

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 111

WORKING FOR YOU!



SENATOR
GARLAN
GUDGER

PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
314 2ND AVE. SE, CULLMAN 35055

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

John Henry Fillmore, Patrick Waymon Bradford, Gloria Lee Kayler, Clarence Hershel Willoughby, Robert Alvin Orr, John Andrew Thomas Dickson, Bonnie Ruth Smith, David G. Koenig, Ralph August DiPiero, Priscilla Ann Stewart

» PAGE 7

WEATHER

83 58

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

MOSTLY SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3



BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

5 local teams earn region wins in week 3

» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

Bernard Blues & BBQ: Rainy Saturday gives way to beautiful Sunday

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Although Saturday's weather was less than ideal, the show went on, and on Sunday, Sept. 7, it was sunshine and blue skies for the ninth annual Bernard Blues & BBQ. The arts and crafts festival was held on the scenic grounds of St. Bernard Preparatory School.

Director of » PAGE 2



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The ninth annual Bernard Blues & BBQ festival was held on the grounds of St. Bernard Sept. 6-7, 2025.

Full house for Agriplex honey harvesting event



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Around 30 people turned out for a sweet event at the North Alabama Agriplex recently – the Farm Kids Club Honey Harvest.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Around 30 people turned out for a sweet event at the North Alabama Agriplex recently – the Farm Kids Club Honey Harvest.

"Last year we hosted our first honey harvesting event and this year we've grown substantially," Youth Programs Manager Samantha Catland said. "We were able to bring in hives, an electric knife and the spinner for our group and it's been a great event."

During the honey harvesting, 24 kids and multiple parents and caregivers were able to take part in the process.

"Last year was our first honey harvest and the staff handled the harvesting portion, so it was neat to experience it," Catland said. "We host this event once a year with the Farm Kids Club."

Master Beekeeper Bill Grimmett said he was very excited for the turnout for the harvesting class.

"I truly enjoy watching the kids react to the process and soak the information in," Grimmett said. "This was such a nice way to experience harvesting and many may will take the knowledge and apply it much further. I love being able to work » PAGE 5

Michael Golden
OWNER
GOLDEN TOUCH
THE ONYX COLLECTION
LUXURY SHOWERS
256-213-1852
MICHAEL@GOLDENTOUCHLUXURYSHOWERS.COM
216 2nd Ave. SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Lettuce make art! Master Gardener Kids Art Contest now open

» PAGE 7

Trade Desk's unexpected catch results in state record swordfish



ROBERT FRITZE

The 550.3-pound swordfish obviously wouldn't fit in the fish box on the 60-foot Hatteras.

» PAGE 8

'Operation We Remember' honors veterans lost to suicide

» PAGE 8

Cullman County Youth Football week 3 scoring recap

» PAGE 5

Wallace State Alumni Association offering ACT Prep Workshops

» PAGE 8

ALWAYS A WINNER WITH BILL'S DEALS!

GMC DEALER OF THE YEAR
7 TIMES IN A ROW!

Bill Smith

BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP

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

2026 Buick
Encore GX
Preferred

STK# 64002
• 1.3L EcoTec Turbo Engine
• 18" Aluminum Wheels
• Power Driver Seat with 2-Way Lumbar Control
• Heated Front Seats/Steering Wheel



WAS $29,375
NOW $24,375*

SAVE $5,000

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

© 2025 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Sept. 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Sept. 8, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Sept. 4

- domestic violence; CR 1668
- possession of controlled substance; tampering with physical evidence; 3rd St. NE
- burglary; CR 1725
- domestic violence; Hwy. 91
- harassment; CR 808
- possession of controlled substance; obstructing governmental operations; possession of drug paraphernalia; resisting arrest; AL Ave. SE
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1180

Sept. 5

- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Cherokee Ave. SW
- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1114
- domestic violence; CR 1311
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; using false identity; Hwy. 67
- criminal mischief; CR 1621
- harassment; Turkey Hop Rd.
- harassment; CR 1194
- burglary; CR 97
- domestic violence – criminal mischief; CR 1485
- violation of protection order; CR 8

Sept. 6

- possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; CR 1129
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1534
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1212
- dog bite; CR 308
- burglary; CR 1212

Sept. 7

- domestic violence; CR 1422
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; certain person forbidden to possess firearm; CR 1188
- reckless endangerment; criminal mischief; CR 1422
- domestic violence; Arkadelphia Rd. NE
- possession of marijuana; I65NB MM298

ARRESTS

Sept. 4-7

Ayers, Jack D.; 69
- assault-harassment

Baker, Lucas C.; 22
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Baugh, Daniel T.; 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- obstructing justice using a false identity

Campbell, Joshua A.; 42
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Cason, David E.; 48
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- resisting arrest
- obstruction – governmental operations

Davis, Mason L.; 20
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Duke, Travis D.; 33
- assault-harassment
- permitting dogs to run at large

Dunaway, Lee M.; 44
- DUI (alcohol)

Gamel, Christopher L.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- sexual abuse-1st degree

Givens, Ryan K.; 43
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Lewis, Tabitha J.; 70
- cruelty to dog/cat

McCollins, Timothy A.; 46
- possession of methamphetamine
- tampering with physical evidence

McKinnon, Alan D.; 68
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Mejorada, Apuleyo P.; 66
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Salas, Luciana; 34
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Sharpton, Jr., Billy R.; 52
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Stancil, David A.; 34
- PROBATION VIOLATION – certain person forbidden possession pistol
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Stephens, Joseph A.; 41
- FTA – robbery-street-strong arm

Striker, Robert C.; 51
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- menacing-aggravated assault
- violation of a domestic violence protection order (2 counts)

Taylor, Brandi L.; 50
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Thoma, Edward E.; 59
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – terrorist threat

Thrasher, Benjamin J.; 29
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Toomey, Macy M.; 35
- DUI (controlled substances)

Ward, Clayton A.; 52
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Warren, Christopher A.; 31
- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

Wilson, John M.; 44
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Yarbrough, Jake O.; 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Aug. 30
- harassment; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $12; Olive St. SW

Sept. 1
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications; person

Sept. 2
- burglary-3rd degree; theft of property-4th degree; Cullman Park & Rec; miscellaneous; Lee Ave. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Cullman City Cemetery; 9th Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Pine Circle SE

Sept. 3
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; theft of property-1st degree; Chattanooga Fire Protection, Inc.; tools; $2,500; Old Hwy. 157
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; person; Lessman Cir. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Butler St. NW
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; person; toolboxes; $500; Hwy. 157

Sept. 4
- harassment; person; Hwy. 157
- harassment; person; Lee Ave. SW

Sept. 5
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. SW
- burglary-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; Co. Rd. 1170
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; harassing communications; person; damage to '14 BMW; $2,500; 2nd Ave. NW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Sept. 2-6

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

Fitzgerald II, Alan R.; 45
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Lee, Nicholas W.; 25
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Slate, James D.; 72
- public intoxication

Lackey, Shanna M.; 38
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Roberson, Kevin L.; 48
- FTA – driving while revoked

Graves, Christopher S.; 42
- domestic violence-2nd degree

Cheatham, Kevin N.; 55
- drug trafficking (2 counts)
- criminal conspiracy to commit drug trafficking
- criminal conspiracy to commit controlled substance crime
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance by fraud
- possessing forged instrument (5 counts)

McWhorter, Amanda N.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Joslyn, Elisha L.; 34
- FTA – leaving the scene of an accident
- FTA – driving while suspended

King, Heath A.; 25
- FTA – driving while suspended

Duke, Jason P.; 39
- retail theft of property-2nd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (3 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Goodlett, Christel L.; 51
- theft of property-4th degree

Campbell, Joshua A.; 42
- theft of property-4th degree

Bryan, Cindy L.; 43
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Striker, Robert C.; 51
- VOP

Warren, Christopher A.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Bernard Blues & BBQ (from Front)

Marketing and Public Relations and Festival Director Joyce Nix said on Sunday, "That's why you host a two-day show; we never know what the weather is going to do, but Sunday has been great," Nix said. "The barbecue contest went off without a hitch and the winner was from all the way in Pennsylvania.

"We had 31 teams in the competition. Everything has gone well this weekend, no major problems were had and our staff has gone above and beyond to keep everything smooth sailing."

Nix, who has worked for St. Bernard for 43 years, said situations will arise, but having a supportive staff and community will always help events be successful.

"We have an amazing group of parents, students and helpers to assist in making this event and others go well," Nix said.

"This was our ninth annual Bernard Blues festival and we have the Bloomin' Festival coming up in the spring. We also couldn't do any of this without our sponsors. The entertainment was great, the barbecue competition, attendance; it's truly been a great weekend."

Live entertainment for the weekend included Microwave Dave, Kingfish and Kevin Sport.

This year's sweepstakes winners included Ashley Taylor of Cullman ($10,000), David Green of Eva ($1,000), Walter Hughes of Hoover ($500) and Margaret Cuny of Ardmore, Tennessee ($250).

Mark your calendars for The Bloomin' Festival, set to take place April 17-18, 2026.

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









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
• Tuesday, Sept. 9 – 6 p.m. Adult dinner and game night
• Wednesday, Sept. 10 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup.
• Friday, Sept. 12 – 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, Sept. 14 – 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. 5 p.m. healing 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
• Thursday, 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.
• Wed, Oct. 1, noon-1 p.m., Lunch and Learn - Exploring Alabama's Wild Places…Enjoy—Value—Protect. Meet Heather Tucker, the new E.D. for Wild Alabama. She will guide us through the conservation history of this organization, while giving us tips on exploring the Bankhead and Talladega National Forests.
• Thursday, Oct. 2, 9-11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Elementary — History of Food. Explore the traditional foodways of the Cherokee, their sustainable growing practices and how food connects to their identity and community. $15 fee. $30 Max per family.
• Thursday, Oct. 2, noon-2 p.m., Heritage Homeschool Secondary — All the Ologies - Entomology. Welcome to the world of insects! Gain a deeper understanding of these fascinating creatures and their importance to the environment. $15 fee. $30 max per family.
• Friday, Oct. 3, 10-11 a.m., Little Farmers — The Turnip. 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 per child, max $16 per family.
• Saturday, Oct. 4, 9-10:30 a.m., Farm Kids Club — Creepy Crawlies. First you'll squirm, then you'll smile. Come see all the cool, creepy creatures that help our Ecosystems. Fees: $15 per child, Max $30 per family.
• Monday, Oct. 6, 6-8 p.m., Heritage Skills - Sewing. If you couldn't attend the previous classes, it's not too late! Join us to learn valuable tips, tricks and insights from seasoned sewers. Each class will provide skill instruction and feature a project to apply those skills. Participants must bring a full-size sewing machine. Youth, ages 10 & up must register and be accompanied with a paid registered adult. $20 fee.
• Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m., Living Landscapes - Family Pumpkin Glow. Bring your family for fall treats, pumpkin carving and tales around the bonfire. $30 family fee, includes one pumpkin. $10 per additional pumpkins.
• Thursday, Oct. 16, 6 p.m., Military Veteran & Beginning Farmer — Farm Demo Day. Visit one of our local farmers to see best ag practices with Brandon and Amy Hines.

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.

Pilot Club of Cullman Fall Vendor Market
Saturday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, with free admission.

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.

28th Annual Falkville Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 11, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in downtown Falkville. Color Me Downtown 5K run and walk, arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, kids' activities, pancake breakfast, live entertainment, tractor show/parade. For more information, go to www.Falkville.org.

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.





The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication
Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post
Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Anabelle Howze - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Rhonda Richie - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

PREP FOOTBALL

5 local teams earn region wins in week 3

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Our local high school teams kicked off region play Friday night, and five teams earned region wins to take a strong early position in their region standings. Fairview handled West Point 42-14 to collect its sixth straight win over the Warriors, Holly Pond and Vinemont both scored late touchdowns to edge Sylvania and Phil Campbell and Good Hope and Addison both dominated Fultondale and Shoals Christian on the road, respectively.

Fairview 42 – West Point 14

West Point sacked Aggies quarterback Kolt Redding on their first possession, forcing a fumble that was recovered by Slayde Clayton early in the opening period. However, Fairview stepped up on the defensive side, forcing a turnover on downs and getting the ball back to the Aggie offense.

A big run from Jake Harper moved the ball into West Point territory and Redding hit Jace Stevens on a 25-yard touchdown pass to give Fairview a 7-0 lead with 7:33 remaining in the first quarter.

It didn't take long for the Aggies to add to their lead. The Warriors were forced to punt on the ensuing possession, but a bad snap was recovered in the end zone by Joseph Harbison for a touchdown, extending Fairview's lead to 14-0 midway through the first quarter.

Harper got loose for a 65-yard touchdown run later in the first to make it a 21-0 game with five minutes to play in the first.

A big run by Titan Thornton moved the Warriors deep into Fairview territory on the ensuing possession but they were unable to get any points on the board and the Aggies held onto a 21-0 lead.

However, West Point was able to get on the board later in the second quarter when Ollie Howell took a handoff 53 yards for a touchdown to trim the lead to 21-7.

Fairview hit right back on its next drive when Redding hit Jace Stevens in stride for a 65-yard touchdown, putting the Aggies in front 28-7 with 2:36 remaining in the first half.

After Fairview forced another West Point punt, Stevens struck again when Redding found him wide open down field for an 80-yard touchdown, giving the Aggies a commanding 35-7 lead at halftime.

Fairview didn't wait long to add to its lead in the second half. Harper ran one into the end zone from 25 yards out to make it a 42-7 game early in the third quarter and that lead held throughout the rest of the period.

Ayden Ennis punched one into the end zone from a yard out later in the fourth quarter to cut into the lead, but it wasn't enough to overcome the early onslaught from the Aggies and Fairview returned home with a 42-14 win over the Warriors.

Fairview (3-0) will return home to face Ardmore this week and West Point (1-2) will travel to Lawrence County.

Holly Pond 24 – Sylvania 21

Holly Pond kicked off region play against Sylvania Friday night and it was a nailbiter between the Broncos and the Rams.

Sylvania scored to take a 21-18 lead over Holly Pond with less than two minutes remaining in regulation, but a big kick return set the Broncos up with a short field and Boston Gibbs found the end zone with just 24 seconds on the clock to give Holly Pond a dramatic, 24-21 win over the Rams.

Boston Gibbs got the Broncos on the board first when he broke free for a 79-yard touchdown run to make it a 6-0 game midway through the first quarter.

The Broncos maintained that lead throughout most of the first half, but Sylvania answered with a touchdown just before the end of the second quarter to take a 7-6 halftime lead.

Gibbs' second touchdown run of the night put Holly Pond back in front 12-7 with just over two minutes to play in the third quarter and in the final seconds of the period, Gibbs got loose for a 55-yard touchdown run to stretch the lead to 18-7 at the start of the fourth.

A Rams touchdown trimmed the lead to 18-13 with 7:23 remaining and Sylvania capped off another scoring drive with 1:49 on the clock to take a 21-18 lead.

However, the Broncos still had some big plays left in them and Miguel Garcia returned the ensuing kickoff back 75 yards to set up Holly Pond's offense deep in Rams territory with 1:24 to play.

A couple of plays later, Gibbs scored from 7 yards out with 25 seconds on the clock to secure a dramatic, 24-21 region win for the Broncos.

Holly Pond (2-1) will travel to Brindlee Mountain for another region game Friday night.

Vinemont 22 – Phil Campbell 16

The Vinemont Eagles kicked off their region slate with a matchup against Phil Campbell Friday night and it was a hard-fought battle with the Bobcats.

With the game tied at 16 and just four minutes on the clock, Vinemont's Caleb Slain punched one into the end zone from a yard out to give the Eagles a late lead and eventually, their first win of the young season.

Vinemont received the opening kick-off and drove the ball right down the field, but a false start put the Eagles behind the chains and the drive stalled when they were unable to convert on fourth down.

On the third play of Phil Campbell's opening drive, Josh Rhodes intercepted a pass to give the ball back to the Eagles offense, but they were stopped one yard short on fourth down.

Vinemont's defense stepped up to force a turnover on downs. Neither offense was able to find a rhythm, it was the Bobcats that were able to find the endzone first as they took an 8-0 lead with nine minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Vinemont answered back on the ensuing possession when Gabriel Herrera scored from 3 yards out to tie the game at 8 with just under five minutes remaining until the fourth quarter.

With just under a minute remaining in the third quarter the Bobcats regained a 16-8 lead. Vinemont quickly tied the game at 16 when Caleb Slain returned the ensuing kick-off for a touchdown and Slain's big night continued on the defensive side of the ball with an interception that gave possession back to the Eagles offense.

With four minutes remaining in the game, Slain capped a scoring drive with a 1-yard touchdown run that put Vinemont in front 22-16.

Phil Campbell found a way to get into the redzone with a chance to score and possibly win the game in regulation, but the Eagles defense stiffened to force the Bobcats backwards and on the last play of the game Phil Campbell's pass fell incomplete to seal the deal and give Vinemont a thrilling victory to open region play.

Vinemont (1-2) will be back home this week for a region matchup against Midfield.

Good Hope 52 – Fultondale 0

The Good Hope Raiders traveled to Fultondale for their region opener Friday night, and they returned home with a decisive win. Good Hope built a 42-0 lead in the first half and with the clock running and young players on the field in the second half, the Raiders cruised to a 52-0 win.

Parker Johnson got the scoring going early with a touchdown pass to Ayden Young. Chase Prewett split the uprights with the extra point and Good Hope led 7-0 just two minutes into the first quarter.

Penalties stalled a couple of Raider drives after that, but they couldn't keep them out of the end zone for long.

Mason Drake scored on a 15-yard run to make it 14-0 early in the second quarter and on the defensive side of the ball, Carter Rutherford intercepted a Fultondale pass and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown to make it 21-0.

A 60-yard touchdown pass from Johnson to Rutherford extended the lead to 28-0 midway through the second quarter and on the ensuing possession, Ross Clark recovered a bad snap in the end zone for another touchdown to make it 35-0.

Another touchdown pass from Johnson to Rutherford gave the Raiders a 42-0 lead going into the locker room at halftime.

Prewett nailed a 32-yard field goal to stretch the lead to 45-0 midway through the third quarter and early in the fourth, Kamden Collins intercepted a Wildcats pass at the goal line and returned it 100 yards for a touchdown to put the finishing touches on a 52-0 win for Good Hope.

The Raiders (2-0) will be back home Friday night to take on Haleyville.

Addison 68 – Shoals Christian 8

Addison needed just four plays to move the ball 54 yards for the Bulldogs' first touchdown. Addison came out throwing and Elijah Roberts connected on his first three passes, 31 yards to Trennon Burns and then back-to-back completions of 13 and 14 yards to Judah Wilkins, the latter for a touchdown. Brodie Willingham kicked the extra point and at the 10:40 mark of the first quarter, Addison led 7-0.

On Shoals Christian's first series, they were facing a second and ten from their own 42-yard line, when Connor Lane picked off the Flame QB, Gus Strickland, and returned the interception 55 yards for the pick six.

Lane also ran in the two-point conversion and with 9:44 left in the first quarter, Addison led 15-0.

On the Flame next possession, they attempted to punt but the snap sent the ball over the punter's head and out of the end zone for the Bulldog safety.

Addison led 17-0 with over seven minutes to go in the first quarter.

Addison took over possession at their own 35-yard line and six plays later, Roberts ran it in from 4 yards out for the touchdown.

The extra point was good and with 5:44 left in the first quarter, Addison had stretched the lead to 24-0.

On the second play of the Flame's next possession, Noah Brenton picked up a Flame fumble and chugged 45 yards for the scoop and score touchdown.

Willingham kicked the extra point and with 5:10 left in the first quarter Addison led 31-0.

A long kickoff with a mishandled catch had the Flame starting off at their own 5-yard line. On the first play, Brenton struck again and tackled the Flame running back in the endzone for the Dawgs' second safety of the quarter. Addison upped the lead to 33-0.

Addison took over after the free kick at the Flame 26-yard line.

Six plays later, Roberts hit Zane Smith for a 13-yard touchdown catch.

The extra point was no good and still with 2:16 in the opening quarter, Addison had this game already wrapped up at 39-0.

After an exchange of possessions, Addison's Lane struck again intercepting another pass and returning his second interception for another touchdown.

This one covered 35 yards and with the missed extra point, Addison led 45-0 in the second quarter, and this is how the half would end.

On Shoals first possession of the second half, Lane grabbed his third interception of the night, this time only returning it to midfield.

Seven plays later, Roberts found Wilkins for 23 yards and the touchdown. Lane kicked the extra point and with 5:15 to go in the third quarter, Addison led 52-0.

The Flame first play of their next possession, had another bad snap with the ball flying over the QB's head and this gave Addison another safety as Lee downed the Flame player who recovered the fumble in the endzone. Addison led 54-0.

Addison added to the lead when Ben Bridges plunged in from a yard out for the touchdown. Lane kicked the extra point and with 2:24 to go in the third, Addison was up 61-0.

Addison scored their last touchdown on an eight-play penalty marred drive, that took almost eight minutes off the clock.

Addison lined up to kick a 19-yard field goal but the holder, Shelton Alexander couldn't handle the snap rolled to his right and heaved a pass into the end zone that Lee caught for the touchdown.

Lane kicked the extra point and Addison led 68-0.

The Flame scored their only touchdown on a 3-yard touchdown run late in the game, bringing the final score to 68-8.

Addison (3-0) will be back home this week to host Cherokee.



KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond's Boston Gibbs fights his way into the end zone to give the Broncos a late lead in their 24-21 win over Sylvania Friday night.



BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vinemont's Caleb Slain (34) returned a kick for a touchdown, intercepted a pass and scored the go-ahead touchdown for the Eagles in their 22-16 win over Phil Campbell Friday night.



WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

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

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

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

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

Prices Effective - Wednesday, September 10 through Tuesday, September 16, 2025

UNDEFEATED SAVINGS!

NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS
Beef
Family Pack
$9.99 LB.



ASSORTED PORK CHOPS
Fresh Bone-In Family Pack
(Fam. Pk. Bone-In Center Cut Pork Chops $2.69 Lb.)
$1.99 LB.



GREEN CABBAGE
Fresh
49¢ LB.



MICHIGAN APPLES
3 Lb. Bag New Crop Gala, Ginger Gold or McIntosh
$2.99 EA.



BLUE PLATE MAYONNAISE
30 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$2.99 EA.



NIAGARA DRINKING WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
3 for $10



FOLGERS COFFEE
22.6-25.9 Oz. Ground
Selected Varieties
$9.99 EA.



NESTLE COFFEE MATE
35.3 Oz. Powder Original
or 30 Oz. French Vanilla
$4.99 EA.



PILLSBURY GRANDS! BISCUITS
8-17 Oz. or Sweet ot Crescent Rolls
Selected Varieties or Dough Sheets
2 for $4



BANQUET POT PIES
7 Oz. Original or Breakfast
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL



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



SIRLOIN TIP ROAST
Beef
(Fam. Pk. Sirloin Tip Steak $7.49 Lb.)
$6.99 LB.



SMITHFIELD PORK TENDERS OR FILETS
18.4-23 Oz. Marinated
Selected Varieties
$6.49 EA.



KENTUCKY LEGEND QUARTER SLICED HAM
Boneless
Selected Varieties
$5.99 LB.



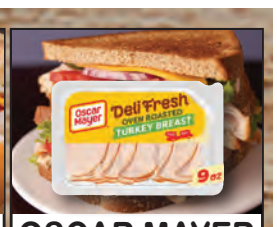
OSCAR MAYER BACON
16 Oz.
Original or Thick
$5.99 EA.



FRESHLAND SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
2 for $7



OSCAR MAYER WIENERS
14-16 Oz. Original, Jumbo
or Bun Length or Smokies
$2.69 EA.



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



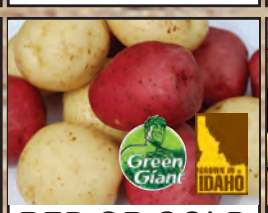
DEAN'S SAUSAGE PATTIES
18 Ct.
$5.29 EA.



COUNTY LINE CHICKEN WINGS
3 Lb. Bag
$4.99 EA.



CHICKEN BREAST TENDERS
Previously Frozen
$2.99 LB.



RED OR GOLD POTATOES
5 Lb. Bag
U.S. #1 Idaho
$2.99 EA.



FRESH CANTALOUPES
Western
Grown
$2.99 EA.



SLICING TOMATOES
Large
Fresh
$1.99 LB.



VIDALIA ONIONS
Jumbo Sweet Great for
Onion RIngs or on Burgers
99¢ LB.



DOLE SALADS
Bag Spring Mix
or Baby Spinach
$2.99 EA.



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



PILLSBURY COOKIE DOUGH
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



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



SISTER SCHUBERT'S DINNER OR SWEET ROLLS
10-18 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



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



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



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



CHEF BOYARDEE PASTA
7-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5

SKINNER PASTA
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



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



KNORR PASTA OR RICE SIDES
4-5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



VLASIC OVALS
46 Oz. Hamburger
Dill Chips
2 for $7



FOOD CLUB MUSTARD
20 Oz.
Squeeze
99¢ EA.



HUNT'S KETCHUP
32 Oz.
2 for $4



CHEX MIX OR BUGLES
7-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



KOOL-AID JAMMERS
10 Pk.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



HORMEL CHILI WITH BEANS
15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



PREMIUM SALTINES
9-17 Oz. Nabisco
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



SPAM LUNCHEON MEAT
12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7



FOOD CLUB TUNA
5 Oz. Chunk Light
in Water
5 for $5



WESSON COOKING OIL
40 Oz. Canola
or Vegetable
$3.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB APPLE JUICE
64 Oz.
$1.88 EA.



LIBBY'S VEGETABLES
14-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



RED GOLD TOMATOES
14-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



OLD EL PASO SEASONING MIX
1 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



CHARMIN OR BOUNTY ESSENTIALS
6 Mega Rolls Ultra Bath Tissue or
4 Double Rolls Paper Towels
2 for $10

PEPSI, MTN DEW, DR PEPPER OR STARRY
12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
$6.99 EA.

PEPSI, MTN DEW, DR PEPPER OR STARRY
10 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Mini Cans
2 for $11

AQUAFINA WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$6.99 EA.

GATORADE THIRST QUENCHER
28 Oz. Bottles
2 for $3

RUFFLES POTATO CHIPS
5.5-10.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

FRITOS OR CHEETOS
6.5-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $8

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

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

LEWIS BAKE SHOP SANDWICH BREAD
20 Oz. Loaf
White or Wheat
2 for $5

LITTLE DEBBIE SEASONAL SNACKS
6-13.13 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6

LITTLE DEBBIE MINI DONUTS
8.62-10.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

SUNBELT SOFT BAKED OR GRANOLA BARS
7.61-11 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6

CORONA, CORONA LIGHT OR CORONA PREMIER
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$16.99 EA.

MICHELOB ULTRA
18 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$22.99 EA.

BOTA BOX WINE
3 Liter
$19.99 EA.

WOODBRIDGE WINE
1.5 Liters
$10.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE DELI SLICED HAM
Virginia, Ham off the Bone,
Black Forest or Honey Sweet
$7.99 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE SMOKED GOUDA
or Havarti
Deli Sliced
$9.09 LB.

CLYDE'S DONUTS
12 Ct.
Big Smile or Variety
$6.99 EA.

JJ'S BAKERY FRIED PIES
2 Oz.
Assorted Flavors
89¢ EA.

28th annual Falkville Fall Festival set for Oct. 11

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The 28th annual Falkville Fall Festival will be held in the downtown area of Falkville on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Marketing Coordinators Danielle Hayes and Brooke Jones are involved in the planning, organizing and the Color Me Downtown 5K run and walk, all associated with the festival event.

"There will be 120 arts and crafts, church and additional type vendors, five to seven food vendors and more," Hayes said.

"We will have a little bit of everything from purses to jewelry to dog treats, candles, ceramics, boutiques, custom shirts, jams, jellies, jerky and much more.

"We will have a carnival food truck barbecue, Mexican and Italian food truck. The kids will also have bounce houses, and a train riding around pulling kids this year."

Jones said they will start things off with a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m.

"We have a free 5K walk/run that includes a T-shirt for all who register and the race begins at 8 a.m.," Jones said.

"We have a tractor show/tractor parade, car show, kid zone, food and arts and crafts vendors, and live entertainment."

Hayes said if residents are interested in setting up at the festival, the vendor fee for arts and crafts is $25, $40 for food vendors and $15 for electric and water hook-ups.

"The 5K is free, but we do ask that participants pre-register for their T-shirt sizes since they are first come, first serve," Hayes said.

"The 5K begins at South Park and ends at South Park early registration begins at 7:30. Race begins promptly at 8 a.m."

Hayes said the divisions for male and female are 0-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30- 39, 42-49, 52-59, 60-69 and 70-plus.

"Over the past four years of helping with the 5K, I have truly enjoyed being a part of this event," Hayes said. "There's nothing like watching each child and adult cross the finish line — cheering them on while the beautiful colors fill the air.

"It's such a fun, family-filled event, and I'm grateful to be part of something so special in our Falkville community."

For more information or to register, go to www.Falkville.org.

Event (from Front)

with these groups."

The Agriplex will partner with the Cullman County Extension Office on Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. to offer a Beginner Beekeeping class as part of its Military Veterans and Beginning Farmer series. Sign up at www.aces.edu/event/beekeeping-for-beginners-workshop.

For more information about the North Alabama Agriplex, or to register for a class, visit www.agriplex.org.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Recap (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Another week of Cullman County Youth Football is in the books and we had several exciting games all across the county on Saturday. The Cullman Bearcats battled the West Point Warriors, the Cold Springs Eagles took on Danville, the Hanceville Bulldogs clashed with the Fairview Aggies and the Good Hope Raiders faced the Holly Pond Broncos. Vinemont's games against West Morgan were postponed due to weather and will be played on Tuesday.

CULLMAN BEARCATS V. WEST POINT WARRIORS

- Fireplug: West Point 20 – Cullman 8
- Wee-Wee: Cullman 20 – West Point 8
- Pee-Wee: West Point 34 – Cullman 0

COLD SPRINGS EAGLES V. DANVILLE HAWKS

- Fireplug: Cold Springs 20 – Danville 0
- Wee-Wee: Danville 30 – Cold Springs 0
- Pee-Wee: Danville 19 – Cold Springs 14

HANCEVILLE BULLDOGS V. FAIRVIEW AGGIES

- Fireplug: Hanceville 24 – Fairview 18
- Wee-Wee: Hanceville 6 – Fairview 0
- Pee-Wee: Fairview 12 – Hanceville 6

GOOD HOPE RAIDERS V. HOLLY POND BRONCOS

- Fireplug: Holly Pond 13 – Good Hope 7
- Wee-Wee: Good Hope 26 – Holly Pond 0
- Pee-Wee: Holly Pond 12 – Good Hope 0





Look for the BEAR necessities: Coexisting with the American Black Bear

Justin Miller
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — The black bear is one of the most interesting creatures in the United States. In fact, thousands of people travel to areas such as the Great Smoky Mountains every year specifically to see them. Black bears have historically been present in almost every region of the U.S. and Canada, including Alabama. Today, however, populations are more concentrated in certain areas, such as California and the Appalachian Mountains.

In Alabama, once-declining populations have rebounded in recent years, with black bears recolonizing from neighboring Georgia and Tennessee. Wesley Anderson, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System wildlife specialist, said simply having bears in the area does not mean that there will be negative impacts. However, as their populations continue to grow, Alabama residents should be aware of their presence and know how to coexist.

Getting to know the American Black Bear

According to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, black bears are the smallest bears in North America, with males and females averaging 250 and 150 pounds, respectively. In the U.S., bears in southern parts of the country are typically smaller than black bears in the north.

The group and sex names of black bears may come as a surprise to some. Groups of bears are known as a sleuth or sloth. Like their fellow mammal, the pig, male bears are known as boars and females are known as sows. However, juvenile bears don't follow the swine trend and are known as cubs.

Black bears are most often found in dense, forested areas and wetlands. In Alabama, Anderson said black bear populations are in two primary parts of the state.

"People can find black bears in northeast Alabama, primarily along Lookout Mountain and Little River Canyon," Anderson said. "In southwest Alabama, bears are primarily in Mobile and Washington counties. Whereas the southwest population remains small, the northeast population continues to grow."

Black bear diets largely consist of vegetation, up to 85%. In Alabama, Anderson said a study in 2016 showed that black gum fruit, grasses and acorns were among their most commonly consumed fall foods. However, they will also feed on carrion, fish, insects and vertebrates.

"Black bears are omnivores and opportunists, meaning that they eat a wide variety of plants and animals," Anderson said. "Because they occur across a broad geographic range, their diet will vary based on both location and proximity to people."

Human-black bear interactions

Because of their low population numbers, Anderson said black bears are currently not a big concern to humans in most parts of Alabama. However, it is important to know what to do when encountering a bear. Remember, it is illegal to shoot, harm or harass black bears in Alabama.

Black bears are rarely aggressive and often as scared of humans as humans are of them. However, they are still wild animals and could attack if they feel threatened, especially if it is a mother defending her cubs. When encountering a bear, do not run away. Calmly and slowly back away. Also, it is never good to surprise a bear. People should make their presence known by making noise, waving their hands above their head and using an assertive voice.

In areas where bear populations are established, it is also important to be cautious of items like food and trash that may attract bears. Clean grills after use and keep pet food inside or only outside during the day. For anything that must be stored outside, use bear-resistant containers.

More information

For more information, visit aces.edu/go/AlabamasBlackBear. There, people can download a poster and coloring sheet that contain more fun facts about the black bear.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

American Black Bear

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a public hearing before the Cullman County Commission, Cullman County Commission Office, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama, September 23, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to receive comment on closing a portion of County Road 1536, more particularly described as being all of County Road 1536, beginning at its southern end at County Road 1534 and ending at its northern end at County Road 1534, which abutting property owners wish to vacate and abandon.

Cullman County Commission
Jeff Clemons, Chairman

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LINDA PERSALL, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-322**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to DAVID A. CORNELIUS as Personal Representative of the Estate of LINDA PERSALL, deceased, on the 2nd day of September, 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 will be barred.

David A. Cornelius
Personal Representative

Atty for Petitioner:
Michael J. Baggett
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC.
206 Nineth St. SW, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055

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

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
WILLIAM KEITH NELSON, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-265**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Christopher John Bateh as Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM KEITH NELSON, 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.

Christopher John Bateh
Personal Representative

Lindsey Eastwood
Eastwood Estate & Probate Law
2001 Park Place, Suite 510
Birmingham, AL 35203

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

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

DONE this 19th day of August, 2025.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF:)
)
MILDRED VIRGINIA GORDON,) **CASE NO. PC-2025-** 33
)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY of said deceased having been granted to **ANTHONY W. GORDON** on the 5th 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/ANTHONY W. GORDON
Anthony W. Gordon, Personal Representative of the Estate of Mildred Virginia Gordon

Seth B. Thompson, Attorney for Petitioner
Anthony W. Gordon

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
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MICHAEL JEFF EVANS, * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-150**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to KIMBERLY ELAINE EVANS STEWART on the 5th day of September, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County.

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.

Kimberly Elaine Evans Stewart
Personal Representative

Michael J. Baggett
Attorney for Personal Representative
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
LELAUS WAYNE ODEN, * CASE NO. PC2019-110
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
APPLICATION TO REOPEN ESTATE

TO: DANNY BRYANT, JARAN BRYANT, JASON BRYANT, SUZANNE BRYANT, TARA SPEARS AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF LELAUS WAYNE ODEN, DECEASED.

Application to Reopen Estate received the 28th day of April, 2025, made Court record the 29th day of April, 2025, by Tammy Hann, Petitioner, by and through Attorney Kenneth R. Widner. A hearing has been rescheduled on this matter for the **21st day of October, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear if they think proper.

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

Done this the 22nd day of August, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Kenneth R. Widner
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 359
Eva, AL 35621

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
RUBEN DOUGLAS SMITH, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-291**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Kenneth Jeffrey Smith as Personal Representative of the Estate of RUBEN DOUGLAS SMITH, deceased, on the 22nd 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.

Kenneth Jeffrey Smith
Personal Representative

Adam S. Gober, Esq.
Attorney for Personal Representative
29000 US Highway 98
Suite A-201
Daphne, Alabama 36526

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

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

DONE this 22nd day of August, 2025.

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

Case# PC2025-328
PB MIN Book 236 Page:515
Recorded in Above Book and Page
09/08/2025 10:28AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s) WC

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: *
DAVID WALLACE ALLEN, * **CASE NO.:** PC2025-328
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the estate of David Wallace Allen has been filed by Wesley Allen on the 20th day of August, 2025, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by the law or the same will be barred.

WESLEY ALLEN
Petitioner

PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for Estate
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

TO: The Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the foregoing notice ONE TIME and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate





Contest (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Master Gardeners are accepting submissions for their annual Kids Art Contest, open to students in grades 1–6. This year's theme is "Garden Discoveries – Vegetable or Edible Plant," with entries due by Sept. 25. All entries must be dropped off at the Cullman County Extension Office.

"The Master Gardener Kids Art Contest is an opportunity for elementary-aged children to be creative and learn," said Dr. Kira Sims, Cullman County Extension director.

"Not only do they get to pick their favorite vegetable or edible plant to draw, but they must also find an interesting fact about it.

"This is a great way to teach children how to 'research' things they would like to know."

Cash rewards and ribbons are up for grabs, with contestants competing for first, second and third place in each grade.

Honorable mentions will also be recognized. Winning entries, along with other submissions, will be displayed at the Cullman County Fair.

A panel of Master Gardeners will oversee the judging of the entries, with a focus on neatness (grade level will be considered here), adherence to the provided rules and the accuracy of the facts submitted. Winners will be notified by phone or text about one week before the fair.

Dr. Sims encouraged students to pay close attention to the contest directions. "There are a lot of directions and rules–make sure you read them all so you know what and how to draw the item, when and where to turn it in, and who can participate," she said.

"The entries should be drawn on the page provided with the rules. We have the contest pages at our office if someone needs some. I would encourage kids to give it a try. Draw your favorite vegetable and learn something really cool about it!"

A full list of rules can be found at www.aces.edu/go/artcontest. All artwork and facts must be submitted on the official PDF accessible through the link.

For more information, contact Dr. Kira Sims at 256-737-9386 or kira.sims@auburn.edu. The Cullman County Extension Office is located at 402 Arnold St. NE in Cullman.



Obituary Announcements: Sept. 6–8

John Henry Fillmore, 80
Memorial service is incomplete at this time for John Henry Fillmore, 80, of Baileyton. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Fillmore passed away Friday, September 5th, 2025 at Hanceville Nursing Home. He was born September 4, 1945 to John Henry Fillmore, Sr. and Odell Louise Hardin Fillmore. He was a devout Alabama fan and loved to play bingo. He loved his family and especially his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers and sisters. Survivors include his wife, Martha Fillmore; sons, Junior Lynn Fillmore (Rachel), Joe Ray Fillmore (Jody), Johnathan Fillmore (Angela); daughter, Vickie Fillmore; sister, Jackie Kimbrel; grandchildren, Kevin Anders, Candace Haynes (Adam), Austin Fillmore (Cassie), Emma Grace Fillmore, James Joseph Fillmore, Josh Fillmore, Dylan Digiovannio; great-grandchildren, Adam Mason Haynes, Isaiah Thomas Haynes, Hannah Grace Haynes, Annaleigh Rayne Fillmore, Brinleigh Skye Fillmore; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Patrick Waymon Bradford, 55
Patrick Waymon Bradford, 55, of Vinemont passed away Sept. 4, 2025, at Huntsville Hospital. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Patrick was born Aug. 22, 1970, to Charles Kenneth and Katherine Ruth Williams Bradford. He was preceded in death by his mother and grandparents. Survivors include his father; son, Christopher Bradford; brother, Randy Bradford; sister, Nesia (Huey) Stancil and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Gloria Lee Kayler, 84
Gloria Lee Kayler age 84 of Cullman, Alabama passed away Sept. 4, 2025. Gloria is preceded in death by her husband Jim Kayler, first husband Jack Groves and sons Jay and Jeff Groves. She is survived by her loving daughter Christine (Steve) Henion, son Jack Groves, dear friend Carol Hollander, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gloria will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother. Her room in the nursing home was a bright reflection of her creativity as she carefully decorated her walls with many of her art pieces. She spent most of her time coloring and could usually be found catching a football game or NASCAR races with a particular affinity for Kyle Busch. There are no services to be announced at this time. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Clarence Hershel Willoughby, 95
Funeral services for Clarence Hershel Willoughby, 95, of Cullman, will be at 12 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, at East Side Baptist Church with visitation at 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Officiating will be Pastors Sam Hollis and Matt Smith. Graveside service will follow at Cullman City Cemetery. Clarence passed away Thursday, at his home Sept. 4, 2025, in Cullman. He was born Jan. 26, 1930, in Cullman County, Alabama, to Hershel and Minnie Willoughby. Surviving Clarence are his brother, George Edward (Shirley) Willoughby; son, Ricky (Netta) Willoughby; daughters, Mary (Ronnie) Easterwood, and Sherry (Charlie) Buettner. Grandchildren, Lisa McMeans D'Antonio; Didi McMeans; Jason (Susan) Willoughby; Chad (Auburn) Willoughby; Abby Willoughby Thomas; Christi Doyle; Cory (Krista) DeBruhl; 13 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews, all of whom he loved dearly. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Florence Calvert Willoughby his parents, Hershel & Minnie Willoughby, one sister, (infant daughter) Lisa Kim Willoughby and (grandson) Shane McMeans. In lieu of flowers the Willoughby family ask that donations be made to Cullman Eastside Baptist Church in Mr.Willoughby's honor. To leave condolences for the Willoughby family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Robert Alvin Orr, 97
Robert Alvin Orr, 97, passed away peacefully at his home on Sept. 3, 2025. A life-long servant of the Lord, Robert will be remembered for his warm sweet way with people, the sparkle in his eyes and his ready smile. Robert was raised in Bryson City, North Carolina, graduating from Swain County High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University, and both a master's degree and Ph. D from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. In his early adulthood, Robert served in the United States Army as a Corporal, taught public school History, French, and Music, and served churches as a Minister of Music, Education and Youth. After seminary, Robert moved to Nashville to work in Christian Education publishing at the Baptist Sunday School Board, now Lifeway, where he worked until he retired. Robert was a lifelong music lover, vocalist and instrumentalist, playing his clarinet well into his 90's and enjoyed singing, even in his last days. Robert is preceded in death by his brother John Lewis Orr, Jr. his mother Nancy Orr and his father, John Lewis Orr. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Helen Freeman Orr, his daughter Stephanie Pope and her husband Jeff, his son John Robert Orr and his wife Darla and his four grandchildren Ashley and Ryan Pope and Bryson and Robert Orr. A visitation for Robert will be held Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A celebration of life will occur Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A graveside service will occur Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Memorial Park, 660 Thompson Ln, Nashville, TN 37204. In Lieu of flowers, please make donations to the First Baptist Cullman building fund. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

John Andrew Thomas Dickson, 80
John Andrew Thomas Dickson, aged 80, of Cullman, passed away at Cullman Regional Medical Center on Thursday, September 4, 2025. John was born to Julia Rock Dickson on March 8, 1945, in Roseville, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his mother; Julia Rock Dickson and siblings: Ann, Robert, Veronica, and Jean Ann. He is survived by his children: Bianca Dickson, Pamela Soto, and John D. Dickson (Star Loyd); grandchildren: Melaiena' Morgan and husband Barry, Kyle Dickson and wife Morgan, Trevor Fraley and wife Morgan, Rachel Nicols and husband Garrett, Adam Dickson (Allison Lecompte), Alyssa Dickson, Landon Fraley and wife Izzy, Mikayla Childs and husband Cedric, and Tanner Dickson; great-grandchildren: Talyn, Lilly, Bryer, Ellye, Ayden, Emma, Olivia, Amelia, Piper, Sunnye, Liam, Scarlett, Kaydence, Cordelia, Freya, Ari, Abel, Atlas, Remi-drue, Ryleigh, Cedric, Tristan and Dallas; sister: Kathy Dickson Thomas and husband Charles "Buzz" Hass.

Bonnie Ruth Smith, 87
Memorial service is incomplete at this time for Bonnie Ruth Smith, 87, of Cullman. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Smith passed away Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, at the Folsom Center. She was born Sept. 10, 1937, to Sidney and Ottie Mae Stewart Helton. Bonnie loved traveling with her husband. She loved her family deeply, especially her grandbabies. She was a natural homemaker and showed her love for others by cooking for them. Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her parents and brothers and sisters. Survivors include her husband, Jack L. Smith; sons, Kevin (Archilene) Smith, Michael (Brenda Walker) Smith; grandchildren, Anthony Smith, Natalie Smith, Stephanie (Jason) Goolsby, Stephanie (Phillip) Ashley, Andy Smith; great-grandchildren, Wyatt Smith, Wesley Smith, Callen Smith, Branson Danecker, Ashlyn Danecker, Jase Goolsby, Charlie Ashley, Cara-Grace Ashley, Colt Ashley, Cade Ashley; and a host of family and friends.

David G. Koenig, 73
A celebration of life service for David Koenig, 73, of Cullman, will be held at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Koenig passed away Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at UAB Hospital. He was born on Aug. 2, 1952, to Norbert and Elizabeth Koenig. David was a packaging design manager for corrugated boxes. He loved music and animals; he had two dogs, Romeo and Aja, a cat, Bumper, and a quaker parrot, Pilgrim. He was a wonderful husband and enjoyed watching college sports, especially Kansas Jayhawks. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Fred Koenig. Survivors include his wife, Francine Koenig; sons, Mark Bowers, Matthew (Martha) Bowers; daughter, Natalie (Jonathon) Rumpff; grandchildren, Luke Bowers, Benjamin 'Ben' Bowers, Brice Rumpff, Zane Rumpff, and a host of family and friends.

Ralph August DiPiero, 86
Ralph August DiPiero, born on April 1, 1939, in Youngstown, Ohio, passed away on Sept. 6, 2025, in Cullman, Alabama. He was 86 years old. Ralph is survived by his beloved wife, Nance DiPiero; grandchildren Brandy DiPiero and Devan DiPiero; and stepsons Gerald Cooper Rhodes (Julie) and Mark Dallas Rhodes. He also leaves behind three sisters: Mary Ellen Mooney (Jim), Donna Cadia, and Paula Lutrel (Gary). He was preceded in death by his parents, Yolanda Ross and August DiPiero; his daughter, Candice DiPiero; and his son, Matthew DiPiero. Ralph served his country as a paratrooper in the United States Army with the 182nd division. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. Ralph served as Grand Marshall for the state of Alabama from 2016 to 2017. A Funeral Service will be held on Sept. 11, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Methodist Church 615 Main Avenue SW, Cullman, AL.

Priscilla Ann Stewart, 77
Funeral Service for Priscilla Ann Stewart, age 77 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with John Garrison officiating; burial at Beech Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Stewart passed away on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, at Riverside Senior Living. She was born Sept. 26, 1947, to Fred Turner and Thelma Turner.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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

Wallace State Alumni Association offering ACT Prep Workshops

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Students preparing for the ACT can gain valuable study and testing strategies through ACT Prep Workshops hosted by the Wallace State Community College Alumni Association.

Workshops are scheduled for Oct. 7–8 and Dec. 1–2, and will take place from 5-8 p.m. on the second floor of the James C. Bailey Center.

These two-day sessions will cover essential test-taking techniques, including:

- Time management strategies for each section
- Approaches to solving challenging test questions
- Tips for managing test anxiety
- Skill reinforcement, with a focus on the math and English sections

Participants will receive handouts to take home for continued study and reference.

Registration is available at www.wsccalumni.org/actprep. The cost is $110 per person. For more information, contact 256-352-8071.

WE NOW HAVE APPLES!
Steele Orchard
Mon-Fri 9-5 | Sat 9-4
1695 County Rd 1141
Cullman, AL 35057
256-734-5249



‘Operation We Remember’ honors veterans lost to suicide

Melanie Poole
Contributor

MONTEVALLO, Ala. — Alabama’s “Operation We Remember” campaign is a powerful statewide initiative honoring veterans lost to suicide, and the Honor Our Veterans Committee of America 250 Alabama (www.america250al.org) is proud to join this important effort. Operation We Remember includes participants from colleges, high schools, community groups and civic organizations across the state. Each participant will display 139 American flags, representing the Alabama veterans who tragically died by suicide in 2023.

In partnership with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, the committee is helping expand the campaign’s reach by sponsoring the distribution of 150 Veterans Crisis Line yard signs across the state. These signs, displayed alongside the flag installations, connect veterans and their families to the Veterans Crisis Line (988, then press 1) — a critical, life-saving resource.

The American Village, designated as the Semiquincentennial Celebration Capitol in Alabama for America’s 250th birthday, is participating in this year’s initiative by installing its own powerful display of 139 American flags at the National Veterans Shrine on campus. This tribute serves as a visual reminder of the mental health crisis affecting our heroes and the urgent need for awareness and support.

Together, these efforts amplify the message of “Operation We Remember”: to honor those we’ve lost, to support those still with us and to help save lives through connection, compassion and awareness.

The American Village display will begin Sept. 12, and go through Oct. 13 (the Navy’s 250th birthday). Every community is encouraged to participate in Operation We Remember. We lose 18 veterans a day to suicide. That’s more than in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combined. These are men and women of the United States Armed Forces, veterans who served their country in defense of liberty, of freedom. We owe America’s veterans not only our thanks and respect for their service, but our best efforts to support their needs, whether it be housing, jobs, physical or mental health.

The American Village is located at 3727 Highway 119, Montevallo, AL 35115.


AMERICAN VILLAGE

The National Veterans Shrine at American Village

Trade Desk's unexpected catch results in state record swordfish

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

When Trade Desk, a 60-foot Hatteras, left Orange Beach for three days of catch-and-release billfishing, hooking a swordfish was just an afterthought, one that would stress all their resources as well as enter the Alabama Saltwater Record Book.

Robert Fritze, his dad (Ron) and four buddies (Harold Wells, Jamie Boyd, Wes Hagler, Robert Parks) had scheduled the trip a while back for Aug. 14-16, with the main goal of finding marlin and sailfish.

“We saw where people were having success catching blues, whites and sails,” said Fritze, who hails from Birmingham. “We headed out southwest and thought about deep-dropping, but that wasn’t the main goal, so we just decided to push on.”

The crew was near the Delta House oil and gas production platform in 4,500 feet of water when they discovered a rip (where two currents meet with distinctive color changes) that was not productive. They headed farther south and picked up a few dolphin (mahi mahi), a wahoo and several barracuda. They had a blue marlin follow one of the barracudas back to the boat, but it spooked and disappeared.

When the sun went down, they started jigging for tuna and put several blackfins in the tuna tubes for possible use as bait the next morning.

Because the offshore boat is not manned by a professional crew, the Fritzes and team took turns getting a little sleep.

“I took the first shift,” Robert said. “My dad came up to relieve me about one. I set a swordfish bait out, a regular nighttime setup with squid and a light.”

The bait soaked for quite a while before the big swordfish swallowed the squid.

“I grabbed the rod and got in the chair,” Robert said. “He was down about 300 feet when he bit. It took about 30 minutes until we saw the fish the first time. He was right at the edge of the spreaders. The bite was nothing special at that point. I could feel the weight, but it wasn’t like ‘Oh, my gosh.’

“Then he came back up, and I saw the bill coming out of the water, and it just kept coming. He got his head out of the water, but it wasn’t like he totally jumped. We got a pretty good profile of the fish, and my buddy, Harold, said, ‘That’s a tank.’”

The fish went down and came back to the surface two more times before it sounded. “He peeled drag off for a good bit, and then it was a slow, steady going away,” Fritze said. “The drag was a tick, tick, ticking as he was going away. He was headed in the other direction, and there was no stopping him. We were looking at each other, and I was holding myself in the chair, and we were wondering if he was ever going to stop.”

As the line slowly stripped off the reel, the crew could tell the fish had descended to around 800 feet because of a marker on the braided line at that depth.

“Finally, he stopped, and I started getting a little ground on him,” Fritze said.

“Then he would take it right back. At first, all I could do was get one full revolution on the handle. Finally, I started to get two or three revolutions, and he started coming to the boat. About halfway, he took a little run, but I slowly worked him back up.”

His buddies started to give Fritze a hard time during the fight, as good friends will often do,

“My friends were giving me great encouragement about how they could do a better job,” he said. “My buddy was taking a video, talking about being one hour in and then four hours in. They got fans out of the engine room to blow on me. They kept telling me that if I got the fish in before daylight that would be great.”

Fritze said they usually bring a large fish bag on offshore trips but had left it at their slip because the tuna bite had been slow, and they weren’t planning to bring any fish back to the dock. Wells, who fortuitously brought his swordfish rod along, had even asked if he should throw the bag on the boat.

“I told him, nah,” Fritze said. “If we leave it here, we’ll probably catch something decent.”

When the big swordfish finally succumbed to the 4.5-hour fight, the action turned into pure chaos.

“We had no flying gaffs, nothing to handle a fish of that caliber,” Fritze said. “We did have enough time to get ropes tied to one of the gaffs to give us a little bit of hope. But we were not necessarily set up to land a big fish like that. He came up 50 feet from the port, and you could see that everybody got ready for all hell to break loose.

”Dad backed up on him. He got to the corner of the boat and rolled over. I was raising my hands. I was glad it was over.”

With the gaffs on hand, the crew was able to secure the fish and get it ready for the difficult task of getting it onboard.

“I got out of the chair and fell down immediately,” Fritze said. “I didn’t realize my legs were worn out as much as they were. Everybody came down off the bridge, and Dad held the (tuna) door open. We didn’t even have any bigger ropes on the boat.

”We had to use rod leashes to wrap around his tail to get some leverage on him. Everybody was trying to pull him in, but his pec and dorsal fins were sticking out, so we were moving him around to get him in the door.

“We finally got him in, and we were dumbfounded by the fact we actually got him in the boat.”



ROBERT FRITZE

Angler Robert Fritze and crew celebrate the state record swordfish at Orange Beach Marina.

Then it dawned on the crew they had to figure out what came next, especially without a big fish bag that would allow the crew to ice the swordfish down.

“We decided we didn’t have a choice; we’d have to go back and clean it,” Fritze said. “It wasn’t going to fit in the box. It didn’t even look real. We headed back. It was supposed to take four hours to get back, but there was a storm between us and Orange Beach that we had to get around.” Word spread quickly that the boat was coming in with a big fish. A crowd soon gathered at Orange Beach Marina to watch the fish being offloaded and weighed.

Fritze said none of the crew expected the fish to weigh as much as it did. Wells thought it might push the state record, which was set in 2006 at 448 pounds.

“The entire time, it was never in my mind about beating a state record,” he said. “I was just ecstatic to weigh something that big with Dad and my buddies.”

The fish was hoisted onto the boom to be weighed at the marina when dockmaster Jimmy Beason announced, “550.3 pounds.”

“I remember the fight and ride back in, but once he said that it all went blurry,” Fritze said. “I tackled my dad, immediately thinking, ‘Oh, maybe I shouldn’t have done that.’ This was all kind of a crazy deal.”

After the celebration, they decided it would be better to preserve the fish prior to inspection by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ (ADCNR) Marine Resources Division as part of the state record application process. Fortunately, J&M Tackle had enough freezer space to accommodate the monster swordfish.

Instead of sitting around and reliving the eventful outing, the anglers refueled the boat and headed back into the Gulf. They caught barrel fish, tilefish and ended up with another six or so dolphin.

“Then the reel went off, and Jamie got in the chair and caught his first sailfish,” Fritze said. “That was the cherry on the top. Then somebody said, ‘We do have to go home eventually.’”

As for the state record swordfish, Fritze never expected to be in the fighting chair for 4.5 hours and ending up with a fish that big.

“It was the fish of many lifetimes,” he said. “Doing it with my dad meant a lot. He bought his first saltwater boat when I was 5. We’ve never sat on the beach. All we’ve ever done is fish.”