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'A living piece of history'

East Elementary celebrates 90th anniversary

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — East Elementary School, originally called City School upon its opening in 1936, has been a part of Cullman's history for almost a century.

It's the school eventual President Ronald Reagan visited when he passed through the area in 1975, and newspaper clippings from that visit still hang in the hall. It's the school that still bears the same high ceilings and hardwood floors from when it first opened its doors in 1936. It's the school where almost four generations of Cullmanites learned to read » PAGE 6



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

East Elementary School recently celebrated its 90th anniversary.

Primary Election results

Whaley, Barnett, Pitts, Walker on top in major Cullman County races



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff-Elect Chad Whaley talks to The Tribune after the May 19, 2026, Primary Election.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Unofficial 2026 Primary Election returns from Cullman County showed major wins Tuesday night, May 19, for Chad Whaley in the Cullman County Sheriff race; Richard Barnett in the Cullman County Commission, District 2 race; Mike Pitts in the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner race; and Kenneth Walker in the Cullman County Commission, District 1 race.

The results were based on Cullman County's 50-of-51boxes election-night report, with one box still outstanding. The county reported 66,708 registered voters and 16,740 ballots cast, for an unofficial turnout of about 25.1%.

The Republican primary drew the overwhelming majority of local ballots, with 15,749 Republican ballots cast. The Democratic primary drew 980 ballots, with 11 nonpartisan ballots and two blank ballots also reported.

The Cullman County Sheriff race was one of the most closely watched local contests of the night following Sheriff Matt Gentry's decision to seek the Republican nomination for Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1. Whaley led Tim Creel 10,257 to 5,125, or 66.68% to 33.32%.

Whaley previously told The Tribune his campaign focused on creating a dedicated warrant division, targeting high-crime areas, continuing the fight against illegal drugs, strengthening deputy and citizen training and expanding the school resource officer program.

"I am truly honored and humbled," Whaley said.

"The past 11 months are somewhat of a blur. I have shaken more hands, spoken to more people and driven more miles across Cullman County than I ever thought possible. People may be tired of hearing me say it, but what I found over and over again is just how special Cullman truly is.

"The tight-knit families, communities, towns, neighborhoods and cities that make up this county are unique and wonderful in their own way. The heart of the people throughout this county is what makes Cullman so special. That was what I enjoyed most during this journey – the people.

"Thank you to everyone who supported us through signs, handshakes, hugs, kind words and most importantly, prayers. My family and I could not have done this without you. Thank you as well to the family and friends who endured the day-to-day demands of the campaign alongside me; you know who you are.

"And a special thank you to my wife. Every minute of every day, she helped make all of this possible.

"This is the end of the beginning, and I could not be more excited to start this next chapter. I » PAGE 4

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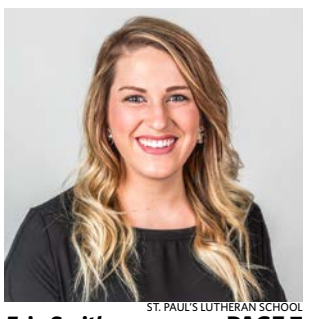


80 YEARS
80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

Cullman City Council seeks grant to create road safety plan » PAGE 7

Berlin council addresses road projects and more » PAGE 2

St. Paul's Lutheran School names Erin Smith new administrator



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Erin Smith » PAGE 7

Cullman's Sarah Kate Dockery receives 2026 Spirit of State Award from Mississippi State



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Cullman's Sarah Kate Dockery is pictured with Mississippi State University President Mark E. Keenum and Vice President for Student Affairs Regina Hyatt. » PAGE 2

PET OF THE WEEK

Curious Jenna



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Jenna » PAGE 3



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 20, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 18

• organized retail theft; ULTA Beauty; miscellaneous; $517; Cullman Shopping Center

May 19

• theft of property-2nd degree; person; pistol; $200; 2nd Ave. NW

ARRESTS

May 18-19

Keller, Nicholas E.; 41

• FTA – driving without license

Roberson, Sr., Ron M.; 72

• GJ – violation of a domestic violence protection order
• GJ – domestic violence-2nd degree
• GJ – theft of property-1st degree

Oliver, Michael A.; 48

• FTA – public intoxication
• FTA – false information to law enforcement officer

Arnold, Kelly M.; 43

• theft of property-4th degree

Edwards, Kyten L.; 21

• retail theft of property-2nd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

City of Cullman Zoning Board to revisit Brock Trace at next meeting

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The City of Cullman Zoning Board of Adjustments met Tuesday, May 19, at Technology Village at 105 Clark St. NE. The meeting was called to order by Zach Lee at 5:30 p.m.

The board approved minutes of the prior meeting from Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

The commissioners said the Brock Trace Subdivision agenda item was withdrawn.

The lot is located near the intersection of County Road 1464 and County Road 1466 next to Cullman Regional Medical Center.

It is aiming to bring 30 townhomes and 120 single-family homes.

The variance request will be addressed at the Board's next meeting on Tuesday, June 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall auditorium.

Wallace State receives grant to update disability-accessible CDL truck

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College announced May 19 that it received at $10,500 grant from the Alabama Community College Systems in a rapid, special-request grant. The award will allow the college to upgrade its disability-accessible truck used for CDL training.

"This project responds to an immediate workforce development need in north-central Alabama," said Kristi Barnett, grant specialist for Wallace State. "Employers continue to seek qualified drivers at a pace that is not equal to the number of graduates completing CDL programs."

Wallace State's Disability-Accessible CDL Training is the only one of its kind in the Southeast and is sought out by individuals across the country. The college has already trained students from Colorado, Idaho, Georgia and Tennessee.

The grant will allow the college to install a more accessible lift for truck entry and exit, attracting more students to its program. While hand-brakes made the truck accessible, the stationary lift prevented its drivers from entering or exiting the truck outside of the training yard. The Glide 'n Go SR HD Mobile Lift that will be purchased will allow students to enter and exit the vehicle as needed to perform safety checks, fuel the vehicle, etc.

CDL Instructor Don Stepp said the new lift is similar to the lifts used in the field.

"The lift is pretty much the exact one they'll have on the road" Stepp said. This one will provide access to the driver's door, while many of the ones in use on the road connect to the sleeper compartment of a truck, he said.

Stepp said he admires the dedication he's seen from students who have completed the program so far and is proud to see how they can fully participate and thrive in transportation careers.

"With the right tools and training, these drivers bring the same professionalism, skill and safety to the road as any other operator," Stepp said.

Wallace State offers CDL courses on a regular basis, with completion in four to five weeks. Courses are offered during the day as well as nights and weekends.

For more information about Wallace State's CDL program, email cdl@wallacestate.edu or contact the Center for Career and Workforce Development at 256-352-7452.

Dockery (from Front)

C. Smith
Contributor

MISSISSIPPI STATE, Miss. — Sarah Kate Dockery, a senior majoring in aerospace engineering from Cullman, is among 24 Mississippi State students receiving the 2026 Spirit of State Award.

Organized by the university's Division of Student Affairs and celebrating its 21st year, the award honors students who have made a positive impact on peers and the broader campus community through organization involvement, service to the institution and personal actions promoting school spirit and tradition.

"We are proud to honor these outstanding student leaders whose selflessness, service and integrity exemplify what it means to be a Bulldog," said MSU Vice President for Student Affairs Regina Hyatt. "This recognition also extends to the families, mentors, faculty and staff who have supported and uplifted these students along the way. It truly takes a village, and it's exciting to be able to celebrate the entire community that helps shape and inspire student success at Mississippi State."

The Spirit of State Awards program is open to all students, no matter their classification, major or primary campus. Nominees must have a minimum 2.25 GPA and be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Berlin (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — The Berlin Town Council at its Monday, May 18 meeting addressed road projects and more.

The council said paving of Mt. Carmel Drive and County Road 1615 has not begun, though Councilman Steve Clark reported portions of the base have been started.

In other business, Mayor Patrick Bates revisited the possibility of changing some local street names. If that happens, individual house numbers on those streets would remain the same.

"We discussed it some time ago. I think it's time we revisited this," he said, adding, "This cannot be the same as any other names in this zip code."

The council will revisit the matter at a later date.

Bates reported the town has purchased six snowflake Christmas light decorations. The council is still waiting on word from the Cullman Electric Cooperative regarding preparation and set-up. The decorations will be placed on power poles in the town.

In parks and recreation updates, council members briefly discussed using shade-cloth systems for an option around area parks. Nothing was decided on the matter.

The town engineer made a last-minute change to the striping of the Berlin Farmers Market parking lot. A few adjustments will be made to the rendering before next month's meeting and any updates will be disclosed then.

Bates asked the council to consider creating a board to manage donations of any future improvements and maintenance for the Berlin/Kritner Cemetery.

He said the property is technically abandoned and would require a form of annexation to have it associated with the town.

The council agreed to table the items until a later meeting.

The Berlin Town Council will meet next on Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m. at Berlin Town Hall.

For any additional information, contact clerk@berlinal.gov.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Poetry of Recovery: Recovery Support Group
Every Saturday at 10 a.m. at 514 Cleveland Ave. SW in Cullman. Facebook/The Poetry of Recovery. Contact Jeff at 727-542-6413 or John at 256-636-0612.

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.

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
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Friday, May 22 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Special guest speaker – Larry C. Hill Sr.
• Sunday, May 24 – 8:15 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.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
• The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
• Saturday, May 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. BOOK SALE! during the Grilled Cheese Festival; books starting at 50 cents! YARD SALE of items no longer needed at library

Start of summer program:
• Wednesday, May 27, 10 a.m. Animal Tracks and Habits presented by Milli Keel with Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District. What animals are wild and what animals are domesticated? Attend for answers and enjoy an animal track craft!
• Wednesday, May 27, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class
• Friday, May 29, 6 p.m. Poetry night (Announcement of Poetry contest winner!)
• Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m. Live SNAKES, let's replace fear with fascination, experts present an engaging, hands-on show that brings the world of reptiles and exotic animals to the Shirley Burden Public Library
• Monday, June 1, 6 p.m. Culture Club meets
• Wednesday, June 3, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class
• Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m. Birds' Beaks - Amazing Adaptations presented by Kerri Roberts Alabama 4-H
• Wednesday, June 10, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class

Guy Hunt Library Summer Reading Program
• Make plans to join us at Guy Hunt Library in Holly Pond on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for the Summer Reading Program!
• June 2, Mr. Larry's Magic Show
• June 9, Cullman County Soil and Water Conservation District
• June16, Movie Day- "The Land Before Time"
• June 23, Jessie Douglas, Farm Bill Biologist II
• June 30, Snead's Farmhouse
Drinks and snacks will be provided. For more information contact the Guy Hunt Library at 256-796-5226, or guyhuntlibrary@gmail.com.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. at Saint Andrew's, 615 Main Ave. SW, Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

Senior Fishing Day
Friday, May 22, for participants ages 55 and older. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., with fishing starting at 8. Final weigh-ins will take place at 11. Multiple trophies will be awarded, and lunch will be provided for participants. Veterans Memorial Park, 503 Park Street, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Kids Fish-O-Rama
Saturday, May 23, at Veterans Memorial Park in Hanceville, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Fishing will take place from 8-11. The event is open to children ages 14 and younger. Registration is free. Participants will not only get to enjoy a morning of fishing, but lunch will also be provided. Trophies will be awarded throughout the divisions, as well as door prizes, during the event. 503 Park Street, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Jenna (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Jenna, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, may only be about 12 weeks old, but this little gray tabby shorthair already carries herself with a surprising amount of common sense.

She is loving, curious and ready to explore the world around her, especially when enrichment toys are involved.

Jenna gladly plays, investigates and learns, showing the kind of bright, gentle personality that makes her easy to imagine growing into a steady companion.

Her sweet nature and curious spirit make Jenna a wonderful choice for someone looking for a therapy or companion kitty.

She has just enough kitten playfulness to keep life cheerful, with the kind of loving temperament that can bring comfort to a home.

Jenna's adoption fee is $100, which includes her vaccines, spay and microchip.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

If Jenna has already been adopted, there are plenty of friends at the shelter still waiting for their forever homes.

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Wallace State men's tennis caps undefeated season with first national title since 1996

Wallace State Sports Information

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State men's tennis completed a perfect season Friday by capturing the NJCAA Division II National Championship at Collin College in Plano, Texas, marking the program's first national championship since back to back titles in 1995 and 1996.

The Lions finished the season undefeated against junior college competition and claimed the national title with 45 points, finishing three points ahead of conference rival Coastal Alabama-South in the final standings.

Wallace State's championship run was highlighted by Angel Gautier winning the Flight 1 singles national championship and the doubles team of Tom Kopf and Matias Vargas capturing the Flight 3 doubles title.

Gautier rallied in the Flight 1 championship match to defeat top-seeded Juan Pereyra in three sets. After dropping the opening set 7-6, Gautier dominated the final two sets 6-1, 6-1 to secure the national title.

Kopf and Vargas completed an undefeated tournament run in Flight 3 doubles with a straight-set 6-4, 6-4 victory over Taylor Cook and Santiago Enriquez in the championship match.

Wallace State also posted runner-up finishes in several flights during the weeklong tournament. Francois Van Wyk advanced to the Flight 4 singles final, Luka Uzelac reached the Flight 5 singles championship match, and Tom Kopf advanced to the Flight 6 singles final. In doubles play, the Lions reached the finals in all three flights, with Angel Gautier and Alexander Grube Andersen finishing runner-up in Flight 1 doubles and Jean Badenhorst and Van Wyk placing second in Flight 2 doubles.

The Lions earned extensive postseason recognition following the championship season. Gautier was named First Team All-America in Flight 1 singles after winning the national championship, while Van Wyk, Uzelac and Kopf earned Second Team All-America honors in Flights 4, 5 and 6 singles, respectively.

In doubles, Kopf and Vargas earned First Team All-America honors in Flight 3 doubles after winning the national title. Gautier and Grube Andersen were named Second Team All-America in Flight 1 doubles, while Badenhorst and Van Wyk earned Second Team All-America honors in Flight 2 doubles.

Wallace State also collected multiple ITA Region IV awards. Assistant coach Ian Wisener was named ITA Assistant Coach of the Year. Gautier earned the Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award and ITA Most Improved Sophomore honors, while Grube Andersen was named ITA Rookie of the Year.

Head coach Tim Garner credited the team's leadership and commitment throughout the season.

"Led by sophomores Angel Gautier, Jean Badenhorst, and Luka Uzelac, I'm so thankful to ask the players for all the extra hours spent on and off court to make this season such a success," Garner said. "Thank you to Ian Wisener (assistant coach). Ian spent countless hours outside of his contracted time to make this season a success."

Garner also praised the support system behind the program's championship season.

"Huge thank you to our President, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, and her administration for their tremendous support this season," Garner said. "This would not be possible without the support from Vice President of Students Kristen Holmes and, of course, Athletic Director Paul Bailey. Special thanks to Encore, athletic trainer Katy Chauvin and PT Stacy Wigley for keeping all of our athletes healthy and ready to compete. Thanks to Dakota Nichols for not only being a great advisor to our athletes, he is also a great supporter of Wallace State Athletics."

The Lions opened the national tournament with a perfect first two days, winning all nine matches on Day 1 and advancing all six singles entries and all three doubles teams into the semifinals by the end of Day 2. Wallace State entered the final day leading the team standings by five points.



WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State's mens tennis team celebrating their DII NJCAA National Championship.

Garner said the national title was the perfect ending to a season defined by consistency and team chemistry.

"Capping an undefeated JUCO season with a National Championship was a perfect ending," Garner said. "From our first match to our Conference Championship and finally ending with the 2026 National Championship, this team battled all season. This tournament run was won from a complete team effort over a whole week. Everyone put the team before themselves."

Garner also singled out Gautier's individual title run.

"I'm so thankful for and proud of Angel Gautier for winning an individual championship at No. 1 singles, proving he was the best player in the nation," Garner said.

Election (from Front)

look forward to serving the citizens of Cullman County. Please know that I will continue to need your prayers and support.

"Together, we can keep Cullman County special."

Creel, a law enforcement veteran, previously told The Tribune his campaign focused on child protection, online exploitation investigations, illegal drugs and targeting traffickers and criminal networks.

In the Cullman County Commission, District 2 race, Barnett led Josh Speakman 8,059 to 5,454, or 59.64% to 40.36%. Barnett previously told The Tribune he wanted better public communication on road construction, support for law enforcement and more involvement from local companies in supporting schools.

Speakman had campaigned on economic growth, business loyalty, small business support and equitable treatment in economic development incentives.

In the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner race, Pitts led Kenneth Cornelius 7,735 to 6,655, or 53.75% to 46.25%. Cornelius previously told The Tribune his campaign focused on efficiency, public information sessions about exemptions and benefits and applying his business management and county government experience to the office.

In the Cullman County Commission, District 1 race, Walker led Reburn Miller 9,897 to 3,617, or 73.24% to 26.76%.

The Alabama Senate District 4 Republican primary also drew significant local attention. In Cullman County, Sen. Garlan Gudger led J.R. Bowling 8,958 to 6,319, or 58.64% to 41.36%.

Gudger, R-Cullman, announced in January that he was seeking another term representing District 4, which includes Cullman, Marion and Winston counties. In that announcement, he pointed to conservative legislation, district investment and his work in the Alabama Senate.

Bowling had positioned his campaign around accountability, local control, infrastructure, emergency services, small businesses and opposition to SB322. He previously told The Tribune his campaign was about giving District 4 "its voice back."

Gentry, the outgoing Cullman County sheriff, dominated the Cullman County vote in the Republican Primary for Public Service Commission, Place 1. Gentry received 12,196 votes locally, or 78.84%, while incumbent Jeremy H. Oden received 3,274, or 21.16%.

Gentry previously told The Tribune he wanted to "bring transparency and accountability" to the Public Service Commission and later said he would call for a public rate hearing as his first order of business if elected.

On Primary night, Gentry thanked Republican voters for their support, saying, "I am very excited and thankful for the trust Republican Primary voters have shown today by nominating me as their Public Service Commissioner for Place 1. I'll always be a sheriff, but I look forward to continuing my message of bringing transparency and change to the citizens in November."

In statewide returns available Tuesday night, The Associated Press reported that Tommy Tuberville won the Republican nomination for governor and Doug Jones won the Democratic nomination, setting up a general election matchup between the former U.S. Senate rivals. The AP also reported that the crowded Republican Primary for U.S. Senate could head to a June 16 runoff if no candidate receives a majority.

Statewide election feeds showed Gentry leading Oden in the Republican PSC, Place 1 race, Barry Moore leading the Republican U.S. Senate field, John Wahl leading Wes Allen in the Republican Lieutenant Governor race, Katherine Robertson leading the Republican Alabama Attorney General race, Caroleene Dobson leading the Republican Secretary of State race, Young Boozer leading the Republican Alabama State Treasurer race and Andrew Sorrell leading the Republican Alabama State Auditor race. Those statewide feeds were still incomplete at the time reviewed.

CULLMAN COUNTY UNOFFICIAL ELECTION-NIGHT RESULTS
50 of 51 boxes reporting

Registered voters and ballots cast

- Registered voters: 66,708
- Ballots cast: 16,740
- Democratic ballots cast: 980
- Republican ballots cast: 15,749
- Nonpartisan ballots cast: 11
- Blank ballots cast: 2

Democratic Primary

Governor
- Doug Jones: 748, 76.80%
- Will Boyd: 113, 11.60%
- Chad "Chig" Martin: 41, 4.21%
- Yolanda Rochelle Flowers: 40, 4.11%
- Jamel J. Brown: 19, 1.95%
- Nathan "Nate" Mathis: 13, 1.33%
- Undervotes: 6

Lieutenant Governor
- Phillip Ensler: 549, 62.81%
- Darryl D. Perryman: 325, 37.19%
- Undervotes: 106

United States Senator
- Dakarai Larriett: 260, 29.38%
- Mark S. Wheeler II: 252, 28.47%
- Kyle Sweetser: 192, 21.69%
- Everett Wess: 181, 20.45%
- Undervotes: 95

United States Representative, 4th Congressional District
- Amanda N. Pusczek: 541, 61.27%
- Shane Weaver: 342, 38.73%
- Undervotes: 97

Public Service Commission, Place 1
- Jeff Ramsey: 329, 37.73%
- James O. Gordon: 317, 36.35%
- John Northrop: 226, 25.92%
- Undervotes: 108

State Democratic Executive Committee, male
- Darron Mitchell: 22, 52.38%
- James Kinsman: 20, 47.62%
- Undervotes: 5

Republican Primary

Governor
- Thomas Tuberville: 13,427, 88.14%
- Ken McFeeters: 1,168, 7.67%
- "Alabama" Will Santivasci: 638, 4.19%
- Undervotes: 516

Lieutenant Governor
- John Wahl: 5,836, 40.23%
- Wes Allen: 5,017, 34.58%
- Pat Bishop: 1,145, 7.89%
- Nicole Jones Wadsworth: 950, 6.55%
- Rick Pate: 935, 6.44%
- Stewart Hill Tankersley: 378, 2.61%
- George Childress: 247, 1.70%
- Overvotes: 14
- Undervotes: 1,227

United States Senator
- Jared Hudson: 5,665, 38.03%
- Barry Moore: 3,941, 26.45%
- Steve Marshall: 3,747, 25.15%
- Rodney Walker: 820, 5.50%
- Seth Burton: 275, 1.85%
- Dale Shelton Deas Jr.: 251, 1.68%
- Morgan Murphy: 198, 1.33%
- Overvotes: 14
- Undervotes: 838

United States Representative, 4th Congressional District
- Robert B. Aderholt: 11,581, 77.56%
- Tommy Barnes: 3,350, 22.44%
- Overvotes: 3
- Undervotes: 815

Alabama Attorney General
- Katherine Robertson: 5,255, 36.45%
- Jay Mitchell: 4,889, 33.91%
- Pamela L. Casey: 4,273, 29.64%
- Overvotes: 8
- Undervotes: 1,324

Alabama State Senator, District 4
- Garlan Gudger: 8,958, 58.64%
- J.R. Bowling: 6,319, 41.36%
- Overvotes: 4
- Undervotes: 468

Alabama Secretary of State
- Caroleene Dobson: 8,931, 66.34%
- Christopher Christian Horn: 2,980, 22.13%
- Glenda S. Jackson: 1,552, 11.53%
- Overvotes: 8
- Undervotes: 2,278

Alabama State Treasurer
- Young Boozer: 8,698, 64.48%
- Steve Lolley: 4,792, 35.52%
- Undervotes: 2,259

Alabama State Auditor
- Andrew Sorrell: 9,463, 69.92%
- Derek Chen: 4,071, 30.08%
- Undervotes: 2,215

Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries
- Corey Hill: 5,520, 41.27%
- Jack Williams: 4,069, 30.57%
- Christina Woerner McInnis: 3,767, 28.16%
- Overvotes: 8
- Undervotes: 2,365

Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 1
- Matt Gentry: 12,196, 78.84%
- Jeremy H. Oden: 3,274, 21.16%
- Overvotes: 3
- Undervotes: 276

Alabama Public Service Commission, Place 2
- Jim "Zig" Zeigler: 5,359, 40.62%
- Chris Beeker: 3,391, 25.65%
- Brent Woodall: 2,674, 20.23%
- Priscilla Andrews: 1,785, 13.51%
- Overvotes: 10
- Undervotes: 2,530

Alabama State Board of Education, District 6
- Cathi Bradford: 8,371, 64.09%
- Marie Manning: 4,690, 35.91%
- Overvotes: 2
- Undervotes: 2,686

Cullman County Commission, District 1
- Kenneth Walker: 9,897, 73.24%
- Reburn Miller: 3,617, 26.76%
- Overvotes: 2
- Undervotes: 2,233

Cullman County Commission, District 2
- Richard Barnett: 8,059, 59.64%
- Josh Speakman: 5,454, 40.36%
- Overvotes: 4
- Undervotes: 2,232

Cullman County Revenue Commissioner
- Mike Pitts: 7,735, 53.75%
- Kenneth Cornelius: 6,655, 46.25%
- Overvotes: 5
- Undervotes: 1,354

Cullman County Sheriff
- Chad Whaley: 10,257, 66.68%
- Tim Creel: 5,125, 33.32%
- Overvotes: 3
- Undervotes: 364

Cullman County Board of Education Hanceville, District 4
- Kenny Brockman: 1,053, 53.34%
- Stephen McRea: 921, 46.66%
- Overvotes: 2
- Undervotes: 277

Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, Cullman County, Place 2
- Cathi Bradford: 7,899, 59.60%
- Jamie Speakman: 5,355, 40.40%
- Overvotes: 6
- Undervotes: 2,489

Alabama State Republican Executive Committee, Cullman County, Place 4
- J.R. Bowling: 7,536, 56.24%
- Samuel "Sam" L. Roberts: 3,524, 26.30%
- Chatty Freeman: 2,339, 17.46%
- Overvotes: 12
- Undervotes: 2,338

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, West
- Jamie Speakman: 5,912, 29.52%
- Tommy Wilkinson: 5,265, 26.29%
- Chatty Freeman: 4,604, 22.99%
- Jacqueline B. Schendel: 4,247, 21.21%
- Overvotes: 18
- Undervotes: 27,201

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, East
- Jeff Lawson: 6,236, 30.77%
- Cathi Bradford: 5,858, 28.90%
- David W. Grissom: 5,173, 25.52%
- Carol Cline: 3,001, 14.81%
- Overvotes: 6
- Undervotes: 26,973

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, At Large
- Champ Crocker: 7,536, 13.95%
- Jeff "Clem" Clemons: 6,778, 12.55%
- Steve Cummings: 6,467, 11.98%
- Kelly Duke: 5,934, 10.99%
- Rex Sorrow: 5,505, 10.20%
- Jeremy H. Oden: 5,333, 9.88%
- Gwen B. Parker: 4,476, 8.29%
- Jeremy Cline: 4,207, 7.79%
- Morris L. Williams: 4,015, 7.44%
- Greg "Tally" Johnson: 3,744, 6.93%
- Overvotes: 63
- Undervotes: 87,683

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, City of Cullman
- Alex J. Chaney: 1,315, 29.79%
- Waid Harbison: 1,246, 28.23%
- Michael Sapp: 1,145, 25.94%
- G. Rhys Battles: 708, 16.04%
- Undervotes: 4,376

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, West Point, District 1
- J.R. Bowling: 1,312, 59.74%
- Samuel "Sam" L. Roberts: 884, 40.26%
- Overvotes: 2
- Undervotes: 244

Cullman County Republican Executive Committee, Fairview, District 2
- Todd Floyd: 840, 55.15%
- Mike Ball: 683, 44.85%
- Undervotes: 337

Nonpartisan statewide amendments

Proposed statewide amendment 1
- Yes: 13,596, 88.02%
- No: 1,851, 11.98%
- Overvotes: 8
- Undervotes: 1,285

Proposed statewide amendment 2
- Yes: 7,531, 50.72%
- No: 7,316, 49.28%
- Overvotes: 6
- Undervotes: 1,887

To see full statewide results, visit www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes.

Congratulations Class of 2026!

View more photos at Facebook.com/CullmanTribune


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs High School


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Co. Child Development Center


MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview High School


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope High School


MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville High School


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond High School


KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



History (from Front)

and write. It's the school that has been producing "East Beasts" as far back as anyone still around can remember.

And in 2026, East Elementary School celebrates its 90th anniversary. It's a moment where the community looks ahead to the school's final year in 2027, before the campus then transitions into the new pre-K school for Cullman City Schools (relocating that program from the Cullman City Primary School campus) and all elementary students move in to the brand new Cullman Intermediate School being built at the West Elementary campus. And it's a moment where Cullman looks back at the role East Elementary has played as a crucial community hub for decades.

"I'm so blessed to be the last principal at East, to be a part of this journey," current East Elementary School Principal Melanie Harris said. "This place is home for so many people. It's a living piece of history."

This year is an opportunity to reminisce on East's legacy, its impact on the people of Cullman and the role it played in shaping so many who have grown into leaders in this community. To that end, Cullman City Schools embarked on a months-long effort to reconnect with former school leaders, students, teachers and more to look back on 90 years of East Elementary. The result of all that hard work is a series of video retrospectives featuring the people who shaped East — and were shaped by East — sharing their memories and stories from across the years.

"East is important to this community because it's a unique neighborhood school with historic character," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "There's something special about the sounds of children playing on the playground throughout the school day. The city leaders and school administration have done a wonderful job preserving the campus of East. But bricks and wood only make schools good — it's the students, the employees and families who make schools great."

School Board Member David Wiggins, who spent 17 years as principal of East from 2006-2023, noted the school has changed names and its grade levels several times since its inception as the City School back in the 1930s — and its next change is just the latest step in that legacy.

"For me, the biggest part of East Elementary is the history. It was part of the Great Depression to get people back to work. It was a public works project at the time," Wiggins explained.

"To be a part of that, a place where families have been here for a generation, means so much. I remember having students who their parents and grandparents attended school there. It's a legacy to this community. The name may change, but it's still the same school. The history will never change."

Jim Miller, who served as principal at East Elementary for the better part of a decade across the 1990s, said he still remembers his tenure at the school fondly. From checking in on the campus during a massive snowstorm, to memorable student projects, and seeing classroom lights on at all hours of the night from teachers working hard on their lesson plans. Those are the memories he still holds onto all these years later.

"I had the honor of working with some fantastic people. It was a special group. I think our mantra at the time was 'Every Child, Every Day,' and that was our focus. We tried to make decisions based on what was best for the kids," he said. "My favorite time was just walking around. I knew the names of all the kids at the time, and that was just a fun, joyous experience for me."

Remember East Elementary's legacy by watching the video features below:

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZOgE557OKg
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui-lglhVO6k
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nzCWoI6IDY

HUGE 1-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

Deanco Auctioneers

Huge Contractors Equipment & Truck Auction
Thursday, May 28th
Auction Starts at 9:00am
1042 Holland Ave • Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

Selling All Types of Construction Equipment, including: Dozers, Excavators, Motor Graders, Rubber-tired Loaders, Backhoes, Skid Steers, Compaction Eq.. Also selling Dump Trucks, Truck Tractors, Specialty Trucks, Trailers, Forklifts, Logging Equip., Farm Tractors, Pickups, Vehicles, Attachments, Misc. & Much More!!

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Live Onsite and Online Bidding Auctioneer: Donnie W Dean, #733, MSGL #835
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FREE MAMMOGRAMS AND PAP TESTS

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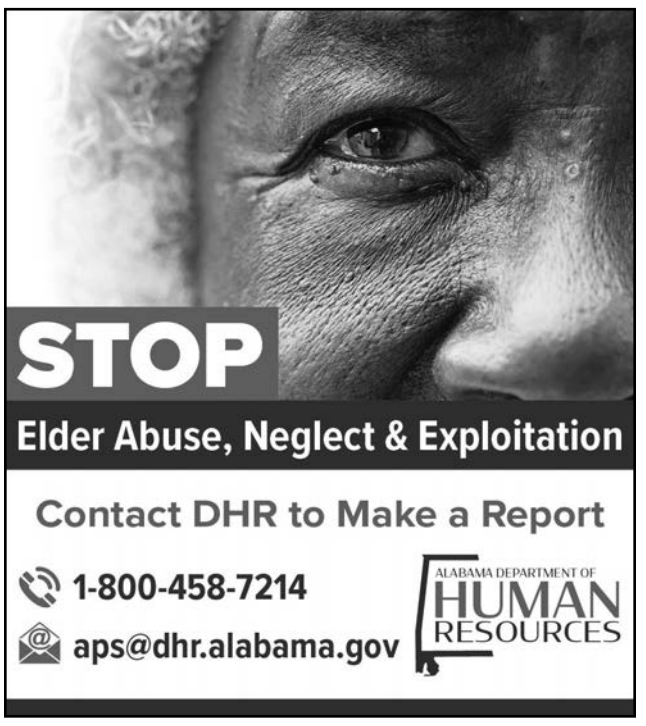
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• Cervical Cancer Screenings 21-64 yrs old

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www.alabamapublichealth.gov/bandc
scan the QR Code below,
or contact the hotline: 1-877-252-3324

Breast & Cervical CANCER EARLY DETECTION Program of Alabama







LEGALS

Notice of Sale
Nunnelley's Storage, Hwy 67 South, Somerville, AL. 35670 will sell contents of the following unit at 10 a.m. on June 20, 2026:
Unit #170 Wesley Johnson, 2020 New Center Rd. Trailer 2, Somerville, AL. 35670

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JAMES MICHAEL OZIER, * CASE NO.: PC2026-173
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to John K. Ozier, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JAMES MICHAEL OZIER, deceased, on the 12th day of May, 2026, 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.

John K. Ozier
Personal Representative

Seth B. Thompson
Attorney for the Petitioner
201 Second Avenue Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 12th day of May, 2026.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgages executed by **ELLARD CALVERT AND SPOUSE, MARY CALVERT** to Traditions Bank, as follows: Mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage dated April 27, 2007, and recorded on May 22, 2007, in Mortgage Book 1521 Page 823 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, as modified by that Modification of Mortgage dated February 12, 2011, and recorded on March 7, 2011, in Mortgage Book 1647 Page 305, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgages, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the **28th day of May, 2026,** between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commence at the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 11, Range 5 West and go 105 yards East to the point of beginning for land herein conveyed; Thence continue East 105 yards to a point; thence go South 105 yards to a point; thence go West 105 yards to a point; thence go North 105 yards back to the point of beginning for the land herein conveyed, said parcel of land containing 1½ Acres, more or less.

Property Address: 19884 County Road 222, Crane Hill, AL 35053

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

PUBLICATION DATES: May 7, May 14 and May 21, 2026
NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

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

CULLMAN TOWING & RECOVERY INC
821 AL HIGHWAY 157
CULLMAN, AL 35058
NOTICE OF SALE

Abandoned vehicle sale Cullman Towing & Recovery Inc., 821 AL Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058
In accordance with Motor Vehicle Code 32-13-1, the following vehicles may be sold at 821 AL Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058,on Thursday, July 16, 2026 to the highest bidder for purpose of collecting fees against said vehicle. Any Questions Call 256-734-0433.

2014 Dodge Dart	1C3CDFBB9ED830158
2016 Freightliner M2	3ALACWDT7GDHT5148
2012 Toyota Prius	JTDKN3DU9C5434272

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
* CASE NO. PC-2026-181
BEVERLY JOAN MOSS, Deceased *

Case# PC2026-181
PB WIL Book 138 Page 126
Recorded in Above Book and Page
05/05/2026 5:08PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
WJC

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to H. Chris Moss, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Beverly Joan Moss, deceased, on the 5th day of May, 2026 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.

H. CHRIS MOSS
Personal Representative

Nancy F. McClellan
BLAND, HARRIS & McCLELLAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Estate
401 Second Avenue, SW, Suite 103
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-174

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARGARET ELIZABETH CLOS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

WJC

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to John Francis Clos on the 5th day of May, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

John Francis Clos
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Hanceville shall cause this notice to be published stating that an alcoholic beverage license application for Azul Tequila Mexican Cantina, LLC will be considered by the Hanceville City Council at its next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at Hanceville City Hall, 112 Main Street, S.E. Hanceville, Alabama.

At such time and place, said application shall be considered, and all interested persons may appear and be heard either for or against the application.

Done this ____ day of _____, 2026.
CITY OF HANCEVILLE
By: _____
Mayor Nolan Bradford

1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
DONNA LYNN FRULLATE-GREEN, CASE NO.: PC 2026-183
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to SETH B. THOMPSON as Administrator of the Estate of DONNA LYNN FRULLATE-GREEN, deceased, on the 11th day of May, 2026, 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.

Seth B. Thompson
Administrator

Seth B. Thompson
The Thompson Law Firm, LLC
201 Second Avenue, Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BENJAMIN BURTON SLAYTON, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-152**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to TAMMY FRANKS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of BENJAMIN BURTON SLAYTON, deceased, on the 5th day of May, 2026, 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.

Tammy Franks
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey
Hankey Law Firm
Attorney for the Estate
409 2nd Avenue SW
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

Plan (from Front)

Chasady Woods, W.C. Mann

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council at a special-called meeting on Monday, May 18, voted to seek a grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to develop a safety plan for area roadways.

The Alabama Department of Transportation described the program:

"The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) competitive grant program with $5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Approximately $1 billion is still available for the next funding round.

"The SS4A program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy and our goal of zero roadway deaths using a Safe System Approach."

Since FY 2022, SS4A has provided $3.9 billion in funding "to save lives and reduce serious injuries on our roadways," according to the program description.

The special-called meeting was held because the application deadline is the day of the next Cullman City Council, which is set for Tuesday, May 26. The deadline was prior to the meeting time that day.

Cullman City Council President Kim Hall presented Resolution No. 2026-92 to enter into a contract with Simple Grants, a national consulting firm providing problem-solving application support and grant management services, to provide writing and application assistance for the SS4A program.

"This is a program that is federally funded by the Department of Transportation," said Hall.

"It's been around for several years, and several billion dollars have been awarded through these grants to communities to help assist in providing safety in transportation modes, whether that be pedestrian, motor vehicle – it could be bicycle routes – all different avenues that communities could use this grant money to provide safety on their streets and transportation programs."

She explained that the council must first apply for the grant, which will be tasked to Mayor Woody Jacobs. Then a safety plan will need to be adapted.

"So to get that, the community has to first apply for a grant and develop a safety plan; that's the first phase of this program," she said.

"We don't even know if Congress will continue to fund this program, but we thought it would be prudent for our community to go ahead and look at writing the grant to get funding for us, assistance for us to provide a safety plan for our community. So this is a grant that we will be applying for to help us develop a safety plan for the citizens of Cullman."

The council passed Resolution No. 2026-92 unanimously.

Moving on to Resolution No. 2026-93, Hall explained it would authorize Jacobs to submit the application for the SS4A program.

It was passed unanimously.

"We will work on submitting the grant this week," Hall told the audience. "We have public data that will be available and hopefully this will be submitted by next Tuesday with a response back shortly after."

The next Cullman City Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall auditorium at 7 p.m. Meetings are normally on Mondays; however, May 25 is Memorial Day.

Smith (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Paul's Lutheran School on Wednesday, May 29, announced Erin Smith as its new school administrator, saying it was "ushering in an exciting new chapter rooted in faith, excellence and a lifelong connection to the St. Paul's family."

A graduate of St. Paul's Lutheran School herself, the school said, Smith attended from kindergarten through sixth grade, experiencing firsthand the Christ-centered education and nurturing environment that helped shape her foundation. Even after moving away from Alabama, St. Paul's never stopped being home. Through the years, Smith remained closely connected to St. Paul's and its mission. By attending the Annual Benefit Auction, supporting fundraising efforts and continuing to champion the school and its ministry, she remained an active and faithful supporter of the place that helped shape her own educational foundation.

Said Smith, "It is both an honor and a privilege to return to St. Paul's Lutheran School – the place that first fostered my love of education and lifelong learning. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring my talents, experience and heart for service back to the school that gave so much to me. I look forward to helping the next generation grow in faith, knowledge and purpose."

The school said Smith brings with her an extraordinary background in education, leadership and professional development. Most recently, serving as a district partnership specialist at IXL Learning, she worked with educators across multiple regions nationwide, facilitating professional learning and helping schools strengthen instructional practices. Prior to that, she served as a technology integration coach, leading district-wide professional development initiatives and presenting at regional and global conferences, including specialized presentations and training opportunities serving deaf and blind educational communities.

Her classroom experience is equally impressive, said the school. During her years as an elementary educator, Smith served in numerous leadership roles, including grade level chair, site-based induction specialist and mentor teacher. She was recognized as Teacher of the Year and selected as an Austin Peay State University Mentor Teacher, helping guide and shape future educators entering the profession.

"This role was a natural extension of who Mrs. Smith is. Her love for education and genuine ability to connect with others has allowed her to encourage growth, develop leaders and invest in people in ways that leave a lasting impact well beyond the classroom," said St. Paul's

Smith earned a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Alabama, maintaining a 4.0 GPA while earning her administrative license. Her experience blends classroom excellence, instructional leadership, mentorship and a deep commitment to educational development.

"Mrs. Smith's connection to St. Paul's continues through her own family today. Her daughter, niece and nephew currently attend St. Paul's, reflecting the deep trust and belief her family has in the value of Christ-centered education," said the school. "Having experienced St. Paul's firsthand, Mrs. Smith understands the school's mission, culture and impact. She knows the lasting difference it can make in the lives of students and families, which allows her to lead not only with experience, but with a deep understanding of the mission she now helps guide. Mrs. Smith's leadership will undoubtedly be a blessing not only to St. Paul's Lutheran School, but to families throughout Cullman County and across North Alabama as St. Paul's continues its mission of shaping students academically, spiritually and personally."

Senior Pastor John Bussman shared, "To say we are overjoyed to have Mrs. Smith leading St. Paul's Lutheran School for the foreseeable future would be an understatement. We believe God has been preparing her for such a time as this, and we eagerly look forward to the future under her leadership."

Obituary Announcements: May 19-20

Lois Joann Thompson, 72
Lois Joann Thompson, 72, passed away on May 17, 2026. Born on Aug. 28, 1953, in Twin Falls, Idaho, she later became a resident of Cullman, Alabama. Lois will be remembered as a cherished and beloved presence in the lives of those who knew her—steady in her devotion to family and marked by a hard-working spirit that guided her through the years. She carried herself with quiet purpose, offering care and constancy to those closest to her. For the majority of her life Lois worked as a security guard for an industrial engineering company. In that role, her diligence and reliability were evident, reflecting a devoted commitment to doing her work well and serving faithfully day after day. Lois was a loving mother to her children, Amy Lynn Ramirez and Michael Joe Slater, and her devotion to them remained at the center of her life. Lois will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege to share in her life.

Tyler Wade Gordon, 32
Funeral services for Tyler Wade Gordon, 32, will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026, at noon at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Eric Hixon officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 10 a.m.-noon. Interment will follow at Bethlehem East Cemetery. Tyler passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026, at his residence. He was born on April 11, 1994, and was loved deeply by his family and friends. Tyler enjoyed spending time with those he loved most. He had a passion for shooting and collecting guns, playing video games with friends, watching movies, trying different foods, motorcycles, and fast cars. Above all, Tyler cherished his friends and family and the many memories they shared together. Tyler was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bob Gordon and Mildred Gordon who was more like his mother and raised him. Tyler is survived by his father, Tony Gordon; his best friend since third grade, D.J. Woodard; family and friends. Tyler will be remembered for his love of life, his loyal friendships, and the joy he brought to those around him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Gailya Dawn (Jordan) von Weisenstein, 89
Gailya Dawn (Jordan) von Weisenstein passed away on May 1, 2026, in Brentwood, Tennessee, at the age of 89. She is survived by her son, Tom (Bridget) of Brentwood; grandson, Ian; brother, Herschel (Marge); and a large extended family of four generations. She was preceded in death by her husband, John; her parents, George and Essie Jordan; and an infant brother. Born on May 5, 1936, in Cullman County, Alabama, Dawn grew up on a family farm. Her early years picking cotton and tending animals instilled a lifelong work ethic. After graduating from Cullman High in 1954, she earned a Dental Hygiene Certificate from the University of Alabama (1956). Later, as an adult learner, she completed both a BS (1985) and an MS (1987) in Education from the University of Tennessee. She married John von Weisenstein on June 14, 1961, and they remained devoted until his death in 2018. Dawn was a dedicated and natural leader, maintaining lifelong activism in state and national Dental Hygiene Associations. Throughout her time in Huntsville, Knoxville and Nashville, she became a cornerstone of every community she joined. In retirement, she and John cherished traveling together. As the family's dedicated genealogist, Dawn's passion for preserving history is the reason her vibrant legacy is so well-recorded today. A lifelong Methodist, Dawn was a 50-year member of the United Methodist Women and for many years supervised the soup kitchen at Church Street UMC. She was a passionate Alabama "Roll Tide" fan and loved vacationing at Ft. Walton Beach. A Celebration of Life will be held at Belmont United Methodist Church on June 13 at 11 a.m. with a private interment at Shedd Cemetery in Cullman. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Belmont UMC: belmontumc.org Vanderbilt Health: give.vanderbilthealth.org Church Street UMC Soup Kitchen: churchstreetumc.org

James Dewayne Rollo, 70
Funeral Service for James Dewayne Rollo, age 70 of Bremen, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Jeff Freeman and Rev. Tommy Graves officiating; Burial will be at Macedonia Baptist Cemetery in Cold Springs. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Rollo passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at Brookwood Medical Center. He was born, Jan. 19, 1956. He was preceded in death by his father, Rubin Rollo; sisters, Vonda Harris and Patricia Roden (Jimmy); his special loved ones Juanita and Jack Swinney. James is survived by the love of his life and wife of fifteen years, Christie Rollo; his mother, Xann Davis Rollo; children, Jennifer Rollo (Mark), Brandon Rollo, Austin Franklin (Lexi), Shawn Franklin; grandchildren, Dakota Surrett, Nick Rollo, Breanna Rollo, Hannah Rollo Myers, Jace Henry, Eliza Henry, Brystol Franklin; a host of nieces and nephews, family and friends. He served his nation proudly in the United States Army, SP4. He then worked at BFI for 17 years, followed by a twenty-seven year career with Cullman County Sanitation Department. He was a hard and dedicated worker and was loved and respected by all who worked for him and with him. He loved his family dearly and cared for others immensely. He loved Alabama football and NASCAR and he is remembered by his family and those closest to him for his great sense of humor, saying he was always the life of the party. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Serving as pallbearers are John Devencenzi, Ben Montgomery, Randall Isbell, Barry Black, Dakota Morgan, Darren Turner; honorary pallbearers are J.W., James Terry, and Crow. In lieu of flowers , family requests that donations be made to the American Heart Association National Center at 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231. For information go to www.heart.org.

Donald Allen Sapp, 91
Funeral Service for Donald Allen Sapp, age 91, of West Point, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at West Point First Baptist Church with Jason Sapp, Samuel Tucker, and Michael Jones officiating. Burial will be at Ebeneezer Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. at West Point First Baptist Church prior to the funeral service on Thursday May 21, 2026. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home will serve the family. Serving as pallbearers are his grandsons and great grandsons. Donald Allen Sapp, was born on Sept. 30, 1934, and went home to be with the Lord at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026. Affectionately known as "Papa" by his family, Donald lived a life defined by hard work, faithfulness, humility, and unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and community. Family: Donald was preceded in death by his father, Weaver W. Sapp; his mother, Sarah Wilhite Sapp; and his beloved granddaughter, Tara Sapp Coleman. On May 30, 1954, Donald married the love of his life, Joyce Hart Sapp, lovingly known by the family as "Mamaw." Together, they shared nearly 72 wonderful years of marriage, building a home filled with love, laughter, faith, and strong family values. Donald and Joyce were blessed with three children: Alan Sapp and wife Susan, Diane Barnett and husband Mike, and Derinda Jones and husband Anthony. He leaves behind a cherished legacy through his grandchildren: Jason Sapp and wife Leah, Josh Barnett and wife Tiffany, Tena Hancock and husband Brad, Tanya Sapp, Kaleb Jones and wife Jada, and Kaitlin Roberts and husband Garrett. "Papa" was especially proud of his great-grandchildren: Ashtyn Sapp-Jaramillo and husband Camilo, Ally Sapp-Yearwood and husband Tyler, Patrick Sapp, Brailee Callahan and husband Dante, Keelan Coleman, Gavin Barnett, Kylee Barnett, Kelsey Hancock, Greyson Hancock, Olivia Norris, Whit Jones, Hadley Roberts, Elle Jones, and Haydon Roberts. A Life of Hard Work and Service: Throughout his life, Donald faithfully served in many roles and occupations. He worked as an Inspector for General Motors in Flint, Michigan; a Mechanic for Hayes Aircraft in Birmingham, Alabama; an Acreage Allotment Reporter for ACES regionally; a Feed Mill Manager in West Point, Alabama; A Field Office Administrator for Craft Construction in Cullman, Alabama; and an Ice Vendor for AJ's Ice Company in West Point, Alabama. In addition to these roles, Donald was a lifelong farmer who dedicated much of his life to raising crops and livestock, including chickens, cattle and hogs. More important than any title or profession, Donald was known for his servant's heart. He faithfully served for many years as both Deacon and Treasurer of West Point Baptist Church in West Point, Alabama. He also played an instrumental role in establishing the first fire department in the West Point community. His Legacy: Donald Allen Sapp will be remembered for his steady presence, strong work ethic, quiet wisdom, deep love for his family, and unwavering faith in God. His life was a powerful testimony of dedication, service, and love for Jesus Christ. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, whose lives were shaped by his example and love. Though he will be deeply missed, his family rejoices in knowing that he is at peace in the presence of the Lord. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

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Cullman library system receives $500K in funding from state

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com



WALLACE STATE FILE PHOTO

Sen. Garlan Gudger, city leaders and members of the Cullman County Public Library Board pose for a photo.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) recently received $500,000, delivered by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, to help with early planning and design for future improvements and expansion.

According to Gudger's office, the funds were appropriated in the Education Trust Fund Supplemental Fund, a part of the state budget.

CCPLS Director Amber Thornton said the funding is an important first step in growing the library's services to meet the community's needs.

"This investment means that our community has all bought in together and that our legislative delegation and the state are in business with us and they want to see the library grow," Thornton said. "This means that it's the first step toward our expansion space that we need so that we can serve the community better."

Thornton said that the funding will let the library keep working with its architects and move further into planning. The money will go toward detailed blueprints, soil surveys and studies to find out what can be safely built on the property.

Right now, the library is considering several new features for the expansion. Thornton said they hope to add an auditorium with about 700 seats and a stage, as well as more study rooms, meeting rooms and a conference room.

There are also plans to make the children's area about three times bigger, giving kids their own space for programs away from the main library.

"We're excited about that," Thornton said. "Right now, all of our kids have to go in the main library and there's not a separate space for them."

The expansion could also include a STEM lab for the library's STEM club and classroom space for homeschool groups and educational programs.

Thornton said that support from Gudger and other local leaders shows a shared commitment to the community.

"We're all in this together," she said. "We're all community leaders. We're all serving the same people." Looking ahead, Thornton said she hopes the expanded library will remain a central resource and gathering place for Cullman County. "We already serve so many people, whether it is through access to computers or Wi-Fi or books or digital programs. We want to be that connection where we can bridge the gap for people and help those in need."

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