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CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL PLACE 3 ✓
PD. POL. ADV. BY JOHNNY COOK, 1806 WAYNE AVE NW, CULLMAN, AL 35055

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Chick-fil-A opening 2nd Cullman location in November

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The second Chick-fil-A location in Cullman will open in mid-November, according to Director of Human Resources Breana Posey.

She said the new location on Alabama Highway 157 will be under the same leadership as the first, on Cherokee Avenue.

"Randy Earnest is the owner and operator of each location," Posey said. "We plan to open mid-November to the public."

She continued, » PAGE 8



BREANA POSEY
The new Chick-fil-A will be located at 5411 Alabama Highway 157 in north Cullman.

Cullman's Academy Sports + Outdoors to open Sept. 15



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Academy Sports + Outdoors in Cullman is seen on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025.

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Academy Sports + Outdoors will open its first store in Cullman next month, the company said in a media release. The opening date is listed as Sept. 15, 2025, on the company's website. Located at 1667 Second Ave. SW, the 55,000-square-foot store will be Academy's 17th location in Alabama.

The company said the new Academy Sports + Outdoors store will carry a wide assortment of sports and outdoors products.

Cullman customers can expect to find a unique assortment from top brands like Nike, adidas, Jordan Brand, Carhartt, Stanley, Titleist, Shimano, Brooks, YETI and more. Academy also offers its exclusive, private label brands such as Magellan Outdoors, Freely, R.O.W., BCG, H2OX, Redfield and Mosaic.

The Cullman store, according the company, is expected to bring an estimated 60 new jobs to the community. Individuals interested in careers at Academy Sports + Outdoors can visit careers.academy.com to apply for open positions.

VOTE | AUG. 26



JENNY FOLSOM
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL PLACE 5
PD. POL. ADV. BY JENNY FOLSOM 1706 LEISURE LANE, CULLMAN, AL 35055

Additional arrest made in Infusion Wellness and Spa case



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kody Ray Smith » PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Amber's golden heart shines through



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
Amber » PAGE 6

VOTE AUG. 26



BRAD SMITH
CULLMAN CITY COUNCIL PLACE 1
PD. POL. ADV. BY BRAD SMITH 1468 ORCHARD DR. NE CULLMAN, AL 35055

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Aug. 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Aug. 20, 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

Aug. 18

- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '25 Nissan Rogue; $500; 7th Ave. SW

Aug. 19

- theft of property; Dollar General; general merchandise; 3rd St. SE
- harassment; person

ARRESTS

Aug. 18-19

Stanfill, Dylan R.; 33

- FTA – driving while suspended

Robertson, Melissa A.; 42

- GJ – theft of property-2nd degree

Davis, Katherine E.; 25

- GJ – forgery-3rd degree
- GJ – possessing forged instrument (2 counts)
- GJ – identity theft
- GJ – theft of property-2nd degree

Witcher, Jeffery K.; 40

- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

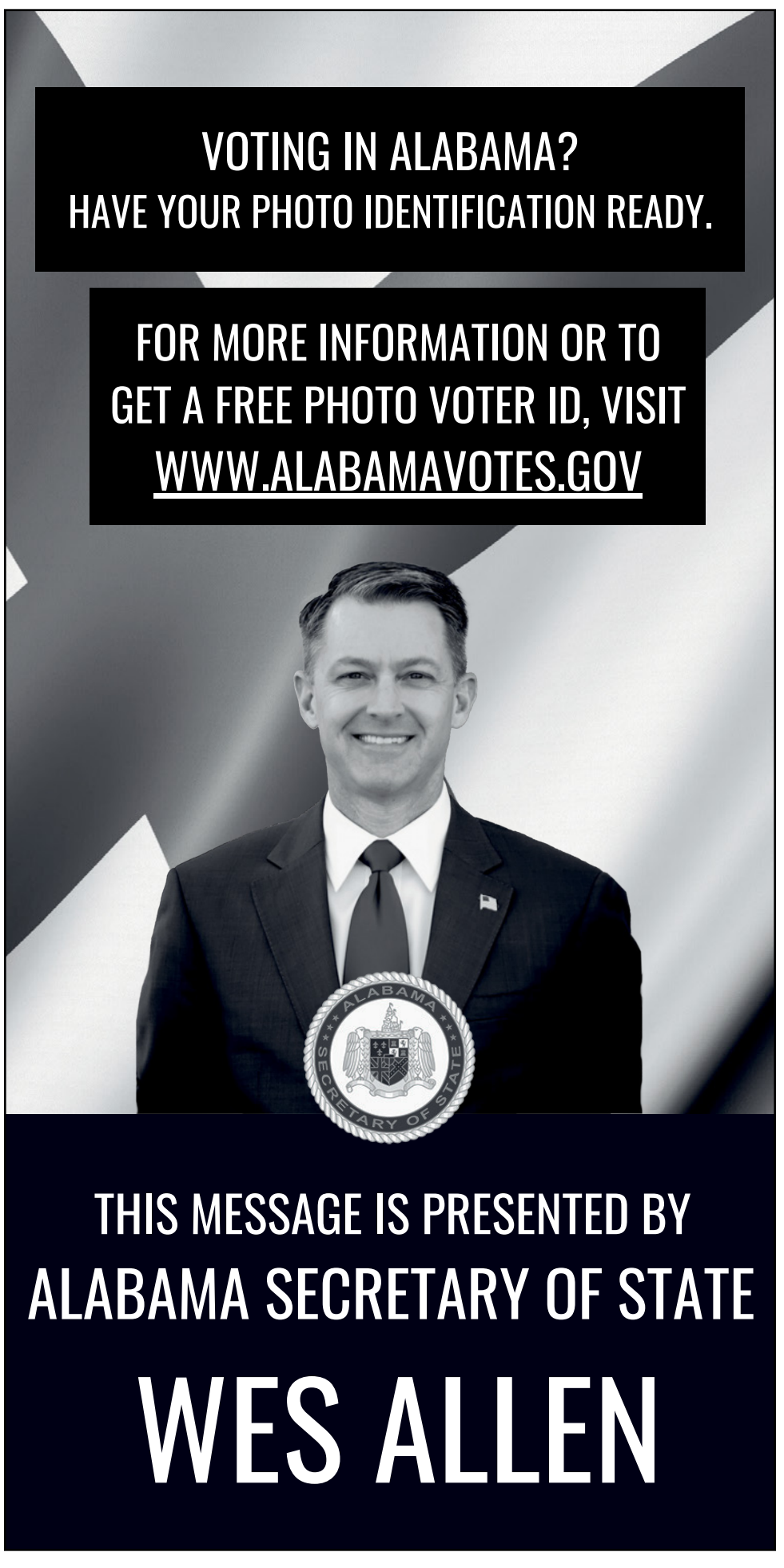
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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, Aug. 22 – 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, Aug. 24 – 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. 2 p.m. prayer service.

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville
- Families are invited to join us for fun at the library! Library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5p.m., closed from noon-1 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly event details.
- Wednesday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m. Storytime, plus book club will start back, and the summer reading program contest comes to an end.
- Friday, Aug. 29, 6 p.m. Poetry Night

North Alabama Agriplex Programs
- www.agriplex.org
- Thursday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m., Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer - FALL and WINTER GRAZING OPTIONS FOR CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS. Managing your pastures for maximum fall grazing.
- Saturday, Aug. 23, 9-10:30 a.m., Farm Kids Club - Honey Harvest. It's our second year of harvesting honey from the Agriplex Apiary and you're invited! Master Beekeeper Bill Grimmett will be here to show us how it's done. $15/child, max $30/family.
- Thursday, Aug. 26, 6-8 p.m., Living Landscapes - Growing Fall Vegetables. Now is the time to start fall vegetables! Join Extension Agent Holt Akers-Campbell as he teaches best practices for fall crops for home gardeners. Free fall seeds. $15/person.
- Thursday, Aug. 28, 6-8 p.m., Heritage Skills - Humming Bird Gourd House. Who knew you could make a hummingbird house from a gourd? Come use your creativity as Katie Westmoreland teaches us how to make, paint, and decorate our new little house. Youth, ages 12 to15 are welcome and must register and be accompanied with a paid registered adult. $35/person.
- Wednesday, Sept. 3, noon-1 p.m., Lunch and Learn - Wildlife Damage Management Around the Home & Garden. This program will provide a great opportunity for home and garden owners to gain a better understanding of common wildlife pests and their controls. Laws and regulations, damage identification, and considerations and techniques to reduce and prevent wildlife damage will be covered in detail. $10, includes lunch.
- Thursday, Sept. 4, 9-11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Elementary - Fun with Fossils. Uncover the mysteries of the past by learning how fossils are formed, how to identify different species, and more! $15 fee, max $30/family.
- Thursday, Sept. 4, 9-11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Secondary - All the Ologies - Paleontology. Dive into the study of fossils! We'll discuss excavation, identification, and get an up close look at an extensive collection of specimens. $15/student, max $30/family.
- Thursdays, Sept. 4, 6-8 p.m., Heritage Skills - Crocheting. Come learn the basics of crocheting as we make our very own scarf. Register early so you have time to pick your favorite colors! Youth, ages 12 to15 are welcome and must register and be accompanied with a paid registered adult. $25/person.
- Fri, Sept. 5, 10-11 a.m., Little Farmers - Cinder. Jan Brett is a renowned author illustrator whose books have been loved by many for decades. Each month, we will center our storytime, stations, craft, and snack around a different Jan Brett book. $8/child, max $16/family.
- Sat, Sept. 6, 9-10:30a.m., Farm Kids Club - County Fair Crafts. We'll complete an assortment of crafts worthy of submission to the Cullman County Fair. $20/person.
- Thursdays, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer - Beekeeping for Beginners. This introduction to beekeeping will feature an Alabama Extension Agent and local, experienced beekeepers who will discuss the basics of keeping bees for both fun and profit with Allyson Shabel. At the Extension office.
- Tues, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., Living Landscapes - Raising Backyard Poultry: Keeping chickens, ducks, quail, guineas, and turkeys. Interested in raising chickens or other backyard poultry? Learn which bird is for you and the best practices for keeping these animals for eggs, meat, or bug control. $15/person.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building from 6-9 a.m. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee, eat-in or take-out, for a donation. The proceeds will benefit the Holly Pond Lions Club project fund and the food pantry located between town hall and the fire department. Come join us! Thank you in advance for your support.

Swamp John's Dinner
Friday, Aug. 29, from 4-7 p.m. at Fairview West Baptist Church, 1172 County Road 566, Hanceville, AL 35077. Pre-order today. $15 plates include meat, two sides and a desert. Cash, check or Cash App accepted.

Ribeye Steak Sandwich Cookout
Friday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. We will celebrate our 32nd year of preparing delicious ribeye steak sandwiches. First in the North Cullman Shopping Center and now in south Cullman near Walmart in front of the theater. Steaks are charcoal grilled using only Kingsford charcoal. Sandwiches are still a $10 donation and drinks and chips are $1 each. Employers, help us celebrate by treating your employees to a great sandwich. Ladies, after work, don't go home and cook. Come by and get sandwiches for your family - for certain if a Friday night ball game is part of your evening. Place advance orders by calling Edwin Calvert at 256-595-7608. Contact number in the parking lot is 256-595-7608. Come out and enjoy a great sandwich and help us celebrate the beginning of our 32nd year. We are only buying 2,200 steaks; when they are gone we are finished. - Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattlewomen

Christmas in September Sale
The Sacred Heart Altar Society and Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart Church in Cullman are having their "Christmas in September" sale on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 7 a.m. until and after each mass on Sunday, Sept. 6, in the church Family Life Center. The sale is to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Society in Cullman. Gently used decorations from all holiday seasons will be for sale.

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

CPR Certification Class at Holly Pond Volunteer Fire Department
Saturday, Sept 27, at 8 a.m. Community members are encouraged to attend and learn this lifesaving skill. For more information or to register, contact Ann Harrison at 256-339-8502.







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Alabama lands 11 on Preseason Coaches All-SEC Teams

Alex Thompson
UA Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The University of Alabama football team had 11 players selected to the 2025 Preseason Coaches All-SEC Team, the league office announced Tuesday.

Alabama claimed two first-team honorees, both on offense. The Tide also earned an impressive seven second-team selections, made up of five players on defense and two on offense. UA's pair of third-team recipients included one player on either side of the ball.

The Crimson Tide enters the 2025 campaign having won a league-leading 30 SEC Championships in program history, including eight of the last 13 conference titles. Alabama's the 2025 season opener is set for Saturday, Aug. 30 at Doak Campbell Stadium.

The Crimson Tide will travel to Tallahassee, Fla. to take on Florida State with kickoff set for 2:30 p.m. on ABC.

FIRST TEAM

Offense
- OL – Kadyn Proctor
- WR – Ryan Williams

SECOND TEAM

Offense
- OL – Jaeden Roberts
- C – Parker Brailsford

Defense
- DB – Domani Jackson
- DL – Tim Keenan III
- LB – Deontae Lawson
- DL – LT Overton
- DB – Keon Sabb

THIRD TEAM

Offense
- RB – Jam Miller
- Defense
- DB – Bray Hubbard



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama's Ryan Williams (2)

Meet the Coaches: Auburn outside linebackers coach Roc Bellantoni

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. -- Returning to Auburn was an easy decision for outside linebackers coach Roc Bellantoni.

"The reason I wanted to come back to Auburn was the people," he said. "The people here made me feel so special the first time I was here. The relationships I had with the players was special.

"You talk about family and if you love Auburn, Auburn's going to love you back. It's all true. This is a very special place and it's something I held close to my heart and I couldn't be more excited to be back and experience it again."

A defensive analyst at Auburn in 2021, Bellantoni coached the Tigers' edge rushers and served as special teams coordinator in 2022 before becoming the defensive coordinator at Florida Atlantic the past two seasons.

"When I left here it was a dream to maybe come back someday. I didn't realize it would be this quick," Bellantoni said.

"It was a great two years away. I grew as a coach. When I had the opportunity to come back here, I was thrilled to come back."

Bellantoni's first stint on the Plains positioned him for his second, according to Auburn head coach Hugh Freeze.

"He said that I had done a great job my first time here," Bellantoni recalled.

"He heard that from a lot of people and thought that I might be able to come in and contribute.

"I told him I really wanted to come in and help him get over the hump. Help this program get over the hump, it's been growing and growing for two years.

"I've seen that from afar and I wanted to come in and help him get there."

A defensive coordinator for 17 seasons, Bellantoni offers his experience in support of Auburn coordinator DJ Durkin.

"We all have ownership in it," Durkin said.

"When you have guys who have called it before, have been through some battles and have battle scars, it certainly helps."

"I love Coach Durkin. He's the greatest," Bellantoni said. "He's intense and has a purpose for everything we do defensively. Everybody speaks the same language."

From the outside linebackers he coaches, Bellantoni seeks dependability and disruption.

"Doing our job, being where we're supposed to be, being reliable," he said.

"I want us to be violent in the run game and very disruptive in the pass game.

"We can affect the quarterback and affect the pass game through rushing the passer but you've got to earn the opportunity to rush the passer by stopping the run, so we've got to start there."

In 2022, Bellantoni coached All-SEC edge rusher Derrick Hall to a monster season that included seven sacks, an interception, seven quarterback hurries, two forced fumbles and one recovery.

"The one thing I know about football that I've learned over the years is the quarterback cannot throw the ball when he's laying on his back," Bellantoni said.

"It's not only sacks, it's pressures, affecting his throws, getting him off his spot, disrupting the rhythm of the pass game. An elite pass rusher can change the game."

Thirty years after his first college football coaching debut, Roc Bellantoni returns to the Plains, determined to lead Auburn's outside backers to greatness.

"Taking my position group and making them the best group in the SEC, the best group in the country that we can be," he said. "I take a lot of pride in that. I take a lot of pride in how they play, how they act and how they carry themselves. I think we can be difference makers in this defense."

Roc and his wife, Jenny, a second-grade teacher, are the parents of four college baseball players.

"Couldn't be more thrilled," he said. "The only thing I like as much as winning a football game is watching them play and excel."



AU ATHLETICS

Auburn outside linebackers coach Roc Bellantoni.

Koivun bestowed McCormack Medal as world's top amateur

Tucker Cleverdon
AU Athletics

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. – Auburn's own Jackson Koivun has won the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the top male player in the 2025 World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR), the USGA announced Wednesday.

Koivun receives exemptions into next year's 126th U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills and the 154th Open at Royal Birkdale.

"It's a huge honor to win this award," Koivun said. "I'm very grateful to everyone who has helped me, and it's a dream come true.

"It's a medal every amateur golfer strives for. It's in the back of everyone's head, and you just try and fight and keep playing well. To be able to say I'm a McCormack Medal winner is just really, really cool."

The two-time First Team All-American and back-to-back SEC Champion made waves as soon as he stepped on the college scene, leading Auburn to its first ever national title in men's golf while also becoming the first man in the history of the sport to sweep all three national player of the year awards (Haskins, Hogan, Nicklaus) in addition to the national freshman of the year award (Mickelson).

Following an outstanding sophomore season, Koivun became the third man to automatically earn PGA Tour status through the PGA Tour University Accelerated Program.

He has deferred his membership at least until the completion of his third year of collegiate eligibility.

In six starts on Tour this calendar year, Koivun has made five cuts, including an active streak of three consecutive finishes inside the top 11.

He delivered a career-best performance in early August at the Wyndham Championship, shooting 14-under-par to finish tied for fifth place.

In September, Koivun is set to become the third Auburn player to represent the United States at the Walker Cup, joining Lee Williams (2003, 2005) and Blayne Barber (2011).

The 2025 edition of the esteemed event is set for Sept. 6-7 at Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, California.



EAKIN HOWARD

Auburn's Jackson Koivun has won the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the top male player in the 2025 World Amateur Golf Rankings.

Haynes graduates from 2-year leadership development program

Marlee Jackson
Alfa Farmers

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Two years ago, 18 Alabama farmers and ag professionals embarked on an intense, immersive and impactful leadership development experience.

Six institutes later, members of Class VI graduated from the Agricultural Leaders for Alabama (A.L.F.A. Leaders) program Aug. 16. The young leaders were honored during the Alabama Farmers Federation Farm & Land Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The class included Trevor Collier, who raises poultry, cattle and Tennessee walking horses in Lauderdale County. The Rogersville farmer said the program exceeded expectations for personal and professional growth.

"It's been more than leadership," said Collier, 32. "It's been about building relationships. Everything we did had a purpose."

That's important for a class packed with full-time farmers who spent more than 40 days with each other — and away from their farms and families.

Their inaugural institute in Montgomery laid a strong foundation and delved into Federation structure and impact, including an up-close look at grassroots policy development.

"We learned that you can bring up something at the county level, fine-tune the policy and then see it enacted at the state or federal level," Collier said. "We can make a difference in our communities from our farms."

Subsequent sessions introduced the class to state government and national advocacy.

During a week in Washington, D.C., the class met with decision-makers such as U.S. House Ag Committee Chair G.T. Thompson, R-Pa. That sparked a fire in Whitney Haynes. Her family grows row crops, raises cattle and operates a direct-to-consumer farm business in Cullman County's Fairview.

"I like to explain the what and the why," said Haynes, 40, also a high school teacher. "I like for ag to be seen and for people to hear what we have to say. I take for granted that everyone lives like us, but they don't."

The class's focus on advocacy extended into a capstone project about workforce development. They used individual and collective strengths, plus the Federation's vast network, to craft and propose a unified resource to encourage youth to pursue jobs related to farming.

The project resonated with Sidney McKathan. He's a skip-generation farmer from Covington County whose ingenuity and persistence carved a place in agriculture through beekeeping.

"When I was in school, I wanted to farm, but I thought the only way to was to be a row cropper or an ag teacher," said McKathan, 35, who farms in Pleasant Home. "Part of the capstone is outreach to tell young people about the possibilities that are out there."

A quiet, thoughtful leader, McKathan credits A.L.F.A. Leaders for drawing him out of his shell. The program expanded his network of farmer-friends, too.

"It may not seem like it, but this has really pushed me out of my comfort zone," he said. "Public speaking is still not the most fun, but I can do it. It's awesome to feel more comfortable in my own skin in front of people."

That personal growth was prioritized during a session at the Alabama 4-H Center which concentrated on leadership, team building and media training. A workshop in north Alabama focused on volunteerism and service, while an international experience in Brazil introduced the farmers to the U.S.'s largest agricultural competitor.

"Although we were thousands of miles from home, they seem to face the same issues — farm labor, government oversight and consumers who don't understand where their food comes from," Collier said.

McKathan offered a wellspring of gratitude to the Federation and its Ag Leadership Programs Director Hunter McBrayer for the investment of time, energy and resources.

"A.L.F.A. Leaders surpassed what I thought it would be," McKathan said. "I grew in appreciation for what the Farmers Federation does day-to-day, saw state and national advocacy and learned how Alfa serves the state. Plus, I met great people along the way."

A.L.F.A. Leaders Class VI graduates are:

- Trevor Collier, Lauderdale County
- Joe Corcoran, Barbour County
- Nic Cornelison, Jackson County
- Cara Clough, Marshall County
- LauraBeth Gamache, Lee County
- Ali Gotcher, Colbert County
- Rejeana Gvillo, Hale County
- Whitney Haynes, Cullman County
- Destry Hopper, Baldwin County
- Isaac Jones, Cherokee County
- Josh McCutcheon, Blount County
- Sidney McKathan, Covington County
- Daniel Mullenix, Lee County
- Evan Nelson, Jefferson County
- Sid Phelps, Tallapoosa County
- Matt Smith, St. Clair County
- Ellie Watson, Autauga County
- Noel Welch, Pike County



ALFA FARMERS

Cullman County farmer Whitney Haynes, right, graduated from the elite Agricultural Leaders For Alabama (A.L.F.A. Leaders) program Aug. 16 during the Alabama Farmers Federation Farm & Land Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Haynes is a row crop and cattle farmer, plus a family and consumer sciences teacher. Sponsored by the Federation, A.L.F.A. Leaders' 18 participants received training in agricultural policy, industry leadership, effective communication and organizational involvement during six institutes that included state and national legislative trips. An international experience to Brazil concluded the two-year program. Members of Class VI included farmers, Extension agents and industry specialists, who were chosen based on a written application and interview. Participants were 25-45 years old. Haynes is pictured with Federation President Jimmy Parnell.

CCBOE cuts ribbon on multipurpose facility at West Point

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — Tuesday was an exciting day at West Point High School as students were joined by representatives from the Cullman County Board of Education to cut the ribbon on a new multipurpose facility.

The new facility is located just behind the softball field and County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette is excited to see all the ways it will be used to help all the school's programs.

"This is not just a football facility, it's something that we can use for band or anything we need.

"I'm even envisioning a portable stage in here that we use for something for parents one night. We want to use this facility, and we want to take care of it," Barnette said.

"So, I want to put a little pressure on all of you upperclassmen to encourage your peers to take care of it and if we do that it should last us a very long time."

There are plans for new facilities at the other county campuses as well and Barnette is looking forward to seeing the impact they will have.

"We're excited. This is our first multipurpose facility that we've built in Cullman County and we're going to do some version of this at each of our schools to have other facilities that we can use for many different things," Barnette said.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Board of Education was joined by West Point students to cut the ribbon on the new multipurpose facility on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025.

"So, I want to say to our kids, please appreciate everything the board has done for you. I know our administrators are going to lead them to take care of it, so I think it'll be here for a very long time, and we'll keep finding new ways to use it."

CPRST holds 2nd forum to discuss playground plans at East Side Park

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) hosted attendees for another forum on the updates coming to East Side Park. The event took place Monday night at the OmniPlex. During the first forum, CPRST heard ideas for new playground additions from residents in attendance, and at Monday night's forum, representatives from three different playground companies were on hand to present the plans they put together based on the feedback.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), through an equal match grant, will help fund several planned improvements at the park. These include a new inclusive playground, pickleball courts, basketball court, futsal court, dog park, restrooms, new LED lighting for the baseball field, a new batting cage, improved parking and enhanced sidewalk accessibility.

Before hearing presentations from Lappset's David Cancio, Great Southern Recreation's Jonas Bailey and Kompan's Christy Manahan, CPRST Executive Director Nathan Anderson was happy to announce that they received the grant they were applying for to fund the project.

"This is where it gets really exciting with any project, when we get to start putting pictures to the ideas and we have three great playground companies to introduce you to.

"Two of them have worked with us on other projects and Lappset is brand new to the table, but they've been around for quite some time.

"The first session was all about collecting ideas and last time we met we told you we were going after a grant, and we did receive word two weeks ago that we are getting that grant and we are funded," Anderson said.

"So, we're moving forward with the full project so that will mean a dog park, new bathrooms, fixing all the sidewalk issues and making it a more accessible and compliant park with new playgrounds, basketball courts, pickle ball courts and futsal courts.

"The playground companies were given your feedback from the first forum and have designed their playgrounds based on that."

After the presentations, Anderson instructed attendees how to vote on the different playground designs so they know more specifics before choosing a final design.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CPRST Executive Director Nathan Anderson speaks to attendees at the East Side Park forum at the OmniPlex on Monday, Aug. 18, 2025.

"Thank you all for putting time into these designs. I think every one of them did a great job paying attention to the details of the first meeting and checking all the boxes," Anderson said.

The basketball courts, pickle ball courts, upgraded lights, new bathrooms and the dog park will all be included in whatever design we go with, so the playground is what we need you to weigh in on."

After compiling all the voting data from the locals in attendance, CPRST will make more announcements in the future regarding plans for the park.

Berlin Town Council plans for upcoming fiscal year

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

BERLIN, Ala. — Mayor Patrick Bates opened the monthly session of the Berlin Town Council on Monday, Aug. 18, 2025. The meeting commenced with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Donald Gunter.

The August monthly session dealt heavily with preparing the budget for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year.

While nothing was passed, the mayor presented the council with various drafts to consider in preparation for the September session, when official motions will need to be made.

Bates first brought a draft of a proposal concerning mowing and bush hogging of grassy areas. He asked the council to consider whether finish mowing or bush hogging would be more beneficial for the maintenance of Town landscape.

Upon the completion of the farmers market project, the council will draft its final proposal for this bid. The final bid will also include herbicide treatment and weed eating.

Bates stated that all council opinions would be taken under advisement for the creation of this bid.

Bates also made a suggestion to add a line item to the Town budget that would allow the Town to hire a service to maintain the new bathrooms at the farmers market and storm shelter. Concerning frequency, he stated, "Maybe weekly during season and maybe once a month out of season...We've actually had two or three people inquire if we needed someone to clean them."

The council agreed this should be considered and the Town should begin accepting bids for this service beginning next month.

Regarding farmers market progress, Bates said, "At the moment, it is operating the way I am wanting it to...so far, so good." In addition to the farmers market building, there will be a fenced playground area next to the bathrooms.

He said significant progress has been made on the building over the past few weeks and new playground equipment has been delivered and is ready to install. Contractors are predicting the project will be complete in early September.

In other business,

- A resolution affirming the Rebuild Alabama Act (RAA) Annual Grant transportation grant in the amount of $295,62.25 will be dedicated for road repairs passed unanimously

- The council reviewed revenue and expense reports in early planning for the budget for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year that will be confirmed at the next council meeting

- The mayor is waiting on feedback from the County Water Department and Town attorney concerning the easement on County Road 1614 that is needed to address road issues

- A motion carried unanimously for a $476 donation to the North Alabama Agriplex

The next meeting of the Berlin Town Council is scheduled for Sept. 15, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall.



Amber (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet Amber, a 3-month-old tortoiseshell domestic shorthair whose personality is just as striking as her coat. Friendly, inquisitive and outgoing, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week thrives with both playtime and snuggle time, so she's always ready to keep you company.

This little explorer enjoys her toys and cherishes her time with you. She adapts to new situations with ease and grace, making her a wonderful fit for just about any home.

And when she wants to share what's on her mind, Amber's gentle vocals say it all, whether it's a request for food, a nudge for affection or an invitation to play. With her sweet, affectionate nature Amber has all the makings of a perfect companion or therapy cat.

Amber's adoption fee is $100, which includes spay, 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. Come meet Amber today and see why she's quickly becoming a shelter favorite. If Amber has already found her forever home, be sure to visit the many other pets at the shelter still waiting for theirs.

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

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SANDRA JOYCE SHULTS, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2025-292

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to CAMILLE ANNE LOVE as Personal Representative of the Estate of SANDRA JOYCE SHULTS deceased, on the 12th day of August, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Camille Anne Love
Personal Representative

D. Lee Hodges, Esq.
Attorney for the Petitioner
2100 1st Avenue North, Suite 250
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD 2025-020

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JEREMY LEWIS KLAR TO ADOPT E.C.L. a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: JOSE FRANCISCO LATORRE, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF E.C.L. BORN JULY 18, 2007

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption* to adopt E.C.L. a minor child (born on July 18, 2007, to Kristin Marie Klar) was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Jeremy Lewis Klar, Petitioner. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 12 DAY OF August, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Jerry L. Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
413 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:

2FMGK5D88KBA15199 2019 Ford Flex

3GNEC12ZX5G260026 2005 Chev Avalanche

If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752

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STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD 2025-020

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JEREMY LEWIS KLAR TO ADOPT E.C.L. a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: JOSE FRANCISCO LATORRE, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF E.C.L. BORN JULY 18, 2007

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption* to adopt E.C.L. a minor child (born on July 18, 2007, to Kristin Marie Klar) was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Jeremy Lewis Klar, Petitioner. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 12 DAY OF August, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Jerry L. Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
413 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DCM Form C-14
Revised February 2024

SAMPLE FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given

that Advanced Roofing Solutions, LLC
(*Contractor Company Name*)
Contractor, has completed the Contract for ~~(Construction)~~ ~~(Renovation)~~ ~~(Alteration)~~ ~~(Equipment)~~ ~~(Improvement) of~~ (*Name of Project*):

Reroofing of Central Office for Cullman City Board of Education

at 301 1st Street Northeast, Cullman, AL 35055
(*Insert location data in County or City*)
for the State of Alabama and the ~~(County) (City) of~~ Cullman City Board of Education, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify

Lathan Associates Architects, P.C.
(*Architect / Engineer*)

Advanced Roofing Solutions, LLC
(Contractor)

1001 30th Ave
Northport, AL 35476
(Business Address)

NOTE: This notice must be run for a minimum of three weeks for projects of $100,000.00 or more. For acceptable methods of advertisement, see General Conditions of the Contract, Article 34. Proof of publication of the notice shall be made by the contractor to the authority by whom the contract was made by affidavit of the publisher or website owner and a printed copy of the notice published. A final settlement shall not be made upon the contract until the expiration of 30 days after the completion of the notice.

Page 1 of 1

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
Colleen Ann Grund,) Case No. PC 2025-261
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to David L. Grund as Personal Representative of the Estate of Colleen Ann Grund, deceased, on the 12th day of August, 2025, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Personal Representative
David L. Grund

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2025-024

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF MATTHEW BRIAN BAILEY and NATASHA NICOLE BAILEY.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: UNKNOWN FATHER of E.B., DOB 11/01/2024

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of E.B., a minor child born November 1, 2024, to Tiffany Renee Blackerby was filed on the 14th day of August, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Matthew Brian Bailey and Natasha Nicole Bailey. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 19th day of August, 2025.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KENNETH LANE JACKSON, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-239

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Jeraldine Jackson, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Kenneth Lane Jackson, deceased, on the 19th day of August 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Jeraldine Jackson
Personal Representative

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

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Cullman Stock Yard, Inc.
75 County Road 1339
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-4531
www.cullmanstockyard.com
Hoagy and Callahan Parrish
Cattle Sale – Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

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WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
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256-352-2221

Obituary Announcements: Aug. 19-20

Clinton Allen Edge, 56
Clinton Allen Edge, 56, entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on Aug. 16, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. Clinton was known for his strong faith in God, his quick wit, his infectious laugh and sense of humor, his warm hugs and his ability to make anyone smile with one of his well-timed remarks. His heart had an overflowing amount of love for his family, especially his children and grandchildren. Clinton is survived by his daughter, Miranda Edge, his son, Matthew (Sabrina) Edge, grandson, Rylee Hall, granddaughter, Raegan Edge, siblings: Randall Edge, Gary (Louise) Edge, Tommy (Sandra) Edge, Vickie (Ray) Boyd, Michael Edge, Barry (Deb) Edge, Joel (Tammy) Edge, Danny (Annette) Edge, Jason (Amy) Edge and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. He is reunited in Heaven with his father, Claude Edge, his mother, Essie Edge, and brother, Ricky Edge. His legacy of faith, kindness and laughter will live on in the hearts of those who loved him. He will be deeply missed and forever loved. A private celebration of life will be held by his family.

Eva Mae Gregory, 85
Graveside Service for Eva Mae Gregory, age 85 of Cullman, will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home-Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Gregory passed away on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born Oct. 29, 1939, to Andrew Jackson Pendley and Geneva Morris Pendley. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandson Dylan Capps and her brothers and sisters. Survivors include her son, Scotty (Crystal) Gregory; daughter, Nannette Owens; grandchildren, Myrica (Johnny) Baxter, Andrew Gregory and Brianna Gregory, great grandchildren, Johnny Baxter, III, Jason Baxter; brother, James Pendley; sister, Stacy (Lloyd) Johnston and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Ronald Dale Woodard, 80
Services for Ronald Dale Woodard, age 80 of Cullman, will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church; burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church with Rosary Service at 7 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Woodard passed away on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born, September 6, 1944, to Robert William Woodard and Lois Woodard. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Carol Marie Woodard; brother, David Lee Woodard; sister, Opal Lucille Woodard Haymon; daughter, Allison Marie Woodard Burgett and granddaughter, Ashley Nicole Norman. Survivors include his daughters, Shawna (Mark) Woodard Norman and Jennifer (Brian) Woodard Arndt; grandchildren, Zachary, Caitlyn, Caleb, Karly, Savannah and Ethan; great grandchildren, Nash, Rhea and Emmett.

Dezmond Thomas Rickman, 24
Born in Cullman, Alabama, on May 11, 2001. Graduated from East Limestone High School Class of 2020. Lived in Athens, Alabama. Passed away in Madison, Alabama on Aug. 17, 2025. A celebration of life service for Mr. Rickman will be 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. The family will welcome friends for visitation on Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dezmond was a happy go lucky young man, had a smile as big as Texas, he loved his country music, hunting, fishing, cowboy hat and boots, was a true country boy. He Loved Hard, Worked Hard, Played Hard. Dezmond was known for his hardworking spirit and his ability to make people smile, even in the most difficult times. He dedicated himself to supporting his loved ones and was admired by friends, family and colleagues for his strength, loyalty and determination. His accomplishments in life were not measured by titles or awards, but by the love and respect he earned from all who knew him. Those who knew Dezmond best remember him as a man with an adventurous spirit and a big heart. He had a gift of making others laugh, often telling stories and doing the silly funny things that made him unforgettable. His personality was magnetic, and he carried a light that drew people close to him. Above all, Dezmond was a devoted father. His children were his pride and joy We have lost a piece of our hearts that is now forever gone, but our Love for him will never go away. He was preceded in Death by his father: Jerome Anthony Flanigan Survivors include his mother, Michelle Flanigan; son, Kingston Rickman; Baby Girl Rickman on the way; siblings, Destiny Rickman, Devon (Samantha) Hodges, Niko (Aaliah) Kent, Livia Rome Cooper; grandparents, Tom (Susan) Rickman, Mary Rickman, Sylvia and Albert Turner; great grandmother, Mary Flanigan; aunts and uncles, Tumeka (Jason) Henry, Susan Ostberg, Charles Flanigan, Lamar Flanigan; nieces and nephews, Amauri Rickman, Saint Rickman, Jalaya Powel, Amir Baker; and a host of cousins, extended family and friends who loved him very much.

JoEllen 'Jody' Leigh Carnes, 74
Today our hearts are filled with both a profound sense of loss and an even more profound sense of joy. Our dear sister, Jody Carnes, completed her race and stepped into the arms of Jesus on Monday, August 18, 2025. While we grieve the absence of her light here with us, we celebrate with all of Heaven that she is finally, fully home. Jody didn't just pass away; she graduated to glory. For Jody, her birth on April 25, 1951, was the start of a journey whose destination was always fixed on her Savior. Her life was a beautiful illustration of what it means to walk in purpose. Her job or her address didn't define her, but her identity as a beloved child of God did. A Life that Was a Living Testimony. We were all blessed to witness the fruit of Jody's deep and abiding faith. Her 53-year marriage to Doug was more than a partnership; it was a ministry of faithfulness, a testament to a covenant centered on and sustained by Christ. Professionally, Jody launched her career in the preschool program at Green Acres in Midfield, AL, that was followed by her decades of leadership at Head Start. This was not a just a career; it was her mission field. Christians are commanded to find their purpose and make a difference right where they are planted. Jody lived this. She saw her work as a divine assignment to stand in the gap for the vulnerable, reflecting the heart of a father who defends the fatherless. She didn't just give children an educational start; she showed them the love of Jesus through her compassion and unwavering dedication. The Heart of a Servant in This House - It was within the walls of her church home that many of us truly saw the heart of Jody the servant. She was one of those saints who never sought the spotlight but whose impact was immeasurable. She wasn't looking for a title; she was looking for a need to meet and a soul to save. You'd find her offering a quiet word of encouragement to a young mother, praying faithfully for her small group, and distributing blessing cards to anyone and everyone crossing her path. She understood that the Church isn't a building; it's a family on a mission. Her consistent, faithful service was the connective tissue that strengthened the church body. She lived the truth that the greatest ability is availability, always ready to serve whenever God called her. Our Sure and Certain Hope - Jody fought the good fight. She finished the race. She kept the faith. Now, she has received her crown of righteousness. So today, let us honor Jody's legacy not by mourning her absence but by imitating her faith. Let us serve as she served, love as she loved, and live with the same eternal perspective that she held so firmly. We know, with absolute certainty, that we will see her again. Until that day, we press on, inspired by her example and secure in the same glorious hope of the resurrection. Welcome home, good and faithful servant. A visitation for Jody will be held Friday, August 22, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 2nd Ave North West, Cullman, AL 35055, followed by a celebration of life funeral service from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Carnes family request in lieu of flowers, that you please consider a donation to Day Star church. To leave condolences for the Carnes family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Edsal Earl Flanigan, Sr., 67
Funeral services for Edsal Earl Flanigan Sr., 67, of Colony will be 2 p.m. Saturday Aug. 23, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will be prior to the service from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Edsal Earl Flanigan, Sr., was born Aug. 12, 1958, in Cullman, Alabama. He passed away surrounded by the love of his family on Aug. 15, 2025. Edsal will be remembered for his laid-back nature, fun-loving spirit, and easy-going personality that made everyone around him feel at ease. He cherished time spent with his family and found true joy in the moments they shared together. His kindness, warmth, and genuine heart left a lasting impression on all who knew him, and he was loved by everyone. Edsal's legacy will live on through the love he gave, the laughter he inspired, and the memories he created with those dearest to him. He will be deeply missed, yet fondly remembered by his family, friends, and the many lives he touched. Mr. Flanigan is survived by his children, Antonio Hawkins, Torrey Hawkins, Edsal Earl Jr., Aundrey Flanigan, and Julia Johnson who he loved as a daughter; 16 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren; siblings, Gladys Hammond, Cecelia Barfield (Ronnie), Marlon Flanigan Sr., Michael Flanigan (Sherri), Sharonda Flanigan; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, 4 aunts, 2 uncles, and special friend Debra Flemming. Mr. Flanigan was preceded in death by his parents, Norris and Bertha Flanigan; brother, Norris Lee Flanigan Jr., and his brother-in-law, Melvin Hammond. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Flanigan family.

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FAITH

Envision Weekend coming Aug. 23

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Youth pastors and leaders across Cullman are invited to bring their students to Envision Weekend, hosted at Bethlehem West Baptist Church on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025.

West Bethlehem Youth Pastor Coty Flynn described Envision Weekend as "targeting missions, community and worship all in one day! Our desire for this event is for students to rekindle a burning passion for Jesus. There's no better start to the school year than going in worshiping, serving and having a community of believers stand by your side. "

The schedule kicks off at 8 a.m. Churches are encouraged to seek opportunities for their students to serve on missions locally. Reaching out to church members, local community members or service organizations and determining how to help meet their needs is the first priority of the day.

Doors to the first on-campus session open at 1:30 p.m. and the session begins at 2. Strength to Stand (STS) Worship gets the party started with praise and worship music followed by speaker Shaq Hardy. Hardy and his family are from Chattanooga, Tennessee where Hardy serves as the president of Orphan No More Foundation and as one of the pastors at Red Bank Baptist Church.

Students take a break after the first session and can enjoy some fun and games. From 3-6 students will have the option of participating in indoor or outdoor activities such as basketball, gaga ball, pickleball and board games just to name a few. This time is also an opportunity for a dinner break where each group can travel off campus to eat wherever they like.

The night will close out with a final session at 6:30. This session will feature more music from STS Worship and Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association (SDEA) speaker Will Roberts. Roberts is the senior director of events with SDEA and works with student pastors from across the Southeast to help them get involved with STS' conferences, camps, tours and mission events each year.

Flynn stated, "We are hoping that this event changes our lens on how we live our lives in comparison to the perfect life that Jesus lived. We are called to be like Christ and a direct reflection of him. So the purpose of Envision Weekend is comparing a life with Christ and then life without Christ. I encourage every student pastor to bring their groups and get involved with this. We hope to see them soon!"

Bethlehem West Baptist Church is located at 102 County Road 1215, Vinemont, AL 35179. For questions or to reserve a seat at Envision Weekend contact Coty Flynn at 256-739-5858 or cotyflynn4jesusrevolution@gmail.com.



Chick-fil-A (from Front)

saying Chick-fil-A is excited to be opening on the north end of town, serving the community from two locations.

"As of now, we plan to start advertising for hiring the week of Sept. 15," Posey said. "We will be posting more updates and answering a lot of questions on our social media pages leading up to the new location opening.

"So be sure to follow us to stay up to date on all the fun and exciting things we have coming to Cullman!

"We love Cullman and are excited to be serving out of two locations."

The new Chick-fil-A will be located at 5411 Alabama Highway 157 in north Cullman.

Find it online at www.facebook.com/cfacullmannorth and www.instagram.com/cfacullmannorth.

Arrest (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — An additional arrest has been made in connection with the ongoing investigation involving Infusion Wellness and Spa. On Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at approximately 3:08 p.m., the Cullman Police Department, assisted by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, took Kody Ray Smith, 30, of Hanceville into custody.


CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Whitney LeAnn Cheatham


CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Undated mugshot of Kelvin Neil Cheatham

According to the CPD, Smith is facing 11 charges (six felonies and five misdemeanors), in the case, including:

- Criminal conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime
- Attempt to commit a controlled substance crime
- 4 counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance by fraud
- 5 counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument

Whitney LeAnn Cheatham, 33, of Cullman, owns Infusion Wellness and Spa. She was arrested on Aug. 16, 2025, and is facing 25 charges in the case. Cheatham was married to Smith; however, it is unclear if this is still the case.

Her charges include:

- 3 counts of drug trafficking
- 1 count of criminal conspiracy to commit drug trafficking
- 1 count of attempted drug trafficking
- 6 counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance
- 1 count of attempted unlawful distribution of a controlled substance
- 1 count of criminal conspiracy to unlawfully distribute controlled substances
- 1 count of practicing medicine without a license
- 11 counts of fourth-degree forgery

At the time of Cheatham's arrest, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said, "These charges stem from the illegal procurement of controlled substances through forged prescriptions originating from Ms. Cheatham's business."

The Cullman Police Department is also actively searching for Cheatham's father, posting on Aug. 18, 2025: "The Cullman Police Department is seeking the public's help in locating Kelvin Neil Cheatham, who is wanted on multiple felony charges, including drug trafficking. These charges are connected to the ongoing investigation at Infusion Wellness and Spa, where his daughter, Whitney Cheatham, was taken into custody on August 16, 2025. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Kelvin Cheatham is urged to contact the Cullman Police Department at 256-734-1434."

As this case remains under active investigation, further arrests or charges may be made as additional information becomes available, the department said.

St. Paul's to host traditional German-language worship service Sept. 30

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — As part of Cullman's annual Oktoberfest celebrations, St. Paul's Lutheran Church will offer a special Gottesdienst (Divine Service) conducted entirely in German on Monday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m. The service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 513 Fourth Ave. SE, Cullman, AL, and is open to the public.

The service reflects the city's strong German Lutheran roots and honors the traditions of the early founders of Cullman. Reverend John Bussman said the event is not a performance or cultural reenactment, but a sincere act of worship grounded in heritage and faith.

"To 'tradition' something is to hand it over," Bussman noted. "That is how the confession of faith has reached our ears today — by being handed down faithfully through generations. This Divine Service is one way we carry that forward."

English translations will be provided so all attendees, regardless of their background or affiliation, can follow along and participate meaningfully.

Following the service, guests are invited to a time of fellowship in the school gym, where refreshments, including German pastries and coffee, will be served.

St. Paul's welcomes all — whether you're a Cullman resident, visitor or simply someone seeking to reflect on spiritual heritage, explore German liturgical tradition or experience something meaningful and unique.

For additional information, contact Reverend Bussman at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 256-734-3575.


ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. John Bussman

