them and their little eggs off your plants or else they are doomed to be eaten.

"The eggs are very tiny, slightly shiny and white, or pale in color. They are sticky so you have to pick them off with your fingers," they emphasized.

While eggs are usually laid in groups, the gardeners also mentioned finding single eggs on tomato leaves.

While there are ways to keep the hornworms out of the garden the best thing you can do is ensure the larvae and their eggs are picked off the plants.

Additional tips from Cullman County Master Gardeners include:
- Try to keep tomato plants trimmed
- Make sure no leaves touch the ground
- Thin the leaves on the stems to make them easier to inspect
- Watch for missing blossoms, chewed leaves and droppings



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Hornworm

Hornworms will munch on the whole plant: leaves, tomatoes and blossoms, but they can usually be found on the undersides of the leaves.

Obituary Announcements: July 16-17

Ford Eugene Van Wert, Jr., 82
Ford Eugene Van Wert, Jr. 82, of Cullman passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at his residence. He was born Nov. 24, 1943, in New Jersey. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Ronald Eric Casey, 56
Ronald Eric Casey, devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend, passed away after courageously living with chronic heart failure for nearly twenty years. Throughout his long journey with illness, Eric held firmly to his belief that God still had work for him to do-and he lived every day with purpose, service, and love. A memorial service will be held Sunday, July 19, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with the family receiving friends from 2-3 p.m. and the service beginning at 3 p.m. Eric was preceded in death by his grandparents Mary Margaret "Nana" and Leo Schwaiger, Paul Emerson Carnagey, Vivian Chambers, John Casey and his stepfather Wayne Comer. He is survived by his loving wife Jenny Rhodes Casey; his children Cullen Casey, Corey Casey (Rae), Garrett Casey, and Alyssa Casey; and his bonus children Carly (Dustin) Mahaffey and Jillian Sparks. Eric cherished his role as "E-pa" to his grandson Micah Mahaffey, who brought him endless joy. Eric is also survived by his mother Karen Comer, his father Ronald (Laurie) Casey, his sister Melanie (Jamey) Milligan, and his nieces and nephews Adison Milligan and Jacob Maynard (Stevie). A graduate of the University of North Alabama, Eric proudly served as a police officer in Lynn Haven, Florida for eight years. His heart for service continued long after his time in uniform. Once diagnosed with heart failure, Eric dedicated several years to volunteering at The Link of Cullman County food pantry, believing deeply that God had called him to help others. Eric was an active member of Daystar Church, where he participated in outreach and many church ministries. He also spent several years as a member of the Cullman Community Band. Above all, Eric was a devoted father, a proud grandfather, and a wonderfully "crazy uncle who brought laughter wherever he went. His legacy is one of faith, service, humor, and unwavering love for his family. In lieu of flowers please donate to the American Heart Association or The Link of Cullman County.

Sharron Annette Entrekin, 76
Funeral Service for Sharron Annette Entrekin, age 76 of Birmingham, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Entrekin passed away on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at her residence. She was born Sunday, Sept. 18, 1949, to James 'Jinks' Alvin Hodge and Mary Ruth Law Hodge. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Rebecca Jones. Survivors include her son, Anthony Entrekin, daughters, April (Jason) Thrift, Amelia (Robert) Cobb, Alicia Updike; grandchildren, Breana, Evan, Garrett, Peyton, Noah, Gracie, Cara, Kyle, Landon, Maci, Samuel, Abigail, Autumn, David and Allison; 4 great grandchildren; brothers, Keith Hodge and J. C. Hodge.

Theodore Aimes Cruz
Theodore Aimes Cruz, of Cullman, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at his residence. He was born, March 23, 2026, to Michael Cruz and Cassy Calloway Cruz. Survivors include his parents; brother, Atreuz Cruz; grandfather, Marcial Cruz and a host of extended family & friends. A memorial will be held at a later date.

Danny Ray Taylor, 74
Danny Ray Taylor, 74, of Cleveland, Alabama, passed away on July 14, 2026. Born Sept. 16, 1951, Danny Ray lived a life marked by steady devotion to duty, faithful commitment to those he loved, and a quiet strength that showed itself in both service and work. Danny Ray served in the navy during the Vietnam war, answering the call of country with resolve and honor. He also dedicated himself to his trade and to his fellow workers, holding membership in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for fifty years—an enduring testament to his work ethic, reliability, and pride in a life built on skill and perseverance. Danny Ray is survived by his wife, Kathy Boyett Taylor; his son, Jeremy (Rachel) Taylor; grandchildren, Victoria and Christopher; great grandchild, Lydia; brothers, Gary Taylor (Terri) Rodney Taylor (April); sister, Brenda Taylor Harden; and a host of nieces and nephews, family and friends. Danny Ray was preceded in death by his mother, Vonda Nell Bates Taylor; and his brother-in-law, John Harden. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on July 20, 2026, from 10-11 a.m. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service will follow at Moss-Service Funeral Home on July 20, 2026, beginning at 11 a.m. A Military Graveside Committal Service will be held at Bates Cemetery, Logan, AL 35098, on July 20, 2026.

Jenny Rebecca Jones, 53
Jenny Rebecca Jones, age 53, passed away suddenly on July 8, 2026. Jenny was born on Dec. 4, 1972. She was a woman of incredible warmth and resilience. Her life was defined by the love she had for her family. Her sudden departure leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of all who knew her. She was the cherished wife of Alexander Jeronimo, with whom she shared her life and her heart. She is survived by her husband, Alexander Jeronimo; her loving children, Margo Holt, Sean Velarde, Tyler Velarde, and Toni Barnett; and a community of extended family and friends who will miss her dearly.

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