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Wallace State stays perfect with road sweep of Gadsden State
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Another arrest made in Infusion Wellness and Spa case

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Another arrest has been made in connection with the ongoing investigation involving Infusion Wellness and Spa. According to the Cullman Police Department, on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, at approximately 8:41 a.m., Kelvin Neil Cheatham voluntarily turned himself in to Cullman Police Department investigators.

The CPD » PAGE 6



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kelvin Neal Cheatham

Jacobs tapped as Burgermeister of Oktoberfest 2025, grand marshal of Christkindlmarkt Parade



CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs has been selected as Burgermeister of Oktoberfest 2025, an honor that will also see him serve as grand marshal of the Christkindlmarkt Parade later this year.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs has been selected as Burgermeister of Oktoberfest 2025, an honor that will also see him serve as grand marshal of the Christkindlmarkt Parade later this year.

Festival organizers said the combined role strengthens the connection between the city's two signature cultural celebrations.

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson said the Burgermeister is chosen each year based on qualities that reflect the heart of Cullman.

"The title of Burgermeister is more than ceremonial — it's a symbol of civic pride, leadership and a strong connection to our city's heritage," Anderson said. "We consider individuals who embody those values, have a servant's heart and have helped advance Cullman's cultural, civic or community life. Mayor Jacobs checks all of those boxes and more."

Anderson described the Burgermeister as "part storyteller, part host and part cultural ambassador," serving as the face of Oktoberfest while representing Cullman's German traditions and hospitality. » PAGE 4

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EDITORIAL

Suicide Prevention Month matters – but so does every month (especially for men)

» PAGE 8

Cullman County Commissioner Kelly Duke selected for ACCA leadership position



CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Cullman County Commissioner Kelly Duke » PAGE 4

CPD hosts fraud and scam awareness events for seniors



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cullman Police Department Community Relations Officer Adam Clark speaks at a recent event aimed at fraud and scam awareness. » PAGE 2

Pilot Club Fall Vendor Market coming Sept. 20

» PAGE 5

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Sept. 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Sept. 5, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Sept. 2

- criminal mischief; CR 933
- domestic violence; CR 698
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Holly Pond Rd.
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1030
- trafficking drugs; I65NB MM299

Sept. 3

- theft of property; CR 1474
- harassment; CR 617
- theft of property; Hathcock Rd.
- receiving stolen property; Main St. SE
- theft of property; CR 1447
- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 1422
- violation of protection order; 2nd Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Sept. 1-3

Brasher, Ronald A.; 41
- PROBATION REVOKED – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit Card
- PROBATION REVOKED – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Duke, Kaitlyn R.; 24
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA – no seat belt

Farmer, Rachel N.; 33
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Foster, Eason B.; 22
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Gatlin, Amanda J.; 48
- drug trafficking

Godwin, Brittany C.; 42
- PROBATION REVOKED – public intoxication
- PROBATION REVOKED – buying/receiving stolen property

Harbison, Jeremy E.; 53
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of opium or derivative

Hicks, Eric T.; 37
- receiving stolen vehicle

Lawson, Tracy L.; 52
- assault-harassment

Lay, Jessica T.; 34
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Newman, James D.; 43
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Nugent, Tasha R.; 39
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Pritchett, Tosha L.; 33
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Puckett, Genesis L.; 22
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Reid, James W.; 32
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Roberson, Kevin L.; 48
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Shelby, Christopher C.; 37
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Shoemaker, Stephen; 70
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Turner, Adam D.; 43
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Events (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department said that in recent years, it has seen a sharp increase in scams and other financial crimes targeting senior community members.

CPD Community Relations Officer Adam Clark said phone and online scams, fraudulent banking activities and more crimes are becoming more sophisticated and more frequent, leaving many in the community vulnerable.

"To help combat this growing problem, the Cullman Police Department has made fraud and scam awareness a priority," Clark said.

"Officers have been meeting with community groups across the county to provide education, resources and tips on how to avoid becoming a victim."

Recently, officers spoke with the Daystar Church Joy Group and the St. John's 55 Alive Group, as well as participated in a senior event hosted by Traditions Bank earlier in the summer.

"These events are part of the department's ongoing effort to ensure that every citizen — especially those most targeted by scammers — understands the warning signs and knows how to protect themselves," Clark said.

"In addition to local outreach, the Cullman Police Department attends the U.S. Secret Service's quarterly financial crimes meetings."

By participating in these meetings and inviting local bank employees to attend, the CPD is able to stay up to date on the latest scam tactics, share intelligence and strengthen partnerships with financial institutions to better protect Cullman residents, he said.

"Our Investigation Division has been overrun with fraud cases, and education is one of the strongest tools we have to fight back," said Clark.

"By working with community groups, banks and our federal partners, we're doing everything we can to protect citizens from falling victim."

The Cullman Police Department encourages anyone who encounters suspicious calls, emails or financial activity to contact their bank immediately and report it to law enforcement.

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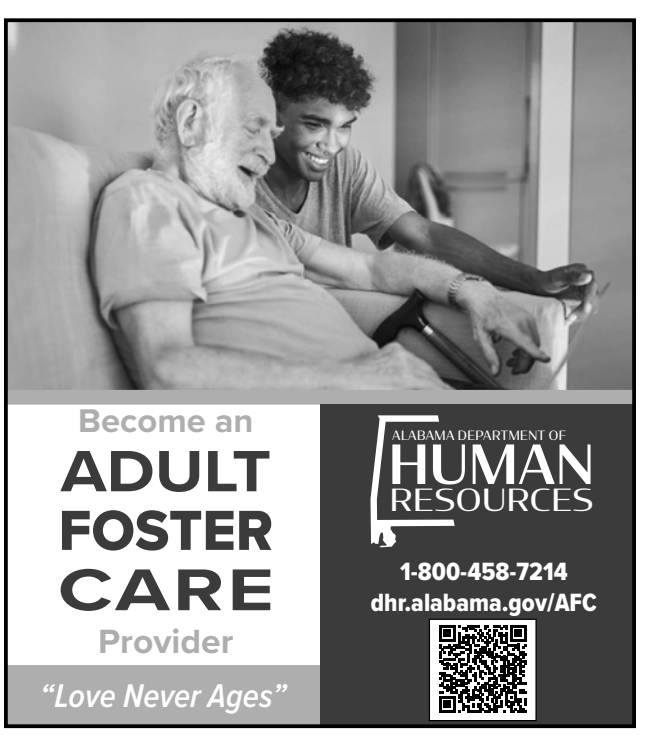
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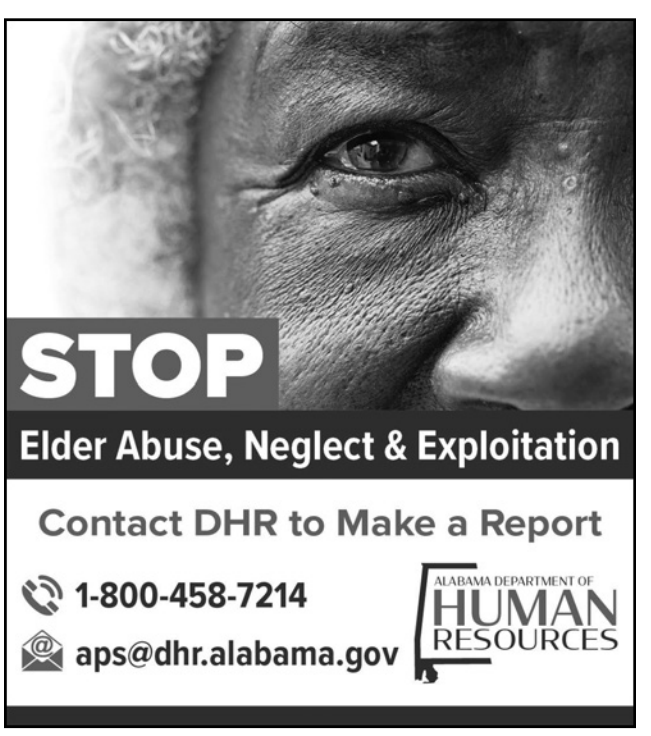

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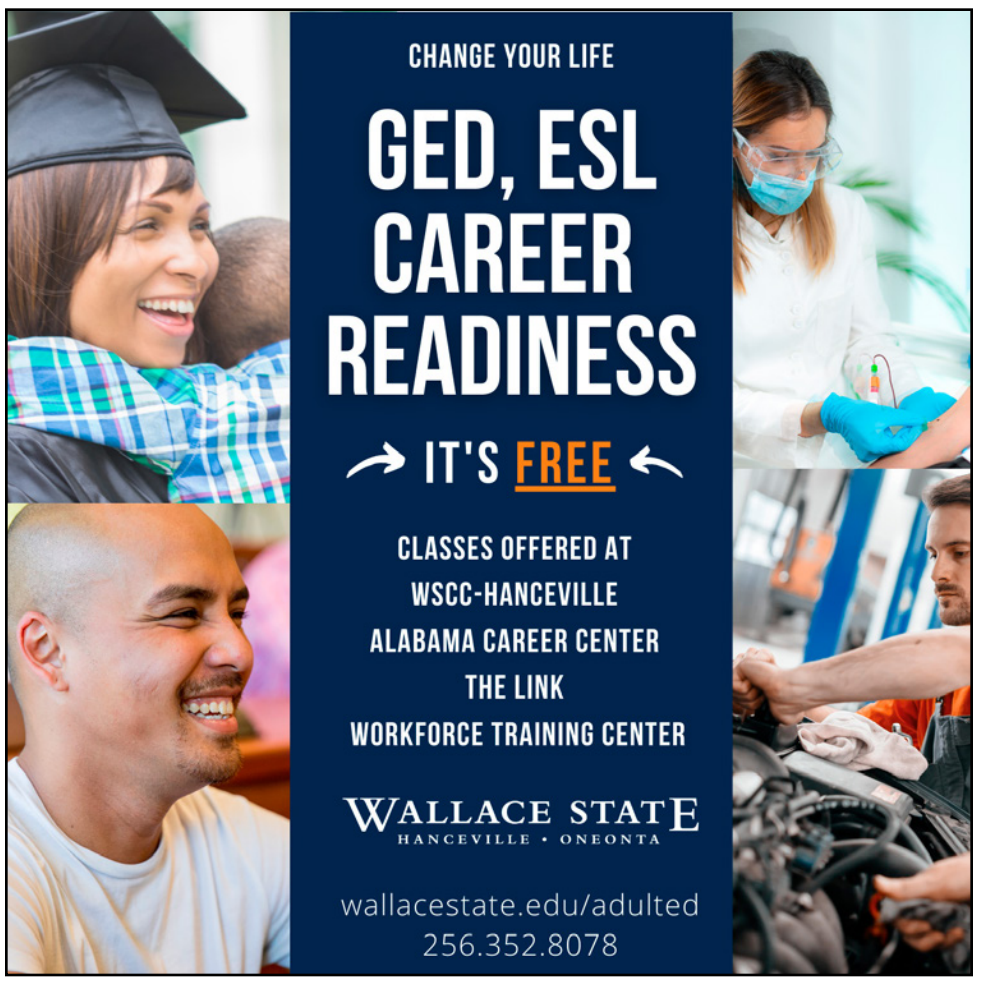
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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
• Saturday, Sept. 6 – 8 a.m. Men's breakfast; 10 a.m. Foundry Farm outreach
• Sunday, Sept. 7 – 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.
• Snead's Farmhouse will be here three Wednesdays in a row. A favorite education experience, with interaction, it's magical and unforgettable! Come join us for a little science, a lot of fun and maybe a peep or two:
• Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 10-11 a.m. Snead's Farmhouse: Real chick eggs will be placed in incubator and children will learn all about the 21-day cycle of a chick!
• Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 10-11 a.m. Snead's Farmhouse: We'll dive deeper into development and farm fun with hands-on learning!
• Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 10-11 a.m. Snead's Farmhouse: If all goes well, the BIG moment arrives – baby chicks hatching right before your eyes!
• Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. Book club
• Friday, Sept. 26, from 6-7 p.m. Poetry Night. You are invited to share your favorite poem with us, or sing a favorite song. This is a free event and open to the public.

North Alabama Agriplex Programs
• www.agriplex.org
• 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.

Quilters Yard Sale
Saturday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman. Fabric and other quilt-related items, clothing, etc.

Baileyton Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Sept. 6, starting at 630 a.m. Enjoy pancakes, sausage and coffee. Juice and milk will be available for children. Space is available for eat in, and takeout is also available. Donations are appreciated and will be used for local charities. Please join us there.

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. 7, 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.
9th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ
Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6–7, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Bernard Prep School in Cullman. Get ready for a weekend of family fun, soulful blues music, mouthwatering BBQ, handmade arts and crafts and more Stick around on Sunday for a chance to win $10,000 in our exciting sweepstakes! Admission is $10 per person; kids 12 and younger get in free. Plenty of FREE parking. Ave Maria Grotto: HALF PRICE admission all weekend

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.

Swamp John's Dinner
Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 4-7 p.m. at St Andrew's Methodist Church (615 Main Ave. SW, Cullman). Proceeds go to Samaritan's Purse to help pay for mailing of the Christmas Shoe Boxes.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, 13110 St. Joesph Dr. Cullman, AL 35055.

Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center Yard Sale
Saturday, Sept. 13, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. 17645 U.S. Highway 31, Cullman, AL 35058. Vendor spots are $20 each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Sept. 2. Payment must be made in person at the ag center office between 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. All payments are cash only.

Men's Breakfast at Seventh Street Baptist
Saturday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 a.m. at Seventh Street Baptist Church, 708 Seventh St. SE in Cullman. Men of Cullman, join us for a hearty breakfast and an inspiring message from Mike Ward, founder of Hope Road Ministries. With over 36 years of ministry experience, Mike brings encouragement and powerful insight from God's Word. Come hungry — for breakfast and for the Word of God!

Good Samaritan Health Clinic Caring for Cullman Health & Wellness Fun Day
Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE Health & Wellness Fun Day Event. Join us at 118 Veterans Dr. SW, Cullman to hear live stage sessions featuring local health and wellness experts, family friendly fun zone, food trucks, local vendors and wellness resources, free health assessments from on-site mobile units, door prizes and more! Bring a lawn chair and get inspired to live your healthiest life.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Annual Senior Health Fair
Thursday, Sept. 18, from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Donald E. Green Active Adult Center. The free event is open to adults 55 and older and will feature health services, resources and plenty of opportunities to show off their groovy 70's dance moves. The event will also feature barbecue sandwiches for lunch from The Butcher's Chuckwagon, along with shaved ice from Cha Cha's Shaved Ice. For more information about the Senior Health Fair, contact Scott Sarich at the Cullman County Commission on Aging at 256-734-1241. The Active Adult Center is located at 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

Sportsman Lake Park Fall Yard Sale
Saturday, Sept. 20, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Admission to the park is free, and the sale will go on rain or shine. For those interested in renting a space, the park offers both grass sites and pavilion spaces. All reservations must be made in person.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. featuring The Pylant Family. 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.

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.

Gottesdienst (Divine Service)
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 Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. The service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 513 Fourth Ave. SE, and is open to the public.

Sacred Heart Oktoberfest Dinner
The Annual Oktoberfest German Dinner, featuring traditional German cuisine, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, from 4-7 p.m. in the Family Life Center at Sacred Heart Church in Cullman. Plates are $15 each and are available for dine in or drive thru/take out. The church is located at 205 Third Ave. SE in Cullman.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School Community Fall Festival
Sunday, Oct. 12, from 2-5 p.m. at 510 Third Ave. SE, in Cullman. This family-friendly event will feature delicious food trucks with something for everyone, a lively dunk tank, a festive Trunk or Treat for kids of all ages and much more fun and fellowship! For more information, contact St. Paul's Lutheran School at 256-734-6580.





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WSCC CROSS COUNTRY

Wallace State turns heads at Memphis Twilight

Wallace State Athletics
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State men's and women's cross country opened their 2025 seasons with strong showings at the prestigious City Auto Memphis Twilight XC Classic, competing against a loaded field of NCAA Division I and NJCAA Division I programs.

The men's team placed sixth overall, finishing just behind NCAA DI powerhouses Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Middle Tennessee State and Arkansas State, along with NJCAA DI contender Crowder Community College.

Sophomore Daniel Leija led the way for the Lions, finishing 28th overall with a time of 20:26.87. He was followed closely by Tyler Anthony in 33rd (20:45.98) and Carson Masterson in 39th (21:11.34), giving Wallace State a tight pack at the front.

On the women's side, the Lions finished eighth overall, showing they could compete stride-for-stride with NCAA DI and NAIA programs.

Brookelyn Morgan posted a standout effort, crossing in 29th place at 18:47.69.

She was joined in the top 60 by teammates Cadence Rivera (40th, 19:43.62), Grace Gosline (49th, 19:51.34) and Reagan Parris (52nd, 20:01.76), giving Wallace State solid depth in the opening meet.

Head coach Tony Crider was encouraged by the season debut.

"I think both the men's and women's teams made a strong statement in our first event," Crider said. "Only NCAA Division I or NJCAA Division I teams finished above the men's team, and the same for the women's team, except for an NAIA team.

"Both teams are pushing one another to get better every day."

Wallace State will return to action Friday morning at the University of North Alabama Invite, where both squads look to build on the momentum from Memphis.



WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State's men's and women's cross country teams opened the 2025 season at the Memphis Twilight XC Classic last weekend.

WSCC VOLLEYBALL

Wallace State stays perfect with road sweep of Gadsden State

Wallace State Athletics
WSCC

GADSDEN, Ala. — The Wallace State volleyball team extended its unbeaten start to the season on Wednesday night, earning a 3-0 sweep over Gadsden State in Gadsden. The Lions, now 9-0 overall, won by set scores of 25-15, 25-21 and 25-17, securing their sixth consecutive sweep dating back to the Mississippi/Alabama Crossover.

Rachel Mecklenberg paced the offense with 12 kills, while libero Abby McDonald anchored the back row with 14 digs.

Setter Ali Price directed the attack with 34 assists, helping the Lions hit efficiently throughout the match. Cheyenne Lucas provided a major boost at the net, leading the team with a .438 hitting percentage.

The win continues a dominant stretch for Wallace State, which has not dropped a set since its Aug. 24 win over Meridian Community College.

The Lions now turn their focus to a challenging weekend ahead at the Blazer Classic at Vincennes University in Indiana.

On Friday, Wallace State will square off with Ellsworth Community College and Wabash Valley, before taking on Vincennes and Mineral Area College on Saturday.



WSCC ATHLETICS

Ali Price (20) sets the ball for a teammate in a match earlier this season.

Duke (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Cullman County Commissioner Kelly Duke has been elected to serve as a member of the 2025-2026 Legislative Committee of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA), the statewide association representing Alabama's 67 county governments.

The Association's Legislative Committee is composed of a chairman and a representative from each county.

Commissioner Duke will represent the interests of Cullman County on the committee and work in concert with six steering committees to formulate the Association's legislative agenda for the 2026 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature.

"Counties are a creation of the State, which means they can only do what the State authorizes them to do," said Sonny Brasfield, ACCA executive director.

"For this reason, counties must maintain an incredibly close working relationship with the Legislature, which is why serving on this committee is a tremendous honor and responsibility."

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama is a statewide organization speaking for all 67 counties with ONE voice.

It promotes improved county government services in Alabama, offers educational programs for county officials and their staff members, administers insurance programs for county governments and employees, offers legal advice, and represents the interests of county government before state and federal organizations and agencies.

Burgermeister (from Front)

For the first time, the Burgermeister will also lead the Christkindlmarkt Parade as grand marshal. Anderson said the decision was intentional, designed to link the two seasonal celebrations.

"With both Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt growing in scale and reputation, we saw an opportunity to further unify the leadership and symbolism behind these two festivals," he explained. "It gives us continuity, allows for cross-promotion and strengthens the connection between these two major seasonal events."

He added that consistency of leadership is important as the festivals gain regional and national attention.

"The Burgermeister serves as a living symbol of Cullman's heritage and vision — bridging the past and the future," Anderson said.

He said the festivals succeed because they respect tradition while embracing innovation. "We see tradition and innovation not as opposites, but as complementary forces."

Preserving German music, food, attire and programming has remained central, but updates like reimagining the Christmas in Cullman parade as the Christkindlmarkt kickoff ensure events remained engaging for new generations, explained Anderson.

Jacobs' long record of service factored heavily into his selection.

"He has dedicated much of his adult life to public service and has played a key role in the reimagination of Oktoberfest and the successful launch of Christkindlmarkt," Anderson said.

Jacobs said he was humbled when told he would serve as Burgermeister.

"Cullman's heritage means a great deal to me, and to be recognized in this way — especially after being involved in these events behind the scenes for years — was both humbling and exciting," he said.

The role, he noted, is both personal and professional.

"As mayor, it's a full-circle moment — to have helped reimagine and grow two of our most cherished festivals, and now to serve as a symbolic representative of both," Jacobs said. "It's also a great opportunity to connect with people in a more festive, personal setting outside of my usual role."

About his role as grand marshal of the Christkindlmarkt Parade, he said he sees the position as a chance to help set the tone for the season.

"The reimagined parade acts as the official kickoff to Christkindlmarkt, and my role allows me to invite the entire community into a season of joy, generosity and connection," he said.

Jacobs said his goal in holding both roles is to highlight Cullman's balance of tradition and progress.

"Serving in both roles is a reminder that our identity is rooted in heritage — but it's also continually shaped by the people who give it life," he said. "Whether you're a lifelong, multigenerational resident or a first-time visitor, there's a place for you in these celebrations."

He added that Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt are central to Cullman's cultural identity. "These festivals are more than just events — they're cultural traditions that reflect who we are," Jacobs said. "They bring people together, fuel local pride and even drive meaningful economic impact."

For Jacobs, the highlights will be rooted in ceremony.

"I'm especially looking forward to both opening ceremonies and the lighting of the Christmas Pyramid," he said. "From the first notes of the national anthem at Oktoberfest to the countdown of the Weihnachtspyramide lighting up for the season, those are moments that truly capture the heart of the celebrations."

Anderson said that continuity of leadership through Jacobs will help anchor both events in local pride. Jacobs, in turn, said he is eager to step into the role and share the joy of Cullman's traditions with residents and visitors alike.

Oktoberfest 2025
The season kicks off Sept. 25. Festival dates for the downtown Cullman celebration are Oct. 2-4. See more at www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com/schedule-of-events.

Christkindlmarkt 2025
The season runs Nov 20-Dec. 23. The opening ceremony is Nov. 20, and the Christkindlmarkt Parade and Tree Lighting are Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Find out more at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.



CHS marketing class using design to spotlight senior athletes

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — For those who follow Cullman High School on social media, you may have noticed some new regular features popping up in recent weeks — spotlight graphics highlighting the senior athletes across all sports, complete with snazzy design work, basic information, photos and more.

The initiative is part of a fun new project taken on by Cullman High Schools' sports marketing students, aimed at shining a light on the many student-athletes who suit up every week to represent Cullman High School.

Cullman High's sports marketing class is one of many career and technical education courses offered to students across all grades, along with entrepreneurship, business software applications, digital marketing, computer science, engineering, educators in training, health science and sports medicine, nutrition and wellness and more.

As for how the spotlight project came about, Cullman High teacher Amy Hudson, who teaches the sports marketing course, said CHS Assistant Principal Aaron Sparks pitched an idea to do a "fall preview" of sorts for Cullman High sports. From there, the idea evolved into a spotlight focusing on local student athletes, giving marketing students a chance to sharpen their design and presentation skills.

"I thought it would be cool for our class to market our school athletics as we learn about marketing," Hudson explained. "So we jumped in and started off talking about what the purpose of marketing a team is? It's a little different than marketing a product or service to sell. So we came up with our 'why?' And that 'why' was to connect to our fans."

The "Senior Spotlight" idea was born from brainstorming ways marketing students could preview the teams, while searching for inspiration from other graphics and campaigns that had been done before. Hudson said they're still working through the many, many senior student-athletes, and working with them all to get involved in the project by writing their own "letter" included in their spotlight.

"It's been so fun. As far as the way we are spotlighting these seniors, I just thought it would be a really cool thing for them to do, sending a letter to their classmates, teachers, family, etc. Each letter is unique to that student," Hudson explained. "I think that the more we do, the more the parents and students are going to be excited about who is next. I just hope they will see the value in it and how much people enjoy seeing them and more and more will want to participate."

As for the marketing students, they're using the senior spotlights as a way to refine their design skills with software like Canva Pro, while expanding into Photoshop. Looking ahead, Hudson said the plan is to spotlight every student in every athletic program, along with the Cullman High School band, throughout the school year.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman High School sports marketing students are creating spotlight graphics highlighting senior athletes.

Market (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Pilot Club of Cullman is swapping its usual rummage sale for a Fall Vendor Market on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, with free admission for all who wish to attend.

Pilot Club President Brenda Allison said the decision to change reflects the club's motto this year: "Work smarter, not harder." Rather than collecting and organizing donated items for weeks on end, members have focused on bringing in a variety of local and regional vendors to create an authentic marketplace experience.

"We wanted something fresh and exciting — not a yard sale, but a real vendor market. We've had a great response, and we're hoping to reach our goal of 50 vendors by the event date," said Allison.

Attendees can expect a wide range of booths, including crafts, baby clothes, boutique items, purses and more. There will also be food trucks, nonprofit booths and special attractions for kids, including fire trucks from local departments rotating in throughout the day. Proceeds from the event will benefit the club's many community initiatives, including Pilot Light Home, the Margaret Jean Jones Center and more. Organizations such as Unsheltered Ministries and Hope Horses will also have booths at the event.

Allison invited the community to come out, shop and support both local businesses and the Pilot Club's mission.

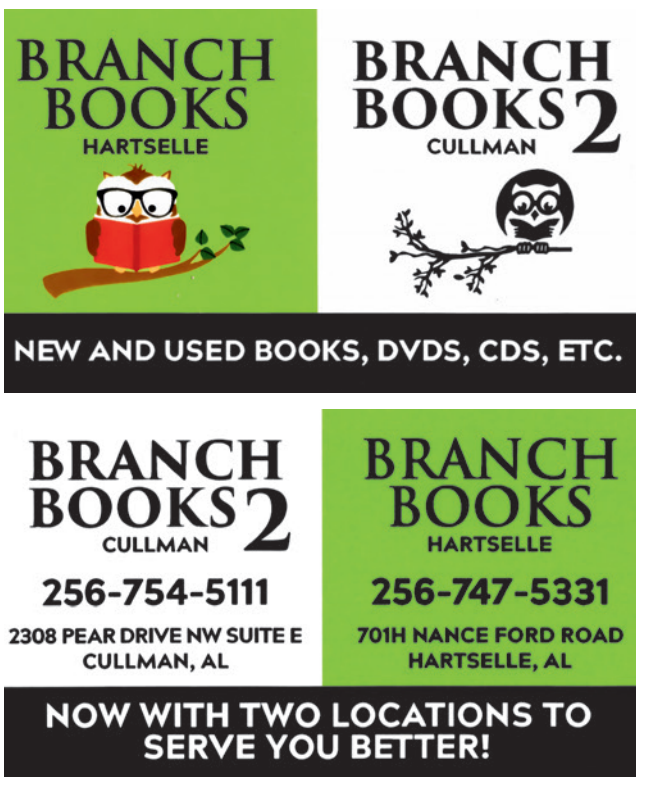
"This is something new for us, but we're really excited," she said. "It's a great way to bring people together while supporting local causes."

Vendor spots are still available, and those interested can call 256-962-3601 or visit www.facebook.com/cullmanpilotclub for more information.













Arrest (from Front)

had been searching for Cheatham, 55, since Aug. 18. He is the father of Infusion Wellness and Spa Owner Whitney Cheatham.

He was taken into custody in connection with the ongoing investigation into forged prescriptions tied to the business.

The CPD said he is now facing 11 criminal charges under Alabama law, including six felony offenses and five misdemeanors:

- 2 counts of drug trafficking
- Attempted drug trafficking
- Criminal conspiracy to commit drug trafficking
- Criminal conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime
- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance by fraud
- 5 counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument

Police Chief Joey Duncan said he would like to commend Lt. Trey Higgingbotham, the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, and the United States Marshals Service for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation remains active, and additional arrests and charges may follow.

Other arrests in the case

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.

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."

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

MERCER TRANSPORTATION CO. INC., PLAINTIFF,
vs.
CHRISTOPHER BOYD, DEFENDANT.

CASE NO. CV- 2025-900128.00

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

That a Complaint has been filed with the Circuit Court of Cullman County in the above styled cause. Any concerned parties must answer to this notice by the 27th day of September, 2025, or thereafter a Judgment by default may be rendered in this cause.

DONE this the 24th day of July, 2025.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of KATHRYN WATERS JAMES, Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2025-108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration With the Will Annexed having been granted to ALAN SCHOLLIAN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of KATHRYN WATERS JAMES, deceased, on the 20th day of August, 2025, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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.

ALAN SCHOLLIAN
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 20th day of August, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY B. CULWELL, Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2023-303

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to DOROTHY Y.C. ROBINSON, as Personal Representative of the Estate of DOROTHY B. CULWELL, deceased, on the 21st day of September, 2023, 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.

DOROTHY Y.C. ROBINSON
Personal Representative

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
Post Office Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF HOWELL COUNTY, MISSOURI
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re the Guardianship of: MATTHIAS MACCABEE HOOD,
MARK HOOD and, ANDREA HOOD
Petitioners,

Case No:

FILED
JUL 21 2025
CYNTHIA LEE
Circuit Clerk, Howell County

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

NOW on this 18th day of July, 2025 the Motion and Affidavit of Mark Hood and Andrea Hood, Petitioners, coming before the Court and the same having been considered finds that personal service cannot be made upon the biological father of the minor child, Matthias Hood, because his whereabouts is unknown to the Petitioners; therefore, service by publication is necessary upon the biological father.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to issue a Notice of Service by Publication to be published in the Coleman County Tribune for four (4) weeks.

So Ordered:

Honorable

Legal Notice

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

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 Ricky L Hayes, Diana L Hayes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns dated January 21, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on February 9, 2022 in Deed Book 2001, Page 358, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2123, Page 489, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, 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 September 4, 2025 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A TRACT OF LAND BEING IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE S 1° 00' 35" W 660.56 FEET TO AN EXISTING NAIL; THENCE S 88° 19' 46" E 660.19 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED 5/8' REBAR; THENCE N 00° 59' 27" E 660.15 FEET TO AN EXISTING CAPPED 5/8" REBAR ON THE NORTH SECTION LINE; THENCE ALONG SAID SECTION LINE N 88° 17' 37" W 659.98 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. LESS AND EXCEPT ANY PART LYING WITHIN THE RIGHT OF WAY OF THE ROAD.

Said property is commonly known as **1759 County Road 641, 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.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
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. 25-07095AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
07/29/2025,08/05/2025,08/12/2025,09/06/2025

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The sale date under the above mentioned Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale has been postponed until September 18, 2025, and public notice thereof having been given, the above notice is hereby republished with this amendment.

Cullman Tribune, September 6, 2025

25-07095AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JORDAN LEE WILSON,

CASE NO PC 2024-070

PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF DEATH
PUBLICATION

A *Petition for Declaration of Death* of the above-named missing individual believed dead, has been filed by Judith Thomas, Petitioner, through Attorney Dan J. Willingham. The missing individual, if alive, or any other individual having evidence that the missing individual is alive, is required to produce and present to the court evidence that the individual is still in life **by or before the 4th day December, 2025.**

DONE this the 4th day of September, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for Judith Thomas
413 1st Ave, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: LUCAS WAYNE DARNELL, Deceased.

CASE NO. PC-2025-0285

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION of said deceased having been granted to **MYRA DARNELL** on the 4th day of September, 2025 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Court Judge of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within six months after the grant of Letters or within five months from the first publication of this notice, whichever is the latter to occur or the same will be barred.

/s/MYRA DARNELL
MYRA DARNELL, Administrator of the Estate of LUCAS WAYNE DARNELL

Seth B. Thompson, Attorney for Petitioner Myra Darnell

Of Counsel:

The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Phone: 256.734.4591
Fax: 866.826.4785

TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice for three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of OTTIS HAROLD DEAN PITTS, Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2025-279

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to MICHAEL ANDREW PITTS, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF OTTIS HAROLD DEAN PITTS, deceased, on the 19 day of August, 2025, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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.

MICHAEL ANDREW PITTS
Personal Representative

/s/ Richard L. Collins
Richard L. Collins
Attorney for Personal Representative of the
ESTATE OF OTTIS HAROLD DEAN PITTS
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 19th day of August, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL JOHN R. COOPER, DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Plaintiffs,
v.
E. HOMER DAVIS; DOLLY R. DAVIS; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L. VINTSON; CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA; HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE; BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER; ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID: 23-01-11-0-001-017.003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA;
Defendants.

CASE NO PC 2025-308

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION

TO: E. HOMER DAVIS, DOLLY R. DAVIS, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L. VINTSON, CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE, BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER, OR ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL IS: 23-01-11-1-001-017-003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation filed by the State of Alabama Ex Rel John R. Cooper, Director of the of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Plaintiff, through Attorney, John E. Rollins. A hearing is scheduled on this matter for the **3rd day of October, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear at which time they or any other parties interested in said cause may appear and contest the same if they think proper. Please note that an answer may be filed by each defendant within 30 days from the date of the last publication notice.

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

Done this the 22nd day of August, 2025.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

To the Publisher:The Cullman Tribune; please publish the above notice four (4) successive weeks in said newspaper.

Hand Arendall Harrison, Sale LLC
1801 Fifth Avenue North, Suite 400
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Duck, Duck, Jeep

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



You may have that friend, or a strange cousin named Booger Ray, who has more miscellaneous junk than a neighborhood hardware store, all piled high inside his favorite mode of transportation. If their vehicle looks like that, can you imagine how their house must look? We may be afraid to visit for fear we might appear on an upcoming episode of "Hoarders." I think this strange habit begins on the dash. The dash is an easy and convenient place to throw things when we get in the vehicle. Please be careful. Before long, the dash piles up and the overflow spills over into the rest of the vehicle, until you have to post a "No dumping" sign on the windows. Small children and pets have been known to come up missing in such vehicles.

Have you recently noticed vehicles with rubber duckies sitting on the dash? This is a different matter altogether than your friend or cousin's thing.

This unusual but popular craze is sometimes referred to as, "Duck, Duck, Jeep." It should not be confused with the children's game called, "Duck, Duck, Goose." Now, before you go out and buy yourself a few rubber ducks and place them on the dashboard of your F-150, you need to be advised that this is not permissible.

There are a few ground rules you must follow. First, not just any vehicle will do. It must be a Jeep.

Jeep owners are a close-knit fraternal group that usually does not wish to be confused with pickup truck owners, SUV owners and certainly not sedan owners. Some more liberal Jeepers will wave to truck owners if the truck tires are big enough.

It does not matter, as I understand it, what kind of Jeep you own or what color it is, but the previously mentioned vehicles are not allowed to participate.

Also, you do not under any circumstances place said ducks in your own Jeep. That would be akin to buying your own Christmas or birthday presents. It simply is not done. These ducks are goodwill gifts that are to be given to someone else as a gesture of fraternal friendship.

Although the most common color for rubber ducks is yellow, your "Duck, Duck, Jeep Duck" may be any color. Just be sure that you don't take someone's else's rubber ducky from their Jeep and never, under any circumstance, take one from someone's bathtub. There is a commandment against such... not to mention laws. Go buy your own. Pay for it with your own money, and place it on a stranger's Jeep. If the Jeep is open, place it on the dash, but if not, just leave it on the hood.

The Jeep owner is more likely to see your gift there than if you leave it on the roof where it can easily blow off as the driver heads down the road. Rubber ducks, unlike real ducks, cannot fly. You may write a message on the bottom of the duck, or write one on a piece of paper and attach it to the duck. Your receiver will be glad to add your gift to their flock of dash ducks and your act of kindness will move your recipient to reciprocate.

I don't own a Jeep, but I do own an SUV. I know, I know, but I'm too old to climb in and out of a Jeep. Maybe we SUV owners could hang those foam dice from our rearview mirrors.

Wait, you may not remember it, but I think that one has already been done. Maybe we could just leave a copy of Southern Living on their dash...or better yet, a Bible.

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-728-5514 (office).

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Sept. 6, 1962

From the files of Sept. 6, 1962

Back -- a -- Bit
From THE TRIBUNE
Files of 1922 --- 1942

40 YEARS AGO

Under the leadership of Dr. S. O. Kimbrough the Cullman First Methodist congregation has adopted plans and specifications for a new stone church building.

On Thursday the first day of the fall term at Cullman County High School 306 students enrolled. This is the largest number in history.

Miss Wanza Burks of Baileyton who was graduated from Cullman High last spring, has been awarded a four year scholarship to Montevallo College.

C. W. Joiner of Holly Pond brought the first bale of 1922 cotton to town on Sept. 4 and sold it to C. A. Stiefelmeyer for 23 cents per pound.

B. M. Nash has purchased the old Schmitt lumber yard property and will erect a large saw mill there.

Cullman applicants for teacher's certificates, who took the exams last July and who were notified they had successfully passed them are: Ludie Ford, Sophia Hudson, Jewel Miller, Erma T. Smith, Margaret Beiker, Teasle Calvert, Juanita Collier, J. D. Hassell, J. T. Howell, Jesse J. Hudson, Lawrence Hembree, Anna M. Izard, Susan Miller, Washington W. Vincent, Leonard Warwick and sisters Mary Dorrough, M. Regina Campbell, Mary Charles Daily, Rosalie Gengler and Mary Camillia Hesse.

Jesse Stagner received the gold medal for the best improvement in the writing school at Brickyard, taught by Prof. A. R. Thompson.

Bridge is the favorite of both men and women here. Among those entertaining at bridge parties this week have been: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Max Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. Al Richter, Miss Elsa Hartung, Mr. and Mrs. George Stiefelmeyer and Mrs. Bert Coe.

Attending the State Republican convention in Birmingham on Thursday were C. A. Stiefelmeyer, Conrad Thompson, George Stiefelmeyer, and John F. Stuter.

Miss Esther Beyer is visiting Mrs. Anne Kinney in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Robertson entertained the high school faculty Saturday evening.

20 YEARS AGO

Cullman's long awaited airport will soon be ready for use. Completion of the grading of the field, located on U. S. highway 31, south, is expected by the middle of September. Members of Cullman Lions Club, sponsors of the project, are A. A. Ponder, Wm. E. Drinkard, Bruce Pylant, Harry D. Wise, Harold Vandiver, Jack Morgan, Horace Kinney, Lumpert Mackentepe, George Ponder, Jr. Hartwell Speegle, E. L. Drinkard, Jr. and Victor Gelsen.

Claude Wood was speaker at the Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday evening. He told of the Cullman Electric Co-op, Alabama's largest, which has 675 miles of line serving 3700 customers.

War stamps and bonds sold at the women's booths on Saturday amounted to $1326.75. Working in the booths were Mrs. Eamey Blair, Mrs. G. W. Bledsoe, Mrs. Clarence Brunner, Misses Mary Ruth Mitchell, Sue Carol Marion and Emma Chessher.

Miss Billie Layden represented Cullman in the Miss Birmingham contest finals last evening at the Alabama Theatre. She played a Grieg concerto.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jordan of West Point enjoyed a reunion on Sunday.

The Fred Robinsons honored the Good Hope faculty with a watermelon cutting Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Christensen and Emil Loegler have returned from Memphis, Tenn., where they attended a Knights of Columbus convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Feirahadt celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a family dinner party last week.



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wamp and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hemmert and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Buettner and family spent last weekend at Wheeler Lake.

Neil Buettner will attend Columbia Military Academy this fall.

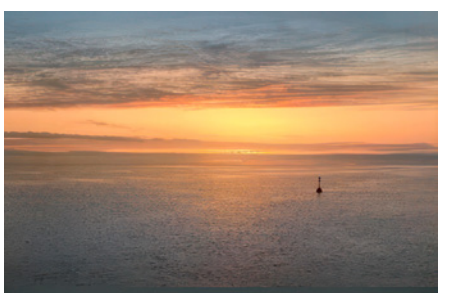
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Branch spent Sunday in Sheffield.

POET'S CORNER

Merging | By: Ann Coberley

Like months and years
consume a lifetime,
night absorbs each day,
forging its fiery colors
into bands of copper and gold
that sink into the horizon,
resting there until another dawn.

I merge with this evening ritual,
the sunset admiring its reflection
in a glittering sea,
alone with my thoughts
but a living part
of earth's unfolding history



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

SEPT. 6

J J I H L X T Q A L X A L L O P E Z O
O I D D A Z Z Y V A N C E K E S E M T
H M K E R R Y W O O D E Y L H U O T O
N A U G R P M A X C A R E Y G N O D M
W B N Q Y O G I B E R R A I O L X E S
A B B K W R E D F A B E R E E U N R E
R O I C A P A N S O N D D M E O N O A
D T L I L A G E G H O I E C C H G G V
X T L K K U R J P R H F I D H X E E E
P S B I E L N O X U E R I R I Y O R R
U T U N R Q N E N E M V R G E K R C B
D B C G E U L E K I A E I X F F G L I
G S K K D A K M J D N R I U B R E E L
A A N E W N I J Q I H R K T E E D M L
L M E L A T H N L E A P A Y N D A E T
V R R L L R N A G P G R K C D L V N E
I I L Y S I K U P Q F G Q O E Y I S R
N C T X H L O E N B Z W T B R N S W R
P E T E A L E X A N D E R B F N P G Y

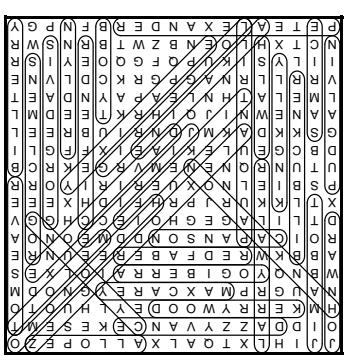
Al Kaline
Al Lopez
Alex Rodriguez
Bill Buckner
Bill Terry
Cap Anson
Chief Bender
Cy Young
David Cone
Dazzy Vance
Ed Walsh
Eppa Rixey
Fred Lynn
George Davis
Hank Aaron
Hideo Nomo
Jim Abbott
Jim Rice
John Ward
Kerry Wood
King Kelly
Larry Walker
Lou Gehrig
Max Carey
Mel Ott
Paul Quantrill
Pete Alexander
Pud Galvin
Red Faber
Roger Clemens
Sam Rice
Tim Keefe
Tom Seaver
Ty Cobb
Yogi Berra

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

SEPT. 6

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

ANSWERS:



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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Parkside School awarded Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Be Healthy School Grant

Anabelle Howze
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BAILEYTON, Ala. — Parkside School in Baileyton has been awarded a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Be Healthy School Grant. Parkside intends to use the money to build a pickleball court that will benefit both students and the community.

Parkside Principal Caleb Elrod said he was thrilled to learn Parkside had been selected for the grant. "I was excited, of course," he said. "It's always a good feeling when you work hard on a grant, knowing it will benefit the school and, in this case, the community as well."

The court will be used during the school day for physical education classes, but will also be open in the evenings and on weekends for the public. Elrod said he hopes the project will promote movement, encourage teamwork and that the court will become a shared resource that fosters stronger ties between the school and its community.

"The project allows my PE coach to offer a different activity for our students during PE time," he said. "He'll be able to teach mini-lessons on how to play the game, increase movement and promote team sports."

Parkside School serves approximately 400 students in grades Pre-K through eighth. Elrod said older students, particularly those in second-eighth grades, will see the greatest benefits from the new court. In fact, middle school teachers are already discussing plans for a friendly tournament among students.

Looking ahead, Elrod said, he hopes the court will become a vibrant addition to the school's daily routine and a source of pride for the community.

"I want the students to have something new and exciting that promotes movement and working together," he said. "It's something our teachers will benefit from as well, and I think it will give the community a great resource for weekend play."

In announcing the grant winners, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama said, "In our commitment to improve the health and wellness of children across Alabama, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama's Be Healthy School Grant Program is awarding over $339,000 in grants to 22 schools and school boards enrolling grades K through 12. The grants are used to implement school-based health and wellness programs that emphasize increased exercise, nutrition, education and community involvement. We are proud that with this year's funding cycle, at least one school in all 67 Alabama counties has received a Be Healthy School Grant. Each school or school board will receive a grant of up to $20,000, as opposed to $10,000 in previous years. Furthermore, over 19,000 students will benefit from this year's grants. Some examples of projects in this year's funding cycle include playground upgrades, walking tracks, adaptive equipment, movement-based learning and school gardens in collaboration with local organizations."



Month (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Every September, we say the right words about Suicide Prevention Month. Then October comes, and too often the conversation goes quiet. We can't afford the silence.

Suicide remains a persistent, preventable tragedy — one that disproportionately claims the lives of men — and prevention has to be a year-round habit, not a once-a-year slogan.

In 2023, 49,316 Americans died by suicide, a toll essentially unchanged from 2022 when you adjust for population.

The national, age-adjusted rate stayed nearly flat year-over-year — 14.21 per 100,000 (2022) vs. 14.12 (2023) — which is to say: still far too high. Looking across the past five years, rates dipped briefly in 2019–2020, rose again in 2021 and have hovered near recent highs through 2023.

Men are at the center of this story. In 2023, men died by suicide 3.8 times more often than women, and just over half (55%) of all suicide deaths involved firearms — lethality that too often turns a moment of crisis into an irreversible loss.

Age patterns also challenge our assumptions: suicide was the second leading cause of death for people 10–34 in 2023, while the highest rates were among adults 85 and older and 75–84. These are uncomfortable facts, and that's exactly why they must anchor our year-round response.

What causes suicide? There is no single cause. Instead, risk accumulates: underlying mental health conditions (often undiagnosed), substance use, prior attempts, trauma and loss, social isolation, access to lethal means, serious medical illness and more.

Knowing the warning signs — talking about wanting to die, feeling trapped or hopeless, escalating substance use, giving away possessions, withdrawing or dramatic mood changes — can save a life.

So what do we actually do — today, and again next month?

First, ask — and ask plainly. If you're worried about someone, especially a man who's gone quiet or "powers through" pain, use direct, compassionate language: "I care about you. Are you thinking about suicide?" Asking does not plant the idea; it opens a door. Then listen without judgment, reflect back what you hear and help them make a specific plan to get through the next hours and days. If there's imminent danger, don't leave them alone and seek urgent help.

Second, make the environment safer. Simple, practical steps like locking up firearms and medications or temporarily transferring access during a crisis — reduce risk right now.

Evidence-based tools such as Safety Planning and Lethal Means Counseling can be done quickly in clinics, ERs or community settings, and they work.

Third, normalize reaching out without fear. For people who are struggling, a frequent barrier is the worry: If I tell someone, will I be hospitalized?

988 is a 24/7, free and confidential line where trained counselors first focus on collaboration and safety, not coercion.

You choose how much to share; the goal is to help you feel safer in the moment and connect you with local resources through a network of 200-plus community crisis centers.

Text-based options matter, too: Crisis Text Line provides free, 24/7, confidential support by texting HOME to 741741 — a lowest-barrier way to talk when voice feels impossible.

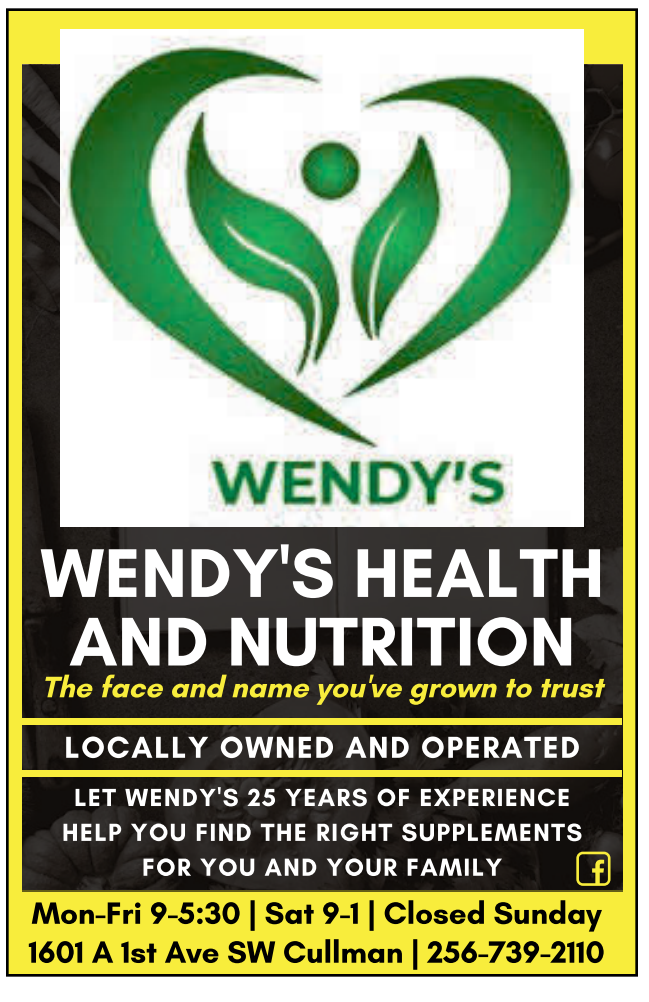
Finally, keep at it. Men are often socialized to say, "I've got it." We can answer that message — with persistence. Check in again. Invite him on a walk. Share a meal. Help make the appointment. Prevention isn't a single heroic act; it's a string of small, human-sized actions repeated over time.

If you're crafting policy or shaping programs, prioritize what moves outcomes now: expand access to brief suicide-specific interventions and follow-up supports after ER visits; normalize and fund lethal-means safety; train peers and supervisors in direct, compassionate conversation; and sustain the 988 crisis network so callers meet local help backed by national standards.

Suicide Prevention Month is the reminder on our calendars. But the people we love — especially our fathers, sons, brothers, partners and friends — need our attention in October, January and June, too. Keep talking. Keep asking. Keep showing up.

Here are some shareable resources that are nonprofit and confidential:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988, or chat at www.988lifeline.org
- Crisis Text Line (www.crisistextline.org): Text HOME to 741741 for free, 24/7, confidential support by text
- Learn warning signs and risk factors: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (https://afsp.org), NAMI (www.nami.org)
- How to ask someone you're worried about: The Jed Foundation (https://jedfoundation.org)



Obituary Announcements: Sept. 4-5

Brenda Paulette Lawrence, 71
A celebration of life service for Brenda Paulette Lawrence, 71, of Cullman, will be., Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, from 12-2 p.m., at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Tim Aris officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Lawrence was born on June 19, 1954, to Athel and Magolene Annie Martin Laney. Brenda loved to cook and sew. She loved watching Alabama football and reading. Mrs. Lawrence was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Margie Pigg and Shirley Speegle. Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Roger Lawrence; sons, Rodney Lawrence, Shane Lawrence, Wesley (Nicole) Lawrence; sister, Sue (Buddy) Parris; grandchildren, Levi Lawrence, Hayley (Hunter) Nix, Tiffanie Lawrence, Trisha Lawrence; great-grandchildren, Kayson Nix and Kenley Nix; and a host of family and friends.

Donald Livingston Wade, 82
A Celebration of Life service for Donald Livingston Wade, age 82 of Vinemont, will be at Temple Baptist Church, Sept. 6, 2025, at 1 p.m. with Mike Cole officiating. Mr. Wade passed away on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at his residence. He was born Jan. 17, 1943, to William Robert and Dorothy Wade. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Brian Wade and first wife, Sandy Wade. Survivors include his wife, Janice Lee; son, William (Amanda Steelman) Wade; daughter, Nancy (Scott) Markward; grandchildren, Justin Wade, Johnny (Hannah) Wade, Monica (Chip) Ausburn; 3 great grandchildren; stepdaughters, Donna Davis and Christy Walls. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Joel Ford Moon, 69
Joel Ford Moon, age 69, passed peacefully into the presence of God and a heavenly host of beloved friends and family on Sept. 2, 2025. He was a loving husband, a present and proud father, and the happiest "Pa" to his two grandchildren. Joel was joy personified. When he entered a room, laughter and light followed, and people felt genuinely seen, heard, and loved. His life was defined by delight in others, a teacher's spirit, a deep faith, and a love of the outdoors. He especially enjoyed hiking with his wife and son, skiing, spending time near the ocean, and playing soccer and disc golf. He also loved watching the Auburn Tigers and the Brasilian National futebol team. Joel was born on June 10, 1956, in Manaus Brasil, to American missionaries Loyd and Mary Hazel Moon. Joel grew up exploring the Amazon rainforest with his brothers, sparking an adventurous spirit and a lifelong love of nature. Returning to the US for college, Joel soon met Beth Cornelius on a blind date arranged by friends at an Audubon Society meeting. Their deep love grew quickly as they married 8 months later on July 15, 1978. Joel pursued his passion for nature, earning a degree in Forestry Engineering from Auburn University in 1982, and they welcomed their son Timmy that same year. Joel worked as a forester for 40 years in Georgia and Alabama, where he was known for his integrity, expertise, and advocacy for responsible land management. For three decades he taught elementary school students about forest stewardship through the Forestry Awareness Week Now (FAWN) program, leaving a legacy of education and care for creation. In 2015, he began serving as Executive Director of the Logger's Council with the Alabama Forestry Association, a role that wove together his love for forestry with his commitment to advocacy and education. Outside of work, Joel's life was rooted in family, community, and faith. He coached countless youth sports teams, including serving as junior varsity boys' soccer coach at Cullman High School. An active member of his church, he spent many years mentoring young people through youth ministry and teaching a boys' Bible study. His generosity of time and spirit shaped the lives of many who knew him. Joel and Beth are both teachers at heart, and this legacy has shaped numerous lives in the Cullman community. This legacy extends to their son and daughter-in-law, both professors at Texas Christian University. Joel was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Beth Cornelius Moon; his brothers, Dr. James Loyd Moon and John William Moon; his sisters-in-law Susan LaRocca and Lecia Willingham; brothers-in-law Mark Cornelius and Mark Pate; his son, Dr. Timothy Andrew Lauve-Moon, and spouse Dr. Katherine Roberts Lauve-Moon; and his beloved grandsons, Moses Olivier Lauve-Moon and Elliot Harris Lauve-Moon. Visitation will be held at First Baptist Church of Cullman on Saturday, September 6, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at noon, officiated by pastors Dr. Tom Richter and Wayne Cook. Flowers may be sent to FBC Cullman, 501 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055. (Local flower options: https://www.marysflowermarket.com/sympathy.php; https://www.burkesflorist.net/sympathy.php; https://www.blossomflowerdelivery.com/occasion/funeral/). For those wishing to honor Joel's life through a memorial gift, the family suggests the Joel Moon Memorial Fund through the Alabama Forestry Association (https://member.alaforestry.org/donations/donate.asp?id=25088).

Elaine Fulmer, 71
Funeral services for Elaine Fulmer, 71, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m., Friday Sept. 12, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends from 12-2 p.m. before the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Fulmer was born Aug. 16, 1954, to Floyd and Bertha Iona Mason Fulmer. Elaine loved making decoration flowers and crafting. Her life revolved around her extended family and she loved to cook for them. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Larry Fulmer; sisters, Clara Faye Fulmer and Dorothy Ryan. Survivors include her brother, Loyd Ray (Pam) Fulmer; nieces, Renee Cook, Angela Fulmer, Julie Cantrell, Laura Nichols; and a host of family and friends.

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

Cullman Marble & Granite Co.
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