4 ARROWS FITNESS
ESTD 2021


256-531-7663 | 408 5TH AVENUE SW, CULLMAN

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 60

VOTE
HEATH ALLBRIGHT
– FOR –
STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 11
PRO BUSINESS • PRO LIFE

SPECIAL ELECTION DATE
MAY 13
PAID FOR BY HEATH ALLBRIGHT CAMPAIGN
P.O. BOX 37 HOLLY POND AL 35058

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Mary 'Jo' Waller, Steven Jeffrey Byrd, Mary Will Lee Smith
» PAGE 7

WEATHER
74 62
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
CHANCE SHOWERS THEN SHOWERS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3


WSCC

– SPORTS –

Lions eliminated from ACCC Tournament with 5-2 loss to Coastal South
» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

Wallace State celebrates Class of 2025

Special to The Cullman Tribune

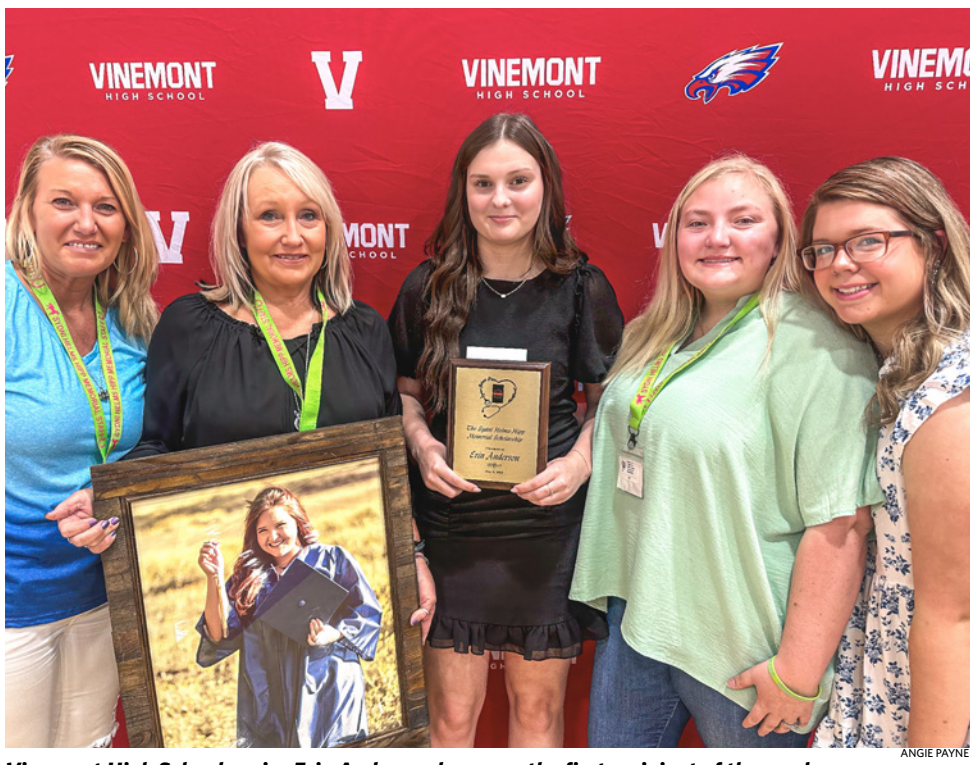
HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College celebrated commencement exercises on Friday, May 9, where around 600 students walked across the stage in two ceremonies for the Academic and Applied Technology programs and the Health Science programs. More than 2,000 degrees and certificates will be awarded to the Class of 2025, including more than 1,000 in the Spring 2025 semester.

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics congratulated all the graduates and at both ceremonies asked those who already had a job in their field or offers of unemployment upon graduation to stand. Dozens of students stood in both instances, spotlighting the impact Wallace State has on not only lives of students but the local and state economy.

"We are an engine of prosperity for students, communities and the state at large," Dr. Karolewics said. "These students » PAGE 2


WSCC
Around 600 Wallace State students celebrated graduation on Friday, May 9, 2025

Anderson named first recipient of Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship



ANGIE PAYNE
Vinemont High School senior Erin Anderson becomes the first recipient of the newly established Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship. In the picture from left to right are Angie Payne, Shelia Baxter, Erin Anderson, Sahara Helms and Claire Johnson.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — Vinemont High School senior Erin Anderson has been named the first recipient of the newly established Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship, a $2,000 award supporting Cullman County students pursuing careers in the medical or first responder fields.

The scholarship was created to honor the legacy of Sydni Helms-Hipp and recognize students who embody her values of compassion and service to the community. It is funded through the annual Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Barrel Race held each year in Helms-Hipp's honor, with this year's event scheduled for Nov. 1 at No Limits Arena in Cullman. Proceeds go directly to scholarships for one Cullman County senior and one student from Curry High School, her alma mater.

To be considered for the Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship in Cullman, applicants were required to be a Cullman County high school senior pursuing a career in the medical field or a first responder program, maintain at least a 2.75 GPA and submit a paragraph explaining why they should receive the award. It was here that Erin Anderson's essay stood out and captured the hearts of Angie Payne, co-founder of the scholarship and honorary aunt to Helms-Hipp, and the family.

"The 2025 Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship - Cullman Chapter holds a deep personal meaning for me," Anderson wrote. "Not only because of its connection to a legacy rooted in kindness, determination and community impact, but also because I see it as a reflection of the values I strive to live by every day."

She added, "Sydni's story is an inspiration. Her strength and compassion have left a lasting imprint on the people around her, and I feel a calling to continue that legacy. Earning this scholarship would not only support my educational journey, but it would also symbolize my commitment to » PAGE 5

Gudger secures $1.1M in funding for North Alabama Agriplex » PAGE 8

Myrex officially qualifies for Alabama House District 12


FACEBOOK
Cindy Myrex » PAGE 7

Vinemont HS awarded $25K grant through TVA School Uplift program



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
Vinemont High School » PAGE 6

Saint Bernard's McBride, Kerber win Fr. Luke Fazi Award


SAINT BERNARD PREP
Fr. Linus Kluscarits, school chaplain; Abigail McBride; Madilyn Kerber; and Tim Burleson, athletic director » PAGE 3

YOU'RE ALWAYS A WINNER WITH BILL'S DEALS!
GMC DEALER OF THE YEAR
7 TIMES IN A ROW!
Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE
ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP
*Notates all rebates applied, must have 2005 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.
2025 GMC
Sierra 1500 SLT
!!LOADED!!
STK# 58186
• 5.3 EcoTec3 V8 with DFM
• X31 Off Road Package
• 20" Polished Aluminum Wheels
• Keyless Remote Open/Start

WAS $66,340
NOW $52,340*
BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

© 2025 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 12

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 12, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 8

- assault; CR 1720
- harassing communications; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 321
- violation of protection order; 500 2nd Ave. SW
- harassment; CR 601
- theft of property; Main St. SE Hanceville
- harassing communications; CR 1216
- harassing communications; CR 1141
- burglary; CR 703

May 9

- assault; CR 848
- domestic violence; CR 1118
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 205
- harassing communications; CR 1145
- possession of controlled substance; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; Edward St. NE Hanceville
- domestic violence; CR 1212
- robbery; burglary; theft of property; CR 772

May 10

- possession of marijuana; CR 161
- domestic violence; CR 974
- harassing communications; CR 158
- menacing; CR 1082
- theft of property; CR 1298
- theft of property; CR 458
- domestic violence; US. 31N
- domestic violence; CR 18

May 11

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; violation of protection order; CR 222
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- menacing; obstructing governmental operations; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; CR 1635
- theft of property; CR 1855
- violation of protection order; CR 771

ARRESTS

May 8-11

Dale, Aragon J.; 28
- assault-harassment

Aviles, Britney A.; 31
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Banks, Anthony T.; 56
- GJ – financial exploitation of the elderly-1st degree
- GJ – auto theft

Brenton, Brandon W.; 27
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Chandler, James N.; 40
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Davis, Kayla M.; 35
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts)
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of a concealed weapon without a permit
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)
- failure to make child attend school

Grimes, James D.; 31
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Hendrix, Katherine E.; 42
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Hogan, Randall D.; 68
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Horton, Michael L.; 51
- assault-harassment

Jones, Johnathan C.; 40
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – retail theft-3rd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Key, Michael T.; 36
- GJ – theft, $500-less than $150
- GJ – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- GJ – fraudulent use credit/debit card (2 counts)
- auto theft
- robbery-residence-gun
- burglary-residence-gun

Owens, Erica T.; 34
- FTA – attempt to commit a crime-class C felony
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – passing forged instrument

Roberts, David M.; 56
- attempting to elude a police officer

Roberts, Virginia W.; 53
- assault-aggravated assault-menacing-gun
- obstruction-governmental operations

Sherrell, Joshua A.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Smith, Robert T.; 55
- robbery-residence-gun
- burglary-residence-force
- auto theft

Striker, Robert C.; 51
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Sturgeon, Rachel N.; 36
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts)
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $1500-2500

Swann, Michael D.; 60
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Uselton, Johnathan S.; 34
- PROBATION REVOKED – unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle
- PROBATION REVOKED – possession stolen property
- PROBATION REVOKED – burglary-residence-force

Villa, Alexis B.; 22
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Warren, Dustin B.; 35
- possession of methamphetamine

Washburn, Jodie R.; 44
- PROBATION REVOKED – theft-miscellaneous
- PROBATION REVOKED – escape

Weldon, Freddie D.; 53
- criminal mischief – damaged property

Wilson, Kevin D.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wolugboms, Courage C.; 30
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property (2 counts)

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 9

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $279; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $66; Olive St. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications; person

May 10

- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '08 Mazda; Main Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Piney Point Dr. NW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $22; Olive St. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

May 11

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; sewing machine; $268; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

May 9-11

McKelvey, Michelle T.; 42
- theft of property-4th degree

Layfield, Christina A.; 43
- theft of property-4th degree

Leiniss, Ilgvars; 31
- public intoxication

Speakman, James R.; 29
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts)
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Rickard, Michael O.; 27
- FTA – speeding
- FTA – driving without license

Branch, Brittney M.; 24
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Barnett, Tenina L.; 51
- theft of property-4th degree

White, Roger A.; 47
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Westmoreland, Terena N.; 40
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Aragon, Dale J.; 28
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – insurance violation

Graves, Kevin D.; 39
- elder abuse-2nd degree
- violation of domestic violence protection order

Hays, Tyler G.; 32
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Wallace State (from Front)

represent the fulfillment of the American Dream and the community college promise that provides life-changing careers, family-sustaining wages and social and economic mobility that impacts generations.

"Over the next few weeks and months, more than 90 percent of our graduates will be employed," she continued. "Many others will be transferring to a university to continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree and beyond. Fifty-nine of these graduates are getting a head start through dual enrollment that enabled them to graduate from college and high school simultaneously."

During the ceremonies, awards were presented to students from the Academic, Applied Technology and Health Science programs.

General Studies major Kimberly Wilt was recognized with the 2025 Presidential Award for Academic Excellence.

Jared Smith from the Machine Tool Technology/CNC program received the 2025 Presidential Award for Applied Technology Excellence.

Nursing graduate LaPorsha Foster was named the winner of the 2025 Presidential Award for Health Science Excellence.

As is tradition during Wallace State commencements, several students are spotlighted at each ceremony to share the stories of their community college experience.

From the Academic/Applied Technology program the following students were spotlighted.

Carrington Chambers, Welding

Chambers enrolled Wallace State's Welding program at the age of 18, despite the nervousness of being one of only a few women in the program and anxiousness of the idea of college after being diagnosed with dyslexia during her junior year of high school.

With the support of advisors and instructors, Chambers graduates with a 3.49 GPA and a love of learning. Her dream job is to be a travel welder.

Beth Roberts, General Studies – Music Education

Roberts returned to college as an adult, juggling school, marriage and two children, one of whom has special needs. She joined the Wallace State Concert Choir, traveling to Washington, D.C. for the very first time and performed in the nation's capital. She also started as Marmee March in the Wallace State Theatre's production of Little Women: the Musical.

She graduated with an associate degree in Music Education and plans to transfer to UAB on a fine and performing arts scholarship in the fall to pursue her dream of teaching music.

Leslie Rushing, Salon and Spa Management

When Leslie Rushing returned to Wallace State to start classes in the Salon and Spa Management program, she realized it had been exactly 20 years since she first came to Wallace State as a student. That first time was cut short when she had her first child. Two decades later, she had three children. The oldest was now an alum of Wallace State and her youngest was starting kindergarten.

While at Wallace State, Rushing participated in the SkillsUSA competitions. She won a silver medal at the state competition in 2024 and claiming a gold medal this year. She will compete in June at the National SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta. She plans to open her own business, The Beauty Barn, in Crane Hill.

Zachariah Beauregard, General Studies

When Beauregard's family moved to Alabama from Tennessee three years ago, it was a difficult time. He wasn't sure how to navigate starting over in a new place as a senior in high school. One thing he was sure of was he wanted to go to an affordable college in his area and he chose Wallace State.

He found a support system and participated in several clubs and organizations and walked on to the championship cross country team. He also served as a public announcer for Lions athletics, including baseball, basketball, softball and volleyball.

Beauregard plans to transfer to the University of North Alabama to study engineering.

Antaneisha Prince, Forensic Psychology

Prince first started taking classes at Wallace State 10 years ago alongside her mother. Her mother enrolled in the Health Information Technology program while Prince started working toward entering the Nursing program. While her mother completed her degree, Prince found that nursing wasn't a good fit for her, so she stopped out.

She returned in 2024 to purse a degree in Forensic Psychology, which was a perfect match for her interests and passion.

Prince already has several job opportunities and has been contacted by dozens of four-year universities encouraging her to continue her education to the baccalaureate level.

Will Hawkins, Machine Tool Technology

Along with being a full-time student and being employed full-time, Hawkins also served as an ambassador for Wallace State. He chose to follow in his father's footsteps by enrolling in the Machine Tool Technology program.

Hawkins was a featured participant in the Aspen panel, which resulted in Wallace State being recognized by the Aspen Institute as one of the top three community colleges in the nation. He was also named the Machine Tool Technology program award winner at Honors Night.

Hawkins plans to transfer to the University of Alabama to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Lily Hasting, General Studies

Hasting is a Fast Track student from Vinemont High School. At first, she said she was nervous about starting college as a junior high school, but she quickly found her footing and became involved in campus life. She joined multiple honor societies and clubs. Her leadership skills flourished, and she has grown in faith, strength and purpose.

Hasting will transfer to UAB in the fall to major in Neuroscience on premedical track. Her dream is to become a geriatric psychiatrist and one day serve in full-time medical missions.

LaPorsha Foster, Nursing

Foster has dreamed of becoming a nurse for more than 21 years and has finally made that dream come true. After starting college as a single mother who later assumed responsibility for a younger sibling, Foster was forced to pause her education to take care of her family.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Foster felt a renewed since of urgency to become a nurse. Taking advantage of a new partnership between Wallace State and UAB Hospital where she worked, Foster was able to attend nursing school. She was one of the first students to take classes at Wallace State's Oneonta campus, completing her practical nursing certificate there before transferring to the Hanceville campus to complete her associate degree.

Yosell Zuniga, Child Development

Zuniga's parents instilled in her and her siblings the importance of an education. After high school, she pursued nursing and medical assisting but when the pandemic struck, she, like many students, was adversely affected by the transition to virtual learning, which negatively affected her academic progress and caused her to stop out of college.

During her time away from college, she was offered a position as an ESL aid in Blount County's high schools, a job she found very fulfilling. As a child who helped translate for her parents, she appreciated the chance to support students who faced similar challenges during their formative years.

Zuniga plans to attend Jacksonville State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in foreign language with a minor in secondary education.

Denise Castillo, Dental Hygiene

Castillo had been out of high school for seven years when she chose to enroll at Wallace State to pursue the Dental Hygiene degree. She was a single mother working as a dental assistant and was hesitant. Those worries were put to rest after meeting with her advisor who provided her with resources for academic success.

When her son was diagnosed with level 3 autism during her first semester in the Dental Hygiene program, her worries returned, but she was determined and knew if there was a will, there was a way.

She is grateful for the Dental Hygiene faculty who worked with her to provide her the flexibility she needed to ensure her son received the therapy he needed.

She is currently working as an assistant dental hygienist but expects a promotion when she passes her licensure exam.

Tiffany Tate, Occupational Therapy Assistant

Tate chose the Occupational Therapy Assistant program after seeing first-hand how occupational therapy helped her son, who has ADHD. It inspired in her a desire to help other families walk the same road with support, dignity and hope.

The path was not an easy one. She faced a painful divorce during her first semester and a relapse of a chronic blood disease, which required frequent doctor visits and treatment.

Tate applies daily what she has learned in the OTA program to help her son navigate life and she looks forward to helping others. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and as a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success.

Allison Willis, Radiation Therapy, and Kyle Willis, Respiratory Therapy

Siblings Allison and Kyle Willis both graduated from two different WSCC health science programs. Allison earned a degree in Radiation Therapy and Kyle earned a degree in Respiratory Therapy.

Kyle was the first to enroll at Wallace State. After working as a nurse assistant, he had wanted a different career and researched Respiratory Therapy by watching videos on YouTube.

Allison considered both Respiratory Therapy and Diagnostic Imaging before eventually choosing Radiation Therapy. While she at first thought treating cancer patients as a career would be a sad prospect, after completing clinicals and assisting in the treatment of patients, including children, she no longer feels that way. While there are somber moments, she has been inspired by the strength and courage exhibited by patients who must battle cancer and the families who battle alongside them.

Molly Lauderdale, Nursing

Nursing isn't Lauderdale's first career. She retired from the Marshall County School System after teaching sixth grade and counselling students. But it was her experience as a patient during a life-threatening medical crisis that she found her calling for a second career.

Lauderdale spent 51 days in ICU at Grandview Medical Center suffering from COVID and complications from surgery. Part of that time was in a medically induced coma. Both her kidneys and her lungs failed during that time. When she woke up, her arms were paralyzed. After being released from the hospital, she spent two weeks in rehab.

She was inspired by the nurses who cared for her and chose to pursue a second career in nursing. She currently works as license practical nurse at Marshall Medical Center and at age 50 is earning an associate degree in nursing to advance her career as a registered nurse.

Chelsea Mann, Respiratory Therapy

Mann's health care journey began when her two younger boys were diagnosed with a rare disease in which they were treated with a ventilator. She learned how to care for them at home and through this experience realized the profound impact that respiratory therapy had on her children's lives.

She became inspired to become a respiratory therapist with the hope of working at Children's Hospital.

As a single mother, Mann was only able to take one prerequisite class per semester. But she persevered and impressed faculty with her work ethic and positive attitude. As she graduates from the program, she realizes her dream as she will begin working for Children's Hospital next month.

"Graduates, you are the future of our state, the workforce of the future," Karolewics said.

"As you embark on the next chapter of your life, may the education you have earned at Wallace State, one of the top community colleges in the nation, inspire you to be innovative, seek opportunity and influence your world for the better. Continue to set your aspirations high and to be a role model to others.

"On whatever scale you act, you have the power to make a difference."

Award (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Abigail McBride and Madilyn Kerber received the coveted Fr. Luke Fazi Award at the recent St. Bernard Athletic Awards Ceremony in the Fazi-Richard Athletic Center. This award is named in honor of Fr. Luke Fazi who was athletic director, coach and mentor for hundreds of St. Bernard athletes.

It is the most prestigious award presented to a St. Bernard athlete.

Candidates for the award must excel in two major sports, perform at the highest level of their ability and be a leader in athletic competitions.

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

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW
+
COMPETITIVE PAY
COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

DHR: New features available for EBT cards

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) is pleased to announce the newest feature for EBT cards and SNAP clients. The EBT cards now have a Lock/Unlock and alert feature available on the ConnectEBT app and website. This feature will allow EBT cardholders the ability to lock and unlock their EBT cards to prevent fraudsters from making in-store or online purchases.

EBT cardholders can also sign up for alerts on the app and website. These alerts include account activity alerts through text, the ConnectEBT app and/or via email. Using these combined controls will further assist cardholders and give clients additional controls to help prevent fraud of EBT benefits.

To use this feature, clients can choose one of the options below:

ConnectEBT app
1. Download the app
2. Create an account or log in with your user ID and password.
3. The "Lock/Unlock" option will be displayed on the home screen
4. Select the "Lock/Unlock" option
5. Client can select one of the following:
• "Lock Card Everywhere" – This option will lock your card at ALL stores, including online. This is the DHR recommendation.
• "Lock Card" – This option will lock your card at ALL stores outside of Alabama, but allows online purchases

ConnectEBT website
1. Visit connectebt.com
2. Create an account or log in with your user ID and password
3. On the home screen, click the tab labeled "Card"
4. Select "Lock/Unlock" option
5. Clients can select from one of the following:
• "Lock Card Everywhere" – This option will lock your card at ALL stores, including online. This is the DHR recommendation.
• "Lock Card" – This option will lock your card at ALL stores outside of Alabama, but allows online purchases

DHR administers the SNAP program in Alabama. More information on the program can be found at https://dhr.alabama.gov/food-assistance.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE! Little Pink Dress Benefit
Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Stone Bridge Farms. Table for eight for $450. Tickets available from Jennifer Limerick (256-201-2521 or jenniferalrealtor@gmail.com) or Judy Grissom (256-347-5993 or options5993@gmail.com) or www.CullmanBosomBuddies.com. Benefits the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation.

Music Every Thursday Night in February at the Bethel Community Center
4-8 p.m. at the center, just off U.S. Highway 278, west of Cullman on County Road 1117. Bluegrass, gospel and country music. Musicians are welcome with acoustic instruments only. Covered dish supper and everyone is invited. Please join us! No entry fee, but donations are appreciated for building upkeep.

Grief Support Group: Broken Heart for Repair
For more information, contact Reverend Warren Ruland at 256-962-2521.

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 of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Tuesday, May 13 – 6 p.m. Adult dinner and game night
• Wednesday, May 14 - 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 at 6. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, May 16 - 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 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Saturday, May 17 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, May 18 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 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. Healing service at 5 p.m.

Guy Hunt Library Summer Reading Program
• Make plans to join us at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for the Summer Reading Program. Children from ages 2 to 12 are welcome.
• June 3: McWane Science Center
• June 10: Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District
• June17: Cullman County Extension Office (ACES)
• June 24: North Alabama Agriplex
• Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information contact Guy Hunt Library at 256-796-5226. Leave a message if needed. We look forward to having you join us for a morning of fun.

Hamm Family Reunion
Saturday, May 16, at noon, at the Hanceville Lions Club, 111 Michelle St. NW in Hanceville. Please bring a covered dish. For more information contact Scott Hamm at 256-924-6272.

Pancake Breakfast to Benefit Holly Pond Cemetery
The Holly Pond Lions Club is having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 17, at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building from 6-9 a.m. Enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, sausage and a drink for a donation to eat in or take out. The proceeds will benefit the Holly Pond Cemetery. Come join us and bring your friends! Thank you in advance for your support.

Shibori Dyeing Class
Monday, May 19, at 1 p.m. at the Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. $32 per person. Space is limited. Sign up today. Call 256-734-0145 M-F 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ladies' Conference
Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with lunch at noon. At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435 in Vinemont. Guest speaker Kristy Garrison Harris: Trusting God through every season. There will be games and door prizes. Please join us.

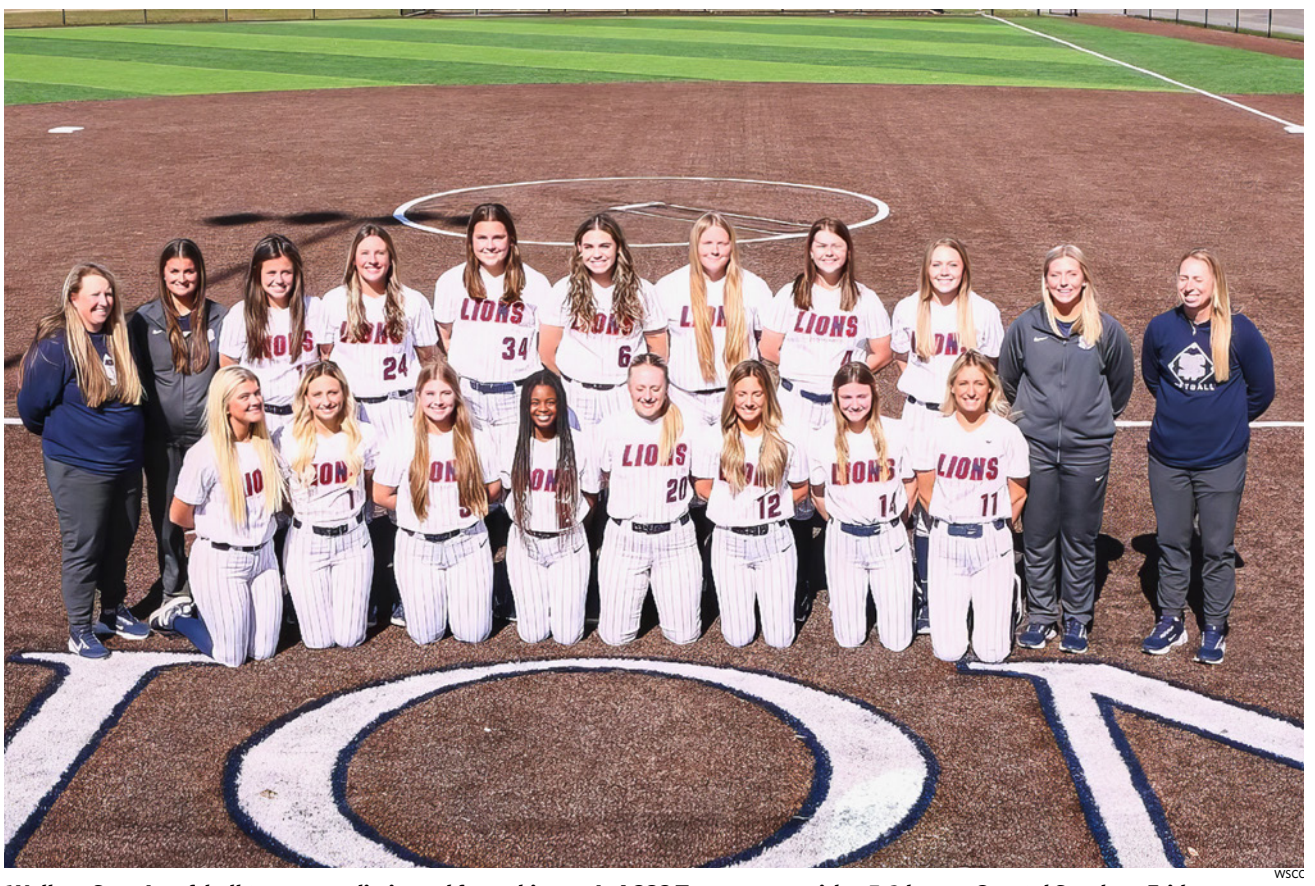
Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden
FAMILY
PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication
Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post
Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com
ANNUALLY BASED RATES
CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00
Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

WSCC SOFTBALL

Lions eliminated from ACCC Tournament with 5-2 loss to Coastal South

Wallace State Athletics
WSCC



WSCC

Wallace State's softball team was eliminated from this year's ACCC Tournament with a 5-2 loss to Coastal South on Friday.

ALABASTER, Ala. — The Wallace State Lions were at Veterans Park in Alabaster over the weekend competing in this year's ACCC Division 1 Tournament. The Lions dropped game one to Northwest Shoals on Thursday 5-3 but bounced back with a 6-0 win over Snead State on Friday. However, Wallace State was eliminated with a 5-2 loss to Coastal South on Friday night.

Northwest-Shoals 5 - Wallace State 3 (Game One)
Northwest-Shoals took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first after a hit batter and back-to-back singles to plate the game's first run.

Wallace got on the board in the bottom of the fourth when Kaelyn Jones' single to left played Leah Graves and Lexie Kelly. Grave got on base with a single, while Kelly got on after a fielder's choice. The runs gave the Lions a 2-1 lead.

The Patriots would take the lead back in their next at-bat with a two-out, two-run home run to take a 3-2 lead.

Brandy Phillips opened the bottom of the fifth with a triple to give Wallace a runner in scoring position. Two batters later, Brooklyn Sertell grounded into a fielder's choice to bring Phillips home from third to tie the game at 3-3.

Northwest-Shoals retook the lead, 5-3, with a two-out double in the top of the eighth. The Patriots held the Lions off in the bottom of the inning to get the win.

Phillips finished 2-of-3 with a run scored to lead Wallace State.

Kelly had a double and a run scored, while Grave had a single and a run scored. Jones added a hit and an RBI, while Sertell added an RBI.

Wallace State 6 - Snead State 0 (Game Two)
Wallace State took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning when Charli Kyser hit a home run to center field.

The Lions added to their lead in the third, scoring four runs to extend the lead to 5-0. The first run came on an Ashlyn Burns home run to left field.

Tinayja Thomas and Kaelyn Jones had back-to-back singles. After Brandy Phillips' sacrifice bunt moved Thomas and Jones to second and third, Kyser hit her second home run to clear the bases.

They added one final run in the bottom of the fifth when Leah Graves' single drove home Brooklyn Sertell for a 6-0 lead.

Phillips was a dominant force in the circle as she held Snead State to five hits, striking out six in her complete game shutout.

Kyser finished 3-of-4 with two home runs, four RBIs, and two runs scored. Jones and Sertell both had two hits and scored a run. Graves added two hits and an RBI.

Coastal South 5 – Wallace State 2 (Game Three)
Hits and runs were hard to come by early in this one but after three scoreless innings, the Lions took the lead in the bottom of the fourth.

Kaelyn Jones led off the inning with a walk and Brandy Phillips laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Jones over to second base.

Two pitches later, Charli Kyser ripped an RBI single into right field to plate Jones and an error allowed Kyser to come around and score as well, putting the Lions in front 2-0 going into the fifth.

The Coyotes responded in the top half of the fifth, pushing two runs across the plate the tie the game at 2 going into the sixth inning. Coastal was able to load the bases in the top of the sixth and a 2-run single put the Coyotes in front 4-2. They tacked on one more run in the top of the seventh to extend the lead to three and Wallace was unable to cut into the lead in the final frame, wrapping up a 5-2 loss for the Lions.

Kyser (two hits) and Phillips (one hit) posted Wallace State's only hits in the loss.

PREP SOFTBALL

'My teammates have truly felt like sisters to me'

Fairview's Josie Earl reflects on Aggie career

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com



JOSIE EARL

Fairview's Josie Earl

FAIRVIEW, Ala. – Fairview senior Josie Earl has been playing softball for nine years and one of her favorite parts of the experience was making so many friends along the way. In this interview Josie shared some of her favorite memories from her playing career and her time spent in school.

"My favorite memory is from my freshman year, when we went to the beach during spring break to play a tournament," Earl said. "It was so amazing to know that no matter what, I always had someone who had my back, or there was always a shoulder I could lean my head on when I needed it. I learned to come out of my shell and to live more in the moment."

Josie played under some great coaches at Fairview, and she soaked up as much from as she could from them.

"They were tough on me, because I know they only wanted the best for me. I learned how to be a good teammate, a good friend, and hopefully, one day in the future, a good mother," Earl said. "I will miss my team the most. We all got along so great. I have been a part of other teams before in different sports, but with this team, my teammates have truly felt like sisters to me."

Josie talked about some of her favorite games that she played in as well.

"One of my favorite games that I took part in was a tournament game against Holt, my sophomore year. That game was so laid back and we were having a fun time, playing any position we wanted to. The Holt team was such a good sport, and their fans had a lot of fun with it as well. That made the experience even better. My other favorite game that I was a part of was the last round of a tournament at Hanceville against Hanceville. We were all cheering and hyped up. It was a tough game, but it was probably one of the most fun games I have been part of. We won the game and got the trophy. That was the best part of the game.," she said. "What I will remember the most about playing with this team is probably Senior Night. We didn't get to play our game because of rain, but that didn't stop us from having fun. It had been raining so much from the previous days, and the field was flooded. We went to the outfield, and we all got to dive on our field together for the last time."

She got to play alongside a lot of teammates that she's been playing with for years and in that time they've built a bond that Josie believes will never broken.

"Most of us have been playing softball together since the fourth grade, so they are some of my best friends. It was an honor to get to finish out my last year with them. They truly bring out the best of me, and I know that I can trust them with anything. They will help me if I ever need anything," she said. "My favorite high school memories were homecoming week and all the football games. I got to dress up and hang out with my friends."

Fairview will always be a special place for Josie, and she'll miss getting ready for another year in August. In addition to softball, she participated in several clubs at school as well.

"The community made it such a special place. The people around here have so much spirit and peace for our school. It made me feel wanted here," she said. "I will always remember all my homecoming and dress up days. Something I will miss the most is getting to be a part of all of my different clubs I was in and getting to do service hours with my friends. I was in the Student Council, Honor Society, Key Club, Yearbook Staff, and I was the Aggie Ambassador. It was an amazing feeling being a part of something bigger than myself and getting to help people. I learned to put people before myself and to always be grateful for what I have. My advice to (students returning in August) would be to not hold back and be yourself. You don't get a second chance, so do everything and anything you want to do."

Josie earned a scholarship from the Cullman County Youth Volleyball Association and talked about that experience. She hopes to be a role model and inspire younger kids in her community to work for what they want to achieve.

"I felt honored that the association saw my hard work and that it didn't go unnoticed. I hope I have inspired so many kids to be active in their community and that it pays off in the long run. I want to be remembered as someone that was always happy, was able to put a smile on people's faces and for always being there for someone when they needed me," Earl said. "It was so important to be that role model for so many kids. I wanted to be that person that they always came to when they had a problem and to either make them feel better about the situation, or to just lighten the mood," she said. "He has played a huge role in my life. Without Him, I wouldn't have gotten to do everything I have done. I thank Him every day for the opportunities He has put in my life. Proverbs 11:27 is my favorite Bible verse. What this verse means to me is to always give people second chances and try to find the good in them. Everyone has good in them, and you might be the person to help them find it, so always be kind to someone."





WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

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

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

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

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

Prices Effective - Wednesday, May 14 through Tuesday, May 20, 2025

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SALE



BONELESS PORK CHOPS
Center Cut
Family Pack
$2.49 LB.



T-BONE STEAK
Beef
Family Pack
$10.99 LB.



ICEBERG LETTUCE
California Grown
99¢ EA.



CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES
1 Lb.
Fresh, Ripe
2 for $4



FOOD CLUB MAYONNAISE
30 Oz. Regular or Lite
or Salad Dressing
$2.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB BAKED BEANS
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



FOOD CLUB SUGAR
4 Lb. Bag
2 for $7



STARKIST TUNA
5 Oz. In Water or Oil
Chunk Light
88¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB CHEESE
16 Oz. Shredded or
Chunk Selected Varieties
2 for $7

**5754 AL- Hwy 157 N
Cullman, AL**

**1615 Town Square S W
Cullman, AL**

**780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL**



Receive In-Store Specials, Announcements & View Our Weekly Ad!

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



GROUND CHUCK
Fresh 80% Lean
Family Pack
$4.69 LB.



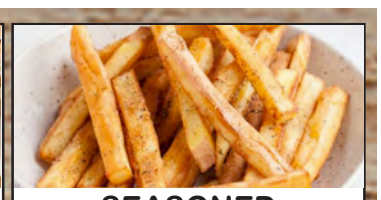
FLORIDA PINK SHRIMP
1 Lb.
21/25 Ct.
$8.99 EA.



CHICKEN BREAST
Fresh Boneless
Family Pack
$3.99 LB.



TOP ROUND ROAST
Beef Boneless
(Fam. Pk. Top Round Steak $5.49 Lb.)
$4.99 LB.



SEASONED STRAIGHT CUT FRIES
5 Lb.
Restaurant Quality
$4.99 EA.



JIMMY DEAN BACON
12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



OSCAR MAYER DELI FRESH
7-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



GWALTNEY BOLOGNA
1 Lb.
Regular or Thick
$1.79 EA.



SUNSET FARM SMOKED SAUSAGE
1 Lb.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



OSCAR MAYER BASIC LUNCHABLES
3.1-5.7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



MAG CANTALOUPES
Del Monte
$2.99 EA.



RED OR GOLD POTATOES
5 Lb. Bag New Crop
Fresh From Florida
$2.99 EA.



DOLE SALADS
Bag Greener Selection,
Classic Romaine or Spinach
2 for $4



BEEFSTEAK TOMATOES
Hothouse
Grown
$1.49 LB.



ZUCCHINI OR YELLOW SQUASH
Southern
Favorite
$1.49 LB.



FOOD CLUB AMERICAN SINGLES
16 Oz. Pkg. 24 Slices
Individually Wrapped
2 for $6



FOOD CLUB JUMBO BISCUITS
5 Ct. Butter or
Buttermilk
2 for $4



FOOD CLUB PURE PREMIUM ORANGE JUICE
52 Oz. Not From Concentrate
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



TOTINO'S PARTY PIZZA
9-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
3 for $5



PILLSBURY TOASTER STRUDEL
11 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



HOT POCKETS
8-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



TYSON CHICKEN GRILLED & READY
19-22 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$7.99 EA.



SWEET BABY RAY'S BARBECUE SAUCE
18 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4

Pre-Memorial Day PRICE BUSTERS
CONAGRA BRANDS
4 FOR $5 MIX & MATCH



BLUE BONNET SPREAD
1 Lb. Quarters
Original or Light
4 for $5



CHEF BOYARDEE PASTA
7.25-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



HUNT'S PASTA SAUCE
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



RO★TEL TOMATOES
10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



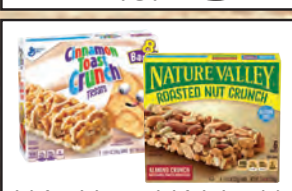
HUNT'S MANWICH
15-15.5 Oz.
Original or Bold
4 for $5



VAN CAMP'S BEANEE WEENEE
7 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



HUNT'S SNACK PACK
4 Pk.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



NATURE VALLEY GRANOLA BARS
or General Mills Cereal Bars
5-8.9 Oz. Selected Varieties
2 for $6



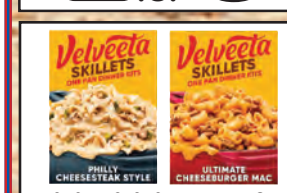
NABISCO RITZ CRACKERS OR CRISP & THINS
or Toasted Chips
7-13.7 Oz.Selected Varieties
2 for $7



HEINZ KETCHUP OR MUSTARD
20 Oz.
Squeeze
2 for $5



NIAGARA WATER
40 Pk.
16.9 Oz. Bottles
2 for $10



VELVEETA SKILLETS
11.5-12.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



CHARKING LIGHTER FLUID
32 Oz.
$3.49 EA.

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



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
2 for $11



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
3 for $12



DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$3.99 EA.



POWERADE SPORTS DRINK
8 Pk.
20 Oz. Bottles
$5.99 EA.

BODY ARMOR SUPER DRINK
8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
$5.99 EA.

LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
7.75 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

CHEETOS OR FRITOS
7-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $8

GOLDEN FLAKE TORTIYAHS! OR ON THE BORDER CHIPS
8-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

BOULDER CANYON CHIPS
5-6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

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

LEWIS BAKE SHOP BURGER BUNS
12 Pk.
Restaurant Style
2 for $6

LITTLE DEBBIE MINI DONUTS OR DONUT STICKS
7.74-10 Oz. Selected Varieties or
9.08-10 Oz. Orig. or Apple Cinnamon
2 for $5

BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Gold Rim Pints
Selected Varieties
2 for $6

BLUE BELL SHERBET
Quart
Selected Varieties
$3.49 EA.

MILLER HIGH LIFE
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$11.79 EA.

RITAS SPARKLING MARGARITAS
12 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Cans
$8.99 EA.

ICON WINE
750 mL Bottle
$8.99 EA.

STELLA ROSA WINE
750 mL Bottle
$11.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE DELI SLICED TURKEY
All Varieties
$8.99 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE MILD CHEDDAR
Deli Sliced
$5.99 LB.

KENTUCKIAN GOLD BROWN SUGAR HAM
Deli Sliced
$7.49 LB.

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

'God will give you the biggest reward in the end'

West Point's Layla Franks wins Miss Horizon of Hope Pageant

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — The Miss Horizon of Hope Pageant has been going on for almost 20 years now. Not only is it put on for a good cause, all of the participants also got to walk in honor of or in memory of someone who has had cancer. West Point Freshman Layla Franks took home the crown this year but being able to take part in an event that meant so much to everyone involved was more important to her than winning the crown.

"I honestly truly believe it was just a blessing. The whole day was just so calm and exciting. I'm so grateful to be able to help out such an amazing organization. The amazing group of people who run the pageant are so caring and giving to every girl who walks backstage, and I think that it's just thrilling to watch God work through people who just have the most amazing intentions. I've done this pageant so many times throughout the years, and every year, it just gets more real to see and be a part of. This group has raised over $90,000 for the Bruno Cancer Center. This truly speaks to me, because as someone who has watched cancer work on one of the most amazing people I know is very hard," Franks said. "The person I walked in honor of, Tracey Hepinstall, is one of the kindest people I know and is a survivor, so to watch a group of people see how others hurt and volunteer their time and money to help those people, truly means everything to me. That is why I love competing in the Miss Horizon of Hope pageant system. It means the world to me to have the honor to compete in this system. I'm so grateful to be able to give my support to this amazing organization."

Layla loved getting the chance to compete along so many other talented young women and she believes the pageant helped bring them closer.

"As I've gotten older, I think that competing with other women is a true honor. I think that other people don't realize how special it is to get to know these girls for the first time backstage. Many of the friends I competed with at Horizon of Hope, I've known them for a long time, but through pageants, it genuinely has brought us closer," Franks said.

"I think we have all learned things from each other. Personally, I've learned that doing pageants just for fun is the most positive thought you can have. Losing a friendship over a crown or sash isn't worth it.

"One of my best friends has taught me that being confident in yourself and what you've worked for is what judges notice most and watching her compete and seeing that through her is so amazing to see. Being able to pray with not only just your friends, but the other girls you've met backstage, is such an honor, not only to watch, but to hear as well."

Layla talked about her preparation for the pageant and some of the things she did to get ready. Walking in honor of Tracey Hepinstall meant so much to her.

"I do many coaching lessons with my mom. My mom is also amazing at giving pep talks and not letting me forget what the true meaning of this pageant is," she said. "I prayed so many times not only for myself, but for my friends and the group of people that started this system. I started going to Temple Baptist over the last year, and it has truly impacted me as a Christian and my walk with Christ. Tracey's daughter, who is one of my closest friends, encouraged me to start going. I started getting to know her daughter, Adi, and her family. Tracey has always been there for me. She's prayed for me time after time. She encourages me through every up and down. She comes and supports me at my events, and she was there praying with me as I got saved. Honoring her is just giving back to the little she has given me. I hope and pray that one day, everyone can know Tracey and her testimony, because she truly is an inspiration and someone I will always look up to."

Layla was shocked and thrilled to learn she had won, and she wants to use her platform to be a role model for the younger girls that were in attendance.

"I personally was shocked to be able to win that title, as I had just competed against three other women. I'm only 15 and had competed in an older division. My friends and family poured into me with all of their support as well," she said. "For the past couple of months, I have been coaching and working with younger girls myself. I know how I used to look up to older girls when I was younger, and I still do to this day. I think it's very important to show kindness and confidence to younger girls. In this generation, it is really hard to not compare yourself to others around you, but from experience, I've always gotten to know someone before I compared myself to them, because I would rather learn kindness from someone than how to wear my makeup properly. Being able to teach younger girls kindness is the most important thing to me."

Franks shared some advice to any girls that want to compete in pageants themselves.

"I strongly encourage pageants to absolutely everyone out there. You will gain so many friendships that you never knew you needed. You will quickly learn that after so much hard work and time that was put into preparing for the pageant, God will give you the biggest reward in the end," Franks said. "Never forget that just because you didn't win a crown this time doesn't mean you will never win a crown. It's just for fun. Find your dream dress and get pampered with your closest friends, because one day, you will look back and realize how amazing that opportunity was. It is truly the biggest blessing. Being able to look back on the memories I've made in the past and recreate them with some of the same people is such a beautiful thing. I make new memories with new people almost every weekend, and it's just a joy to be a part of."

God has played a big role in Layla's life, and she leaned on a particular Bible verse during the pageant.

"He has truly blessed me with the most amazing people and titles. I've met so many people through pageants who have guided me closer and closer to Him, and I truly believe He sent them for me, because He knew I needed them as encouragement," she said. "This past week, I've really leaned on 2 Corinthians 12:9: 'My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak.' Being able to hand God all of the weight that is causing you weakness is such a surreal experience. Knowing I can just give it all to Him when I become stressed or worried is such a blessing. We have a very good God, and I'm blessed to worship Him every day."

Layla talked about her most memorable moment during the pageant and learned a lot from the experience.

"My most memorable moment during the pageant is just being able to pray for everyone. Even if they didn't know that I did that, I know that God told me I needed to do that for a reason, so I know that it helped someone, and that is all that matters," she said. "What I've learned from this experience the most is to just do it, because it is helping someone. I may never meet the person that this is helping, but I know I am helping them, and that's all that matters in the end."



LAYLA FRANKS

West Point's Layla Franks

Anderson (from Front)

carrying forward a spirit of resilience and service, just as Sydni did. I want to be someone who brings light and hope to others and this scholarship would affirm that I am on the right path."

Payne said the decision to select Anderson was deeply moving for the family.

"From reading her essay, we felt that she did her homework on the person Syd strived to be every day," Payne shared. "She spoke of Sydni's strength and compassion for others, as well as her commitment to helping people within her community. We felt that she would be proud to be a part of this legacy we are building in Sydni's name."

In her essay, Anderson emphasized her own commitment to leadership, academic excellence and giving back, values she said were inspired by Helms-Hipp's example.

"I have grown up in Cullman, and I know how much pride we take in building one another up," Anderson wrote.

"I have pushed myself academically, been involved in service projects and stayed active in school organizations because I believe in contributing to something bigger than myself.

"The support from the Cullman Chapter would not only help ease the financial burden of college, but it would also serve as a powerful reminder that my community believes in me."

For Payne, supporting students like Anderson is a way to carry forward the connections Helms-Hipp made so easily in her lifetime. "Sydni never met a stranger," Payne said.

"And we, her family, feel that we are continuing that spirit through the people we meet — not only by giving scholarships, but also through those who participate in the yearly barrel race."

Anderson will receive $2,000 in scholarship funds to apply toward the college or training program of her choice.

As the first Cullman County recipient of the Sydni Helms-Hipp Memorial Scholarship, she not only embodies the spirit of Helms-Hipp's legacy, but also sets the bar for future recipients, students who lead with service, character and a deep commitment to those around them.



Vinemont (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

VINEMONT, Ala. — Cullman Electric Cooperative announced recently that Vinemont High School was awarded a $25,000 Learning Environment grant through the Tennessee Valley Authority's School Uplift program.

Tight budgets and aging buildings leave many schools facing a difficult decision between funding learning programs and making needed facility upgrades. Since 2021, TVA has invested $8.2 million in School Uplift grants and helped over 323 schools solve that problem and save on their energy bills.

School Uplift's year-long energy management training program helps school districts make smart energy choices that improve the classroom learning environment and save money through decreased energy use.

Participating schools compete to earn $10,000 to $200,000 grants by cutting their energy waste through behavioral changes and by engaging students, faculty, staff and community.

"I know the staff at Vinemont High School worked extremely hard to win this grant," said Tim Culpepper, CEO of Cullman Electric Cooperative.

"It is an outstanding accomplishment, and we look forward to seeing these funds used to benefit their students. The staff at Cullman Electric Cooperative works every day to improve the quality of life for our members and the communities we serve.

"We appreciate TVA's partnership in helping us achieve our goals by not only generating and delivering the electricity we use, but also for providing programs like School Uplift that will benefit thousands of students and families across the TVA service area."

On average, participating schools have saved nearly 10% on their annual energy bills from behavior changes alone.

When savings from grant-funded energy upgrades are added, this year's School Uplift participants have estimated total energy savings of 5.5 GWh or the amount of electricity used by 808 homes in one year.

"Every dollar invested in our schools helps districts allocate resources to what truly matters – providing quality education for our children," said Monika Beckner, vice president of TVA's Energy Services & Programs.

"We're proud of the winners of this year's School Uplift grants, who are dedicated to reducing energy waste and building a stronger, more sustainable future."

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
DAVID VERLAND HACKNEY, * CASE NO.: PC 2025-152
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Steve Hackney as Personal Representative of the Estate of David Verland Hackney, deceased, on the 9th day of May, 2025 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.

Steve Hackney
Personal Representative/Executor

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

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025-065

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EDNA TAYLOR SCHMALE, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Timothy K. Garrett on the 13th day of March, 2025, 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.

Timothy K. Garrett
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, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DON B. YOUNG, * CASE NO.: PC2025-096
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary have been granted to CYNTHIA Y. RUGGLES, as the Executor on this 24th day of April, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

CYNTHIA Y. RUGGLES
Personal Representative

Sara Doty, Attorney at Law, LLC
Attorney for the Estate of Don B. Young
4725 Whitesburg Drive
Suite 202
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-519-9970

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

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four (4) 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
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-03

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT M.G.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: MARILYN EARNESTIN GOINS
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.G.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-02

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT K.J.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: ADAM K. FOWLER,
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.J.F., a minor child born January 31, 2017, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JACKIE DONALD TAYLOR, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-347**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Angela Kilpatric Dodd, Personal Representative of the Estate of Jackie Donald Taylor, deceased, on the 24th day of April, 2025, 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.

Angela Kilpatric Dodd
Personal Representative

Patrick Caver
Attorney at Law
1210 Highway 31, NW, Suite E
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

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.

DONE this 24th day of April, 2025.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-03

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT M.G.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: ADAM K. FOWLER,
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of M.G.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARY SUE BANISTER, * CASE NO PC 2024-322
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

TO: DEBORAH SHASTEEN LONG, HUNTER SHASTEEN, J.J. SHASTEEN a/k/a JAMES S. SHASTEEN, III, LARRY SEMEVOLOS AND AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS OF MARY SUE BANISTER, DECEASED

Petition to Probate Will and For Letters Testamentary filed by William Thomas Blankenship, Petitioner, through Attorney Clint L. Maze. A hearing is re-scheduled on this matter for the **12th day of June, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 1st day of May, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Clint L. Maze
Attorney for Petitioner
Wilmer and Lee, P.A.
725 North Brindlee Mountain, Parkway
Arab, Alabama 35016

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-02

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF STEPHEN MICHAEL SHELTON JR. and JENNIFER RENEE SHELTON TO ADOPT K.J.F.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: MARILYN EARNESTIN GOINS
whose whereabouts and location are unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.J.F., a minor child born March 15, 2016, to Marilyn Earnestin Goins, was filed on the 24th day of April, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Stephen Michael Shelton Jr. and Jennifer Renee Shelton. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 28th day of April, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO VACATE UNNAMED COUNTY ROAD SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 1611.

WHEREAS, property owners Bobby Ray Hill, Sherrie Giles Hill, Minyard H. Blair, Jr., Josefina Valencia Hernandez, Eulalio Rodriguez Aburto, and Ashley Graves Bates, desire to vacate a county road within the municipal limits of the Town of Berlin, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-2 (1975), the Town of Berlin is required to hold a public hearing, prior to taking final action;

WHEREAS, notice of which is required by statute, shall occur once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, a public hearing will take place on Monday, 16th of June 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berlin Town Hall; 461 County Road 1615, Cullman, Alabama 35058;

WHEREAS, applicants, Bobby Ray Hill, Sherrie Giles Hill, Minyard H. Blair, Jr., Josefina Valencia Hernandez, Eulalio Rodriguez Aburto, and Ashley Graves Bates, are requesting vacation of an unnamed County Road described as follows, to-wit:

The existing unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety, more specifically shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto;

WHEREAS, an action is requested for an adoption and approval of a Resolution vacating an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety.

WHEREAS, said notice is posted in accordance with Title 23-4-2, et.seq. Code of Alabama, 1975. All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such resolution. This public notice is posted a minimum of Thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing at: Cullman County Courthouse Entrance Bulletin Board and Town of Berlin Bulletin Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provision of the Resolution vacating an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611 in its entirety, will be considered by the Cullman County Commission at a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, 16th of June 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berlin Town Hall, 461 County Road 1615, Cullman, Alabama 35058 at 7:00 p.m. at which time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such Resolution or any provision thereof.

Dated this the 30th day of April, 2025.

BY: _____
Heath E. Meiers
Attorney for Town of Berlin
409 1st Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-0458

OP-ED

Alabama Legislature seeks to protect our rural roots with 2025 regular session accomplishments

Senate Pro Tem Garlan Gudger

During the 2025 regular session of the Alabama Legislature, lawmakers have worked hard to address the needs and issues in every portion of our state - from the Gulf Coast to the Tennessee Valley, from the Wiregrass to the Blackbelt, from the big cities to the small towns, and in all points in between.

But Alabama's rural areas have their own unique challenges that must be met, tackled, and resolved, and as leader of the Alabama Senate, I have spent much of my time bringing laser-like focus to accomplishing this mission.

I am proud of the significant progress we made this session on issues directly affecting rural Alabamians, and among those accomplishments are:

Rural Hospital Investment Act

Far too often, for example, headlines detail the closing or rolling back of services at rural hospitals across the state, and access to healthcare in less developed portions of Alabama is becoming increasingly limited, so the Legislature took action this session and put in place a commonsense, free market solution that will soon begin to provide relief.

Since 2011, more than a half-dozen rural hospitals in Alabama have been forced to close as a result of funding issues, and out of the 52 remaining, roughly half are considered to be at risk of closure.

It is estimated that close to 20 rural hospitals could shut their doors any day.

That is why we have created the Rural Hospital Investment Tax Credit, which allows individuals, businesses, and corporations to receive 100% tax credits for donations they make to rural medical centers located here.

Based on a program in Georgia that has generated approximately $430 million since its creation, the tax credit serves as an incentive for those willing to invest in our rural communities and the healthcare needs of those who reside in them.

Saving rural and small town pharmacies

Similarly, independent pharmacies in rural Alabama have struggled for years due largely to the fact that long-standing rules and regulations in place have been stacked against them.

Pharmacy benefit managers, which are commonly known as PBMs and oversee the prescription drug programs for large insurers, have often forced independent druggists to sell some medicines at prices less than the costs to acquire them.

Everyone understands that consistently selling a product for less than you bought it is a recipe for bankruptcy, closure, and economic failure, but small-town drugstores in every rural area of the state were forced to do exactly that under the regulations.

It resulted in dozens of Alabama's independent pharmacies being forced to go out of business over the past two years alone.

To solve the problem, the Legislature passed the Community Pharmacy Relief Act, a pro-business measure that simply levels the competition for pharmacies of all sizes ranging from hometown, mom-and-pop storefronts to the largest retail drug chains.

Most importantly, it shields consumers from having to pay higher costs at the cash register for the medicines they need to remain healthy and survive.

Small independent pharmacists are among the most trusted and respected individuals in our communities, especially in the rural parts of Alabama, and it is our job to ensure they operate under fair and impartial regulations.

Health coverage for Alabama farmers and the self-employed

Rural farmers in every community, town, and crossroads in Alabama work hard every day so their families may feed our families, and far too often they struggle to find affordable health insurance coverage, which is important when the agricultural industry traditionally operates on a financial razor's edge.

One small farm operation reported paying as much as $2,500 a month for basic family coverage, an unsustainable long-term expense that amounted to three times their monthly mortgage payment.

In order to provide a measure of relief and a workable option, the Legislature authorized the Alabama Farmers' Federation to offer its members an affordable healthcare program that mirrors those in 10 other states and provides coverage at premiums that are 30% to 60% less than comparable insurers.

While the insurance program does not fit every consumer's needs and is perhaps best suited for the niche farm family market, it does provide a needed and literal lifeline to those in the agricultural field who need it.

Powering growth in rural Alabama

This Legislature also passed the "Powering Growth" legislative package, which seeks to ensure that Alabama will always be able to meet increasing demands for energy while, just as importantly, bringing new jobs, hope, opportunity, and economic development to the portions of rural Alabama that need them most.

Rather than using a government program or bloated bureaucracy to meet these needs and open these doors, the package simply removes roadblocks that currently impede the private sector so it can put people to work and keep Alabama's economy — in areas both rural and urban — strong and recession-resistant.

We are continuing and even boosting funding for rural broadband expansion across the state, and the Legislature has called upon the Alabama Growth Alliance to develop a detailed Rural Roadmap initiative that will serve as a coordinated plan to develop, revitalize, and breathe new life in to rural communities in every pocket of the state.

Providing a strong voice for rural Alabama

As lawmakers, we understand the importance of Alabama's rural roots in its history and cultural traditions, and we are taking the solid steps necessary to keep our rural areas strong and healthy so they continue contributing to the economic vitality of our state.

Standing tall for rural Alabama, its communities, its businesses, and its families is a job that we take seriously, and as long as I remain the leader of the Alabama State Senate, it is a duty we will fulfill.

Senate Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Myrex (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local businesswoman Cindy Myrex has officially qualified to run for Alabama House of Representatives District 12.

Election details

Gov. Kay Ivey set special election dates for Alabama House District 12. This seat was previously held by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope, who resigned April 15, 2025.

The Special Primary Election for this seat will be Tuesday, July 15, 2025; the special primary runoff, if necessary, will be Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025; and the special general election will be Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.

Below is Myrex's qualification announcement, unedited and in full.

Longtime Cullman County resident and community advocate Cindy Myrex has officially qualified with the Alabama Republican Party to run for State House District 12.

"I love our hometown and the people in it," said Myrex. "I'm running because I believe it's time we had a strong, local voice down in Montgomery who truly understands what matters most to folks around here—faith, family, and good honest work."

Cindy has deep roots in the district and says her campaign will focus on the values that make Cullman County such a great place to live and raise a family. Whether it's fighting for small businesses, standing up for parental rights, or protecting conservative values, she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work.

"My door is always open, and I'll never forget who I'm working for," she added. "I'll take our common sense and strong convictions with me every step of the way."

The Republican Primary will take place on July 15 2025 Until then, Cindy says she'll be out meeting neighbors, listening, and sharing her vision for a stronger Alabama—one community at a time.

Obituary Announcements: May 10-12

Mary 'Jo' Waller, 75
Mary "Jo" Waller, lovingly known as "Mawmaw," age 75, passed away peacefully at her home on May 9, 2025. Her life was a testament to grace, kindness, and unwavering love—a true reflection of the beautiful soul she was. In her final days, she was surrounded by the same care and compassion she so generously gave throughout her life. Her family's hands and hearts were with her until she was called home. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Jacky; grandchildren, Mikey, Amanda (Bradley), and Michael (Hannah); great-grandchildren, Triton, Lennon, and Jack; brothers, Johnny (Janice) and Gary (Pat); and countless others who will carry her memory in their hearts. She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Mike Lacey, two sisters, and two brothers. Services will be held at Cullman Funeral Home on Thursday, May 15, 2025. The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. with the service beginning at 4 p.m. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Enhabit Hospice of Cullman for their compassionate care.

Steven Jeffrey Byrd, 70
Funeral services for Steven Jeffrey Byrd, 70, of Vinemont, Alabama, will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Ebenezer Cemetery in West Point. The family will welcome friends for visitation on Monday, May 12, at Hanceville Funeral Home. Born on Sept. 16, 1954 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Steven Byrd was a humble servant of God and devoted craftsman, leaving behind a legacy of faith, kindness, and quiet dedication. He lived a simple life, grounded in purpose and rich in the things that mattered most. He found great joy in traveling to retirement homes and nursing facilities, where he shared the gospel and offered spiritual comfort to many. His faith and gentle spirit touched countless lives and brought hope to those who needed it most. A skilled machinist and lathe operator, Steven took pride in his work, combining precision with a deep respect for his trade. When he wasn't working or ministering, he found peace in nurturing plants and reading books, both of which reflected his patient and thoughtful nature. Steven lived not for recognition, but for purpose—serving others, growing in faith, and doing what he loved. He will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him and remembered for the quiet strength and warmth he brought into the world. Survivors include his children, Jeff Byrd, Beatrice Hagemore (Kacee) and Traci Geno (Nathan); granddaughter, Hannah Campbell (Lincoln); and a host of many cousins, aunts, and uncles. Mr. Byrd was preceded in death by his mother, Beatrice Elam Byrd; father, Johnnie Raymond Byrd; and stepmother, Margaret Byrd. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Byrd Family.

Mary Will Lee Smith, 93
Funeral services for Mary Will Lee Smith, 93, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m., Monday, May 12, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with interment in Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. before the service. Mrs. Smith was called home to be with the Lord on May 9, 2025, at her residence surrounded by her family. She was born Sept. 25, 1931, to parents, Clarence and Freida Jessie Schultz Lee. On May 10, 1951, she married the love of her life, Willard Hugh Smith, and together they raised three wonderful children. Mary loved the Lord and her family. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and granny. She enjoyed tending to her flowers and sitting on her porch watching the hummingbirds. She was an amazing cook and made the best biscuits and chicken dressing. She was a wonderful and caring woman who touched the lives of all who knew her and she will be greatly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Willard Smith; son, Randall Matt Smith; brothers, Wras (Katherine) Lee, Colbert (Freida) Lee, Onie (Ludelle) Lee, Dumont (Joan) Lee; sisters, Nasavo (Hugh) Milan, Regina (Coy) Maner, Charlene (Milford) Bass. Survivor include her son, Mark (Karon) Smith; daughter, Anita (Keith) Williams; grandchildren, Patrick (Amanda) Smith, Tabitha (Josh) Brown, Lori Clark, Jessica (John) Rodgers; great-grandchildren, Selena Clark, Lydia Smith, Macie Brown, Jax Rodgers, Charlie Smith, Walker Brown, Collin Clark, Jace Rodgers, Ave Claire Clark, Carter Clark; great-great-granddaughter, Stella Clark; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

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

FISH-O-RAMA



THE CITY OF HANCEVILLE
HANCEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

May 22nd Special Needs
Registration 7:30am
Starts at 8am

May 23rd Senior Citizens Division 55+
Registration starts at 7:30am
Starts at 8am

May 24th Kid's Division
Registration starts at 7:30am
Starts at 8am

This will be a free event. Providing Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners across various age groups and divisions. We will be giving out door prizes. Offering lunch for attendees.

Veterans Memorial Park
503 Park Street Hanceville, Al 35077

COLLEGE TIRE
CELEBRATE MOM & GRAD WITH WHEEL DEALS!

SAVE 10% ON ALL TIRES
MICHELIN INCLUDED
(NEW AND LIGHT TRUCK EXCLD.)

SAVE 25% ON 225-65-17
SETS OF 4
(MEDIUM, LIKE NEW)



315 Main St. NW, Hanceville
Mon-Tues-Thurs-Friday 8-5:30
Weds 8-12 • Sat 8-2
256-352-2221

...in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8

Agriplex (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Senate Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, announced at the monthly meeting of the North Alabama Agriplex that he has secured $1.1 million in funding for the capital campaign to expand and create new facilities in Cullman.

"Through the state Education Trust Fund supplemental bill, the state General Fund budget and $50,000 of local funding, funds can now be available to move the Agriplex expansion plans to reality," said a media release.

Gudger commended Agriplex Executive Director Rachel Dawsey, her staff and the members of the board while making the announcement.

"The Agriplex teaches the value of agriculture to young people from all over north Alabama, and it teaches future generations about our rich agricultural heritage whether they attend public schools, private schools or are homeschooled," Gudger said. "Assets like the Agriplex are what make our area such a special place to live, work, worship and raise children, and I am happy to secure this funding on its behalf."

Previously operated as the Alabama Agriculture Museum and Hall of Fame, the North Alabama Agriplex offers educational programs on farming to both children and adults, sponsors summer camps for youth and engages in outreach with local schools.

For information about the North Alabama Agriplex, visit www.agriplex.org.

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE



ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP

You're Always A Winner with Bill's Deals



Thank you to our customers!

2025 GMC
Sierra 1500 SLT !!LOADED!!
STK# 58186
5.3 EcoTec3 V8 with DFM
X31 Off Road Package
20" Polished Aluminum Wheels
Keyless Remote Open/Start



WAS $66,340
NOW $52,340*

2025 GMC
Sierra 1500 Denali Ultimate
STK# 58996
6.2L EcoTec3 V8 with DFM
Alpine Umber Leather
HD Surround Vision
22" Machined Aluminum Wheels
MultiPro Power Steps



WAS $86,805
NOW $71,805*

2025 Buick
Envision Sport Touring $2,500 OFF
STK# 54185
2.0L Turbo Engine
Panoramic Moon Roof
Hands Free Power Liftgate
Head-Up Display



WAS $43,240
NOW $40,740*

2025 GMC $6,000 OFF
Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate
STK# 59111
6.6L Duramax V8 Turbo Diesel
Alpine Umber Leather
Gooseneck/5th Wheel Package
X31 Off Road Package
20" Machined Aluminum Wheels
Remote entry/start



WAS $96,935
NOW $90,935*

Bill Smith BUICK GMC WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

*Notates all rebates applied, must have 2005 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

© 2025 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE