

The Cullman Tribune

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

Holly Pond hopeful that fresh faces in key offensive spots will lead them to the postseason in 2026

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Suspect charged with attempted murder after allegedly opening fire on Cullman County law enforcement

Lauren Estes
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BREMEN, Ala. — An officer-involved shooting occurred Thursday morning, July 30, as Cullman County Sheriff's Office investigators attempted to serve a search warrant in the Bremen community. In the aftermath, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said Thursday afternoon that John Johnsey, 54, is facing multiple charges, including attempted murder.

According to Crocker, "At approximately 7:12 a.m. this morning, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) executed a search warrant at 960 Alabama » PAGE 2



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

John Johnsey

Baileyton hosts Alabama State Horse Show



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jacky Yeager

Emily McMunn
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BAILEYTON, Ala. — Baileyton hosted the National Gaited Horse Association (NGHA) Alabama State Horse Show on July 25, at Baileyton Park Arena.

There were quite a few ribbons won at the event. Emma Huddleston and Prince went home with seven state championships and two reserve state titles.

Abby Huddleston and Rhett Huddleston also got first-place blue ribbons.

Sawyer Watson and Baby claimed Lead Line Champ, while Kaydence Gibson and Rockstar took Alabama State NB Style Champion.

For a complete list of winners, visit https://nationalgaitedhorse.com.



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Emma Huddleston

Retail recruitment built on preparation, relationships and long-term planning



CULLMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Left to right are Ansley Emfinger Hall, Chambers County Development Authority; Holle Smith, Ozark-Dale County Economic Development; Susan Eller, Cullman Economic Development Agency; and Madison Bush, City of Opelika Economic Development at the Economic Development Association of Alabama Summer Conference, which took place July 19-22, in Point Clear. » PAGE 8

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Good Samaritan hosting Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic Aug. 26, Sept. 30

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Cullman library accepted seeds for 'seed library'



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 31

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 31, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 27

- violation of protection order; CR 19
- harassing communications; CR 1850
- domestic violence; CR 532
- theft of property; CR 1225
- burglary; CR 641
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1763
- harassing communications; College Dr. NE
- burglary; CR 1223
- possession of marijuana; CR 19
- harassing communications; CR 522

July 28

- kidnapping; assault; CR 568
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of controlled substance; illegal possession of prescription drug; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 490
- theft of property; CR 1202
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- theft of property; CR 1286
- theft of property; CR 222
- theft of property; Super Saver Rd.
- theft of property; Arkadelphia Rd. NE

July 29

- trespassing; theft of property; Daniel Rd.
- harassing communications; Commercial St. NE
- trespassing; CR 1059
- theft of property; CR 386

ARRESTS

July 27-29

Cates, Ruth L.; 67

- public intoxication

Curtis, Jesse L.; 34

- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Dill, Kelly; 46

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Hydrick, Emily T.; 29

- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs

Johnson, Angel D.; 32

- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

Johnson, Trina Y.; 44

- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – obstructing justice using a false identity

Keys, Alizay M.; 26

- FTA – possessing forged instrument
- FTA – retail theft-3rd degree

Lee, Brandon W.; 34

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Murray, Sr., Tevin O.; 30

- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-aggravated assault non-family-gun
- possession of amphetamine
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- assault-aggravated assault family-knife
- kidnapping-terror-adult

Olvera-Astrain, Angel I.; 24

- auto theft and strip

Riggs, Destiny V.; 26

- DUI (alcohol)

Shurtleff, Jeffrey M.; 52

- possession of marijuana
- failure/refusal to display insurance
- no seat belt

Villa, Joseph S.; 55

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – no plainly visible tag

Walker, Teresa L.; 62

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

July 25

- organized retail theft; Lowe's; Cherokee Ave. SW

July 29

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $421; Hwy. 157
- identity theft; person

July 30

- harassing communications; person
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; person; damage to '10 Ford; $40
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $146; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

July 29-30

Rodriguez, Lexi N.; 21

- theft of property-4th degree

Enriquez, Vincente; 57

- FTA – insurance violation

Smith, Hester J.; 42

- DUI
- reckless endangerment (2 counts)

Rorabaugh, Mikayla L.; 27

- theft of property-4th degree

Piette, Judith D.; 65

- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Suspect (from Front)

Highway 91 in the Bremen community.

"The Special Response Team arrived in a marked van, announced its presence upon arrival and all personnel were in uniform. As deputies attempted to serve the search warrant at this address, a resident identified as John Johnsey, 54, opened fire on the deputies, who returned fire. Johnsey received non-life threatening injuries."

The CCSO said Thursday morning that investigators encountered an armed suspect and shots were fired. It said law enforcement personnel involved were safe.

"The evidence indicates that the deputies involved had reasonable grounds to believe, and did in fact believe, that Johnsey's actions posed an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or to others," Crocker stated.

"After reviewing the facts and evidence, I have determined the use of deadly force by Cullman County Sheriff Office deputies this morning was justified, based on all the facts and circumstances of this case under the laws of the State of Alabama."

The CCSO said deputies and investigators immediately provided first aid until emergency medical personnel arrived.

The suspect was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Johnsey's charges include attempted murder, second-degree theft of property, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and certain persons forbidden to possess a firearm.

"Mr. Johnsey is in custody pending an Aniah's Law hearing, where the State will request no bond," said Crocker.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency is investigating.



Guide (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With the start of the 2026-2027 school year just around the corner, Cullman County Schools is preparing to welcome students back to the classroom. To help families get ready, here's a quick guide to some of the most important back-to-school information, including Open House schedules, first-day attendance, meals and additional resources.

Most Cullman County high schools will host Open House on Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m., in line with the district's published schedule. However, several elementary and middle schools have adjusted schedules for orientations and Open House events. Those times are listed below.

Students will return to class using the district's staggered start schedule. On Tuesday, Aug. 11, only students whose last names begin with A-K will attend. Students whose last names begin with L-Z will attend on Wednesday, Aug. 12, with all students reporting on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Additionally, Cullman County Schools will once again provide free breakfast and lunch to all students throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

"A new school year brings new possibilities for every student," said Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette. "I am grateful for our outstanding educators, supportive families and community partners, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together this year."

Parents can also find additional back-to-school information, including school policies, parent resources, the CCBOE mobile app and other important documents, by visiting the district's Back-to-School Quick Links page at ccboe.org/o/ccboe/page/back-to-school-quick-links.

For more information about the upcoming school year, contact CCBOE at 256-734-2933. The CCBOE main office is located at 402 Arnold St. NE, Cullman, AL.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULES

COLD SPRINGS SCHOOLS

- All Cold Springs schools will host Open House on Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

FAIRVIEW SCHOOLS

Fairview Elementary

- Kindergarten Parent Meeting (Parents Only): Thursday, Aug. 6, at 5:30 p.m.
- Pre-K Parent Meeting (Parents only): Thursday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House: Sunday, Aug. 9, 3-5 p.m.
- Grades 1-5 Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Fairview Middle/High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

GOOD HOPE SCHOOLS

Good Hope Primary

- Pre-K Parent Meeting (Parents only): Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m.
- Kindergarten Parent Meeting (Parents Only): Sunday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m.
- 1st Grade Parent Meeting (Parents Only): Sunday, Aug. 9, at 4 p.m.
- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Good Hope Elementary

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Good Hope Middle School

- 6th Grade Orientation: Sunday, Aug. 9, from 2-4 p.m.
- 7th and 8th Grade Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Good Hope High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

HANCEVILLE SCHOOLS

Hanceville Primary

- Pre-K Parent Meeting (Parents only): Thursday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m.
- Kindergarten Open House: Sunday, Aug. 9, 2-4 p.m.
- Pre-K, 1st and 2nd Grade Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Hanceville Elementary/Middle/High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

HARMONY

- Open House on Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

HOLLY POND SCHOOLS

Holly Pond Elementary

- Pre-K Orientation: Sunday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m. - Library
- Kindergarten Orientation: Sunday, Aug. 9, 4 p.m. – Middle School Gym
- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Holly Pond Middle School

- 6th Grade Open House and Orientation: Sunday, Aug. 9, from 2-4 p.m. – Felton Easterwood Gymnasium
- 7th and 8th Grade Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Holly Pond High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.
- Freshmen Bootcamp: Monday, Aug. 10, 4:30-6 p.m.

Parkside

- Parent Orientation (Parents only): Thursday, Aug. 6, Kindergarten – 5:30 p.m., Pre-K – 6:30 p.m. – Parkside Lunchroom
- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

VINEMONT SCHOOLS

Vinemont Elementary

- Pre-K Parent Orientation (Parents only): Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m. – Elementary Library
- Kindergarten Open House: Sunday, Aug. 9, from 2-4 p.m.
- Pre-K and Grades 1-5 Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Vinemont Middle School

- 6th grade Open House: Sunday, Aug. 9, from 3:30-5 p.m.
- 7th and 8th Grade Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

Vinemont High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

WELTI SCHOOLS

Welti Elementary School

- Pre-K Parent Only Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m.
- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

WEST POINT SCHOOLS

West Point Elementary

- Kindergarten Open House: Sunday, Aug. 9, at 2 p.m.
- Pre-K Parent Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m.
- 1st – 3rd Grade Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

West Point Intermediate

- 4th Grade and New Student Orientation: Sunday, Aug. 9, 2-4:30 p.m. – WPMS Gym
- 5th Grade Students can go straight to WPI and meet their teachers during this time.

West Point Middle School

- 6th Grade/New Student Orientation: Monday, Aug. 10, 4 p.m. - Gym
- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.

West Point High School

- Open House: Monday, Aug. 10, from 3-6 p.m.







Cayla Eclectic hosting 'Free Swap' Aug. 16

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local artist and founder of Cayla Eclectic, Cayla Grace Murphy-Carnes, will host a Free Swap on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 2-4 p.m. at Straight To Ale Brewing Speakeasy Venue, 2610 Clinton Ave. W, Huntsville, AL 35805.

What is a free swap?
This is an event that allows attendees the opportunity to support sustainability. Individuals can bring gently-used items no longer contributing to their household or daily needs and swap them for things they will use in return.

Checking in
"When swappers 'check in,' they'll bring their items and receive a card signifying the number of items brought. Then, swappers can 'check out,' where we will bag up their items," said Murphy-Carnes.

She noted, "I'm encouraging everyone to grab at least as many items as they brought! When it's close to closing, swappers are welcome to come and grab any remaining items that they brought that didn't get chosen, if they'd like."

Acceptable swap items
Murphy-Carnes recommends bringing craft supply bundles, household decor such as blankets or candles, women's clothes, accessories, kids' things or general home decor like paintings and so on.

"Swappers can bring up to 10 items of women's clothing/accessories, home decor or kids' items like clothing and accessories. My ask is that these items are clean, new or gently used, and are items that people would fall in love with... not just regular tees and jeans."

She also stated the event is directed toward women with similar styles that lean toward bohemian, whimsical, homemade and maximalist aesthetics.

"I want this event to feel special, and catering to that sort of artsy/bohemian/maximalist vibe is something I'm really excited about."

This allows individuals to find more value in the items if it is better suited to their interests.

She emphasized that any swap leftovers will go to a good cause.

"Of course, there are always remaining items at the end of these events, and giving back is huge for me as someone who worked in a nonprofit for so long. I'm really honored to say that Curt's Closet will be receiving any leftover clothing items from this event.

"They have an incredible team over there and anything we can do to support their back to school efforts is really, really awesome."

She spoke on her motivations for the event, "I've always been a thrifter and a sustainable girly, and even more so in the last few years with the rise of fast fashion. When I became a full-time artist, sustainability mattered even more to me. The textile industry in America produces over 11 million tons of textile waste per year...so being able to swap garments and things that are already made, versus buying more, is beneficial for everyone. It's less textiles in the landfill, and it's more money in people's wallets."

It's not just about sustainability, it's about community.

"It's awesome to have friends online, but it's actually incredible to be able to gather in person with women who are into the same things.

"Women in my age demographic are statistically the second most lonely, right behind late life.

"We are all so busy in our careers and families that it's easy to feel super isolated outside of our daily routine. I am hoping this will be a fun way for people to get some cool new stuff and meet new friends," Murphy-Carnes added.

To see more from Cayla Eclectic, visit caylaeclectic.com.

Register here to swap or volunteer: https://tinyurl.com/caylasfreeswap2026

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
• The Cullman County Special Education Program is seeking to locate children with disabilities ages 0-21 within the Cullman County School District. Ages 0-3 call Kristie Smith, 256-734-3253. Ages 3-21 call Katie Meigs, Special Education Coordinator, 256-739-0486, Ext 2.
• The system is also seeking to locate intellectually gifted and talented children, with the emphasis on second-grade students. Contact Special Education Coordinator Katie Meigs at 17600 U.S. Highway 31 N, Cullman, Al 35058.

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
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Sunday, Aug. 2 – 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. 2 p.m. prayer service.
• Wednesday, Aug. 5– 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 5:15-5:30. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup.
• Friday, Aug. 7 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, Aug. 9 – 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.
• Wednesday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Children's author Ernie Swindle (bringing Matilda the Donkey for petting, located in the back parking lot)
• Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. "Larry the Magician" a happy, interactive program full of laughter. This is his last season performing; he is retiring after this summer.
• Wednesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. Storytime Cullman Extension 4-H Kerri Roberts
• Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. Adult book club
• Tuesday, Aug. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Teenage club art project
• Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. Storytime with college volunteer
• Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. Children's book club and storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs
• Wednesday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. Storytime with teenager Savannah Kesick reading "Frog & Toad"
• Wednesday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. Storytime with Suhana, board member
• Thursdays, 1-3 p.m., Crochet class
• We are looking for community volunteers to read storytime on Wednesdays. Contact Teresa Rivera for details. Volunteers make our library successful, so we thank our local community.

City of Good Hope 2026 Back-to-School Bash
Thursday, Aug. 6, from 5-7 p.m. at Good Hope Municipal Park, 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman. Door prizes, a free meal, water slides, a gaming trailer, back-to-school photos, free haircuts for school-aged children and more. This is a free event.

Holly Pond Lions Club All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Aug. 15, from 6-9 a.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building. For a donation, guests can enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee, available for dine-in or takeout. All proceeds will support the HP Lions Club Project Fund and the local food pantry. Thank you community for supporting your local Lions Club.

Little Pink Dress Benefit
Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Stone Bridge Farms. Tickets on sale now! www.cullmanbosombuddies.com/service/little-pink-dress-event

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 1, 2026

PREP FOOTBALL

Holly Pond hopeful that fresh faces in key offensive spots will lead them to the postseason in 2026

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — In Will McDaniel's third season at the helm, the Holly Pond Broncos are looking to take another step forward, get over the hump and into the playoffs.

While the season ended 5-5, Holly Pond's offense was explosive with Boston Gibbs at signal caller in '25, averaging over 30 points per game.

This season, the Broncos will need major contributions from fresh faces, after the departure of Gibbs, tight end Cade Albright and tackle Braden Ivey, all of whom are now playing at the collegiate level.

Taking over the offense this season will be Grayson Baggett, a freshman who started the last two seasons for the junior high Broncos. Baggett slots in with three total years of learning Holly Pond's Wing-T playbook, which they run at all levels.

That playbook was altered last season following a late injury that forced Gibbs into the starting role, giving the offense more looks in shotgun. This season, with Baggett taking over, Broncos head coach Will McDaniel said they'll return to their preferred approach.

"The Wing was still in everything we did play call-wise and blocking scheme-wise, we just altered the formation a little. We got in the shotgun, but it was still very much our offense. We're back under center this year, which is where, ideally, we think there's more variety within our scheme," McDaniel said. On Baggett's emergence, he added, "He's got a bright future. He's grown a lot in the last year or so and he's handled adversity really well."

Helping break in a new QB is a backfield with a variety of experience. Senior halfback Miguel Garcia will return and will be complemented by fullback Hunter Tolbert, who was originally slated to start at quarterback last season.

Vital to the Wing-T offense, the starting tight end spot was left open with Albright's departure. Returning to the position this year and grabbing that spot is Braxton Rice.

"He's gained a lot of weight in muscle. We feel really good about the things he can do, especially in the passing game. He's a very willing and violent blocker, and played mostly defense last year and will continue to play both ways this year," McDaniel said.

Clearing the way for the backs, the Broncos' offensive line is in good shape despite the departure of Ivey, who's now at Morehead State University. Returning from an injury last season, though, Holly Pond has yet another college prospect at its disposal with tackle Braxton Yarbrough.

On the situation around Yarbrough, McDaniel said, "We'll start two ninth graders on the line who both started the last three or four games last year and really held their own, that's Travis Horton and Zander McAbee. Jack Sims converted to an offensive lineman as the season went on, too and we saw some good things from him. Connor Mallon, who played center for us last year, he's probably going to kick out to a guard position. So we've got four guys with a lot of experience."

As much as the Broncos want to run the ball on offense, they want to stop other teams from doing the same. They'll employ an odd man front defense, stacking the box as much as possible when necessary.

Leading the charge on the line is, again, Yarbrough, who McDaniel and the staff hope can stay healthy enough to play both ways. Rushing on the outside will be Jesse Daniel and Jalen Taylor, who hope to make life easy on the secondary where there's plenty of fresh faces as well.

On his team's youth, and their mentality heading into 2026, McDaniel said, "With this team, there's a lot of newness and I think that their mentality is just to come to work every day. If you look at it generally there's not a lot of guys who have gotten to be stars in this group- like the seniors from the 2024 team and the seniors on last year's team that really shined. These guys come to work every day, there's not a lot of ego and they've been a lot of fun to work with. I'm really looking forward to this team, because I just think they're extremely hungry."

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CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic officially broke ground Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, on its new 5,040-square-foot facility, marking a major milestone in the organization's future.

Clinic (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Good Samaritan Health Clinic will offer vision exams at reduced prices with Alabama Lions Sight on Aug. 26 and Sept. 30.

Community Engagement Coordinator Susan Crane said the Clinic is blessed with an incredibly supportive local Lions Club.

"It was their idea to bring this much needed service to Cullman and to partner with Good Samaritan Health Clinic," Crane said. "We are grateful for the Lions who come faithfully each month to volunteer. We love our partnership with the Cullman Lions Club. These vision exams are an extension of our long-term partnership and an impactful way to expand our services for our patients and the greater community."

Crane said Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic makes visits around rural Alabama providing eye and vision exams to people of all ages who would benefit.

"Since launching our formal partnership with the Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic in May 2023, more than 200 community members have received comprehensive vision exams and eyeglasses," Crane said. "The vision exams and eyeglasses are available through Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic at reduced fees. You do not need to be a patient of Good Samaritan Health Clinic — the vision exams are for anyone in need in the community."

The Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic schedule is announced each quarter on Good Samaritan Health Clinic's Facebook and Instagram accounts. They encourage everyone to follow them on social media so they can stay up to date on upcoming vision screening opportunities and other clinic news.

"We look forward to having the Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic parked at our new clinic site Sept. 30," Crane said.

Call Good Samaritan Health Clinic at 256-255-5963 to schedule an appointment.

Visit www.alabamalionssight.org (Patient Services/ Mobile Eye Clinic) for pricing and more information.

Good Samaritan is currently located at 401 Arnold St. NE, Suite A, Cullman. Its new location will be 118 Veterans Dr. SW. Check www.facebook.com/goodsamaritancullman to stay up to date on the move!



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Buck Moon on July 29, 2026

OP-ED

Did you see the Buck Moon?

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

On July 29, there was the full moon, the Buck Moon – also known as: Thunder Moon, Salmon Moon and Hay Moon. The name you have probably heard the most here in Alabama is Buck Moon. This moon appears annually in July, marking the middle of summer (deep breaths guys, we're almost in the home stretch).

Its name originates from the Algonquin tribes of North America, who noticed that in July male deer, or bucks, start to grow new antlers. These antlers are covered in fuzz and soft to the touch – highly visible and a good way for the North American tribes to mark the passing of seasons.

The other names came about in much the same way. The July full moon was also called the Thunder Moon by some tribes because of the frequent thunderstorms that roll in at this time of the year. The Hay Moon came about from Europeans due to it being the time farmers begin to harvest hay for the upcoming fall and winter months. If you're from the Pacific Northwest, you would have heard it called the Salmon Moon, indicating when the salmon return to the rivers to spawn.

Other names are Raspberry Moon and Feather Molting Moon. The Dakota peoples' name for the July full moon is Moon When the Chokecherries Are Ripe.

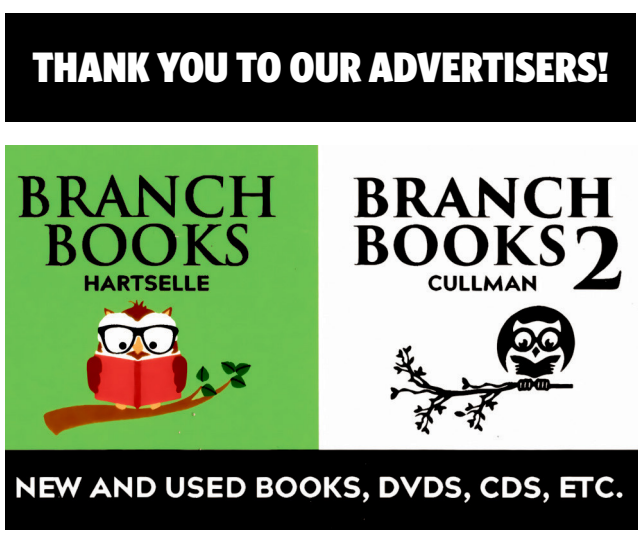
Beyond its natural markers, the Buck Moon has been used historically to track seasons, plan agricultural activities and guide hunting cycles. Many cultures also attach spiritual or symbolic meanings to this moon, celebrating it with ceremonies, festivals or reflections on growth and renewal.

The Buck Moon, like all full moons, occurs when the Earth is positioned between the sun and the moon, fully illuminating the moon's Earth-facing side. It often appears larger and more golden when near the horizon due to the moon Illusion, and it can sometimes coincide with a supermoon, appearing slightly brighter and closer to Earth than usual. And with wildfires releasing a smoky haze in the sky this year, it scatters light, a phenomenon known as mie scattering, causing the moon to have a deep red color just on the horizon.

The next full moon will be Aug. 28, and before that the legendary Perseid meteor shower will reach its peak on the night of Aug. 12-13. This year's viewing conditions will be excellent. The peak occurs near a New Moon so the sky will stay completely dark.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!











LIFESTYLE

Intro to 'Summerween'

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

"Summerween" is an unofficial holiday celebrated during the summer. If you've made it past the Fourth of July, an excessive number of heat warnings and you're ready for cooler weather - it could be time to bring out the Halloween decorations!

Though, for many, maximalist Halloween decorating may not align with their lifestyle. Below are a few ways to incorporate Summerween into your home.

Autumnal aroma

A way to get in the spirit is to infuse your home with calming fall scents. You can choose air fresheners, whether that be sprays or wall plug-ins, wax burners or warmers, scented candles or even essential oil diffusers.

Scent recommendations:

• Cashmere. It's subtle, but bold. It features wood elements combined with notes of musk and the sweet touch of vanilla and florals.

• Maple leaf. What better way to fast forward to fall than to smell its warm, earthy foliage? This provides a balance of sweet and natural,

• Pumpkin pie. A classic holiday favorite gives hints of cinnamon with the mellow squash for a calming scent.

Seasonal hobbies

Indulging in fall-themed hobbies and media, whether it's a new show, book or craft, can set the seasonal tone for your everyday routine.

Shows and movies

• For adults: "The Vampire Diaries," "Twilight," "Supernatural," "The Gilmore Girls," "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" or "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"

• For children: "Over the Garden Wall," "Twitches," "The Nightmare Before Christmas" or "Halloweentown"

Books

• For adults: "The Pumpkin Spice Café" (Laurie Gilmore), "Death by Pumpkin Spice" (Alex Erickson) or "Dark Harvest" (Norman Patridge)

• For children: "The Boxcar Children: The Pumpkin Head Mystery" (Gertrude Chandler Warner), "The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Creepy-Crawly Halloween" (Eric Carle) or "Bluey's Halloween Mix-and-Match" (Penguin Young Readers)

Summerween snacks

• Jack-O-Lantern floats: Mix 1/2 cup cream soda with 1/2 cup orange soda and top with whip cream and sprinkles.

• Mummy hot dogs: Prepare as you normally would for pigs-in-a-blanket, but add indentions or cuts in the croissant dough before wrapping them around the hot dogs.

• Ghost s'mores: Bake a pan of brownies and once they're cooked, line the top with graham crackers, chocolate syrup and marshmallows. Place into the oven again until marshmallows are golden brown.

Summerween doesn't have to stop there! Have a night of activities such as carving watermelons as you would jack-o-lanterns, sharing spooky stories and making plans to visit a local pumpkin patch this fall!



PINTEREST

Summerween snack table

Library (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library's "seed library" is accepting fruit, vegetable, herb or flower seed donations from visitors.

Cullman County Public Library System Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore told The Tribune about the start of the seed library: "We were inspired to start a seed library two years ago to coincide with our 'Planning and Planting Your Summer Garden' program, which we hold annually in March in partnership with the Cullman Alabama Extension Office."

The seed library is located across from the checkout area and will remain available through the planting season, she said.

"However, it is only successful if people give as well as take. It works like an exchange program: bring in a pack of seeds to trade for ones you don't already have.

"We collect both food and flower seeds, so there is something for everyone," she noted.

Only three packs of seeds can be taken per library visit. In addition to taking seeds, additional seeds must also be donated to keep the library growing.

"The seed library has been successful thanks to donations from patrons and local business partners like the North Alabama Agriplex," said Creekmore.

The Cullman County Public Library is located at 200 Clark St. NE.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

RANDY JAMES WATKINS, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-260

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF RANDY JAMES WATKINS, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Betty Dean Smith on the 28th day of July, 2026, by the Honorable 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.

Betty Dean Smith, Personal Representative (Administrator),

TO: 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
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

Case# PC2026-228
PB MIN Book:245 Page:262
Recorded in Above Book and P
07/17/2026 11:49AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: *

MARY RUTH FLANIGAN, * CASE NO.: PC2026-228

Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to **SYLVIA FLANIGAN TURNER**, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **MARY RUTH FLANIGAN**, deceased, on the 17th day of July, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court 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.

Sylvia Flanigan Turner
Personal Representative

Kalif R. Green, Esq.
Kalif R. Green, Attorney at Law, LLC
107 Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077
(256)735-6040
kalifrgreen@gmail.com

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 17th day of July, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *

STEVE LUTHER SUTTER, * CASE NO.: PC 2026-215

Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: STEPHANIE PHILLIPS, LAYLA QUIN, STEVEN SUTTER and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF GEORGE CARROLL COLE

Petition for Probate of Will, filed by Debbie Sutter f/k/a Debbie Kay Travis Davis, Personal Representative, through Attorney Dan J. Willingham has been scheduled for the 10th **day of September, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

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

Done this the 28th day of July, 2026.

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 is said newspaper and send Proof of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for Personal Representative
413 First Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ROLAND HANKEY, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-289

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ROLAND HANKEY, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Tyler Hankey on the 28th day of July, 2026, by the Honorable 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.

Tyler Hankey, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

Notice is hereby given that the Cullman City Council will meet in public session at 7:00 p.m. on August 10, 2026, in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium in Cullman City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055, to consider the approval of an economic development agreement (commonly known as a "772 Agreement") pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, including, without limitation, Section 94.01 of the Constitution of Alabama 2022 (formerly codified as Amendment No. 722 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended), with API Cullman, LLC for the development of a new Retail Shopping Center. This agreement would authorize the City to provide certain public incentives, including but not limited to the use of public funds or resources for site improvements, infrastructure, or other economic development assistance, in exchange for the economic benefits associated with the project, such as job creation, increased tax revenues, and significant commercial development. The Cullman City Council has determined that the proposed economic development agreement serves a valid public purpose by promoting economic and industrial development in the City of Cullman, Alabama. All interested citizens are invited to attend. The full text of the proposed economic development agreement (commonly known as a "772 Agreement") is available for public inspection during normal business hours of the office of the City Clerk in Cullman City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Published this 1st day of August, 2026.
Wesley Moore - Cullman City Clerk

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

2008 HD FXD 1HD1GY498K325966
The vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Head Hoggers llc, 222 Arkadelphia Rd, Hanceville, AL 35077
AUG 28 2026 8:30am

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case# AD2025032
PB ADT Book:74 Page:605
Recorded in Above Book and P
07/22/2026 2:03PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF WILLIAM JOHNSTON and LOIS JOHNSTON, FOR THE ADOPTION OF

X.I.P. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 8/23/2012

CASE NO.: AD 2025-032

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: LUCAS EDWARD PAYNE, BOILOGICAL FATHER WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

Please take notice that a *Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption of Child* to adopt X.I.P. a minor child born on August 23, 2012, to Melissa Leigh Bates Wilson, was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by William Johnston and Lois Johnston, Petitioners. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 22nd DAY OF July, 2026.

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

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for the Petitioners
200 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2nd Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, Al 35055

Caitlyn Robinson
(PLAINTIFF)
VS CASE NO: SM-2026-900433
David Keith Chandler III
(DEFENDANT)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

DEFENDANT(S), David Keith Chandler III, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him/her by the PLAINTIFF, Caitlyn Robinson, for $3,400.00 plus court cost, cause of action being: Money provided defendant for rent

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 5th day of September, 2026, or a default may be rendered against him/her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 24th DAY OF JULY, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JOSHUA WILLIAM ROBERTS,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900148.00**

VALARIE ROBERTS,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Valarie Roberts, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Joshua William Roberts' Divorce Complaint by September 7, 2026; or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-OR-2026-900148.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the ,8th day of July, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANNE1TE IRONS-PARKER
215 MAIN AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Not driving is driving me nuts

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I learned to drive shortly after I learned to ride a bicycle. Since I didn't need a license to ride a bicycle, I figured I didn't have to have one to drive a car either. Well, I didn't say I was driving legally, but then I wasn't driving out on the highways either. I waited until I was at least 14 before I ever hit the pavement. As soon as I turned 15, I was in line at the county courthouse for a learner's permit. Dad died that year and Mom had not yet mastered the art of driving, so I became the resident chauffeur in the King household.

I first learned in some of Dad's trucks at his coal yard. Before I actually drove one by myself, dad would let me sit in his lap and turn the steering wheel and change the gears.

Eventually, I grew enough and had learned enough for him to move over. I could barely reach the pedals, especially in my dad's trucks, but if I sat way out on the front of the seat I could make it work. He had a huge set off drive-on scales. On days when the lot wasn't too crowded with customers, Dad let me drive around the lot and pull the trucks on and off the scales. I managed to never run over anything or anyone. I did scare a couple of dogs half to death a time or two.

I have always enjoyed driving ever since then and have not taken the privilege for granted, especially for these past five weeks. For the third time in the past 14 years, my driving privilege has been suspended. No, I have not lost my license, just my ability to drive. Two of those times, including the one I now find myself in, have been due to eye surgeries. It's really not that I can't drive, it's just that I can't see well enough to drive without running over what I can't see, you see? The other time was for six weeks after my open-heart surgery. So, for now I'm like that 14-year-old who is anxiously waiting for his birthday to arrive so he can hit the highway. I do have a birthday coming up in a few days, but I don't think I'll be on the road again quite yet.

I have been reminded once again that driving is what gives us much freedom. It allows us to come and go as we wish without having to depend on someone else. What if we didn't have anyone else? Driving is a privilege we often take for granted, but we will bemoan the fact that we can't when we can't. I am most thankful for my sweet wife for her ability and willingness to drive me where I need to go. Lately, that has been to the doctor's offices more than anywhere else, but that's beside the point.

I have developed a deeper sympathy for those who, either because of their age or physical issues, are no longer able to drive or retain a license. They are often as saddened to lose that privilege as we were gladdened to gain it as a youngster. Sometimes they become trapped at home, or wherever they live, with no means of traveling where they need to go.

If you know of someone in that situation, please give some thought to giving them a ride some time. You might very well be giving them a lift in more ways than one. I hope to "see" you soon!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com.

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Aug. 1, 1929

From the files of Aug. 1, 1929

Cullman Country Club Staging Golf Tournament
The members of the Cullman Golf and Country Club have a golf tournament now in full swing.

The players who desired to enter, turned in their score cards and a committee placed them in classifications according to their scores. There are four groups or flights as they are called in golf. Partners were selected by drawing. Prizes have been offered by business firms to the winners of each flight of which there are four.

Flight No. 1. L. L. Thompson donates one gallon Gulf Pride oil to winner of this flight. All flights are matched playing. Those selected in this flight are: G. W. Bledsoe, Bill Griffin and Carl Thompson, Fred Kelley.

Flight No. 2. Wells Drug Co. donates a box of cigars to winner of this class. H. L. Fuller, H. V. Hawkins and L. L. Thompson, O. D. Kennemer and Finis St. John, Jr., Leroy Bledsoe.

Flight No. 3. Strand Theatre donates two tickets to winner of this class. Howard Griffin, Carl Arnold and Edward Fuller, Henry Arnold and Robert Rosson, Roy Williams.

Flight No. 4. Lyric Theatre donates two tickets to winner of this class. E. G. Williamson, J. A. Beaty; Oscar Dunlap, F. E. St. John; Dr. Dodson; John Dunlap; Walter Herrel, P. G. Hartung and D. C. Schlosser, Dr. Herrin.

Holly Pond Wins Two Games
Holly Pond won two ball games last week, shutting out Cleveland, 7-0 and beating Trimble 3-1, making four wins in a row.

In the Cleveland game Taylor pitched air tight ball, allowing only five scattered hits. Taylor, Reid and Shaw led in the hitting for the game.

Taylor and Warren held Trimble to only one score while Holly Pond made three. Jimmy Lindsey held the batting honors for this game with three singles out of four times at the bat.

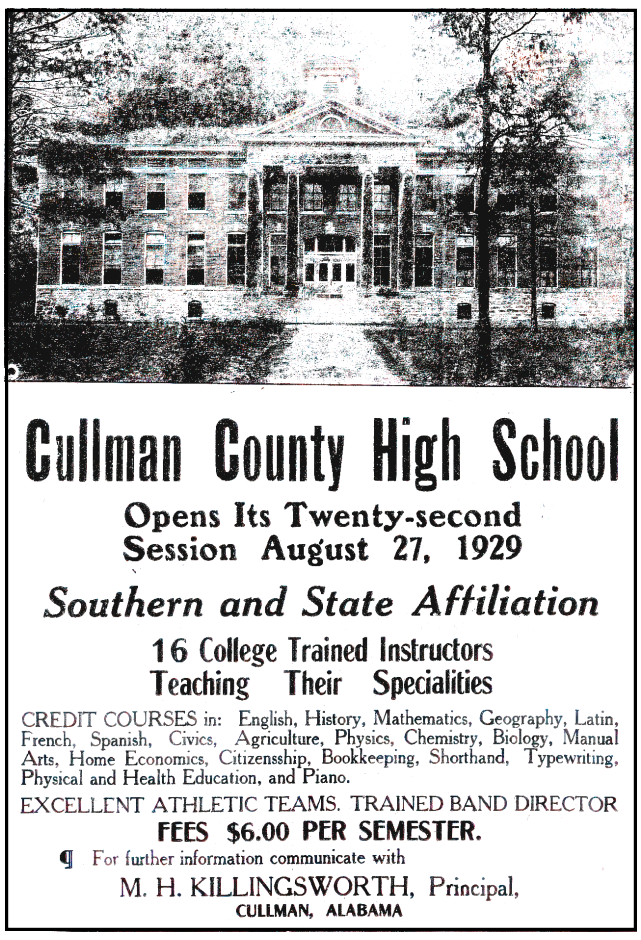
River Bend News
Steppville R. 1, July 29.—The order of the day in this community is fishing and loafing.

Marvin Burnham and sister, Eunice, visited Miss Annie Mae Hensley Sunday evening.

Clarence Kessler of Birmingham, was seen at the home of Mrs. Hardwig Sunday afternoon.

Charlie Hudson attended the big dance at Blount county Saturday night.

The folks of this community surely miss Mr. and Mrs. Stepp, son, Clarence, and daughter, Lois, while they are visiting kinfolks in Georgia.



Miss Modine Thompson was seen out riding Sunday afternoon.

Aubrey Fowler called on Miss Annie Sibert Saturday night.

Geo. Burkart and girl friend were seen out riding Sunday afternoon.

Meeting will start at Oak Grove the first Sunday. Everybody come.

Come on Oak Grove, we want to hear from you.

Fire Call Wednesday Was Oil Stove
Wednesday the Cullman fire department was called to Wagners Studio to extinguish the blaze of an oil stove that was blazing up too high and threatened to catch the building on fire.

The blaze was quickly extinguished with chemicals and no damage was done to amount to a great deal.

POET'S CORNER

Outside Your Door
By: Randy C. Hale

Outside your door, is grass, and trees,
the clouds, and moon, and stars to see.

Outside your door, raccoons roam,
birds are singing beautiful songs.

Hummingbirds, doves, and wrens
let the inspiration for you begin.

A handsome deer may wonder by,
beneath the shadows of the sky.

A tomato turns from green to red,
sunflowers lift their heads.

Cucumbers crawl across the ground,
a squash plant grows without a sound.

So open your door and go outside,
lay the electronics down for a time.

Outside your door, my friend could be
answers for questions for you to see.

So let the wonder of it all,
fill your heart with love and awe.

Outside your door, a message waits
each day's a gift, and no mistake.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
AUG. 1

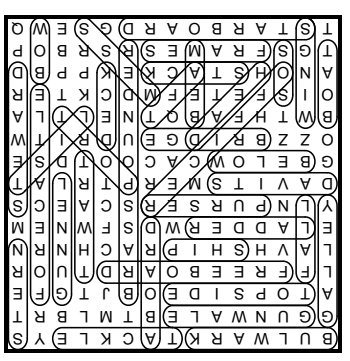
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Brass Pounder
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
AUG. 1

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Recruitment (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — New businesses may appear to arrive quickly once construction begins, but Cullman Economic Development Agency Retail & Workforce Development Manager Susan Eller said retail projects often result from years of preparation, relationship building and coordination.

Eller recently participated in the Economic Development Association of Alabama Summer Conference panel "Retail: Preparing for Shows." The session examined major retail recruitment conferences and how communities can make the most of the time and money invested in attending them.

"One of the biggest takeaways from the panel was that there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to retail recruitment," Eller said. "Every community has different goals, budgets and opportunities, so it's important to choose the retail events that best fit your strategy rather than trying to attend everything."

The conferences provide different levels of access to retailers, developers, brokers and site-selection representatives.

ICSC Las Vegas, formerly known as the International Council of Shopping Centers, is the largest retail conference in the world, attracting more than 25,000 industry professionals. Eller said many meetings with retailers are scheduled months before the conference begins.

The event also includes the Annual Alabama Retail Reception, hosted by EDAA's Retail Economic Development Committee. Eller serves as chairperson of the committee.

"We work throughout the year to ensure the right retailers, developers, brokers and economic developers are in the room," she said. "Our goal is to create meaningful networking opportunities that help Alabama communities build relationships with the people making retail location decisions."

ICSC Southeast in Atlanta offers a more manageable setting for smaller communities and first-time attendees. Eller said many Alabama communities can attend as a day trip. An Alabama Retail Reception on the conference floor also provides access to retailers and industry partners without competing with numerous off-site events.

Retail Live in Nashville follows a different format, which she described as "retail speed dating."

Retail representatives begin the conference by introducing their companies and explaining their expansion plans, preferred markets and site requirements. Attendees then meet directly with those representatives on the trade show floor.

Companies represented can range from convenience stores and quick-service restaurants to grocery stores, specialty businesses and large merchandise chains.

"That format removes many of the barriers communities face when trying to schedule appointments and gives attendees the opportunity to have meaningful, one-on-one conversations with the people responsible for site selection," she said.

The event also provides a directory containing contact information and site criteria that communities can use after the conference.

Preparation helps communities compete

Eller said one of the panel's most discussed topics was how smaller communities can compete for retail development.

"Success isn't determined by the size of your community. It's determined by preparation," Eller said. "Communities that know their market, have current demographic and site information, build relationships before asking for projects and consistently follow up are the ones that stand out."

Retail recruitment is based largely on relationships, she said. Conferences may not produce an immediate commitment, but they allow communities to establish credibility, remain visible and develop connections with the people responsible for expansion decisions.

The goal is to ensure Cullman is already part of the conversation when a company begins looking for a new location.

Preparation begins months before CEDA representatives arrive at a conference.

Eller said retailers increasingly rely on state or regional representatives, including third-party consultants, to identify markets and sites that match their expansion strategies. Communities can no longer depend solely on contacting a company's corporate office.

"Our job is to make sure Cullman is on that list," she said.

CEDA gathers information about traffic counts, population trends, retail sales, available properties, established national brands and Cullman's strongest commercial corridors.

Retailers also want to know where residential growth is occurring, whether the community is experiencing sustained growth and what public or private investments may be planned.

Road access is another factor, particularly when a site is located along a state or federal highway.

Retailers also want information that cannot be found in a standard demographic report.

"They want to know what draws people to our community, what makes our market unique and why customers choose to shop here," Eller said. "Much of that information isn't readily available in a report, so our preparation is really about gathering local knowledge and presenting a compelling case for why Cullman is a strong fit for their brand."

Why retailers consider Cullman

Eller said Cullman's retail growth has resulted from long-term planning, infrastructure investment and efforts to create an environment where businesses can succeed.

"Cullman's retail success hasn't happened by accident," she said.

Retailers follow growth, and Cullman continues to experience residential, industrial and commercial development. Its location along Interstate 65 also gives businesses access to a regional customer base extending beyond the city limits.

Investments in infrastructure and quality of life provide additional confidence that Cullman can support continued growth.

"Retailers want to see success, and they can see it here," Eller said.

The City of Cullman has invested in downtown streetscapes, public spaces and infrastructure. Local business and property owners have renovated buildings, opened new businesses and created destinations that attract residents and visitors.

Those public and private investments have helped create a walkable downtown while commercial corridors north and south of the city's center have continued to grow.

"What makes Cullman unique is that we don't have just one successful retail area. We have multiple thriving commercial districts," Eller said. "Instead of one area thriving at the expense of another, we're seeing growth across the community."

Attractions and events also demonstrate that Cullman draws customers from outside the immediate area.

Eller pointed to the OmniPlex, Heritage Park, WildWater, Oktoberfest and Christkindlmarkt as examples of destinations that bring people to Cullman for recreation, entertainment and special events.

"That reinforces what retailers want to know, that our market extends well beyond our city limits and that customers are already choosing Cullman as a destination," Eller said.

Safety and quality of life also influence investment decisions.

"Cullman is known as a safe, welcoming community, and that's important to retailers," Eller said. "They want locations where customers feel comfortable shopping and where employees feel good about coming to work every day."

Existing businesses also help demonstrate the strength of the market. Retailers study population growth, traffic counts, consumer demand and sales activity before selecting a location.

When national companies see established businesses succeeding in Cullman, Eller said, they may identify the community as a market they want to enter.

CEDA does not determine whether a retailer is allowed to locate in Cullman. If a proposed use complies with zoning requirements and other applicable regulations, the company generally has the right to operate in the community.

The agency's role is to provide information, identify potential sites and connect retailers with property owners, commercial real estate professionals and local officials.

"We help answer questions, remove obstacles where we can and ensure they have the information they need to make informed decisions," Eller said.

From conversation to opening

Recruiting a retailer is rarely a quick process.

Some projects may move from an initial conversation to opening within several months. Others can take years.

Eller maintains information about available properties, their owners and the commercial real estate professionals representing them.

"I don't take the place of a commercial realtor," Eller said. "My goal is to help connect retailers with the property owners and real estate professionals who represent those sites."

Once a potential site is identified, CEDA works with the city's building department to determine whether the proposed development is compatible with zoning requirements.

Officials also examine whether utilities, transportation access and other infrastructure are available to support the project.

CEDA remains involved when questions or obstacles arise, helping developers connect with the appropriate departments, agencies and service providers.

"Economic development is really about building relationships, solving problems and making the process as smooth as possible for everyone involved," Eller said.

Residents may not see that work until a public announcement is made or construction begins.

"By the time residents see a 'Coming Soon' sign, there's often been months, or even years, of work behind the scenes involving site selection, planning, coordination and collaboration," Eller said.

Partnerships and incentives

Eller said no single person or organization recruits a retailer or completes a commercial development project alone.

CEDA may make the initial contact or identify an opportunity, but finishing a project can require assistance from the City of Cullman, Cullman County, utilities, transportation officials, property owners, commercial real estate professionals, local businesses and elected officials.

The city plays a central role through planning, zoning, permitting and infrastructure.

"Rather than sending a prospect from office to office, we work together to find solutions, answer questions and help keep the project moving forward," Eller said. "That collaborative approach gives retailers confidence that they have an entire community invested in their success."

Supporting businesses after they open is also important, she said. Businesses that have strong local partners may be more likely to expand, reinvest and recommend Cullman to others.

The partnership between the City of Cullman and Cullman County has expanded from industrial recruitment into retail and commercial development.

Eller said the countywide sales-tax structure has encouraged cooperation because growth in one area can benefit the entire county.

"By working together, we can share in strategic investments that help attract new development without placing the entire financial responsibility on one entity," Eller said.

Retail incentives can be part of that strategy.

Eller said incentives are not used for every project, but they have become increasingly common as communities compete for retailers, restaurants and mixed-use developments.

"In Cullman, we view incentives as an investment rather than an expense," Eller said.

Projects are evaluated to determine whether an incentive could generate new sales-tax revenue, create jobs, encourage private investment and provide additional opportunities for residents.

"Every project is evaluated carefully to ensure the community receives a positive return on its investment," Eller said. "Today's investment creates tomorrow's tax base, providing benefits that continue long after the initial incentive has ended."

Protecting projects until they are ready

CEDA frequently receives questions about why the names of prospective retailers are not announced earlier.

Eller said confidentiality is intended to protect projects while companies evaluate sites, negotiate for property and compare communities.

Releasing information too early could affect real estate negotiations, alert competing communities or expose proprietary business information. It could also create public expectations for a project that has not been finalized.

Economic conditions or a company's business strategy may also change before an agreement is completed.

"Our responsibility is to protect the integrity of the process while providing accurate information when it's appropriate to do so," Eller said. "We understand that residents are excited about new development, but we'd much rather announce a project when it's real and moving forward than celebrate something prematurely that never comes to fruition."

Balancing growth and Cullman's character

Eller said retail continues to evolve as customers seek convenience, choices and experiences.

National retailers remain important, but consumers are also looking for locally owned stores, distinctive restaurants, boutiques and shopping areas with a sense of place.

"There's a growing appreciation for the charm and personality of small-town shopping districts where people can browse, gather and support local businesses while enjoying a sense of community," Eller said.

Cullman's challenge is to continue growing while preserving the qualities that attract residents, businesses and visitors.

Eller expects continued investment along Cullman's commercial corridors, redevelopment of existing properties and additional dining and entertainment options.

Some projects are already progressing, she said. Others remain early conversations that may take several years to produce visible results.

"The biggest thing I'd encourage residents to remember is that economic development is a long game," Eller said. "Many of the businesses opening today are the result of conversations that started years ago."

CEDA will continue identifying opportunities, developing relationships and preparing information so Cullman is positioned to compete when retailers begin considering new markets.

"We're constantly planting seeds, building relationships and preparing for opportunities so that when the timing is right, Cullman is ready," Eller said.

What retailers examine before selecting a community

- Population and residential growth
- Traffic counts and road access
- Retail sales and consumer demand
- Available sites and infrastructure
- Existing national and regional retailers
- Regional customer draw
- Quality of life and community safety
- Planned public and private investment

Obituary Announcements: July 30-31

Shirley Faye Horton, 84
Funeral service for Shirley Faye Horton, 84, of Eva was at 2 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethel Methodist Cemetery, Bro. Greg Wilbanks officiated. The family received friends at the funeral home from 1-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Horton passed away Thursday, July 29, 2026, at CRMC. She was born Nov. 6, 1941, to Rayburn Milton Miller and Tressie Lorene Kelley Miller. Shirley retired from Lab Corp after over twenty years of service. She is survived by three daughters, Susan Coons, Cynthia (Ricky) Morgan and Angela Parker; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; many extended family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests making donations to Cornerstone Revival Center. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Linda Louise Darden, 68
Funeral services for Linda Louise Darden, 68, of Hanceville will be 1 p.m. Friday, July 31, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Darden was born March 5, 1958, in Hammond, Indiana to the late James and Elizabeth Combs. She passed away July 29, 2026, in Hanceville, Alabama. Linda was a woman of faith and had a heart that found joy in the simple blessings of life. She passed from this earthly home into the loving arms of her Savior. A faithful member of Hanceville Assembly of God, Linda's relationship with the Lord was the foundation of her life. She found great comfort in Scripture, especially the words of the Lord's Prayer. Music was one of God's greatest gifts to Linda. She loved playing her guitar and lifting her voice in praise, and among all the hymns she cherished, "I'll Fly Away" was her favorite. Linda's greatest happiness came from the people she loved. She treasured every moment spent with her husband, children and grandchildren. She had a special love for children and found joy in their laughter and innocence. She also had dogs which brought her great joy. Linda will be remembered for her faith, music, and the love she freely shared with everyone blessed to know her. Though her family grieves her absence, they find peace in knowing she has heard the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and has finally taken flight to her eternal home. Mrs. Darden is survived by her husband of 42 years, Terry Darden; children, Kamie Villa, Amy Thomas (Jeremy), Christine Plasters (Aaron), Melissa Darden, Brandon Darden; grandchildren, Leslie Doss (Matthew), Alivia Sheffield (Aaron), Ethan Jackson, Miles Smith, Beckett Jackson, Collins Jackson, Keeley Hudson, Davis Jackson, Heidi Plasters; siblings, Sharon Barnett, Joseph Barnett, Elizabeth "Boots" Radosevich, Arlene Lavett, James "Jimmy" Combs; and a host of great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Mrs. Darden was preceded in death by her parents, James and Elizabeth Combs, and her siblings, Larry Barnett, and Darlene Barnett. Serving as pallbearers will be Miles Smith, Jeremy Thomas, Beckett Jackson, Matthew Doss, Whit McCurley, and Collins Jackson. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Darden family.

Shirley Ann Tankersley West, 80
Shirley Ann Tankersley West, 80, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on July 28, 2026. Born Sept. 21, 1945, in Alabama, Shirley will be remembered as a beloved and cherished presence—gentle in spirit, kind-hearted in word and deed, and steadfastly devoted to those she loved. Shirley graduated from Hanceville High School and later attended Wallace State Community College, where she obtained her certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She found true love in caring for others as an LPN, bringing compassion, patience, and thoughtful attention to the work she considered a calling. Even after being admitted to the dementia unit in June 2025 at Summerford nursing home, she remained, in every meaningful sense, "clocked in." With the same thoughtful attentiveness that defined her nursing, she continued to look after fellow residents—watching for their safety, alerting staff when someone might fall or be hurt, and offering comfort when someone simply wanted to go home. In time, she was crowned queen of the West Haven Hall dementia unit at Summerford, honored for the way she welcomed new residents and cared for them as if they were her own. Her resilience and selflessness were not spoken of as ideals, but lived out in quiet, consistent ways. Above all, Shirley was a devoted mother and grandmother—"maw maw"—to her grandchildren, Chloe and Trey. Her daughter and grandchildren were her entire world. Chloe and Trey will carry forward tender memories of days at Sportsman Lake Park—playing on the playground, feeding the ducks, and riding the train. They will remember chocolate milk, bubbles that made big messes, and a maw maw who never grew upset over the joy of it all. They will remember her little Christmas tree with the gifts she chose for them, enjoying longstanding favorites she would make such as pigs in a blanket, getting to play the piano in her home, and the time she spent teaching them to play Rook—moments made precious by her steady, kind-hearted presence. In quieter moments, Shirley enjoyed the comforts of home. She took pleasure in shopping for her home, often seeking out practical items and content to spend hours searching for the perfect curtains or bedding. She was an avid reader and enjoyed mystery and suspense novels while valuing a cozy night in, generally keeping to herself and finding peace in the familiar rhythms of home. Shirley's legacy is one of faithful love and unwavering gentleness. She was a wonderful mother—warmhearted, generous with her time and attention, and consistently thoughtful. Those closest to her knew a steady spirit: no bad moods, no yelling or anger—only a sincere desire to see others at ease and happy. Shirley was preceded in death by her father, John Albert Tankersley; her mother, Carrie Mae Tankersley; and her brothers, John Henry Tankersley, Robert Tankersley, and Ray Tankersley. Shirley is survived by her loving daughter, Amanda Romine (Alfonzo); her grandchildren, Chloe Romine and Alfonzo Romine III; along with a host of loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

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