

The Cullman Tribune

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OBITUARIES

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WEATHER

87 70

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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JOHNNY
COOK
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL
PLACE 3

PD. POL. ADV. BY JOHNNY COOK, 1806 WAYNE AVE NW, CULLMAN, AL 35055

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SB322 clears path for Smith Lake Resort annexation, CDD structure



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jeff Tolbert points out the proposed site plans for the future home of an Italian style hotel along with golf courses, homes and an airstrip.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With the passage of Senate Bill 322 into law, questions surrounding a proposed Smith Lake Resort project have continued to circulate throughout Cullman County.

Developer Jeff Tolbert, whose plans include a resort-style development near Smith Lake, said the legislation enables the project to move forward through annexation into the city of Cullman and the creation of a CDD.

A CDD, by law, can only be formed by a city or county government. This is why Tolbert said he first approached the Cullman County Commission. Tolbert said the district would not have cost the County any money, but the commission's refusal would have cost the development millions of dollars. It is his belief the commission's verbal "no" vote and subsequent resolution opposing SB322 were an effort to block the development.

As of publication, the Cullman City Council has not been formally asked to annex the property nor has the City of Cullman Planning Commission. There has been no direct contact between Tolbert and the council since the initial meeting arranged by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, during which, said Tolbert, Tolbert first presented the resort and CDD concept.

Before annexation can be considered by the council, the process must begin with the planning commission, which has not occurred at the time of publication.

The planning commission reviews applications for annexation and zoning and determines whether to issue a favorable or unfavorable recommendation based on the submission of required information and satisfactory answers to any outstanding questions.

The city council may accept or reject the planning commission's recommendation, and has done both in the past.

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What is SB322?

The new Alabama law allows certain large developments — like destination resorts with hotels, marinas and restaurants — to be annexed into the city of Cullman even if the property doesn't touch city limits. It also allows these developments to create their own community development districts (CDDs), which can levy taxes, build infrastructure and issue bonds like a small town, all without a public vote. The bill was designed to help one specific resort project on Smith Lake.



Tim Creel announces candidacy for Cullman County sheriff



CONTRIBUTED

Tim Creel

» PAGE 6

Kevin Everett announces candidacy for Cullman County sheriff



CONTRIBUTED

Kevin Everett

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131st Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention this Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13

Singing school on Friday

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2025 Baileyton Citizen, Volunteer of the Year named

» PAGE 6

PET OF THE WEEK Meet Evie, a pint-sized bundle of purrfection



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Evie

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 9

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 9, 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

July 2

• harassment; person; Piney Point Dr. NW

July 3

• burglary-2nd degree; assault-2nd degree; person; Ave. C. SE
• identity theft; person

July 7

• criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157
• domestic violence – criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damage to '23 Nissan Frontier; $1,200; 7th Ave. SW
• criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157
• criminal mischief-3rd degree; Jayde Day Spa; damaged property; $500; Main Ave. SW
• theft of property-4th degree; The Foundry; miscellaneous; 2nd Ave. SW
• fraudulent use of credit/debit card; Peoples Bank; miscellaneous charges

July 8

• criminal mischief-3rd degree (4 counts); person; damaged mailboxes; $2,000; Clearwater Dr. NE
• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Hickory Ave. SW
• domestic violence-3rd degree – intimidation; person; Marktplatz Ctr. SW

ARRESTS

July 8

Smith, Jeffery W.; 36

• FTA – driving while revoked (2 counts)
• FTA – fail to signal

Chandler, Steven I.; 35

• FTA – switched tag
• FTA – fail to register vehicle
• FTA – insurance violation

Nolen, Kristopher M.; 45

• FTA – driving without license
• FTA – insurance violation
• FTA – driving while revoked

Underwood, Justin T.; 45

• criminal trespass-3rd degree

Johns, Travis M.; 52

• FTA – fail to register vehicle

Sandlin, Corey L.; 36

• criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)

Lother, Zachary A.; 34

• public intoxication

Williams, Jr., Theodore V.; 37

• FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – theft of property-4th degree
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

McIntyre, Jr., Bryan D.; 40

• FTA – fail to register vehicle
• FTA – theft of property-4th degree
• FTA – receiving stolen property-4th degree
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree (4 counts)
• FTA – expired tag
• FTA – driving while revoked
• FTA – insurance violation

Mathews, Corey J.; 32

• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

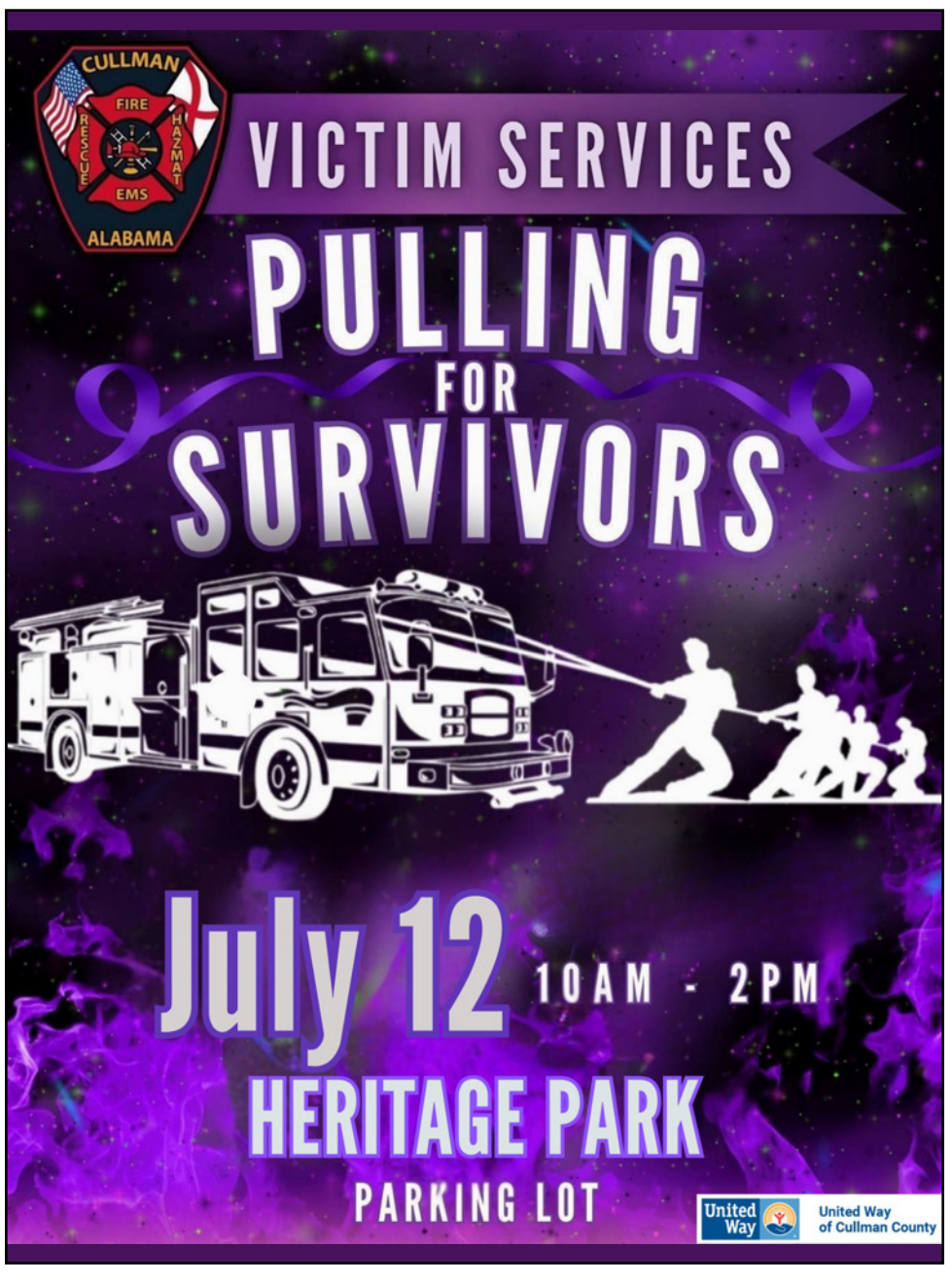
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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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 on Sundays at 2 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, July 11 – 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.
• Sunday, July 13 – 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Healing service at 5 p.m.

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville: Events

• Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
• 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."

North Alabama Agriplex Events

• www.agriplex.org
• Thursday, July 17, 6 p.m., Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer - Fish Pond Management.
• Managing your farm pond for recreational fishing with Extension Recreational Pond Management Specialist.
• Saturday, July 19, 8 a.m.-noon, Power of Produce - Festhalle at 209 First Ave. NE, Cullman, and Berlin Farmers Market at 50 Mt. Carmel Dr., Cullman. Children up to age 12 get free produce samples and market money to spend.
• Monday, July 21, 6-8 p.m., Heritage Skills - Keramos. Come make your own unique chicken in a few easy steps with Rebecca from Keramos Ceramics. Each person will make one chicken during this class. After the class, Keramos staff will dry, bisque fire, glaze and glaze fire your chicken. It will be ready to pick up three weeks after your class. $40 fee.
• Tuesday, July 22, 6-8 p.m., Heritage Skills - Beginning Sewing. If you couldn't attend the previous classes, it's not too late! Join us to learn valuable tips, tricks and insights from seasoned sewers. Each class will provide skill instruction and feature a project to apply those skills. Participants must bring a full-size sewing machine. Youth, ages 10 and older must register and be accompanied with a paid registered adult. $20 fee.

Heartland Quilt Guild

Thursday, July 10, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. Cullman, AL 35055.

Annual Reunion of the David Speegle Family

Sunday, July 13, at Speegle Family Point (334 County Road 321, Crane Hill, AL 35053) beginning around 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring a covered dish for lunch at noon. Contact Judy Shannon (256-338-0676) or Terry Phillips (256-656-3327) if you need additional information. Come eat and enjoy the day with us at the beautiful Speegle Family Point.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting

Monday, July 14, at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Dutch lunch begins after 11 a.m. and meeting is at noon. Our guest speaker will be Kenneth Cornelius, director of Cullman County Parks and Recreation. Members, as well as nonmembers and guests, are welcome to attend.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Events

Summer revival will be the third week in July beginning with a singing Sunday, July 20, at 5 p.m. We will have The Williamsons from Wetumka, Oklahoma as our guest. Services will run day and night, Monday-Friday, July 21-25. Morning services will begin at 10:30 and evening services at 7 with Brother Dustin Smith as the evangelist. Lunch will be served each day after the morning service and we will have a prayer room at 6:45 before each evening service. All are invited. If you can't come, please pray for us. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501.

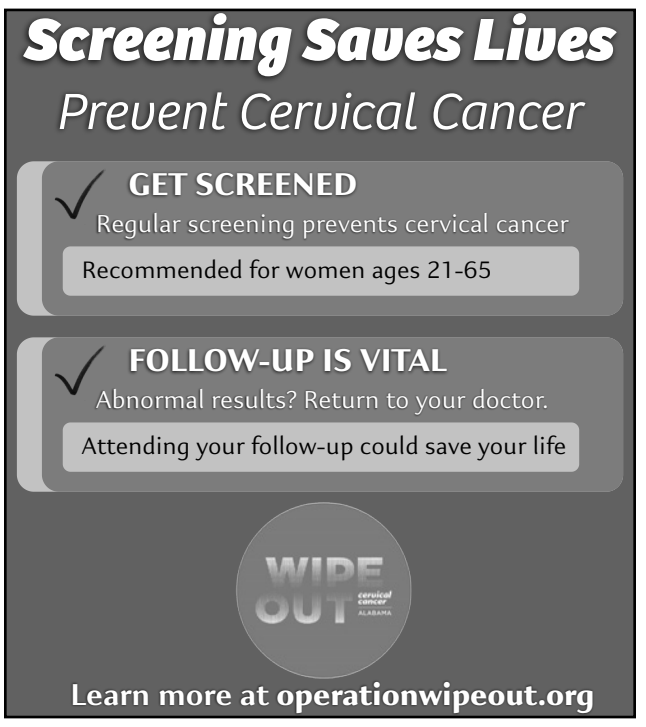
Swamp John's Dinner

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.

West Point Class of 1967 Class Reunion

Saturday, July 26, at 4 p.m. at West Point Brandin Iron. Hope to see you there. For further info, contact Minnie Heaton at 256-338-1959.







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RUMMAGE SALE

RUMMAGE SALE - ST. ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH Fellowship Hall 615 Main Avenue, SW, Cullman Friday, July 25, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, July 26, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Preschool/ Daycare Program

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FAITH

'I want to be a leader for kids and lean them towards God': Cold Springs' Macie Huffstutler talks about how God has changed her life

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — Cold Springs High School's Macie Huffstutler will be a senior in August, and in this interview, she discussed her faith and how much God has changed her life, starting with a couple of her favorite Bible verses.

"God means so much to me. He has helped me through many difficult situations and is my rock. I'm so grateful for Him, because He is always here for me. I wouldn't be the person that I am today without Him leading me down the right path. He has resurrected my life. God has changed my life in ways I never imagined possible. He has given me a purpose in this life to shine my light onto others and help others get closer to Him," Huffstutler said. "One of my favorite Bible verses is Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. This verse reminds me that if I'm going through a rough patch, I have people by my side that can support me through it. If I fall down, my teammates or family will be there to help me and can strengthen me. Another one of my favorite Bible verses is Isaiah 40:31. If I feel weak or down on myself, I can go to God and have hope that He will be there. He will get me through any obstacle in my life. I just need to have faith in Him, and trust in Him."

Macie wants to help people of all ages find God and be a role model for younger kids.

"It's super important to me, because it doesn't matter what age people are. They can still have a relationship with God. Everyone needs to have a strong relationship with Him, because He died for us so we could live. I hope I change someone's perspective, and help them get closer to Him, because I know how much He has done for me and how much He could do for someone else," Huffstutler said. "It's super important to me to be a person that kids feel like they can come to and talk to and feel comfortable around. Every time I do something, it's an opportunity to shine that light onto others, and make a good reputation for myself. Leadership is an important thing to me, and I want to be a leader for kids and lean them towards God."

She shared some of her favorite Godly role models and talked about a camp that she participated in with her cross-country teammates.

"Two of my Godly role models are Claire Hancock and Kynzlie Myrex. They are younger than me, but they are such good role models. The main one is coach Paige Adams, my basketball coach. She is my friend, but she's also an amazing coach. Mrs. Adams means so much to me. She teaches me at school and also helps me become a better person on and off the court. She is a person that I instantly go to if I need advice. Claire and Kynzlie mean the world to me. They are great teammates. They always encourage me and make me smile every day," she said.

"We just got back from a cross-country camp in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and that was really fun. We got closer as a team. The goal of the trip was to get closer to God. I love this team and enjoyed every second of the trip," Macie said.

"We are already so close with each other, and it's just the beginning of the season. It is never a bad day with the team. We are always laughing. The newer girls are starting to open up, and it's so exciting to watch them get comfortable with the team. I am so excited for the upcoming season and what the future holds for us."

Macie went through a tough time during a track-and-field event, but that helped her get even closer to God. She shared some advice for anyone that wants a relationship with God.

"I was doing the Steeplechase for track-and-field, but during the race, I hurt my calf and ended up in the hospital that night. I wasn't able to run or walk for a couple of months, and it made me realize how much people take for granted. I grew closer to God during that time. I was at a low point in my life then, and I went to Him," she said. "Don't think you have to be perfect to have a relationship with God. Everyone is different. Nobody is the same, but you still have a purpose on this Earth. You only get one life. Use it to your advantage and be the happiest you can. Get the closest you can to God. Don't go halfway. Dive deep into His love."



MACI HUFFSTUTLER
Cold Springs' Maci Huffstutler

She shared a couple of her favorite Godly rituals and has learned a lot during her journey so far.

"I always pray before I go to sleep, and I wake up and thank Him for everything He has given me," she said. "I've learned to never take anything for granted, and to do everything like it is the last time, because you never know if it is."

Auburn to play Oklahoma State in Ballin in Boutwell preseason event

Marlene Navor
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – After winning the SEC regular season championship and advancing to the Final Four last season, Auburn men's basketball will tune up for the 2025-26 season with a preseason game against Oklahoma State Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. CT in Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium.

"Basketball is alive and well in the state," associate head coach Steven Pearl said. "The facility is unbelievable. We're excited to be a part of such a great event. Excited about the matchup with Oklahoma State. They're in a very similar position to us. They return one person from last year."

This October will be the first time the Auburn men's basketball team takes the court as a Nike school with new Nike jerseys and equipment.

"To be partnered with Nike is something our players are more excited about than anybody," Pearl said. "They've been walking around with a level of swagger with the shoes they're able to wear. That will be the first time we get to see our new warmups in person. I know our fans are excited about it."

Under Bruce Pearl, Auburn has played five games in Birmingham, most recently last season's 87-69 win over No. 15 Purdue at Legacy Arena.

Ballin in Boutwell will feature both men's and women's games, and showcase four in-state programs, including Auburn, Alabama, Samford, and Alabama A&M.

"This might be the best basketball state in the country, collectively, when you look at the strength of the programs we have in this state," said Steven Pearl, noting the combined nine SEC season and tournament championships won by Auburn and Alabama since 2018. "The Southeastern Conference has run through this state since 2018. That speaks to the competitiveness of the rivalry and the fans we have in the state who are hungry for basketball."

"We're excited to build off the momentum from the inaugural event last year and expand the event to feature more games and teams," said Hibbett president Jared Briskin. "We couldn't think of a better way to celebrate our 80th anniversary of calling Birmingham home than growing this event and celebrating basketball in our city alongside Nike. We're committed to investing in Birmingham and the loyal Nike and Hibbett customers. This year's event will offer fans even more unique experiences only available at the Ballin in Boutwell games."

Ballin in Boutwell puts fans at the center, offering a perfect view of the on-court action from every seat and immersive experiences throughout Boutwell Auditorium.

"On behalf of the city of Birmingham, we're thrilled to host the second edition of Ballin in Boutwell and these exclusive exhibition games in Boutwell Auditorium," said Mayor Randall Woodfin, City of Birmingham Mayor. "Birmingham is a true basketball city, home to passionate fans and a community deeply rooted in the game. Ballin in Boutwell brings a new level of premium college basketball to the Magic City. For 80 years, Hibbett has proudly called Birmingham home, and we're grateful for their continued commitment to delivering unforgettable experiences like this one to our city."



AU ATHLETICS
Auburn will tune up for the 2025-26 season with a preseason game against Oklahoma State Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in Birmingham's Boutwell Auditorium.

Tickets are on sale now at ballininboutwell.com.

MLF Announces 2026 Bass Pro Tour schedule

Joe Opager
MLF

BENTON, Ky. — Major League Fishing (MLF) announced today the 2026 Bass Pro Tour schedule, ushering in a new chapter for the sport's premier professional bass fishing circuit. Featuring a roster of 51 pros, the 2026 season will spotlight some of the country's most diverse fisheries and record-setting payouts as the field competes for Fishing Clash Angler of the Year honors and qualification into REDCREST 2027 and the MLF Heavy Hitters all-star event.

The new season kicks off January 15 at Lake Guntersville in Alabama and winds through fisheries in South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma and Ohio, introducing multiple new venues and back-to-back dual-lake events that will push competitors to the limit.

"Our 2026 schedule showcases everything we love about the Bass Pro Tour – challenging new waters, high-stakes competition and a roster of the most accomplished anglers in the sport," said Kathy Fennel, MLF Executive Vice President & General Manager. "We're especially excited about several new stops on the Tour next season, and working on some exciting developments for REDCREST 2026, which we'll be announcing soon. There's never been a better time to be a fan of the sport of professional bass fishing."

A key storyline entering the 2026 season is the Bass Pro Tour's transition to a 51-angler field – the final step in a strategically planned two-year restructuring of the league's competitive format. The next evolution is designed to create a more streamlined, sustainable model that elevates the profile of each competitor, improves storytelling for fans and sponsors and maximizes the league's evolving digital broadcast strategy.
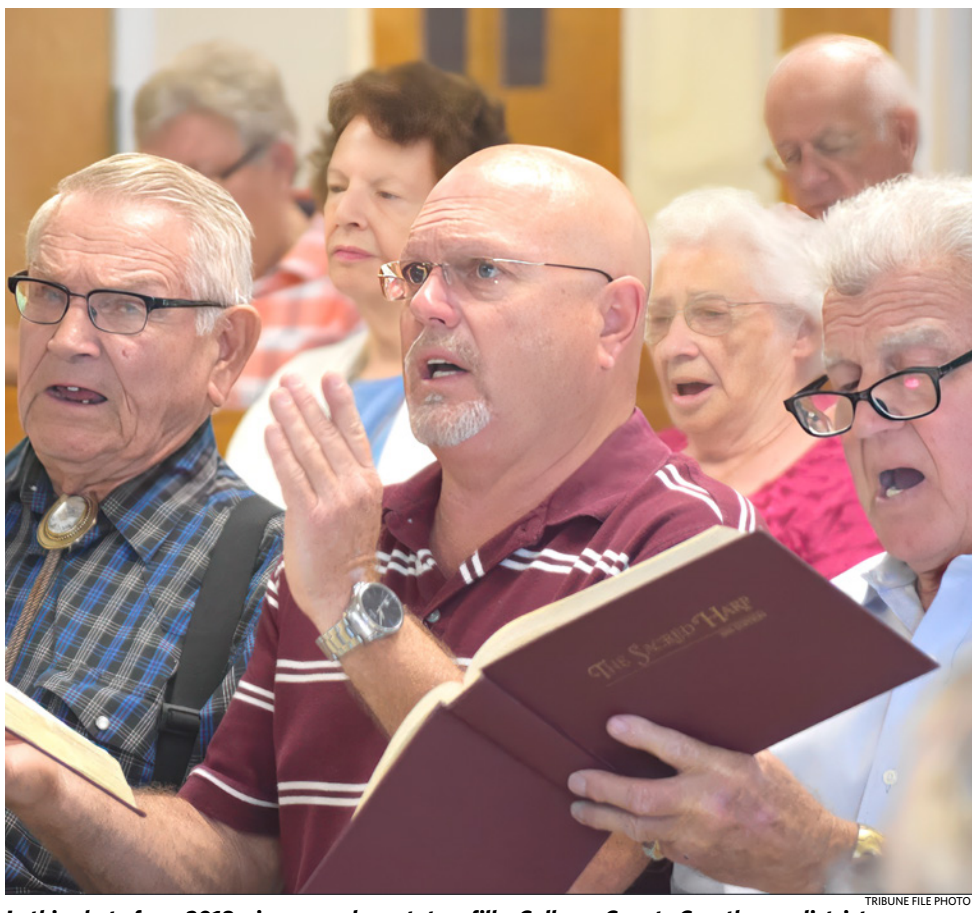
As in 2025, each Bass Pro Tour event will feature the full field of anglers competing in the Qualifying Round on Days 1 and 2, followed by the Knockout Round on Day 3 and then the Championship Round on Day 4. The league's signature catch-weigh-release format ensures immediate fish care and maximum fan excitement, with every fish scored and streamed live on MLFNOW! via the MLF app, MyOutdoorTV (MOTV), Rumble, and at MajorLeagueFishing.com.

With fresh lakes and a field of the world's best anglers ready to make history, the 2026 Bass Pro Tour promises more action, more surprises and more big bass moments than ever before.

2026 MLF Bass Pro Tour Schedule:

- Jan. 15-18: Stage 1 at Lake Guntersville – Guntersville, Ala. - Hosted by Marshall County Tourism & Sports
- Feb. 19-22: Stage 2 at Lake Hartwell - Oconee County, S.C. - Hosted by Visit Oconee SC
- March 5-8: Stage 3 at Lake Whitney (Days 1-2) & Lake Waco (Days 3-4) - Waco, Texas - Hosted by the Greater Waco Sports Commission, the City of Waco and the Waco TPID
- March 26-29: Stage 4 at O.H. Ivie Lake (Days 1-2) & Lake Brownwood (Days 3-4) - Early, Texas - Hosted by Visit Early
- April 16-19: REDCREST 2026 – TBA
- April 30-May 3: Stage 5 at Beaver Lake - Northwest Ark.
- May 16-21: MLF Heavy Hitters at Orange Lake - Ocala, Fla. - Hosted by the Ocala/Marion County Visitors & Convention Bureau
- June 18-21: Stage 6 at Grand Lake - Grove, Okla. - Hosted by the City of Grove and the Grove Convention & Tourism Bureau
- Aug. 6-9: Stage 7 at Lake Erie - Sandusky, Ohio - Hosted by Shore & Islands Ohio
- Proud sponsors of the MLF Bass Pro Tour include: 7Brew Coffee, Abu Garcia, Athletic Brewing Co., Bass Force, B&W Trailer Hitches, Bass Pro Shops, Berkley, BUBBA, E3 Sport Apparel, Fishing Clash, Grizzly, Lowrance, Mercury, MillerTech, NITRO Boats, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Power-Pole, Ranger Boats, Rapala, Star brite, Suzuki Marine, Toyota and Zenni.

For complete details and updated information on Major League Fishing and the 2026 Bass Pro Tour, visit MajorLeagueFishing.com. For regular updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow MLF's social media outlets at Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

In this photo from 2018, singers and spectators fill a Cullman County Courthouse district courtroom for the Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention, the last traditional shaped note singing convention held in any courthouse in the United States.

131st Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention this Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13

Singing school on Friday

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — This Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13, Cullman will celebrate what has become a unique tradition in Alabama: the state's last regular courthouse singing convention. Singers from all over the state, across the country, and even overseas will fill the Cullman County Courthouse's district courtroom for the 131st installment of a local crossroads of faith and arts that began in 1893. Singers, listeners and the public are invited to attend.

Once a common occurrence in courthouses all over the South, Cullman's is now the only regularly scheduled event of its kind in the nation. Factors ranging from shifting cultural tastes and lack of interest in old-fashioned things to concerns about church-state separation led to a decline in courthouse singings over the years. Though it may not draw crowds of thousands like it used to, the tradition has managed to stay alive in Cullman.

What happens at a singing convention?

Well, singing, of course! If you grew up in a church with hymnals, you'll probably be familiar with a lot of the music, though the style of performance might be a little different. Convention singing is unaccompanied by instruments, and focuses on rich four-part vocal harmonies. Songs can be joyful, loud, and boisterous–described by one observer as "organized hollerin,'" or dark and soulful.

Convention singers follow a long-standing form, singing from a modern edition of a songbook that dates back to the 1840s in a style known by several names:

- **Shape/Shaped Note Singing** – The notes in the sheet music have different shapes depending on the note in the scale: round, square, triangular.

- **Fa-So-La/Fasola Singing** – The names given to three note shapes. When the singers warm up at the beginning of a song, they're not singing in a foreign language or speaking in tongues; they're singing the notes by name.

- **Sacred Harp** – from the title of the most popular songbook used

Singers sit in a square, grouped by vocal part-soprano, alto, tenor, bass – with the director standing in the center.

The director changes from song to song, so if your favorite song is in the book, you may have a chance to both request and lead it. It's not rehearsed, and singers of all skill and experience levels are welcome, even if they're not familiar with things like shaped notes.

Following the music to Alabama

At a previous convention, fa-so-la veteran Linda Booth told The Tribune what drew her and husband Tom Booth across the country from California to Alabama:

"Over the years, my husband and I flew to singing conventions in several states, but in 2010 we came to Alabama for the first time.

"The courthouse convention in Cullman was one of our first Alabama singings, and I'll never forget how we were treated as family that very first day. Right then, we pitched our tent towards Alabama.

"There is a refreshing way of making people welcome here; a genuine, family-oriented way of living that seems to be disappearing in so much of America. Alabamian singers reflect this, thus drawing singers from all parts of the world to come back and visit again and again."

Want to learn how?

If you are interested in shaped note singing but don't know how, you will still be welcome to join the singing on Saturday and Sunday. All skill levels, including zero, are welcome. But if you want to get a little jump start, the Fa So La Mini Singing School will be held the evening before the convention, on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at Mt. Olive at Providence Primitive Baptist Church, 50 County Road1428, Vinemont, 5 miles north of Alabama Highway 157. All skill levels are welcome, and loaner books will be available to those who do not have one.

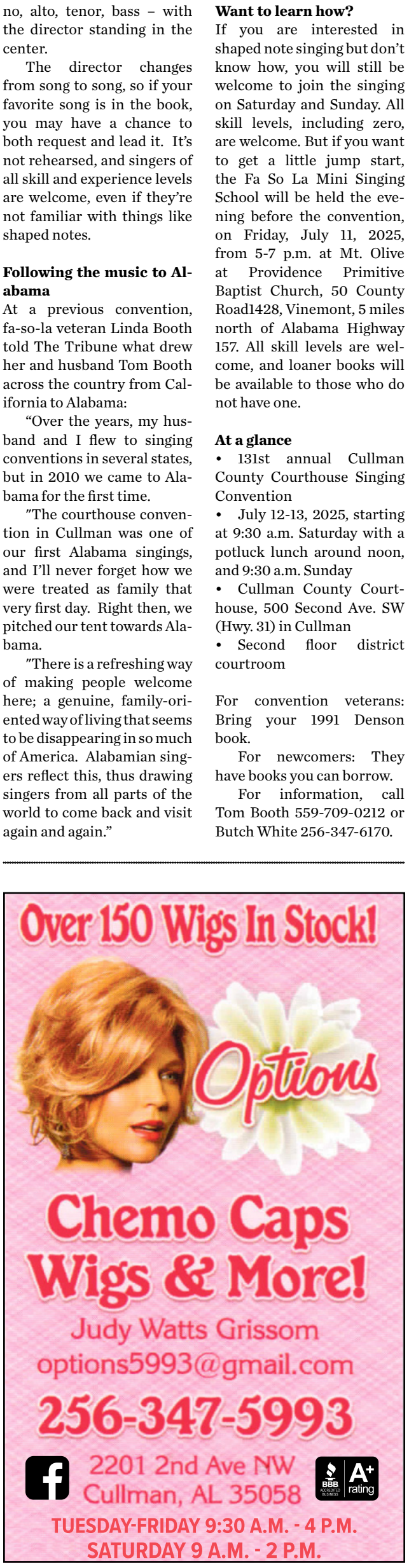
At a glance

- 131st annual Cullman County Courthouse Singing Convention
- July 12-13, 2025, starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with a potluck lunch around noon, and 9:30 a.m. Sunday
- Cullman County Courthouse, 500 Second Ave. SW (Hwy. 31) in Cullman
- Second floor district courtroom

For convention veterans: Bring your 1991 Denson book.

For newcomers: They have books you can borrow.

For information, call Tom Booth 559-709-0212 or Butch White 256-347-6170.









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 10, 2025



CAMILLE GIBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



CAMILLE GIBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs High School Royal Blue Band held a shrimp and crawfish boil fundraiser at Johnny's Barbershop in Dodge City on July 4, 2025.

Cold Springs High School Band holds fundraiser at Johnny's Barbershop

Camille Gibbs
camille@cullmantribune.com

DODGE CITY, Ala. — The Cold Springs High School Royal Blue Band held a shrimp and crawfish boil to raise funds at Johnny's Barbershop in Dodge City on a hot July 4.

Tickets were good for 2 pounds of either fresh shrimp or crawfish, along with sausage, potatoes and corn. After pre-sold ticket orders were fulfilled, the band sold meals to the public. All proceeds will support the band. Members of the band created and held signs to advertise and direct people.

"This is our first time ever doing this. We're learning, but we're having fun in the sun. It's a good hot day; it's the 4th of July and we're trying to save some people from having to cook," said Jon Kilgore, president of the CSHS Band Boosters. The Royal Blue Band has a second fundraiser happening. It is selling giant head cutouts on sticks, which are held high at games, competitions and other school events. The cutouts can be ordered for $25 from a band member or booster or at bighead.rbb@gmail.com with the subject line "Big Head." The deadline to order for the first delivery is July 21.

Creel (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Law enforcement veteran Tim Creel said he's dreamed about being sheriff for a long time. After more than 30 years in law enforcement and nearly two decades of military service, he said, the opportunity to run for sheriff of Cullman County feels like coming full circle for him.

"I started my career right here as a reserve deputy, and Cullman has always been home; no matter where I was," Creel said. "I've served in nearly every capacity — from patrol officer and narcotics investigator to SWAT commander and major crimes investigator — and I've trained and led soldiers on combat missions overseas. Now, I'm ready to bring that leadership, discipline, and experience back to the community I love. I'm excited to run, not just because it's a personal goal, but because I believe I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people here through law enforcement."

Creel's plan is to start in mid-July with various introductory events.

"I'm prepared to bring steady leadership and a strong sense of accountability to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office," Creel said. "I've worked in nearly every capacity of a law enforcement agency — gaining the experience needed to lead with integrity, serve with dedication and protect the community I'm proud to call home."

He is currently an investigator for the Guntersville Police Department.

"We handle all felony crimes and some misdemeanor cases for the city and aid other agencies in the surrounding jurisdictions, when the need arises," Creel said.

"After spending the past decade in Guntersville, my wife Amanda and I are proud to share that we've recently found a home and are in the process of returning to Cullman. When Amanda and I first met, she was launching a new business in Guntersville, and I made the decision to relocate there in support of her goals.

"Now, 10 years later, with a shared understanding of my long-standing desire to return to Cullman, Amanda wholeheartedly agreed, and we made the move together. We're excited to be back in the community that means so much to us amongst our children, grandchildren and friends."

Creel shared his background:

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
- Graduate, Fairview High School, 1984
- Alabama Police Academy (Selma), Class of 1990
- United States Army Basic Training, completed

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE:
With over three decades of progressive law enforcement service across multiple jurisdictions, including urban and rural environments:

- Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy, Cullman County (1987–1988)
- Police Officer, Hanceville Police Department (1988–1989)
- Police Officer, Hartselle Police Department (1989–1991)
- Deputy / Investigator / Supervisor, Cullman County Sheriff's Office (1991–2009)
- Deputy / Investigator, Marshall County Sheriff's Office and Guntersville Police Department (2010–2013)
- Senior Investigator / Patrol Supervisor, Jackson County Sheriff's Office (2013–2024)
- Investigator, Guntersville Police Department (2024–Present)
- Leadership & Specialized Roles:
- Major Crimes Investigator (Cullman, Jackson, Guntersville)
- Lead Narcotics Investigator (Cullman County)
- SWAT Team Leader and Commander (Cullman County)
- Patrol District Chief (Cullman County)
- Patrol Supervisor (Cullman & Jackson Counties)

MILITARY SERVICE:
- Proudly served since 1985 in the Alabama Army National Guard, including a combat tour in Iraq and multiple leadership deployments:
- Infantryman, 1/167 Infantry (Cullman Unit)
- Combat Tour: Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2007–2008
- Operations NCO: Task Force Viking, 2010–2011
- Over 20 combat missions conducted in hostile environments

MILITARY HONORS & AWARDS:
- Bronze Star Medal
- Combat Infantry Badge
- Army Commendation Medal (2 awards)
- Army Achievement Medal (4 awards)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Training Ribbon
- Alabama Commendation Medal
- Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal
- Reserve Component Mobilization Medal (2 awards)

SPECIALIZED TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS:
Extensive professional training in advanced law enforcement, counterterrorism, and military operations, including:
- FBI Executive Law Enforcement Leadership, Elk River, AL
- DEA Clandestine Lab Certification, Birmingham, AL
- ATF Post-Blast & Undercover Operations, Hoover, AL
- REID Interview Interrogation Academy, Knoxville TN
- Practical Homicide Investigation, Huntsville, AL
- U.S. Customs Blue Lightning Task Force, New Orleans, LA
- Counterdrug & Tactical SWAT Training, Ft. McClellan, AL
- Desert & Arctic Warfare Readiness (Ft. Irwin, CA & Ft. Greely, AK)
- Advanced Close Quarter Battle, Birmingham, AL
- Army Basic & Advanced NCO Courses
- Army Combatives, Instructor Certification, Anti-Terrorism (Level I & II)

INTERNATIONAL & COMMAND EXPERIENCE:
- Led and trained over 1,500 deploying soldiers for assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and Bosnia
- Supervised 200+ SWAT missions
- Participated in multi-national humanitarian training operations in Constanț a, Romania
- Instructor and course leader for U.S. Army training initiatives

Creel said his resume demonstrates a lifelong commitment to public safety, national service and ethical leadership.

"I will bring tested experience, deep operational knowledge and a principled approach to the office of sheriff of Cullman County," Creel said.

The Cullman County sheriff's race will be part of the Primary Election held May 19, 2026, with the General Election slated for Nov. 3, 2026. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry will remain in office until January 2027.

Baileyton (from Front)

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — Mayor Windell Calloway commenced the monthly session of the Baileyton Town Council on July 7, 2025. The meeting opened with an invocation led by Councilman Greg Griffin, then began with awards being presented to the 2025 Baileyton Citizen and Volunteer of the Year.

"Tonight we have two people that we want to recognize," the mayor said. "We have a lot of people that have helped us over the years in our town and we are very fortunate for that. Each year we try to have a Volunteer and Citizen of the Year award and we have two very good candidates tonight."

Martha Guthrie was named the 2025 Baileyton Citizen of the Year. Guthrie was nominated for the award by Dewayne Sumner, who stated, "Mrs. Guthrie has been a staple in the Baileyton community for many years...I can't think of anyone more deserving of being recognized as Baileyton Citizen of the Year in 2025."

Charlie Whitehead was named 2025 Baileyton Volunteer of the Year. Said Calloway, "This guy has helped us with many different things – he has helped us put in culverts, he helped us fill the parking lot at the school... Charlie's been a great guy to help us and not charge the Town." Whitehead was not in attendance at the council meeting receive his award due to prior work commitments.

Calloway also acknowledged Dewayne Withey, runner-up for Citizen of the Year, saying, "He's somebody who came by and asked us if he could help us in the park. He has volunteered to redo a lot of the fences and tables and still has a lot of things he is working on there, so we also want to recognize him."

In old business, the council voted on an ordinance re-establishing the salaries of the mayor and council members to be paid once annually. The ordinance states that the mayor of the Town of Baileyton shall receive a fixed sum of $10,200 and council members shall be compensated $2,400 per year. The ordinance passed unanimously.

In new business, the council discussed the Back-to-School Bash for Parkside School. The celebration will be held on Aug. 5, from 3-6 p.m. at the school. Calloway had an idea, stating, "We have some school supplies that I have saved that has come in with the Bargain Days stuff. If it would help the school, we could give it to the school as long as it is OK with the council." Sumner made a motion to donate supplies and purchase water bottles for the Parkside Back-to-School Bash. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business:

- The Latham Horse Show is scheduled for July 18-19, 2025

- A resolution passed establishing compensation for town clerk for performing duties as absentee election manager

- A resolution passed to appoint election officers for the 2025 Municipal Election and to establish compensation for said election officers



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Martha Guthrie receives Baileyton Citizen of the Year Award from Mayor Windell Calloway on July 7, 2025.

- Appointment of town clerk to file the list of electors qualified to vote in the General Municipal Election

The next town council meeting will be Monday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall, located at 95 Fire Station Road.

Wallace State receives $2.5M for renovation, construction projects

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College recently announced it is the recipient of $2.5 million from the state legislature that will help pay for renovations to two buildings and assist with construction of another.

"We are grateful to the Alabama Legislature, and especially Sen. Garlan Gudger Jr., for securing these funds that will help us refresh and modernize our facilities," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics.

A portion of the monies will cover renovations to the student center and the wellness center, both more than 30 years old and heavily used by Wallace State students and the community.

The student center was built in 1980 and currently houses the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre, Wally's Grill, Lions' Kitchen food pantry, Campus Ministries and more.

The theater, where many college and community programs are held, recently received lighting and air conditioning upgrades, and new seating was added within the last few years. The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees approved the naming of the student center as the Garlan E. Gudger Sr. Student Center in 2020, in honor of the college's first dean of students. A portrait of Gudger Sr. was unveiled in 2023, along with updates to the student center lobby.

The wellness center was built in 1992, the same year as the Tom Drake Coliseum. It houses a fitness center and weight room, two practices gyms, the Dan York Practice Facility for the golf team, WaLLi classrooms and more.

Funds will also be used to aid in the construction of a new Advanced Machining and Manufacturing building. That building will house the Machine Tool Technology program and is one of three new buildings to be constructed on the northeastern corner of the campus, replacing a number of the college's original or early buildings from the late 1960s and early 1970s.

A STEM Gateway building will house classes for first-year students such as mathematics, English, history, etc., as well as a digital learning center and the Culinary Arts program and café. A new facility for Advanced Automotive Services will also be built, with areas dedicated to electric vehicle repair.

"Sen. Gudger has been instrumental in securing funding for these and several other Wallace State projects over the last few years, including air conditioning improvements to the Lady Lions Dorm and the Bevill Health Science building, new turf on the baseball and softball fields, the Winston County Community Learning Center, news acoustics and a new indoor track at Tom Drake Coliseum and more," said a media release from the college.



WALLACE STATE

The school said a portion of the monies will cover renovations to the student center and the wellness center, both more than 30 years old and heavily used by Wallace State students and the community.

Fairview announces new mayor; Jack's representatives meet with council

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Mayor Keith Henry commenced the monthly session of the Fairview Town Council on July 7, 2025, following an invocation led by Julie Grimes and the Pledge of Allegiance led by the mayor, by announcing he has made the decision to retire and not run for re-election this August. He said Clint Hayes will assume the mayor's seat effective November 2025. Fairview's Municipal Election will take place Aug. 26, and Hayes is the sole qualifier for mayor.

The council welcomed several guests involved in the construction of the new Jack's Family Restaurant in Fairview.

Among the guests included Jim Avery, Jack's vice-president of development; Dale Bright, St. John and Associates project manager; and Mark Narell, property owner of the new restaurant location.

Avery addressed the council stating, "We're ready to get started very soon. With the resolution we are here to discuss tonight, we are hoping to start construction within three weeks."

The council discussed the benefits of investing in the new restaurant. Benefits, they said, include the property value of all surrounding properties, an increase in jobs and an assurance that the Town would be able to regain the money invested within five years of building the establishment.

The only drawback concerning the council was the amount of money needed to be pledged by the Town to begin the project.

After some deliberation about funding, which cost the Town between $10,000-$60,000, depending on grants, Councilman Joseph Black made a motion to "adopt all resolutions and award the bid to Apel for what is necessary to complete the project." The motion passed with five in favor and one abstaining. Construction is expected to begin before the end of July.

In other business:

- A resident voiced concerns about a hole between pavilions at Randall Shedd Community Park, saying it caused accidental injury during the 4th of July celebration; a maintenance request was made
- Council set parameters for the process of acquiring bids for the destruction of a trailer park
- Council has begun obtaining quotes and applying for grants to resurface Yeager Road and County Road 1668, along with repairs to be made on Pearson Street

The next Fairview Town Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Aug. 4, 2025, at Fairview Town Hall located at 7525 Alabama Highway 69.



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Representatives involved in the construction of a new Jack's Restaurant in Fairview speak at the July 7, 2025, meeting of the Fairview Town Council.

FAITH

'It's okay to stand out and show your love for Jesus': Good Hope's Madison Green discusses her faith

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope High School's Madison Green will be starting her junior year in August, and in this interview, she discussed her faith, and the role God has played in her life.

"He has played a big role in my life. I have gone through a lot of things this year where I have questioned God and why those things have happened to me. Every single time, he has shown me that those things happened for the better. It is so much better than what I thought it was. He has changed my life so much. He has shown me the true meaning of life. He has shown me the importance of life and to cherish what you have. He has brought me so many new friends that I didn't know I needed and has helped guide me through every obstacle I've come across."

Madison shared two of her favorite Bible verses, and helping people of all ages find God is important to her, along with being a role model for younger kids.

"My favorite Bible verses are Philippians 4:13 and Matthew 6:34. They mean a lot to me, because they talk about worrying and to just trust in God in everything I do, and I struggle with anxiety and overthinking a lot. When I find myself overthinking and worrying, I just remind myself of those verses and that God is always there for me," Green said. "I think that people of all ages should know God for their benefit. God works miracles in so many ways, and I feel that everyone needs to know Him and see that He loves each and every one of us. I believe that everyone should know who God is and that He can change your life, no matter what state you are in.

"I think that is so important, because often times, people think that because of their past and what they've done that God can never love them. That's not true, and I think that everyone needs to know that," Madison said. "I want kids to see that God is the most important thing in their life, and that although their friends might be doing things that aren't right, they don't have to do those things just to be cool. I want to be a light for kids to look upon and realize that it's okay to not want to do things just because your friends are. It's okay to stand out and show your love for Jesus and how good He is."

Madison looks up to a few Godly role models in her life, and they gave her some great advice.

"I really look up to my small group leader Bonnie, my best friend Kloe White, my other best friend, Mckenzie McDonald, and my mom. They mean so much to me. They are always there when I need them, and they give the best advice. The best advice they've ever given me is even though I may not like some of the things that are happening to me, there's much better coming from it, and that all you can do is pray about it," Green said. "We got baptized on April 6th of this year. I loved being able to be there for my friends while getting baptized and getting to be a part of their walk with God. Getting to witness them give their life to Jesus was so amazing. Getting baptized alongside them meant so much to me. Being able to have them on my walk with God and being able to be there for them also was amazing. We each got to share our own experiences and how God has changed our own lives. It was so special."

Madison likes to start her day with some special music and she has already learned so much during her journey so far.

"I really like to turn on worship music. I listen to it when I get ready or in the car going somewhere. I just feel like it really changes my mindset," she said.

"I feel like I have learned to just be myself and not do things because other people are doing them. I've also learned that the best way to become closer to God is to surround yourself with Godly people who not only want that for you, but for themselves also."



MADISON GREEN

Good Hope's Madison Green

Everett (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Kevin Everett has announced his candidacy for Cullman County Sheriff.

Everett's announcement is below.

Hello my name is Kevin Everett and I would formally like to announce that I am running for Cullman County Sheriff. I have extensive experience in law enforcement for well over a decade and hold a master peace officer license in the state of Texas. I started my career as a reserve deputy right here in Cullman County in the 90s. I absolutely love what I do and have always been a public servant from my youth.

When 9/11 happened I decided to join active duty military so I enlisted in the U.S. Army. I was currently serving in a reserve unit in Decatur at the time.

During my law enforcement career I have served as part of SWAT/SRT team (team leader then Commander), K-9 handler, advanced K-9 trainer, worked with federal and state narcotics task forces, Narcotics investigator, aerial drone surveillance pilot, patrol sergeant, firearms instructor, and many other qualifications.

I have been trained as a commercial diver, and hold commercial hard hat diver certifications as well as Scuba. I have served as an instructor for both commercial divers and Scuba rescue tactics.

I am also a combat veteran who served in Iraq as a team leader for a personal protection team, NCOIC of a Military transition team, and squad leader. I have lead over 500 combat missions in hostile territory while looking for high profile targets in Iraq. I have also been a battlefield advisor to Generals in the field while serving overseas. Trained over 600 Iraqi soldiers to fight alongside U.S. forces, to include training the Iraqi Special Forces.

My leadership has never wavered from taking care of those under me and advisor to those above me when needed. I have prayed on this and God is pushing me forward to accomplish first and foremost his will and to serve the great people of Cullman County.

I bring a lot of heart and love for what I do to better the foundation Sheriff Gentry has already established, we can only get better with God's grace and help. I hope God blesses each and every one of you and God bless Cullman County and this great nation of America. I am currently retired from the U.S. Army.

The Cullman County sheriff's race will be part of the Primary Election held May 19, 2026, with the General Election slated for Nov. 3, 2026. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry will remain in office until January 2027.

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FAITH

'Let the Lord turn the ashes into beauty': Fairview's Cali Golden reflects on relationship with God

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com



CALI GOLDEN

Fairview's Cali Golden

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview High School's Cali Golden will be a junior in August, and in this interview, she discussed her faith, and how much God has helped make her the person that she is today. She started by sharing a Bible verse that has changed her life.

"He's been my rock and refuge through all the loss and heartbreak I've been through the last few years. Through and through, He has made me a new and better person. To see who I was before Christ and to see who I am now just proves over and over again how He never gives up on us, and pursues us, even when we don't pursue Him. He was my only source of strength during awful circumstances, and I'm forever thankful for the gift of salvation." Golden said. "In Matthew 16:24-26, the Lord calls us to 'Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow me'. Over the last few months, this scripture has been something I've come to understand more and more. For me, this passage of scripture means we are called to give up self-control. We have to surrender ourselves daily and fully commit our lives to the Lord. To pick up your cross means to understand there will be hard battles fought as Christians, but you have to be willing to give your life for Christ. Lastly, he says, 'Follow me'. It's a simple call, but it's sometimes hard to fulfill. It won't always be easy, but it's so worth it. We should live for the day when we stand before the Lord and hear, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant'."

Playing a part in helping people of all ages find God and being a role model for younger kids, especially her little sister, are two of Cali's top priorities.

"It's my top priority to share the gospel with people of all ages. No matter what walk of life you're on or what age, the gospel is something that doesn't need to stay inside of us. It's the greatest gift anyone could ever receive," Golden said.

"It's very important to me to be a role model for the younger kids. Kids need positive influences in their lives. A lot of kids go through hard things, and you could be that small amount of light they see every week. You never know how much they look up to you. My little sister is five, and she watches every move I make. It's such a blessing to be able to pour into her every day."

Cali was a part of World Changers earlier this year, and being a part of that event was something that she will never forget.

"Being able to go to World Changers this year was an experience I will never forget. The Lord really showed up and showed out. Being a part of many hours of work and praying with strangers, serving the homeowner of the house we had the opportunity to transform, meeting people from all over the country, and being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ was a blessing beyond measure. We all have one mission here on this Earth and that's to make disciples of all nations. Everywhere you go is your mission field. Never miss an opportunity to be a witness to somebody. My favorite memories of World Changers were all the friendships I made with people from all over the country last week, and just serving other people how the Lord served us."

She talked about a Godly role model in her own life that she looks up to, and she gave some advice to those people who are struggling to have a relationship with God.

"My Godly role mode is my Maw Maw. She's stepped up when she shouldn't have had to and raised me into the Godly young woman that I am today. She's a perfect example of a virtuous woman. I thank the Lord for her every day," she said. "If you're nervous or new when it comes to having a relationship with God, treat it like it's just a conversation. Just talk to Him. It doesn't have to be perfect.

"He just wants to hear what's on your heart. The only way a relationship can grow is through conversation. Staying consistent in His word will change your perspective on how you view certain things you may be struggling with. The best advice I could give to a new Christian is to never look back. Once you give your life to the Lord, you're committed. He brought you from life to death. Embrace it."

Cali talked about a tough time that she went through that helped her get closer to God, and she does a couple of Godly rituals in the morning before she gets her day started.

"A life-changing event for me that happened that helped me get closer to the Lord was when my father committed suicide. I've never experienced such a big void I felt I could never be filled. I sat on that for a long time before I realized there was purpose in the pain. The Lord used that situation to lead me to help others who have been through the same thing. I believe with my whole heart something good comes out of every situation. Let the Lord turn the ashes into beauty," she said.

"The first thing I do in the morning before anything is pray. When you start your day with a conversation with the One who created you, it sets the base for your day. Next is a simple verse of the day. With that small verse, you can take it in and guard your heart with it for the day."

Cali has learned a lot during her walk with God.

"The biggest thing I have learned in my walk with the Lord is to never go to worldly things first. We're human, so our first though is to go to the least Godly things. Guard your heart with scripture so that's the first thing that comes to mind when faced with trials."

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SB322 (from Front)

As debate around SB322 continues, Gudger said it's important for the public to understand that the resort development has been in the works for more than a year and a half — and that legislation tied to the project began well before the annexation component was introduced.

"People don't know this, but a bill related to this project, SB328, passed two years ago and no one said a word to me," Gudger said.

That earlier legislation, SB328, authorized alcohol sales on the property and approved the use of a dinner cruise yacht.

SB322, passed this year, only added the annexation language allowing a wet municipality to potentially incorporate the property if requested by the developer, he said.

"SB322 only added the annexation part for a wet municipality after the County turned the developer down," said Gudger.

"So Hanceville, Good Hope or Cullman could create an improvement district and the project would have a chance to be funded before the legislative session ended."

Annexation without contiguity allowed

One of the most discussed provisions in SB322 is the ability to annex the resort property into the city of Cullman despite the land not being contiguous to existing city limits.

"People have jumped to conclusions without reading the bill," Tolbert said. "SB322 outlines the requirements in black and white. We're just following what the law allows."

The bill states: "An annexation conducted pursuant to this subdivision does not require contiguity..." (Page 14, lines 368–369).

Gudger emphasized that the authority to create this type of CDD structure already existed within the legislature's power; SB322 simply exercised that authority in this instance.

"The legislature already has this authority, if they so choose to exercise it, to create a CDD starting back in 1992. Since that date, 19 districts have been created throughout different parts of the state" Gudger said. "It is not an authority that the legislature made up for this project."

Annexation limited to resort-owned property

As speculation continues to swirl around the potential reach of SB322, both the legislation and the developer have made clear that only property owned or controlled by the resort can be included in any annexation request.

"We (resort/developer) can't annex anything we don't own or control. That's not how the bill works, and it's not even logistically possible," said Tolbert.

For example, property that is contiguous to the CDD resort could not be annexed unless the owner first sells the property to the CDD and follows all bylaws set forth by the resort property.

The bill confirms this limitation: "An annexation pursuant to this subdivision shall be initiated by the governing body of the resort community development district and may include only territory within the district that is owned or under the control of the governing body or the municipality." (Page 14, lines 360–364)

Gudger also addressed persistent misinformation that Smith Lake itself, or other properties not tied to the resort, could somehow be annexed under SB322.

"There have been false rumors circulating that Smith Lake can be annexed," he said.

"That's simply not true. The law only applies to land owned or controlled by the developer or the district."

Gaming and gambling prohibited

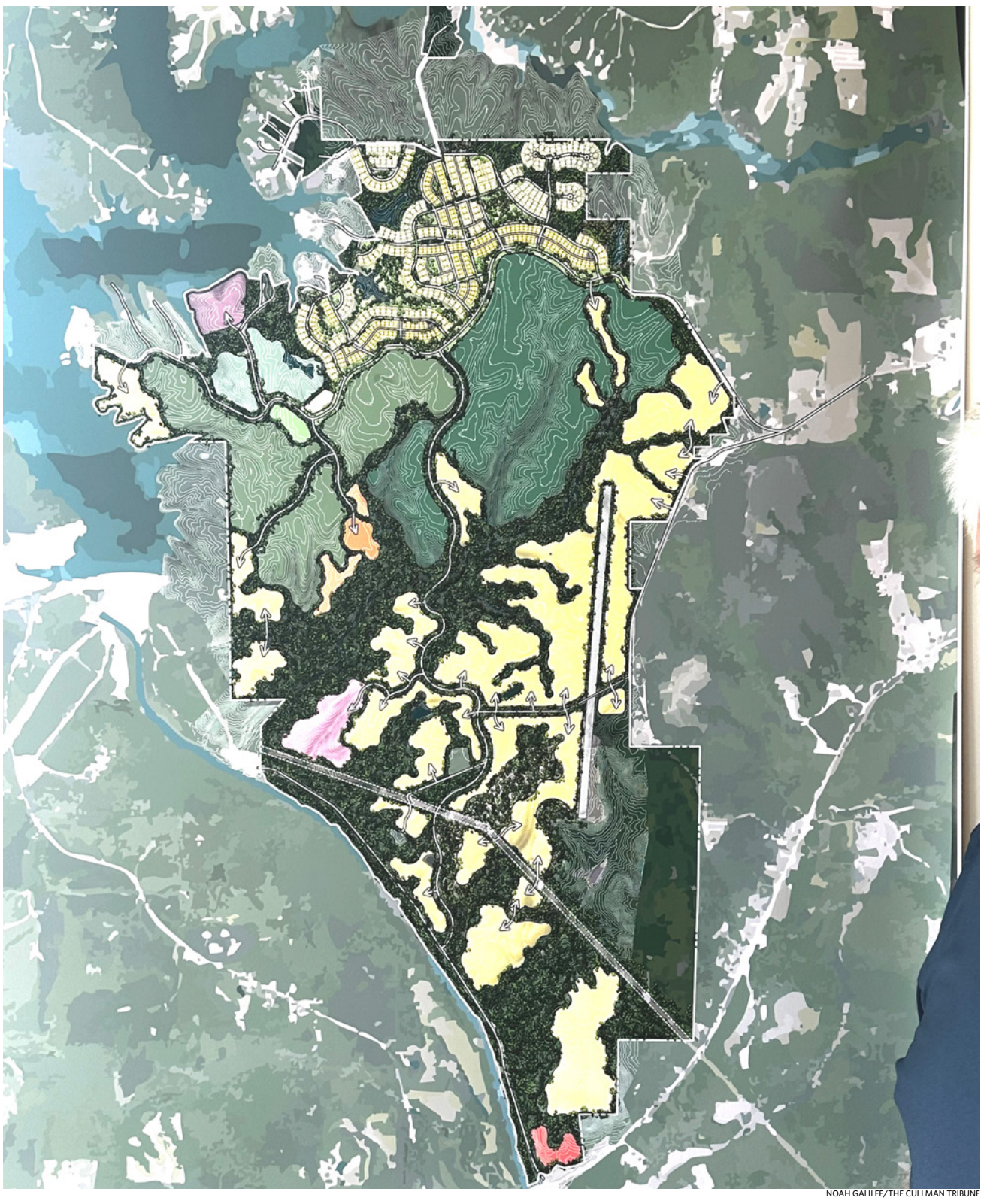
Public concerns about the potential for casinos or gaming operations at the resort were also addressed by the legislation.

"This isn't about gaming or casinos — those things are explicitly banned in the bill," Tolbert said.

The bill confirms that: "This section does not authorize the conducting of any form of gaming or gambling..." (Page 15, lines 387–388).

Gudger said the language banning gambling was not accidental; it was a direct response to public misconceptions.

"This amendment was added because people thought the resort was all done for a casino," Gudger said. "So the legislature added this amendment so it is very clear gaming activity cannot be played on this resort property."



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CDD to fund infrastructure

SB322 allows for the creation of a CDD, which Tolbert says will help privately fund necessary infrastructure like roads, walkways and utilities. These features would later be turned over to the public.

"The CDD allows us to privately fund infrastructure... and then turn them over to the public once complete," he said.

"It takes the burden off taxpayers and ensures the project is held to a higher standard of planning and design."

According to the bill: "The purpose of a resort community development district shall be to provide for development and the funding and maintenance of infrastructure within the district." (Page 4, lines 77–79).

Elections required after 100 residents

While the initial CDD board will be appointed by the developer, the law requires that once 100 residents live in the district, public elections must be held to transition governance to an elected board.

"In the early stages, when no one lives there yet, the board is appointed by the developer. But once there are 100 residents or more, the district will have to hold elections," Tolbert said.

SB322 states: "The initial members of the board shall be appointed by the developer." (Page 7, lines 144–145) and "If at any time there are at least 100 qualified electors...a new board shall be elected." (Page 8, lines 163–165).

No blanket approval for other districts

Tolbert emphasized that the law does not grant broad authority for similar developments elsewhere in Cullman County.

"This bill doesn't open the floodgates," he said. "Any other resort district would have to go through the same legislative process we did. It's not a blanket approval."

The bill reads: "No resort community development district may be created except as authorized by an act of the Legislature." (Page 3, lines 61–62).

Gudger added that the bill was written specifically for the Smith Lake property and does not apply to surrounding counties.

"So Winston County or Walker County could not fall under this bill," Gudger said. "This bill was created for this property only."

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO SMITH LAKE RESORT AND SB322

- **Feb. 12, 2024** – Tolbert meets with Gudger and Waggoner to introduce the resort concept
- **March 18, 2024** – Tribal council visits Trident Marina for a water tour and discussion of the proposed resort
- **April 30, 2024** – SB328 is introduced in the Alabama Legislature to allow alcohol sales on the resort property and authorize operation of a dinner cruise yacht
- **May 14, 2024** – Tolbert sells 44.4 acres to Poarch Band of Creek Indians with repurchase option
- **May 15, 2024** – SB328 signed into law by Ivey
- **May 17, 2024** – Cookout held with landowners; Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons attends
- **May 28, 2024** – Meeting with underwriters on bond funding
- **July 7, 2024** – Meeting with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship
- **Oct. 18, 2024** – Gudger facilitates meeting so Tolbert can brief County and City officials on bond structure; attendees include Clemons, Cullman County Commissioner Corey Freeman and Cullman County Administrator John Bullard
- **Oct. 25, 2024** – Cold Springs School involvement requested via Dr. Shane Barnette and T.J. Franey
- **Nov. 13, 2024** – Proposal presented to Cullman County Commission
- **Dec. 12, 2024** – Meeting with local and state officials, ADECA and EDA leaders
- **Jan. 3, 2025** – Lawsuit posted to Facebook: Melissa Curtis v. Jeff Tolbert
- **Jan. 14, 2025** – Formal lawsuit filed: Jeff Tolbert v. Melissa Curtis
- **March 18, 2025** – Handout presented to county commissioners; unanimous verbal "no" given
- **March 19, 2025** – Gudger contacted about possible amendment language
- **April 15, 2025** – County commission passes resolution opposing SB322
- **May 7, 2025** – SB322 signed into law

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS RELATED TO SB322

MARCH 28, 2025	•Tolbert contacted The Cullman Tribune, stating Cullman County officials declined to support the project
APRIL 9, 2025	•SB322 introduced in the Alabama Senate by Sens. Jabo Waggoner, R-Vestavia Hills, and Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman
APRIL 22, 2025	•Passed by the Alabama Senate
APRIL 29, 2025	•Received favorable report from the House Economic Development and Tourism Committee
MAY 1, 2025	•Passed by the Alabama House of Representatives
MAY 6, 2025	•Received by the Governor's Office
MAY 7, 2025, 1:30 P.M.	•Signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey as Act 2025-294
MAY 7, 2025, 2:57 P.M.	•Recorded by the Alabama Secretary of State
JUNE 1, 2026	•Deadline for annexation actions under SB322 to begin

Evie (from Front)

Noah Chandler
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Say hello to Evie, a 4-month-old domestic shorthair kitten with a whole lot of personality packed into his tiny frame. He's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

Evie isn't just sweet, he's pure sunshine wrapped in soft fur. He's got a playful streak a mile wide and approaches every moment like it's the next big adventure.

Whether it's chasing a toy mouse or simply following you around like a furry shadow, Evie lives life to the fullest — as long as you're by his side.

Food? Oh yes, he's a fan. But make no mistake, in Evie's eyes, you're the main course. His love for companionship shines through in everything he does, making him a top-tier candidate for anyone looking for a therapy or companion cat.

At just 4 months old, Evie is already stealing hearts. Now all he needs is a forever home where he can return the favor.

His adoption fee is $100, which includes neutering, vaccines, microchip, wormer and a general vet exam.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If Evie is scooped up before you get a chance to meet him, don't worry, he has plenty of furry friends waiting at the shelter who would love to meet you, too. Go find your forever friend today!

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullman-animalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

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LEGALS

INVITATION TO BID

Project: Removal of Mobile Homes (Purchase of mobile homes)

Clean Lot Housing Mobile Homes

Owner: Town Of Fairview

Date: June 12, 2025

Sealed Bids for the Completion of the project located in the Town of Fairview will be received at the Town Hall, Town of Fairview until 2:00 p.m Local Time on July 24 2025. Bids received after the specific time above will not be considered. Bids will then be publicly opened at the Town Hall. July 28, 2025 Town of Fairview.

The Title Project generally consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, supplies, labor, management, supervision and transportation, including fuel to remove the below mobile homes and clean lots of all Debris. The owner requires the project to be completed within 60days of the recording of the contract.

In order to Bid on the Project, the Bidder must possess a valid [redacted] License, that permits to transfer mobile homes on the road of the State of Alabama and shall comply with all Applicable License Requirements of the Code of Alabama, Federal and Local News or Regulations.

The Bid must be prices for the purchase of the Trailers and separate pricing for cleaning the Debris off the lots which were occupied by the trailers.

The following trailers as the Project:

6- 12 x 60 Mobile Homes
1- 12 x 50 Mobile Home
2- 12 x 70 Mobile Homes
4 – 14 x 70 Mobile Homes

Located at 140 Fairpark Court, Wesley Ave N Cullman, Al Town of Fairview, Alabama.

1 Camper Described as Follows:

Small camper Lot 6

are not a part of this project and are not owned by the Town of Fairview.

A cashiers check or bid bond payable to the owner in an amount of (5%) five percent of the bid or not less than $10,000 must accompany the bidder's proposal. The successful bidder shall provide such additional Bonds and evidence of Insurance as requested by the owner to the Town of Fairview upon the awarding of the Bid.

Bid instructions may be examined at the Town Hall of Town of Fairview Monday through Wednesday 9:00 am until 5:00 pm to the day prior to the bid opening day.

The owner reserves the right to reject all Bids. All Bids shall be irrevocability for a period of 60 days from the date of the opening of Bids.

By: The Town of Fairview

Mr. Keith Henry, Mayor

Obituary Announcements: July 8-9

Mary Joyce Boatwright, 88
A celebration of life service for Mary Joyce Boatwright, 88, of Owens Crossroads, will be at 12 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Welti Presbyterian Cemetery, Pastor Daniel Drake officiating. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. before the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Boatwright was born on Sept. 8, 1936, to parents, Elbert and Ruby White Boatright. She was preceded in death by her parents; 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Survivors include her daughter, Terri (Rex) Gillis; sons, Randy (Debbie) Drake and Chris Drake; grandchildren, Amy (Matt) Gillis Bogue, Joshua (Alyssa) Gillis, Brooke (Caleb) Gillis Hughes, William (Maria) Drake, Daniel (Danielle) Drake, Janie (Kevin) Drake Johnson; great-grandchildren, Bryson Bogue, Brooklyn Bogue, Bennett Bogue, Everly Gillis, Piper Gillis, Mary Claire Gillis, Shiloh Hughes, Zion Hughes, Eden Hughes, Shep Hughes, Emeth Drake, Eliana Drake, Aliza Drake, Titus Drake, Piper Drake, Marlowe Johnson, Owen Johnson, Lily Johnson, Penny Johnson; and a host of family and friends. In lieu of flowers the family ask that donations be made to Reaching and Teaching International Ministries, 828 East Market Street, Louisville, KY 40206. If donating by check please include 'MENA Will & Maria' on the memo line.

Rita Annette Brooks, 67
A Celebration of Life will be held for Rita Annette Brooks of Hanceville, Alabama, on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Heritage Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama. No visitation is planned. Annette was surrounded by family and friends at Cullman Regional when she went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 6, 2025. She was born March 22, 1958, in Cullman, Alabama, to Lee Wayne and Jeanette Southern Nails. Her parents preceded her in death. Annette was a graduate of A.P. Brewer High School's class of 1976 and was retired from Alabama Web Press where she worked as a print technician. She was a beautiful person inside and out. Even if you just met her, her kindness made you feel welcomed and loved. She was an excellent cook and especially loved surprising friends and family with their favorite desserts. Survivors include: Husband - Wendell Brooks; Daughter - Lori Herald (Josh) Cary, North Carolina; Bonus Daughter - Jessica Brooks, Rochester, New York; Grandsons - Corporal Joshua J. Herald, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Ethan Herald, Cary, North Carolina; Brothers-Rickey Nails (Denise) of Vinemont, Alabama, and Randy Nails (Sheila) Sacramento, California. She is also survived by aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends. Annette, you are loved and you are missed. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice in memory of Annette.

Kenny W. Bagwell, 61
Funeral Service for Kenny Wayne Bagwell, age 61 of Hanceville, will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rodney Turner officiating; burial at Good Hope Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bagwell passed away on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at his residence. He was born, December 23, 1963, to Wallace Bagwell and Alice Crane Bagwell. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Jessica Steele; brother, Chris Bagwell and sister, Connie Phillips. Survivors include his wife. Janet Bagwell; son, Kevin (Tabitha) Bagwell; daughter, Jerica Bagwell; sister, Treasea (Herb) Mayo; grandchildren, Sydny and Linley Bagwell, Kentaly White, Sadie Abbott; great grandchild, Laken Wright and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Phillip Herbert Chambers, 66
Phillip Herbert Chambers, age 66, of Morris, Alabama passed away on Monday, July 7, 2025. Phillip was born in Cullman, Alabama. Phillip is survived by his wife, Mareen Chambers; his son Dean Chambers; his daughter Katie Godoy; his sisters Barbara Dalton and Ellen Mikell and five grandchildren. A visitation for Phillip will be held Friday, July 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055-5827. A celebration of life funeral service will occur Friday, July 11, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055-5827. A graveside will occur Friday, July 11, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m. at Duck Creek Missionary Baptist Church, County Road 1568, Cullman, AL 35058. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Herman A. 'Buster' Patterson, Jr., 78
Buster was a devoted father and grandfather, a proud Marine, and a retired fire captain. He passed away peacefully at his residence on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at the age of 78. Born on Nov. 28, 1946, in Cullman, Alabama, Buster was preceded in death by his parents, Herman A. Patterson Sr. and Bonnie Bell Denson Patterson and his stepdaughter Sheila Lynn Horsley, along with his sisters, Wanda Gail Patterson and Brenda Patterson Tankersley. Survivors include his wife Shirley, one Daughter, Renae (Nathan) Lovvorn; Two grandsons, Caleb Lovvorn and Jacob Lovvorn; One brother, Terry Patterson; One sister, Rita (Donnie) Kelly; Many nieces and nephews, Heather Mahler, Julia Burnum, Christine Patterson, Melissa Patterson, and Megan Hays; Keith Tankersley and Jason Tankersley; Buster served his country in the United States Marine Corps and later dedicated his life to serving his community as a firefighter. He had retired with 33 years of service to Center Point Fire Department and 16 years of service to Hoover Fire Department, stamping his legacy into the generations to follow. He was a straightforward man who cared deeply and unconditionally for his family and loved ones, never missing an opportunity to put others in front of himself. Funeral services for Herman A Patterson will begin at 10 a.m. on July 9, 2025, at Crosspoint Church in Argo with a visitation beginning at 9:00 a.m. Graveside to follow at Tabernacle Cemetery located in Locust Fork. A special thanks goes to Battalion Chief Chris Horn and Deputy Chief Al Tinney with Center Point Fire Department, along with Rideout's Trussville Chapel who are in charge of arrangements.

George Allin White, 56
Funeral services for George Allin White, 56, of Addison, will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, July 12, 2025, at Sardis #2 Baptist Church, with interment in Howse Family Cemetery, Bro. Joey Smithson officiating. The body will lie in state from 1-3 p.m. at the church. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. White was born on Sept. 7, 1968, to parents, Michael and Barbara White. He was a custom sign fabricator and boat mechanic. He was a lifelong resident of the Sardis Community and a friend to all who knew him.

Donald Theo Waldrep, 84
Funeral services for Donald Theo Waldrep, 84, of Blair Community, will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 12, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with interment in Bethel Baptist Cemetery, Bro. Tommy Blackwood and Bro. Randall Waldrep officiating. The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. before the service. Visitation will be Friday evening from 5:30-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Waldrep passed away July 8, 2025, at his residence. He was born on September 8, 1940, to parents, James and Atha Waldrep. Theo loved gardening, Alabama Football, Nascar racing and in addition, was a strong supporter of his grandson Chris's go cart racing hobby. Donald Theo was a dedicated member of Bethel Baptist Church in the Blair Community. Mr. Waldrep was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 63 years, Gayree; daughter, Damita Jones; sister, Barbara Hood; infant sisters, Anita and Vondlee Waldrep; brothers, Delton Waldrep, Mike Waldrep, Leacel Waldrep. Survivors include his daughters, Anita Waldrep, Beverly Waldrep (Richard Tambellini); sisters, Yvonne Peak, Nina Waldrep, Ramona Adkins; grandchildren, Chris (Jennifer) Jones, Heath (Jessica) Diveley, Summer Diveley, Kelly (Joey) Bolton; great-grandchildren, Cody, Jaylee, Lexi, Landon, Ryan, Mackenzie, MaKayva, and Kylie; great-great granddaughter, Rayah; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Pallbearers will be Cody Jones, David Shoemaker, Michael Shoemaker, Brian Waldrep, Wesley Laney, and Raymond Sellers.

Reba Darlene Miller, 81
Funeral Service for Reba Darlene Miller, age 81 of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Reba Smith Miller, born Oct. 29, 1943, passed away peacefully at home on July 9, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. She was preceded in death by her parents, Herschel & Esther Smith, her first husband Hugh Allred, her second and husband Glen Miller and her brothers, Morris Gwendel Smith and Douglas Wilford Smith. Reba owned Cullman Gift Shop for many years and had a passion for antiques! She was one of the founding Board of Directors of Merchants Bank of Alabama until its merger. Born with a servant's heart, Reba spent many years volunteering at her church and many ministries, as well as taking care of family members and friends during times of sickness. Survivors include her son and daughter in law, Lawayne and Christi Allred; grandchildren, Chris Allred, Jessica Allred, and John Connor Allred; sisters, Melda Allred, Genneth Queen, Jeanette Chambers, Donna (Larry) Holmes, Terry Maze; and brother Clifford (Debbie) Smith; and a host of nieces and nephews. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Reba's caregivers, Terry Maze, Wanda Lambert and Gentiva Hospice. In leiu of flowers make donations to: Curt's Closet, curtscloset.org, 1101 3rd Avenue, S.E., Cullman, AL 35055 2 5 6 - 7 3 5 - 4 5 5 7

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LEGALS

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

500 2nd Ave SW

Room 303

Cullman, Al 35055

STEPHANIE L. HASTING

(PLAINTIFF)

VS CASE NO: SM-2025-900237

BITCOIN DEPOT OPERATING

(DEFENDANT)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

DEFENDANT(S), BITCOIN DEPOT OPERATING, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him/her by the PLAINTIFF, STEPHANIE L. HASTING, for $790.00 plus court cost, cause of action being: RETURN OF MONEY

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 21ST day of AUGUST, 2025, or a default may be rendered against him/her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 2025.

Lisa McSwain

LISA MCSWAIN

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA,
CULLMAN COUNTY.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **JASON PHIL HULLand ALISHA HULL, husband and wife,** to Cullman Savings Bank, dated May 16, 2022, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2014 Page 363, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the undersigned Cullman Savings Bank as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on August 8, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot Number Twenty-Seven (27) in the City of Cullman, Alabama as shown as known on the recorded map of said City.

TOGETHER WITH that certain strip being 4 feet of even width off of the West side of the above described lot for an alley as vacated by that certain Declaration Vacating Private Alley as filed for record in Deed Book 492, Page 70 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Parcel ID Number: 17-05-15-3-016-003.000

Property address: 811 8th Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. 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. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

CULLMAN SAVINGS BANK
By: Nancy F. McClellan
401 2nd Avenue SW Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 734-4040

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 Michael E Williams to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Salter Mortgage Group, its successors and assigns dated October 19, 2015; said mortgage being recorded on October 20, 2015 in Deed Book 1773, Page 92 as having been modified by an agreement recorded in Deed Book 1974, Page 787, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to SERVBANK, SB by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2112, Page 725, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, SERVBANK, SB, 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 August 7, 2025 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot Number 8 in Block Number 4 in Comb's Addition known as Comb's Second Addition to the Town of Hanceville, Alabama, according to the map thereof recorded in Map Book 2, Page 77 (Slide A100) and Slide B87 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as **1006 Stadium St Se, Hanceville, AL 35077**.

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.

SERVBANK, SB
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. 25-06994AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
6/26/2025,7/3/2025,7/10/2025

25-06994AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF H.M.K.
A minor child. **CASE NO.: AD2024-049**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDED PETITION FOR ADOPTION and SECOND AMENDED PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: TAYLOR CLAYTON KIDDER, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF A CHILD H.M.K., BORN FEBRUARY 14, 2018 TO CHELSEA MICHELLE MCCAY.

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption, Amended Petition for Adoption, and Second Amended Petition for Adoption* was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Gavin Miles Robertson, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 30th DAY OF June, 2025.

Tammy Brown

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

In the Matter of the Estate of * **Probate Court of**
Larry Garner, * **Cullman County, AL**
Deceased * **Case No.: PC 2025-238**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Larry Garner having been granted to Barry Garner, Personal Representative, on the 1st day of July, 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Barry Garner
Personal Representative

Attorney for the Estate:
Kenneth Weldon
1170 County Road 1352
Vinemont, AL 35179

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune: Please publish the above notice for three successive weeks in said newspaper

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain Mortgage executed by **Billy Herbert Wallace, an unmarried man,** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage dated November 26, 2021, and recorded on November 29, 2021 in Mortgage Book 1991 Page 745 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama; and as and secured by that Mortgage executed by **Billy Herbert Wallace, an unmarried man and Jennifer Dawn Sharp Hearld**, an unmarried woman to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage dated August 28, 2023, and recorded on September 5, 2023 in Mortgage Book 2061 Page 763 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, as modified by that Mortgage Modification Agreement executed by **Billy Herbert Wallace, an unmarried man and Jennifer Dawn Sharp Hearld, an unmarried woman** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage Modification Agreement dated February 13, 2024, and recorded on March 1, 2024, in Mortgage Book 2076 Page 34, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on **July 24, 2025**, between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A parcel of land located in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 31, Township 9 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said forty; thence S16°56'27"W a distance of 215.02 feet to a metal fence post and the true point of beginning; thence S86°44'14"W a distance of 216.96 feet to a metal fence post; thence S05°20'32'W 87.29 feet to a 1 inch solid bar; thence S05°03'54"W 210.00 feet to a steel fence corner found on the North margin of a road; thence S82°42'40"E a distance of 173.58 feet to a found steel fence post; thence N12°16'16"E a distance of 331.93 feet to the true point of beginning.
Description derived from survey of Joseph C. Hunt, AL Reg No. 17265, dated December 5, 1990.
Property address: 1231 County Road 1545, Cullman, AL 35058
This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

PUBLICATION DATES: June 26, July 3 and July 10, 2025
NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

TRADITIONS BANK, Mortgagee
Steven C. Smith
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ROY DYER and TERESA DYER,

Plaintiff,

v. CIVIL ACTION NO:

CV-2025-900112.00

LBEY RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP, INC., and

FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS A-Z, being those individuals or entities, unknown to Plaintiff but will be added by amendment should they become known to Plaintiff, which may claim an interest in the real property made the subject of this lawsuit;

and

A tract or parcel of land containing 0.40 acres, more or less, and being situated in the part of the SW quarter of the SE quarter of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 5 West, Cullman County, Alabama, described as follows: Commence at the SE corner of the SW quarter of the SE quarter of Section 9, Township 11 South, Range 5 West (which point) is at or near the north edge of a paved road and go westerly (along the north edge of said road) 75 feet (to east line of said SW quarter of the SE quarter of Section 9, Township 11, Range 5 West), then continue East (into the SE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 9, Township 11, Range 5 West) a distance of 60 feet, then go South ISO feet (to north edge of said road) and then go West 60 feet to the point of beginning.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: LBey Research Advisory Group, Inc., and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion or other interest in the lands described above, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the March 25, 2025, a Verified Complaint for quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Roy Dyer and Teresa Dyer against LBey Research Advisory Group, Inc., and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are

unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest or claim in and to the above described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur or otherwise respond to the aforementioned Verified Complaint on or before the I st day of October, 2025, else suffer a judgment thereafter by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served wit a copy of the Verified Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain

Clerk of the Circuit Court

of Cullman County, Alabama Cullman County Courthouse Office of the Circuit Clerk

500 2nd Avenue, SW, Room 303

Cullman, AL 35055

Plaintiffs' Attorney:

Ray Uhrig, Esq.

UHRIG LAW FIRM

2707 Artie Street, SW Suite 7

Huntsville, AL 35805 256/539-4529

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF K.B.K.
A minor child. **CASE NO.: AD2025-001**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDED PETITION FOR ADOPTION and SECOND AMENDED PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: TAYLOR CLAYTON KIDDER, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF A CHILD K.B.K., BORN JUNE 3, 2020 TO CHELSEA MICHELLE MCCAY.

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption, Amended Petition for Adoption, and Second Amended Petition for Adoption* was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Gavin Miles Robertson, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 30th DAY OF June, 2025.

Tammy Brown

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
)
DAVID MORTON, also known as) CASE NO. PC 2025-235
DAVID AARON MORTON)
)
DECEASED.)

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

The Will of David Morton, having been duly admitted to record in said county, **Letters Testamentary** is hereby granted to Patrick Morton, the Personal Representative named in said will, who having been duly qualified in compliance with the requisites of the laws, and is authorized to administer such estate in accordance with the procedures provided in ALA. CODE Sections 43-2-830, et seq., (Supp. 1993), including the powers and duties permitted in Section 43-2-830 without prior court order, as further modified expressly in the will.

Witness my hand, and dated this 30th day of June, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
CULLMAN COUNTY)

I, Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true, correct, and complete copy of the Letters of Testamentary issued to Patrick Morton as Personal Representative of the Will of David Morton, deceased, as the same appears of record in my office, and are in full force and effective.

Given under my hand and seal dated this the 30th day of June, 2025.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2025 - 900226

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 23 2025
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

SCOTT SLATTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

Lot 12 of Piney Point Subdivision, a subdivision of part of the West half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 8, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Cullman Cunty, Alabama, as filed for record in Book 56, Page 173 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
Parcel ID: 17-03-08-0-001-017.000; PIN: 9833; Account Number: 46270,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

VICKIE ANN STEGALL, MINNIE MAE EASTERWOOD, AND THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MINNIE MAE EASTERWOOD,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: VICKIE ANN STEGALL, MINNIE MAE EASTERWOOD AND THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MINNIE MAE EASTERWOOD, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 20th day of June, 2025, a Verified Complaint to Quiet Title to the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Scott Slatton against Vickie Ann Stegall, fka Vickie Ann Easterwood, Minnie Mae Easterwood, and the Heirs and Devisees of Minnie Mae Easterwood, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Verified Complaint on or before the 28th day of August, 2025, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiff's Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Clint

HOLLINGSWORTH

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Clint Hollingsworth has 17 years of experience serving his community. Experience bringing in jobs, building roads, boosting the economy and protecting our conservative values.

Vote Hollingsworth for House on July 15.





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