

The Cullman Tribune

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Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett announces re-election bid



WWW.GOODHOPEAL.COM

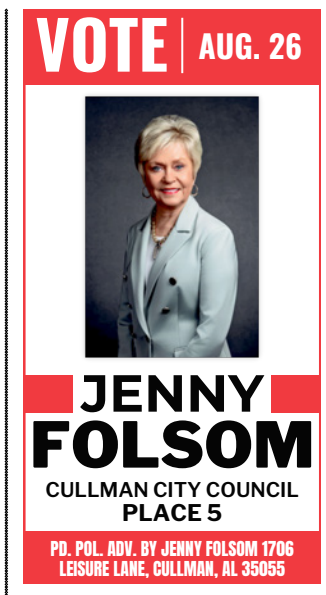
Jerry Bartlett » PAGE 2

Wayne Walker qualifies to run for Cullman City Board of Education



CONTRIBUTED

Wayne Walker » PAGE 2



'It's never too late to follow your dreams'

2025 Ms. Senior Cullman County Angie Carter places 2nd in state competition



FACEBOOK/MS. SENIOR ALABAMA, INC

Angie Carter

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — She's the reigning Ms. Senior Cullman, and earlier this month, Angie Carter came in as first runner-up in the Ms. Senior Alabama 2025 Pageant.

Carter competed in the state pageant in Daphne on June 7. Not only did she take second place, she was also named Ms. Congeniality.

"I was very surprised and happy about winning Ms. Congeniality," Carter said. "To me that was as special as winning the title, but to get first runner-up to my beautiful friend Lori Cox, 2025 Ms. Senior Alabama, was priceless."

Carter expressed gratitude to her sponsors, supporters and cheerleaders for their kindness throughout her journey.

"The pageant is a lot of fun," she said. "You meet ladies from all over the state of Alabama. You form a close sisterhood with these ladies. It's something that every lady should experience when they turn 60.

"It's never too late to follow your dreams; we all have a purpose.

"My message to senior women: A woman should and can be two things, who she wants to be and what she wants to be, regardless of her age."

Ms. Senior Alabama is a nonprofit senior women's organization, encouraging senior women that they all have a purpose, offering opportunities to get involved in local communities and providing a sisterhood of support throughout the state.

Delegates volunteer at hundreds of events across the state throughout the year. Some of Carter's events include numerous local engagements like the Cullman County Senior Health Fair, Senior Day at Cullman Oktoberfest, Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair, Senior Night at the Winter Wonderland at Sportsman Lake, the Cullman County Senior Christmas Party and more.

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BLAKELY BAGGETT

– SPORTS –

Holly Pond's Blakely Baggett discusses her faith

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Gudger announces $100K in additional funding for Holly Pond High School



TIM HOWE

Alabama Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman (center left), presents a check representing $100,000 in additional funding to Holly Pond High School Principal Dr. Nate Ayers (center right), Holly Pond Mayor Carla Hart (center), former Rep. Randall Shedd (to Gudger's right), school board member Heath Allbright (behind Gudger) and several of the school's students and teachers. » PAGE 8

Berlin Council talks farmers market expenses, road improvements » PAGE 5

PET OF THE WEEK

Keep up with Lil Zip!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Lil Zip » PAGE 6



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 18, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 16

- unauthorized use of vehicle; person

June 17

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $19; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

June 16-17

Lovell, Anthony R.; 50

- FTA – resisting arrest

Parris, Ethan B.; 32

- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts)

Ridgeway, Sherry D.; 54

- DUI

Flynt, Jeffrey, E.; 48

- theft of property-4th degree

Boyd, Lacie M.; 28

- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – disorderly conduct
- FTA – insurance violation

Abbott, Austin K.; 29

- theft of property-4th degree

Pearce, Stacy L.; 41

- criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA – receiving stolen property

McLeod, John L.; 29

- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Walker (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Wayne Walker recently announced he has qualified to run for Place 4 on the Cullman City Board of Education.

Below is Walker's announcement:

Wayne Walker, a longtime public servant, United States Navy veteran and respected member of the Cullman community, has officially qualified to run for Place 4 on the Cullman City School Board. The election will be held on Aug. 26, 2025.

Walker, a proud resident of Cullman, is deeply rooted in the city's school system. He has three children and two grandchildren who have graduated from Cullman City Schools, and two grandchildren currently enrolled in the system.

"I want to serve the parents, children and teachers of Cullman by helping make our city schools the safest and most effective learning environment in the state," said Walker.

"This is a community I care deeply about, and I want to ensure our schools continue to thrive for future generations."

Wayne Walker brings a strong record of public service, leadership experience and military service to the race:

- United States Navy veteran
- 12 years on the Cullman City Council
- Eight years on the Cullman-Jefferson Gas Board
- Four years as deputy commissioner for the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- 15 years as owner of Jack's Truck Stop Restaurant

Though retired, Walker remains active in the community, currently working part time at Jack's Western Wear in Good Hope, Alabama.

"I've always believed in giving back," Walker added. "I'm committed to listening, learning and working hard to support the students and staff who make Cullman City Schools great."

The municipal election will take place Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.

Bartlett (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett has announced his re-election bid.

Below is Bartlett's announcement:

Jerry Bartlett has officially announced his campaign for re-election as mayor of Good Hope, bringing with him over a decade of steady leadership, community investment and results-driven governance.

Serving as mayor since 2014, Bartlett has led the city through transformative growth while maintaining the values that make Good Hope a strong, united community. With a lifetime of service including 28 years at Good Hope High School as a teacher, coach and bus driver, as well as six years on the city council – Bartlett continues to prioritize infrastructure, public safety and educational support.

"Good Hope is more than just where I live – it's home," Bartlett said. "Together, we've achieved so much, and I believe the best is yet to come. I'm running to keep things great – together."

Key accomplishments include

- Secured over $6.7 million in federal and state grants for local infrastructure and community

Projects

- Oversaw completion of multiple major infrastructure projects
- Purchased 33 acres for park expansion which include a playground, basketball courts, pickleball courts, disc golf and adult outdoor fitness facilities. Plans to continue pushing park upgrades with a splash pad, pavilions, walking trails and an open area for play.
- Facilitated major ADECA and ARC projects including Love's/Super Saver sewer expansion, Scott Drive and Schaffel Road sewer expansion, and 222 Reid Road sewer expansion
- Promoted unity through community traditions like the Christmas Parade, Back to School Bash and Thanksgiving Meal
- Earned recognition as a Certified Municipal Official (CMO) and was twice elected president of the Cullman County Mayor's Association
- Brought in multiple new businesses including AGCOR Steel, Ethos Brewery/Bloom Winery, Van's Sporting Goods, Good Hope Medical, Gibbs Nursery and several other small businesses that have made a great economic impact

If re-elected he will continue to push for economic growth, park improvements, public safety and infrastructure projects. He believes it is very important to grow the infrastructure as the city's population grows. A top priority is working with state and federal officials to secure funding for a new bridge at the 304 exit.

The Good Hope Municipal Election will take place Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.

YARD SALE
June 20: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
1010 6th Ave. SE, Cullman
Home décor, lamps, pictures, 2 linen dining room chairs, TV stand. Also 8 ft. flocked Christmas tree and more.

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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 Repair
Sessions at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church located at 615 Third Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. 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
- Friday, June 20 - 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.
- Saturday, June 21 – Drive-through food bank 9-11 a.m.
- Sunday, June 22 - 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 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.

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville: Events
- Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 25, 10 a.m. Hanceville Fire Department – Learn about firetrucks and fire safety and get cooled off with the hose; bring bathing suits and a towel!
- Wednesday, June 25, 10 a.m. Cullman County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit – Find out what it takes to be a rescue dog!
- Friday, June 27, 6-7 p.m. Poetry Night, back by popular demand. Sing or recite your song or poem. Amateurs welcome!
- Wednesday, July 2, 10 a.m. The Science Lady Jan Mattingly makes science fun to learn, with engaging experiments!
- Wednesday, July 9 BREAK
- Wednesday, July 16, 10 a.m. Storytime presented by Cathi Bradford
- Wednesday, July 23, 10 a.m. Bookmobile will be on-site and Library Director Amber Thorton will read "The Wide Mouth Frog."
- Wednesday, July 30, 10 a.m. Lauren Bentley, board member, will read "Rainbow Fish."

Mt. Nebo VBS – 'Magnified'
Through June 20, 6-8:30 p.m. 11 County Road 1273, Cullman. (See The Tribune's full VBS listing at cullmantribune.com/2025/06/02/list-the-ultimate-cullman-vbs-summer-roadmap.)

Rock the South
Thursday-Saturday, June 19-21 at York Farms, 1872 County Road 469, Cullman. Headliners include Hank Williams Jr., Kid Rock and Nickelback. Get tickets and more info at www.rockthesouth.com.

Fairview High School Class of 1975 Reunion
Saturday, June 21, at 6 p.m. at The Venue, 8575 Alabama Highway 69 N, Cullman, AL 35058. Cost is $45 per person. Contact Sheila Woods to RSVP at 256-347-6738. Looking forward to seeing everyone and having a great time.

At the Foot of the Cross Church VBS
June 23-28. Jesus Frenzy. Ages up to 12, Monday-Wednesday. Ages 13 and up Thursday-Friday. 6-8 p.m. Saturday is fun day. 2.5 miles north of Alabama Highway 157 on Eva Road. (See The Tribune's full VBS listing at cullmantribune.com/2025/06/02/list-the-ultimate-cullman-vbs-summer-roadmap.)

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, at 9:30 a.m. USDA Service Center, 501-B Fourth St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Swamp John's Dinner
Tuesday, July 22, 4-7 p.m. at Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Rd. $15 per plate. Fundraiser for the senior center. Tickets on sale at the center beforehand or that day. Cash, check or card. Dine in or carry out.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 19, 2025

FAITH

'God will lead you exactly where you need to be': Holly Pond's Blakely Baggett discusses her faith

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond's Blakely Baggett will be a senior this upcoming school year, and in this interview, she discusses her faith, starting with how one weekend completely changed her life.

"God means more to me than I could ever explain. He has guided me through my most challenging moments and has led me to so many incredible people and opportunities," Baggett said. "Getting baptized was so special to me, because it was a symbol of my salvation. God saved me on Saturday, May 25th, at night at church camp alongside a couple of my friends, and then, I got baptized the next morning. That Saturday was easily the best and most beautiful thing I've ever been a part of. Every single person at camp was gathered around the altar, praying for each other, and just to hear the tears and brokenness that was being faithfully laid at God's feet was so encouraging to me. Sometimes, I forget that God is in complete control, and every season of my life serves a purpose in His overall plan for me. My baptism feels so important to me, because that is a step of boldness in my faith that I never would have taken before," Blakely said.

"I never would have walked up to Austin and Erin Rowell or any leader and asked to talk or talked to my friends about my sins and how I feel regarding my faith. But that night, I did, and that is what made me sure that I was saved. I took a new step of courage in my faith. I was instantly filled with so much joy, gratitude, and appreciation for God in that moment, and it hasn't gone away yet."

A lot of younger kids watched Blakely change her life when she got baptized, but she says that the younger kids have inspired her more than the other way around.

"Honestly, the younger kids probably inspired me more than I inspired them. Many younger kids were getting up and sharing their testimonies, taking their step of faith, and accepting God into their hearts. It made me wish that I could have been that bold about my faith at their age, but showing a more vulnerable side of myself that was broken with sin and just pain that the world can bring in front of the younger kids was kind of humbling. I am always trying to act like I have it all together and don't need much help, but in reality, I need so much guidance and healing. I think it was important for the younger kids to see that. I also got baptized alongside my younger brother, which was a very special moment for me and my family."

Blakely shared a couple of Bible verses that mean the world to her.

"One of my favorite Bible verses is Colossians 1:17: 'He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together'. God is like the glue that holds every piece and aspect of your life together. When it feels like your plans are falling apart and you are losing control, you have to remember that God is going to have His will be done in your life, and if you get off track, He'll guide you back. That is how he holds all things together. Another Bible verse that I really like is Acts 2:24: 'But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him'. Jesus is so much greater than death that it was literally impossible for death to keep hold of Him. Jesus conquered the grave, so I will never have to face it, and I believe that is the greatest evidence of His love and power for us."

Blakely encourages people of all ages to find God and being a role model for kids is one of her top priorities.

"I myself still have a lot of progress to make in my faith, but I encourage people of all ages to find God, and accept Him into their hearts, because He is the only way you can find a truly, unconditional, and completely satisfying and forgiving love. I encourage people of all ages to go find God, because He doesn't care about your past. He only cares about your future in faith. God is the only hope for eternal life, and people of all ages should seek God," Baggett said. "I want to become that role model, because it would encourage me to be more disciplined in my faith. I know younger kids are watching, and I want to be living proof that God changes people. He can improve your life so much if you will just give it to Him. I want to be changed by God so much that younger kids see my transformation in Christ and want to seek God more for themselves."

Blakely talked about one of the best moments of her life, and it was all because God led her and a group of people to someone whose life quickly got changed right before her eyes.

"At church camp, during one of my Outreach programs, we were going to buy coffee for this specific group of people, but when we asked, they didn't want any. They told us to go check with the sweet woman at Wendy's Nutrition, and although she didn't want any coffee, we asked if we could pray with her and if she had any requests. You could just tell that a prayer/encounter from strangers, yet Sisters in Christ, was exactly what she needed in that moment. I think this story goes to show that God will lead you exactly where you need to be. Although our initial outreach project didn't go as planned, we still brought God to someone. Rejection or what you might see as a 'failure' is not the end of the story, because God has the bigger picture in mind."

Blakely's Godly role model is one of her friends, and she shared how God stepped in to help her out when she was going through a rough time in her life.



BLAKELY BAGGETT

Holly Pond's Blakely Baggett

"My Godly role model is one of my friends, Bryanna Holloway. I have truly seen her grow in Christ, and she has so much joy through God that just watching others come to Christ or share their testimonies will instantly bring her to tears. She truly has the heart of a servant," she said.

"For many months leading up to church camp, I had strayed far from God

and was placing all of my worth on invaluable things, like my grades, athletic performance, social life, and more. I was hardly praying and hadn't opened my Bible, which is kind of hard to admit, but it's true. Once I got to church camp, I was separated from all of those things that I had placed so much meaning on. God truly just broke me and showed me how weak my faith has been. That's when I truly realized that and accepted the fact that I am absolutely nothing without God. In the end, none of these superficial things will matter. During the song of invitation, I laid down my troubles and poured my heart out to God asking for forgiveness and redemption. I asked for Him to change everything, and I truly gave my life to Him during that time. And now, for the rest of my life, I will strive to become a better Christian for myself, for my friends and family, and most importantly, to bring praise to His name."

Blakely shared some advice for any people who want a relationship with God but are new to that kind of experience.

"Be patient. God works from the inside and out and sometimes, it's hard to remember that God has a timeline already set out for you. The pain you experience is part of the plan. The people you lose and gain is part of the plan. The doors that are opened and closed are part of the plan. Eventually, His plan will all come together, and if you are willing, He will call you to Him. Be attentive and when you hear God call you, wherever you may be, don't hesitate. Lay your life down to Him right in that moment, and He will transform you," she said. "You are never too far from God. When you get down in a slump, you don't have to wait until you are 'better' to go back to God. He is always waiting, with arms wide open, for you to come back. God is always pursuing you; you just have to pursue Him in the same way."

Football, family & fun at Auburn's Ladies Clinic

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Like many children of his generation, Hugh Freeze knew the rule. If you get spanked at school, expect another one at home.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Independence, Mississippi, the future Auburn football coach walked a straight and narrow path, except for one time in first grade.

"I knew from his demeanor, every mother can know if there's something wrong," recalled Rita Freeze, Hugh's mother.

"After three days, he finally told me, he and another little boy were scuffling in the bathroom and the principal gave him one lick."

Sensing how the incident had affected her middle child, Rita relented from delivering a second serving of discipline.

"I passed on that one," she said. "I said, 'You're fine. You've punished yourself more than I could've punished you.'"

Joined by her daughter-in-law, Jill Freeze, Rita Freeze shared stories about raising an SEC football coach to more than 300 women Saturday at the third annual Auburn Football Ladies Clinic at the Woltosz Center.

"You're loyal and true and you travel," Hugh Freeze said in his opening remarks, before emphasizing what he called his "No. 1 rule for the day."

"Do not get hurt!" he exclaimed, after giving an autographed hat to an attendee who was injured two years earlier in a drill before returning to the event.

Freeze also acknowledged attendees who had traveled the farthest along with the youngest and most seasoned audience members, and one who has held season tickets since 1969.

"We're thankful that you're here," he said.

After the question-and-answer session with the head coach's wife and mother, attendees learned about Xs and Os in a presentation from special teams coordinator Chad Lunsford.

After lunch and a group photo, campers split into five groups, rotating between 30-minute sessions on recruiting, defense, offense, equipment and strength and conditioning.

82-year-old Anita Smith won the door prize for the farthest distance traveled, having returned to the Plains from Westsport, Connecticut, to attend with her twin daughters, sisters and a friend.

"I love the camaraderie and all the women who are here showing how much they love Auburn football," she said.

Smith traces her Auburn fandom to the 1948 resumption of the Iron Bowl series after a 40-year hiatus. Then 5 years old, she recalls sitting on her father's shoulders as the team returned by train to the depot downtown.



AU ATHLETICS

Joined by daughter Ragan and father Danny, Hugh Freeze listens to "Mammie" share stories.

"The train comes rolling in and all the football players get off," she recalled. "Then we all cheered 'War Eagle' for them. It was lots of fun. I will never forget it as long as I live."

Hugh Freeze inherited his love for the Southeastern Conference from his parents, Rita and Danny, who celebrated their 60th anniversary in March.

"We loved the SEC all our lives," Rita said. "If we had two TVs, we put them in a living room, and everybody watched them all the time."

Hugh's decision to follow his father's footsteps into coaching did not surprise his mother.

"His goal was to be an SEC coach," she remembered. "I figured if he wanted to do that bad enough, he would succeed, and he did."

When Freeze made his SEC head coaching debut at Ole Miss on September 1, 2012, Rita attended but didn't see much.

"I didn't watch," she said, drawing laughs from the audience. "But I'm known for not watching. I just close my eyes and say it's going to be okay."

Thirteen years later, as her son prepares for his third season on the Plains, Rita and Danny plan to be there, home and away.

"Still the same," Rita said. "I'm just as nervous as I can be. It's nerve-racking, waiting. Once it gets started, it's better, and sometimes I watch now."

"She comes to the game," Jill Freeze said. "She just has her eyes covered, or she's in the bathroom. She's here, she's just not watching."

After first meeting Jill in math class at Southern Miss, Hugh drove his future bride four hours north to introduce her to his parents.

"She gets out, she has on this beautiful white dress with polka dots all over, and hair fixed to the t," recalled Rita, who suddenly felt underdressed in her farm clothes.

After welcoming their guest, Danny Freeze returned to his chore of building a roof on a shed, soon to be joined on the roof by the young couple, with Jill having quickly changed into casual attire.

"She's got a hammer in her hand," Rita recalled. "I said, 'We're going to be fine.'"

"They accepted me from day one," Jill said. "They treated me like a daughter."

Her eyes watering, Rita Freeze, known as "Mammie" to her 11 grandchildren, ended her time on stage with gratitude for her family.

"They're all very special. God has blessed immensely," she said.

"I know this year we're going to have a great year. It's amazing what God can do in a life. You've got to live what you say for people to really care, and he does."

Berlin Council talks farmers market expenses, road improvements

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — Mayor Patrick Bates commenced the monthly session of the Berlin Town Council on Monday, June 16, 2025. The meeting opened with an invocation and pledge of allegiance led by Councilman James Sanford.

Bates informed the council that the Town will be forced to forfeit a $5,000 state Resource Conservation and Development grant that was to help pay for handicap-accessible restrooms at the farmers market. He said that because the contractor is behind schedule, there would not be enough materials purchased in time to submit an expense report to complete the grant.

Councilman Keith Hardman expressed concern for the funding and asked who would be responsible for making up that difference.

Bates reassured the council, "At a rate of $500 dollars a day for missing the completion date, they will end up paying at least that much if not more." With an original deadline of August, already pushed back to September, the company looks to pay exponentially, he said.

In other news on the farmers market site, former Rep. Randall Shedd, who now works as director of constituent affairs for Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, promised to dedicate his efforts to acquiring $25,000 toward improvements for the site. Shedd notified Bates prior to the meeting that the Town will receive $13,000 from State Tourism and an additional $12,000 from Gudger to help fund the project.

The next order of business, the council discussed a damaged pipe on County Road 1611.

The pipe had been partially cleaned out, but required additional excavation to complete the job due to the extent of the damage. Bates suggested installing a prefabricated aluminum culvert in its place to prevent this issue in the future. The council suggested talking to the Town's engineer to determine the best course of action before making a final decision.



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Berlin Town Council is seen on Monday, June 16, 2025.

In other business:

- The audit for the 2024 fiscal year has been completed

- A public hearing was held to vacate an unnamed county road south of County Road 1611 - passed unanimously

- Cullman County Water Department will relocate a water meter from County Road 1614 to County Road 747 to allow a ditch to be made

The next meeting of the Berlin Town Council is scheduled for July 21, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall.

Render Aid Alabama hosts 3rd annual Elder Abuse Awareness Event

Camille Gibbs
camille@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Render Aid Alabama hosted its third annual Elder Abuse Awareness Event on June 13, at the Traditions Bank Event Building. Guests met vendors, listened to speakers, won prizes and received free lunch.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Capt. Edward Potter, Adam Clark from the Cullman Police Department and Hannah Walter of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Birmingham spoke to the seniors about the dangers of financial and health scams.

According to Walter, those most affected by fraud are over 60, and scams perpetrated by people claiming to be grandchildren, government officials, romantic interests and technical support have become more believable through artificial intelligence.

"Elder fraud has probably impacted everyone in this room," she said. "If I asked for a quick show of hands, all of them would probably be up."

The speakers taught the audience how to report these crimes to the FBI, Health and Human Services and the National Elder Fraud Hotline, and explained which areas of fraud they focus on. Listeners were informed to be mindful of sharing information online and following links and ads.

Vendors from the Cullman Police Department, Beltone, Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services, United Way of Cullman County, Cullman County Commission on Aging and Aveanna Hospice also provided guests with valuable information and resources.

If you are a victim of elder fraud, call the FBI at 1-800-225-5324, Health and Human Resources at 1-800-477-8477 or the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 1-833-372-8311.



CAMILLE GIBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Capt. Edward Potter speaks to attendees at the third annual Elder Abuse Awareness Event on June 13, 2025.

OP-ED

A new definition of college success at Wallace State Community College

Dr. Vicki Karolewics
Wallace State

On the heels of graduation season here in Alabama, and reflecting on more than 20 years after assuming the presidency of Wallace State Community College, I am more certain than ever about what it takes for a college degree to have real meaning and value for our students and our communities.

I can't help thinking about what graduation looked like a few years ago. During COVID, like other schools, Wallace State couldn't gather for traditional commencement, so the only viable alternative was a drive-through ceremony. I remember presenting a diploma to a young mother riding in the back of an SUV, with a toddler in her lap and another one next to her. One of the kids had Cheetos all over their face! She was celebrating her nursing degree with her family in tow.

Fresh off being honored as a "Rising Star" college by the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, I'm reflecting with pride on our record of success for students across our region.

I see that pride in our faculty and staff, and most importantly, in the faces of that mother and her kids in the car as she graduated from college and took another step toward a bright future for her family.

Students like that mom, and like I was, are why we must keep reaching for excellence. And for those of us who hold the keys to college student success in our state — fellow college leaders, state legislators who make opportunity possible for our talented young people, and the trustees who oversee community colleges — I have some thoughts on how we can position our community colleges so that more students complete a degree that leads immediately to a good-paying job or to transfer to a bachelor's program that connects to a good-paying job.

At Wallace State, we used to see success as increasing enrollment. Of course, enrollment is critical — both for paying the bills and for ensuring a vibrant college community that every student rightfully wants and expects. We met this goal years ago and we remain fully enrolled today. Check!

Then, we updated the definition of success, realizing that enrollment is not enough. Students need to complete college and do so in a timely fashion, not over 10 years.

No student has the time to waste when they need a jump start on a good job. In 2010, we graduated 20 per cent of our students.

Today, we're over 50%. A lot had to happen to more than double our graduation rate, and we are proud of that work!

But, I have come to see that even graduation isn't enough if our students can't earn a living wage with their credentials. Our focus today, our pact with students across Alabama, is ensuring students graduate in high-value programs prepared for the workforce. They must have the skills that employers need and be ready to go the day after celebrating their college achievements. We are accountable for helping to lift our students out of poverty through economic opportunity and mobility.

Here's how we do that:

First, implementing research-informed reforms shown to improve student outcomes, leading to student success and solid preparation for the workforce. One idea that has worked beautifully at Wallace State: a "success course" where students create an individualized plan for completing their program, specifically tailored to their career interests. We can help students achieve their dreams, and for some, we help them learn that they can dare to dream. And we help them create the map to get to those dreams.

Second, culture matters. A thriving culture cares for students, especially when students struggle for money and juggle work with school and family. It's a lot! Non-academic services matter so that learning can actually take place, positioning students for post-graduation success.

At Wallace State, we have emergency monetary support for essential needs like transportation, free mental health counseling and a mother's lounge. These family friendly offerings make it easier for students to learn.

Third, academic programs must be aligned with local labor market needs. Whether in advanced manufacturing, automotive or health care, we take our cue from local employers, welcoming their input on courses and inviting them into the classroom.

This means that course content evolves because technology evolves, and research leads to new practices in the workplace.

When that mom received her degree from the back of her SUV, she was going out into the world in a way that she never imagined. She will forever be a mom, but she's now a skilled nurse, too, earning a good living for her children, contributing to the well-being of her community, and helping to fuel the local economy.

That's what college can be, and 22 years later, I have learned that excellence starts with enrollment, leads to completion and ultimately to success in the workplace. That's the handshake deal we educators and those who support us must make with our talented people here in Alabama.





Lil Zip (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet Lil Zip! This wonderful Corgi mix, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, is approximately 1 year old and best described as a pup with medium-high energy.

There is nothing is too tough for this fellow! His introduction to the backpack was remarkably easy, and he was all ready to go exploring.

He stays focused on you as he is an optimist and lover of life whose cup is always full. This naturally makes him the perfect character for a companion/hiking/therapy dog.

His caretaker said, "I just absolutely love Lil Zip!" And we know you will, too!

His adoption fee is $130, which covers neutering, vaccines, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Make sure to come by and visit with Lil Zip! Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE.It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. All his friends there are also looking for forever homes! Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

Remember: adopt, don't shop!

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOHN KELLY CLARK, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-181

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration upon the estate of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 10th day of June, 2025 by Tammy Brown, the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same, duly sworn to in the Probate Court of said county within the time allowed by law, or else same will be forever barred.

Patrick Smith
Personal Representative

William S. Pylant (PYL002)
Pylant Estate Law, LLC
100 Washington Street NE Suite 204
Huntsville, AL 35801
will@pylantestatelaw.com
(256)529-4747

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of * ANGELA FAITH SMITH, * CASE NO.: PC2025-091 Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JOHN P. SEGAL as Personal Representative of the Estate of ANGELA FAITH SMITH, deceased, on the 2nd day of June 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.

John P. Segal
Administrator

Caleb W. Balley, Esq.
Martinson & Beason, P. C.
Attorney for Petitioners
115 North Side Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

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 2nd day of June, 2025.

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

IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: KELLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PRECINCT NO. 30 * RESOLUTION 2025-34

NOTICE

Designating and equipping voting places; county voting center pursuant to *Ala. Code* §17-6-4 (b) for the following voting precinct change:

FORMER NAME AND ADDRESS:
KELLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
PRECINCT 30
1270 COUNTY ROAD 1435
VINEMONT, AL 35179

NEW NAME AND ADDRESS:
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
PRECINCT 30
1104 COUNTY ROAD 1435
CULLMAN, AL 35058

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper and thereafter file a copy of the notice so published and an Affidavit of Publication.

DONE this the 18th day of June, 2025.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT
OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BETTY JEAN BASS, Deceased. CASE NUMBER PC2025-193

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary upon Last Will and Testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 2nd day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Kim Mangham-Barelare
KIM MANGHAM-BARELARE
Personal Representative

Patrick H. Boone
Attorney for the Estate of Betty Jean Bass
705 New South Federal Savings Building
215 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd. North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-3720
Telephone: 205-324-2018
Facsimile: 205-324-2295
E-Mail: patrickboone@bellsouth.net

TO: CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice once a week for three successive weeks in said newspaper. The bill/notice should be sent to attorney, Patrick H. Boone, at the above address.

Kim Mangham-Barelare
KIM MANGHAM-BARELARE
Personal Representative of the
Estate of Betty Jean Bass

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of Timothy Phillips, also known as Timothy Lee Phillips, and Tim Phillips Deceased Case No.: PC-2025 191

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Hanna Phillips Harper, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Timothy Phillips, also known as Timothy Lee Phillips, and Tim Phillips, deceased, on the 17th day of June, 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.

Hanna Phillips Harper
Personal Representative of the Estate of
Timothy Phillips, deceased

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Beverly Paschal Poston,
Attorney for the Estate of
Timothy Phillips, deceased.
201 Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
(256) 739-3970

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on April 7, 2006 by Max Wayne Starnes, Sr. and Barbara Ann Starnes, husband and wife, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1468, Page 114 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on July 11, 2025:

Part of the SE 1/3 of the SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County Alabama described as follows: Begin at the DE corner of said ¼ - ¼ section; thence run northerly along the ¼ - ¼ section line, 160.04 feet to the south line of a 30 foot right of way; thence 89 degrees 54' left along said line, 600.00 feet; thence 90 degrees 06' left, 160.21 feet; thence 89 degrees 55' left, along the south line of said Section 34 a distance of 600.0 feet to the point of beginning.

The following manufactured home to be auctioned separately and together:
One (1) 2002 Fleetwood Manufactured Home, VIN #TN-FL126A59076SS12

Address of the property (for identification purposes only)
1900 County Road 532, Hanceville, AL 35077

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-June 19, 26, July 3, 2025

MAYOR PATRICK E. BATES — TOWN CLERK KEIRSTYN MONTGOMERY

TOWN OF BERLIN
Alabama

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-005
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ASSENTING TO A VACATION OF AN UNNAMED COUNTY ROAD SOUTH OF COUNTY ROAD 1611

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Berlin, Alabama as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975), The Town of Berlin is required to hold a public hearing, notice of which is required by statute, to determine the assent to the vacation.

WHEREAS, That an unnamed County Road south of County Road 1611 to be vacated has abutting lots or parcels of land owned by Josefina Valencia Hernandez, Eulalio Rodriguez Aburto, Bobby Ray Hill, Sherrie Giles Hill, Minyard H. Blair, Jr, Joyce I. Blair, and Ashley Graves Bates;

WHEREAS, The Town of Berlin is duly satisfied that vacating an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611, in its entirety, is in the interest of the public;

WHEREAS, The Town of Berlin is satisfied that vacation of said road will not deprive other property owners of any right they may have to convenient and reasonable means of ingress and egress to and from their property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Title 23-4-2, et. seq. Code of Alabama, 1975 that an unnamed County Road South of County Road 1611, is hereby vacated as described:

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

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be made a part of the Minutes of Meeting of the Town of Berlin at which this action has been taken. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to effectuate such ministerial tasks. Additionally, this resolution shall be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County by the Clerk of the Town of Berlin.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the filing of this resolution shall operate as a declaration of the Town of Berlin's vacation and shall divest all public rights and liabilities, including any rights which may have been acquired by prescription, in that part described above.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that any entity with utility lines, equipment, or facilities in place at the time of vacation, shall have the right to continue to maintain, extend, and enlarge their lines, equipment, and facilities to the same extent as if the vacation had not occurred.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Town of Berlin is further instructed to publish once a week in a newspaper in Cullman County no later than Fourteen (14) days after adoption of said resolution.

Dated this the 11th day of June, 2025.

Patrick Bates, Mayor
Donald Gunter, Council Member
James Sanford, Council Member
Tony Duke, Council Member
Don Bates, Council Member
Keith Hardman, Council Member

ATTEST:
Keirstyn Montgomery
Keirstyn Montgomery, CMC, CMRO, CGAT
Town Clerk/Treasurer

TOWN OF BERLIN CORPORATE SEAL Incorporated May 3, 2014 ALABAMA

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on July 25, 2020 by Floyd Randall Compton, unmarried, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1922, Page 867 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on July 7, 2025:

Commence at the Southeast corner of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 3 West; thence S 88 degrees 54 minutes, 48 seconds W 190.00 feet to a point; thence N 00 degrees, 04 minutes, 56 seconds W 130.00 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set on the West R.O.W. of County Road 711 and the true point of beginning; thence S 88 degrees, 54 minutes, 48 seconds W 140.00 feet to an existing iron; thence N 00 degrees 04 minutes, 54 seconds W 92.00 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set; thence N 88 degrees, 54 minutes 48 seconds E 140.00 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set on the West R.O.W. of County Road 711; thence S 00 degrees, 04 minutes, 56 seconds E 92.00 feet to the true point of beginning. Said land lying in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

Description derived from survey of James W. Baldy, AL PLS Lic. No. 11845, dated February 20, 2018.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-June 12, 19, 26, 2025

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Eddie M Forster, and spouse and Glenda A Forster to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for AHL Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns dated August 14, 2007; said mortgage being recorded on September 7, 2007 in Deed Book 1536, Page 419, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust by assignment recorded in Deed Book 377, Page 290, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on July 10, 2025 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found 1-1/2 inch pipe marking the Northeast Corner of said Section 23; thence South 0 degrees 32 minutes 11 seconds West a distance of 2014.18 feet to a found iron at the Southeast Corner of Lot 9 of Richmond Estates Subdivision (Plat Book B, Page 323 A); thence South 1 degree 37 minutes 21 seconds West along the accepted east line of said forty a distance of 347.32 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning, continue South 1 degree 37 minutes 21 seconds West along said accepted east line a distance of 313.01 feet to a found 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the accepted Southeast Corner of the above described forty; thence North 89 degrees 29 minutes 36 seconds West the accepted south line of said forty a distance of 153.55 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence North 1 degree 37 minutes 10 seconds East a distance of 313.95 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 89 degrees 08 minutes 34 seconds East a distance of 153.55 feet to the true point of beginning.

Said property is commonly known as **741 County Road 695, Holly Pond, AL 35083**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 23-04683AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ROGER L. McKINNON,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2025-000141.00**

ALISON RENO,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Alison Reno, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Roger L. McKinnon's Complaint for Divorce by August 11th, 2025 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case Number 25-DR-2025-000141.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 5th day of June, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER:
ROGER L. McKINNON
4417 COUNTY ROAD 38
LOT B
HANCEVILLE, AL 35077

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI
PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MACON WILSON TAYLOR, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2025-158

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration with Will Annexed having been granted to Wilson Coe Taylor, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Macon Wilson Taylor, deceased, on the 10th day of June, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Wilson Coe Taylor
Personal Representative

Brett Adair
Adair Law Firm, LLC
1200 Corporate Drive, Suite 107
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PATTY LOU SMITH, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-071

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Charles Randell Posey, Personal Representative, on the 4th day of June, 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

CHARLES RANDELL POSEY
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: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

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

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF L.A.M., a minor, DOB: 10-25-2011 * **CASE NO.: JU 22-570.03**

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

The unknown father of the above child born to Marie Ann McNeely on October 25, 2011, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources by the 17 day of July, 2025, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 3rd day of June, 2025.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 03 2025
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY ANN BROWN, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2025-132**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to BRENDA KAY BROWN PACE, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DOROTHY ANN BROWN, deceased, on the 16TH day of June, 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 be barred.

BRENDA KAY BROWN PACE
Personal Representative

Kenneth R. Widner
Attorney for Personal Representative
Post Office Box 359
Eva, Alabama 35621

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PAUL VANCE MORAN, Deceased. * CASE NO PC 2022-441

NOTICE OF HEARING
MOTION FOR HEARING FOR COURT TO REVIEW AUCTIONEER CONTRACT and OFFER TO PURCHASE HOUSE

TO: CHRISTOPHER MORAN, MATTHEW MORAN, TIMOTHY MORAN AND ANY OTHER NEXT-OF-KIN AND HEIRS

Motion for Hearing for Court to Review Auctioneer Contract and Offer to Purchase House filed by Pamela E Nail, Personal Representative of the Estate of Paul Vance Moran. A hearing is scheduled on these matters for the **10th day of July, 2025, at 10:00 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 17th day of June, 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

Pamela E. Nail
Personal Representative
200 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICKY LEE HAYES, Deceased. **CASE NO.: PC-2025-029**

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: Jessica J. Johns
8142 U.S. Hwy 31
Lot #11
Hanceville, AL 35077

YOU WILL HEREBY TAKE NOTICE that DIANA L. HAYES has petitioned the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama for Probate of the Will in the Estate of RICKY LEE HAYES, Deceased.

You are hereby notified that a date and time has been set for said hearing on said matter.

That said hearing shall be on the 24th day of July, 2025 at 11:00 o'clock a .m. at the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Obituary Announcements: June 17-18

Robert Joseph Sparks, 65
Robert Joseph Sparks, age 65, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Monday, June 16, 2025. Robert was born in Tampa, Florida, on June 5, 1960, to James M. and Venita Louise Spencer Sparks. He is preceded in death by his mother and a brother-in-law: Warner Jones Jr. A graveside service for Robert will be held Saturday, June 21, 2025, from 3 p.m. at Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 8817 County Road 747, Cullman, AL 35055. The family will receive friends at the cemetery for the service. Robert is survived by: Father: James M. Sparks, Sister: Pam Joy Jones, Brother: Paul Keith (Connie) Sparks, Nephew: Paul (Chanda) Collins, Great Nephew: Caiden Collins, Great Nieces: Jaci Baker and Everly Joy Collins. After the Graveside Service the family and friends will move into the church for a Memorial Service. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Moss Service Funeral Home
1901 Second Avenue Northwest
734-1821 Service You Can Count On

Cullman Marble & Granite Co.
"Memorials of Quality Since 1910" 734-2353

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: office@cullmantribune.com

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

Funding (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

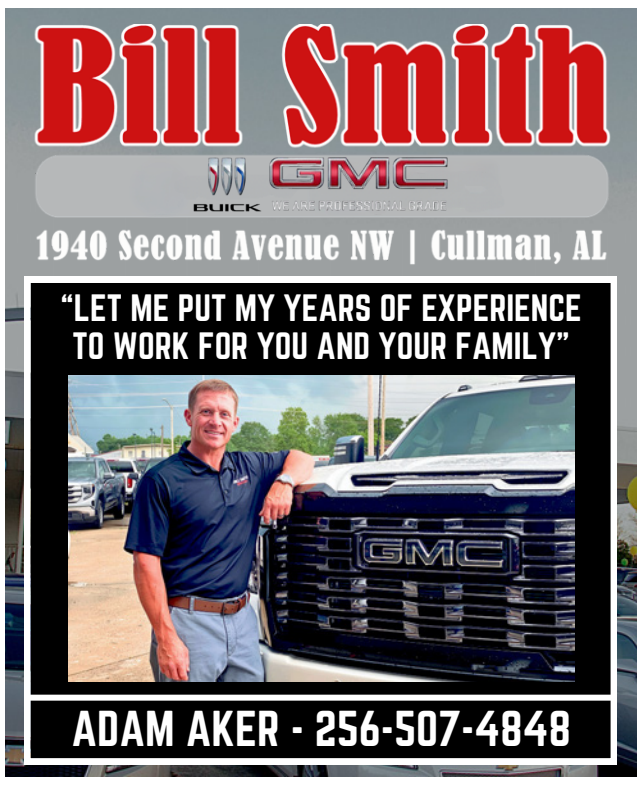
HOLLY POND, Ala. — Alabama Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, visited Holly Pond High School on Wednesday, June 18, to announce he has secured an additional $100,000 in State funding to supplement its educational efforts and progress.

Gudger was surrounded by Holly Pond High Principal Dr. Nate Ayers, Holly Pond Mayor Carla Hart, former Rep. Randall Shedd, school board member Heath Allbright and several of the school's students and teachers as he presented a ceremonial check representing the funding.

"I am impressed with all that Dr. Ayers and his team have accomplished at Holly Pond High School, and I know that this additional funding will provide even more educational opportunities for the students enrolled here," Gudger said. "The commitment to education is evident across the Holly Pond High campus, and I am honored to secured this funding fulfill the school's request for additional dollars."

Gudger noted that the entire Holly Pond community is involved with and supportive of the high school, its mission and its success, and he credited that widespread local support for much of its success.

Gudger's office said the additional funding will be sent from Montgomery to the local school system and earmarked specifically for Holly Pond High School.







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