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WEATHER

93 | 71
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SLIGHT CHANCE SHOWERS THEN SLIGHT CHANCE T-STORMS

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LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

10th annual Brandin' Iron Bowl headlines week one matchups

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Vista Lago evaluating alternative wastewater options following Smith Lake concerns

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Vista Lago's development team says it is evaluating alternatives to its permitted wastewater-discharge plan after hearing concerns from residents, property owners, community leaders and businesses around Smith Lake.

The announcement does not identify a selected alternative or say that Vista Lago's existing Alabama Department of Environmental Management permit has been withdrawn or modified.

Vista Lago Lead Developer Nathan Stoops announced the review in an Aug. 17 statement.

"We have heard the concerns of residents, property owners, community leaders, and businesses regarding Vista Lago's wastewater discharge permit, and we have decided to explore alternative discharge options similar to existing discharge operations on Smith Lake," Stoops said.

The announcement is the first public indi- » PAGE 9

4 plead guilty in Hanceville Police Department corruption case; Wilbanks ordered to serve 3 years



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker and Special Agent Jamie King of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's State Bureau of Investigation at a press conference on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Four defendants officially pleaded guilty Wednesday, Aug. 19, in the Hanceville Police Department corruption case, with former Officer Jason Scott Wilbanks ordered to serve three years in state prison and former Reserve Officer Eric Michael Kelso ordered to serve four months.

Former Hanceville Police Chief Jason Shane Marlin and Donna Reid Kelso, Eric Kelso's wife, received suspended sentences and probation under their negotiated plea agreements.

Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker announced details of the cases during a 3 p.m. press conference Wednesday, joined by Cullman Police » PAGE 11



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Top row, left to right, are Jason Shane Marlin, Donna Reid Kelso and Jason Scott Wilbanks; bottom row, left to right, are Eric Michael Kelso, William Andrew Shelnutt and Cody Alan Kelso.

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Baileyton 'Good Time' Drag Strip listed for $1.4M; owner says track will remain open



2023 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The Baileyton "Good Time" Drag Strip, established by Jack Walker in 1966, has been listed for sale for $1.4 million. Owner Russ Easterwood said the track will remain fully operational while he searches for a buyer. Racers and fans responding to the announcement expressed hope that a future owner will preserve the track's history and traditions. » PAGE 9

Col. Don Fallin raises money for veterans on 52-mile Iceland trek » PAGE 4

Ryans Creek Baptist Church's rescheduled 5th annual car show set for Aug. 29 » PAGE 9

SLEPC, Alabama Power seeking volunteers for Sept. 18 Smith Lake cleanup » PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Molly measures love in time spent together



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Molly » PAGE 3

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Aug. 19

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Aug. 19, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Aug. 17
• identity theft; person

ARRESTS
Aug. 18
Farmer, Rachel N.; 34
• FTA – theft of property-4th degree
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Parrott, Haley J.; 28
• public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrest or incidents reported.

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

City of Cullman launches Community Connect to aid emergency response

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Community Connect is a free safety information site available to all Cullman residents aiming to better prepare for emergencies. Its launch was announced at the Cullman City Council meeting on Aug. 10.

Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Darren Peeples stated, "This is a very secure environment. Our Information Technology Director, Jacob Smith, looked at it today. You'll be able to fill out information so when we get a call to your address it'll pop up your address as we are en route and we can click on different links and any information you fill out."

He explained, "As the address pops up is when we see it. It is not something that is shared. We would like the community to begin to work on that."

At communityconnect.io the "What is Community Connect" video gives insight on information important for responders to know in the event of an emergency.

"This information includes the number of individuals in a household, mobility restrictions, the number of pets or livestock, whether someone speaks a different language and household details such as bedroom layouts or the locations of any potential hazardous materials.

By inputting other critical information such as gate and door codes, whether there is a pool or basement, how to cut off water and electricity and where your family's emergency safe place is located, emergency response can be streamlined.

Be sure to include your pets. Listing details of their needs and uploading pictures of your pets can help them be spotted easily and cared for properly after evacuation.

Community Connect suggests inputting emergency contacts as well. If there is an emergency at your property and you cannot be reached, your listed emergency contact may be able to give vital information about the household and know how to contact you.

To register, go to https://sizeup.firstduesizeup.com/cc/cullmanal/auth/signin.

Garden City Council welcomes Animal-Angels Foundation

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

GARDEN CITY, Ala. — The Garden City Town Council at its Aug. 17 meeting welcomed special guest, Animal-Angels Foundation Founder BJ Adkins.

Adkins stated the group hopes to bring "what we call high-impact clinics. We want to do free vaccinations, rabies, microchipping and heartworm testing." She said they don't want to do this just as a one-time thing, but multiple years.

Adkins also provided information stating that according to Huntsville data, when they implemented the same goals they effectively cut their euthanasia rates by 95%. "I don't know if we could hit 95%, but we could definitely lower our euthanasia rates a lot; like I said, it's not a one-time thing."

The Animal-Angels Foundation also offers spay and neuter services.

The town attorney advised Mayor Tim Eskew to table the proposal until the next meeting so that he can better look into it. The proposal will be revisited next month.

The council also addressed the cleanup notices that were sent out in July. On Garden City's Facebook page, the town posted "Ordinance 2026-004 Health and Sanitation Regulations within the Town of Garden City. Cleanup Notices have been delivered today to properties not in compliance. Any disputes may be taken up at the next council meeting work session."

Eskew agreed to give some residents a 30-day grace period due to high heat and disabilities for some residents. Councilman Barrett Hardin commended the community for reaching out and helping each other with cleaning up lots. "As long as you got the whole community down there trying, it makes it much easier on everybody."

The Council also adopted Resolution 2026-016, adopting its Annual Transportation Plan, ensuring compliance with the Rebuild Alabama Act to secure state gas tax allocations for local road maintenance. The plan outlines anticipated allocations of $10,411, $13,882 and $17,352 over the next three fiscal years. Town Treasurer Amy Black will be posting the resolution at town hall, the post office and the library for public transparency.

Councilman Butch Bradford announced that the town passed its surprise sewer inspection "with flying colors." The system is inspected annually; however, it is monitored monthly. He said, "Everything we're putting out is cleaner than what's coming in."

Fire Chief Zach Thomas said Engine 1 passed its pump test but Engine 2 did not. After taking Engine 2 to be worked on he received a bill for $8,216 and he requested the council's approval to pay the bill. He said, "They fixed the problem with the pump, and they fixed the problem with the engine while it shut down on me on the way. It had a bad lift pump for the fuel system." The council approved payment.

Mayor Eskew also addressed an issue with the railroad saying, "For those of you who do not know, we had that big rain about six to eight weeks ago. The cross ties piled up around the drain. It took out two 4-foot, I guess, 4-foot drain tiles. And we're waiting to hear back from Montgomery on the sewer plant grant. We don't know much about that right now. Hopefully, when the check gets in from CSX, we will go on with the repave." He assured the council that CSX is taking part of the responsibility.

The Garden City Town Council will be next on Sept. 7, with a work session starting at 5:30 p.m. followed be the meeting at 6.

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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 North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Building. 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.

Alpha Delta Kappa Invitation
• Are you a woman educator looking to connect, grow, serve, and make a difference? We want to invite you to contact our local Cullman chapters Alpha Theta or Beta Delta. Alpha Delta Kappa is a national honorary organization of more than 25,000 women educators who share a commitment to valuing all people and promoting quality education.
• Build lifelong friendships
• Connect with educators who share your passion
• Grow through leadership and professional opportunities
• Serve your school, community and beyond
• Celebrate the important work of women educators
• Your dedication to education matters. Your voice matters. You belong with us.
• For more information contact President of Alpha Theta Laurita Hogland 256-531-2298 or Presidents of Beta Delta Rhonda Vanzant 256-708-7980 or Lisa Hullett 256-962-4252.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• 256-739-3326
• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
• Friday, Aug. 21 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups 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. 23 – 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. 26, 10 a.m. Children's book club and storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs
• Friday, Aug. 28, 6 p.m. Poetry night – amateurs welcome!
• Wednesday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. Storytime with teenager Savannah Kesick reading "Frog & Toad"
• Thursday, Sept. 3, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class. Bring your own design, beginner lessons available or make a baby hat
• Wednesday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. Storytime with Suhana Chitatia, board member
• Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. Storytime with Gracie Miller, volunteer
• Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. Storytime with Susan Melton "Ten Red Apples" by Pat Hutchins
• Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs, children's book club
• 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.

Cheeseball Tasting Tea at Grace Episcopal Church – Place Your Holiday Order Early!
The Grace Episcopal Church Women will host a Cheeseball Tasting Tea on Sunday, Aug. 30 from 1-4 p.m. at The Arnold House, next door to the church - 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman. This year we are offering nine cheeseball flavors for your tasting pleasure. You will have the opportunity to order your cheeseballs early, and they will be ready for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 19, in time for the holidays. If you are unable to be with us at the tea, cheeseball order forms will be available on the Grace Episcopal Church website, www.gracecullman.org on Aug. 30, 2026. All proceeds from-our cheeseball project go to outreach including Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), The Good Samaritan Health Clinic, The Pilot Light Home, The Willow Path (formerly Victim Services), Hope Horses, Cullman Caring for Kids and Wallace State Campus Ministries. We look forward to having you join us!

Sacred Heart Church Christmas in September
Saturday, Sept. 19, 7 a.m. -7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Shop for gently used holiday decorations in the Sacred Heart Church gym. Proceeds go to St. Vincent DePaul.

Sacred Heart Church German Dinner
Wednesday, Sept. 30, 4-7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church gym. Traditional German food, $15 per plate. Dine in or take out.

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

Molly (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Molly, an approximately 2-year-old Terrier mix, is The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

This happy girl has a medium energy level and measures love by the time you spend with her. Molly thrives on praise and encouragement, willingly accepting new challenges when she knows someone is there cheering her on.

Her eagerness to learn, affectionate nature and desire to connect with people make her an excellent candidate for a therapy or companion dog.

One of her caretakers summed it up simply: "She has so much love to give! I just love this remarkable and resilient girl!"

Since Molly is already spayed, her adoption fee is just $35, a reduced fee that certainly does not reflect her worth.

Those interested in meeting Molly can 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 shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

If Molly has already found her forever home, be sure to visit her friends at the shelter. Plenty of wonderful pets are still waiting for families of their own.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 20, 2026

PREP FOOTBALL

10th annual Brandin' Iron Bowl headlines week one matchups

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview will travel to West Point for the 2026 season opener.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Football is officially back this Friday night. 2026 looks to be a fun year for the Cullman-area high schools, with teams like Fairview and Addison fighting to return to the playoffs, and up-and-coming programs like Holly Pond, West Point and Cullman attempting to take steps forward. Here's a look at all of our matchups this Friday.

Addison @ Winston County, 7 p.m.
Mark Hastings' Bulldogs start their 2026 season on the road against a Yellowjacket team that defended their home well last season, going 4-1 on their turf (5-6 overall finish). Addison's defense will get an early opportunity to show what it's made of, facing off against a Winston Co. offense that scored 40+ points eight times last season.

On the matchup, Hastings says, "The Winston County game is one that our team looks forward to playing. We know they are well coached, talented and play very physical. We will have to match their physicality to have a chance to win."

Meek @ Curry, 7 p.m.
Looking to start off hot in 2026, the Meek Tigers will head to Curry High to take on a squad that faced a 1-6 slide in their last seven games. Veteran quarterback Evan McCay and the rushing attack will look to take advantage of a defense that allowed 37.0 points per game in 2025.

"We are excited about the opportunity to play Curry this week. Our team has bad taste in our mouth from our poor performance last week against Lynn and we can't wait to get back on the field and put that game behind us. In terms of Curry, these two teams have not played in a very long time, and both communities are excited to watch the game. Curry is a very big and physical team, and we will have to work hard to win the game. It should be a great game!" Meek head coach Daniel Evans said.

Hanceville vs. Carbon Hill, 7 p.m.
In his first game as head coach, Cody Sellers' Bulldogs will face another team that struggled to find its footing in 2025. Carbon Hill's lone win came against the winless Bulldogs in Hanceville, giving Sellers and the team a chance to truly start anew with a win.

"Carbon Hill is a well-coached team that plays hard every snap. They will provide a great challenge for our team and give us an opportunity to see where we are at this point in our journey. We embrace the challenge and look forward to competing this Friday," Sellers said.

Holly Pond @ J.B. Pennington, 7 p.m.
The Broncos kick off head coach Will McDaniel's third season at the helm with a tough road contest against a Tigers team that finished 6-4 last season. Holly Pond will get a chance to see what they have in their fresh group of playmakers, including freshman quarterback Grayson Baggett, against a defense that allowed 24.5 points per game last season.

"'JBP' is coached by one of my closest friends, Jordan Cantrell, and they'll be well coached, disciplined, and will be a tremendous challenge," McDaniel said.

Vinemont vs. Falkville, 7 p.m.
Heading into year 10 under Stephen Robinson, the Eagles start their 2026 campaign against a Falkville team coming off an 8-3 record and a playoff appearance. Vinemont's linebackers, which Robinson called the strength of the team, will face an offense that finished the season strong, putting up 34.5 points per game in their final four.

"Falkville is always tough and it seems like our games are always close. They're well coached by a great guy and are physically tough and don't mind battling it out. A very physical team that you can't make mistakes against or they will make you pay for it," Robinson said.

Good Hope vs. Plainview, 7 p.m.
After falling to the Bears in the playoffs last season, Good Hope has a chance to start off 2026 with some vengeance. The Raiders' home-field advantage is real, going 5-0 last season at home, and they'll look to keep alive a near-22 month streak of going without a home loss.

"Plainview is a really good team. They are well coached and have all the pieces to make a State Championship run this year. We will find out a lot about ourselves this Friday," head coach Alan Scott said.

Fairview @ West Point, 7 p.m.
The most intriguing Cullman-area matchup comes in the 10th annual Brandin' Iron Bowl between Fairview and West Point. After the departure of longtime head coach George Redding, Brian Simmons and his squad are looking to prove Fairview's still the same Fairview, while West Point, in Kevin McCravy's third season, are looking to take another step forward.

On facing West Point, Simmons said, "We are excited to start the season against a county rival. This game means a lot to both communities, so it brings even more excitement to the start of a season."

Ahead of the game, McCravy says he thinks it will be "It'll be a good test against a very good, well-coached football team."

Cullman @ Boaz, 7 p.m.
Looking to build off Trent Walker's first season as head coach, the Bearcats head to Boaz to take on the Pirates, who made a trip to the playoffs last season. The Pirates pose a balanced attack, averaging 27 points last season and allowing just over 20.

"We're excited to get the 2026 season underway on the road at Boaz with such a quality non-region opponent. It's a tough week one matchup against a physical, well-coached team, and we know we'll have to play well for every minute of all four quarters to get the result we want. Our guys have worked hard all summer and they're excited to go compete in a series that hasn't been played in 25 years. They have things they want to accomplish this season and this is where it starts," Walker said.

Fallin (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



COL. DON FALLIN

Local veteran Don Fallin and a group of retired veterans managed a 52-mile trek across Iceland to fundraise and support the Cullman County Veterans Hall of Fame.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local veteran Don Fallin and a group of retired veterans managed a 52-mile trek across Iceland to fundraise and support the Cullman County Veterans Hall of Fame.

Fallin, a retired Army colonel and Cullman County Veterans Hall of Fame committee member, said the rugged trek across the remote landscapes of eastern Iceland became more than an outdoor adventure.

"It became a mission to honor the men and women who have served both their nation and the Cullman community," Fallin said.

From Aug. 6-11, Fallin completed a demanding fundraising and awareness hike through the Borgarfjörður region of Iceland, traversing challenging mountain terrain and glacial landscapes.

"The effort was undertaken to help support the annual Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner sponsored by local veterans organizations," Fallin said. "The fundraiser helps support the mission of the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes local veterans who not only served honorably in the military, but also continued a lifetime of service to their communities after leaving the armed forces."

According to the Hall of Fame's mission, the organization seeks to recognize veterans who demonstrated outstanding character, sacrificed in service to their country and made lasting contributions to Cullman County, Alabama, and its residents.

"The organization also works to educate local residents about the history, service and sacrifices of Cullman County veterans," Fallin said. "The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame is administered and sponsored by the Cullman chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans on behalf of the Cullman County Commission and municipalities throughout the county."

Each year, the Hall of Fame recognizes a select group of veterans whose lives exemplify service both in and out of uniform.

"Their stories are preserved as a permanent tribute displayed within the Cullman County Courthouse, ensuring future generations remember the sacrifices and achievements of local heroes," Fallin shared.

Fallin said the Iceland trek was a small way to shine a spotlight on those veterans and generate support for the annual induction event.

"These veterans have spent a lifetime serving others," Fallin said. "This hike was about bringing attention to their stories and helping ensure they receive the recognition they deserve."

The annual Cullman County Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner is scheduled for Nov. 17, at Loft 212 in downtown Cullman.

2nd Fridays season finale

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 14 hosted the last 2nd Fridays event of the summer. This one had a "Neon Moon" theme.

Live music included Justin Pace DJ, County Line, Justin + Tab, Lucke Shelton and Chrissy Hagar.

There were an impressive 30 food trucks, along with line dancing and performances by Cullman Ballet Theatre and the Cullman Dance Team.

There was even a "cash cube" money grab game – an enclosed booth where players grabbed as much as possible within a set time.

Eight brave participants took part in the wing eating contest, racing to finish for free Slim Chickens for a year. Johnson Schmidt ate 15 wings in three minutes, securing the prize.



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Zach Norman



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Johnson Schmidt



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Luke Shelton and Chrissy Hagar



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



Case# PC2026-298
PB WIL Book 140 Page 2
Recorded in Above Book
08/05/2026 8 47AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
)
SHIRLEY JEAN LEHMAN,) CASE NO. PC-2026-298
)
DECEASED.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Bernard Lee Lehman, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Shirley Jean Lehman, deceased, on the 4th day of August, 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.

Bernard Lee Lehman
Personal Representative of the Estate of
Shirley Jean Lehman, deceased

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Shirley Jean Lehman, deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256) 739-3970

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

Pursuit to Alabama Code 32-13-1 Mullins Body Shop LLC,
will offer for sale at Public Auction the following vehicles
on October 6, 2026 at 9:00 am at 11042 US Hwy 31 S.,Cullman
Mullins Body Shop 11042 US Hwy 31 South Cullman, AL 35055 256-734-1353

Sale Date: 10/06/2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.

VIN #	Year	Make	Model
19VDE1F76DE012303	2013	ACURA	ILX
WBABW334X6PX86166	2006	BMW	325Ci
1G1AT58H197211451	2009	CHEVROLET	COBALT
2G1WB57K391138909	2009	CHEVROLET	IMPALA
1GNEC13V34J321399	2004	CHEVROLET	TAHOE
3C4PDCAB3ET102195	2014	DODGE	JOURNEY
3C4PDCAB8FT617453	2015	DODGE	JOURNEY
3FAHP07Z28R271355	2008	FORD	FUSION
1FA6P8TH3J5114039	2018	FORD	MUSTANG
1FTCR10A7VTA93865	1997	FORD	RANGER
1FMZU67K14UA22346	2004	FORD	SPORT TRACK
JHMCP26898C010214	2008	HONDA	ACCORD
JHLRE38367C005885	2007	HONDA	CR-V
5NPE34AF1KH814512	2019	HYUNDAI	SONATA
KMHHM65D13U072517	2003	HYUNDAI	TIBURON
5XXG64J27MG038205	2021	KIA	K5
KNDJT2A57D7764913	2013	KIA	SOUL
JKAENVC145A189868	2005	KAWASAKI	MOTORCYCLE
JM1BK12F381813297	2008	MAZDA	MAZDA 3
1YVHZ8DH4C5M11524	2012	MAZDA	MAZDA 6
1N4AL2AP5CN436892	2012	NISSAN	ALTIMA
2G2WR554461239030	2006	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX
2G2WP552961277339	2006	PONTIAC	GRAND PRIX
JS1GN79A362102162	2006	SUZUKI	600
5TDZK3EH6CS076082	2012	TOYOTA	HIGHLANDER
5TDYK3EH6DS139033	2013	TOYOTA	HIGHLANDER
5TDYK3DC4FS612484	2015	TOYOTA	SIENNA
3H3V532C7FT594164	2014	HYUNDAI	53 FT TRAILER
77154723512	UNKNOWN	53 FT CONTAINER TRAILER	
1JJV532W93L837530	2003	WABASH	53 FT CONTAINER TRAILER
NO VIN	UNKNO	WABASH	53 FT CONTAINER TRAILER
1JJV532WXWL475003	1998	WABASH	53 FT TRAILER
77154723512	1997	CONTAINER	CONX BOX
1GRAA062X6W706043	2006	GREAT DANE	53 FT TRAILER
YV1FA8847L1460293	1990	VOLVO	740
JYAVM01E76A095577	2006	YAMAHA	V-STAR

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2026 - 900283

TED F. MOORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

Commencing at an axle at the Southwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 8 South, Range 1 East; thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes East 290.92 feet to the Northwest corner of the property belonging to the State of Alabama; thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes East along said property 724.56 feet to the Southwest corner of the property belonging to Billy Gibson; thence in a Northwesterly direction along the West boundary of property belonging to Billy Gibson a distance of 70 feet to a fence corner marker by a metal pipe driven in the ground which will be known as the point of origin for described property; thence East along a web wire fence a distance of 137 feet to a metal pipe in the ground, which is the Southwest corner of the following described property and the point of beginning; thence in a North by Northwest direction a length of 130 feet to the Northwest corner of described property to a metal pipe; thence in an Easterly direction 70 feet to the Northeast corner of the described property to a metal pipe; thence South 130 feet to a metal pipe in the ground, which is the Southeast corner of described property; thence West 70 feet to a metal pipe in the ground, which is described as the point of beginning.

Parcel ID: 01-09-32-0-001-010.009; PIN: 70767; Account Number: 230931,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

REDSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,

AND

LISA A. ALDAZ,

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 07 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Redstone Federal Credit Union, Lisa A. Aldaz, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 4th day of August, 2026, a Complaint to quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Ted F. Moore against Redstone Federal Credit Union, Lisa A. Aldaz, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint on or before the 19th day of October, 2026, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiff's Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

LISA MCSWAIN, CL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

HAMMONS VERNA,)
Plaintiff,)
)
V.) Case No.: CV-2026-900246.00
)
GASAWAY DAVID LEE,)
Defendant.)

ORDER

MOTION & AFFIDAVIT FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION filed by HAMMONS VERNA is hereby GRANTED.

DONE this 5th day of August, 2026.

/s/ J. CHAD FLOYD
CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2026 - 900272

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 03 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

TINA STRICKLIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

The North half of the East half of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 9, Township 11, South, Range 2 West, containing 10 acres, more or less, Cullman County, Alabama.

LESS AND EXCEPT:
The NW ¼ - NW ¼ of Section 9 T11S R2W and more particularly described as; beginning at the Northwest corner of said forty; thence S89 degrees 15 minutes 55 seconds East 664.95 feet to the Northwest corner of the North half of the East half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 9; thence due South 19.27 feet to a point on the South right-of-way of County Road 609 and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence continue due South 240.37 feet; thence S 88 degrees 29 minutes 42 seconds East 407.67 feet; thence N 9 degrees 32 minutes 21 seconds East 250.01 feet to a point on the South right of way of said road; thence N 89 degrees 25 minutes 22 seconds West along said right of way 448.98 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 2.40 acres more or less. Said property is subject to all right of ways or easements of record.

Parcel ID: 23-02-09-0-000-007.000; PIN: 37517; Account Number: 27448,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

LOUIE FRANKLIN SELF,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Louie Franklin Self, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of July, 2026, a Complaint to quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Tina Stricklin against Louie Franklin Self, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint on or before the 19th day of October, 2026, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiffs' Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2026 - 900284

TED F. MOORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

Part of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼, Sec. 33, T12S, R3W, described as beginning at the point of intersection of the North line of said NW ¼ of the SE ¼ with a creek (which point is marked by an iron pin); thence Southwesterly along the creek 175 feet; thence Southeasterly 250 feet; thence North 227 feet; thence West 227 feet to the P.O.B.

Parcel ID: 26-08-33-0-000-006.009; PIN: 60356; Account Number: 41478,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

THE ESTATE OF R. J. GAMBLE, SR., by and through ROBERT J. GAMBLE, JR., its Personal Representative,

AND

WADE L. SELLERS

AND

DEBORAH DINGLER SELLERS,

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 07 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: The Estate of R. J. Gamble, Sr., by and through Robert J. Gamble, Jr., its Personal Representative, Wade L. Sellers, and Deborah Dingler Sellers, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 4th day of August, 2026, a Complaint to quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Ted F. Moore against R. J. Gamble, Sr., Wade L. Sellers, and Deborah Dingler Sellers, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint thirty (30) days from the last date of publication, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiffs' Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

GARRISON LOGISTICS, INC, *
*
PLAINTIFF, *
*
V. * CASE NO. CV 2026 – 900159
*
RANDHAWA TRUCK LINES, INC., *
*
DEFENDANT. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Please take notice that a Summons and Complaint in the above-styled matter was filed by Plaintiff, Garrison Logistics, Inc., in the District Court of Cullman County, Alabama, on May 13, 2026. An attempt has been made to serve the Defendant, Randhawa Truck Lines, Inc., with the Summons and Complaint by Restricted, Certified, U.S. Mail at the Defendant's address of 6227 W Northdale Avenue, Fresno, California 93723. Please be advised that Randhawa Truck Lines, Inc., as the named Defendant, has thirty (30) days from the last date of publication to contest said Complaint and must do so by filing a written response with the Cullman County Clerk of Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and with Plaintiff's Attorney, Shay Persall, Shay Persall Law, LLC, 611 7th Street SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Done this 14th day of August, 2026.

LISA McSWAIN, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

/s/ Shay Persall
Attorney for Plaintiff
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 13 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: *
WILLIAM RONNIE FOSTER, * **CASE NO. PC2026-265**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted CYNTHIA JEAN FOSTER, as Administrator of the Estate of WILLIAM RONNIE FOSTER, deceased, on the 4th day of August, 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.

DONE this the 4th day of August, 2026.

Cynthia Jean Foster
Administrator

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
QUINTON JESSIE BELL, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-263**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to CARLTON WAYNE BELL, SR. as Administrator of the Estate of QUINTON JESSIE BELL, deceased, on the 4th day of August, 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 will be barred.

Carlton Wayne Bell Sr.
Personal Representative

Smith & Kilgo Law, LLC
Jerry L. Kilgo
Attorney for the Administrator
421 3rd Ave SE, Suite 245
Cullman, Al 35055

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

GARRISON LOGISTICS, INC, *
*
PLAINTIFF, *
*
V. * CASE NO. DV 2026 – 900246
*
DAVID STYLES and DAVID STYLES *
DBA STYLES TRUCKING, LLC, *
*
DEFENDANTS. *

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 03 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Please take notice that a Summons and Complaint in the above-styled matter was filed by Plaintiff, Garrison Logistics, Inc., in the District Court of Cullman County, Alabama, on May 13, 2026. Attempts have been made to serve Defendant, David Styles, with the Summons and Complaint by Restricted, Certified, U.S. Mail at the Defendant's address of 322 S Pleasant Street, Springdale, AR 72764, and Defendant, David Styles DBA Styles Trucking, LLC, C/O Sonia Abdelmaksoud, RA, 3005 S 4th Street, Rogers, AR 72758. Please be advised that David Styles and David Styles DBA Styles Trucking, LLC, as the named Defendants, have thirty (30) days from the last date of publication to contest said Complaint and must do so by filing a written response with the Cullman County Clerk of Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and with Plaintiff's Attorney, Shay Persall, Shay Persall Law, LLC, 611 7th Street SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Done this 3rd day of August, 2026.

LISA McSWAIN, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

/s/ Shay Persall
Attorney for Plaintiff
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
VIRGINIA MAY HARPER,) CASE NO.: PC2024-401
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: LINDA O'CONNOR, KATHERINE O'CONNOR, EMERALD O'CONNER AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KINS OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF VIRGINA MAY HARPER

Petition for Final Settlement filed by William Harper, Personal Representative, through Attorney, Dan J. Willingham has been set for hearing on **29th day of September, 2026, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition if they see proper.

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

DONE this 31st day of July, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for Petitioner
413 First Avenue SW
Cullman, Al 35056

Cleanup (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Volunteers will take to the water Friday, Sept. 18, to help remove litter and debris from Smith Lake during the fall Renew Our Rivers/SLEPC Smith Lake Cleanup.

The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee and Alabama Power are organizing the cleanup, which will focus on shoreline areas around Simpson Creek, Ryan Creek and their tributaries.

Volunteers should meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Smith Lake Park boat launch, located at 403 County Road 386 in Cullman. Following sign-in and a safety briefing, organizers will load volunteers onto cleanup boats for the morning trip.

Crews will return to Smith Lake Park for a lunch break before heading back onto the water for an afternoon cleanup trip. Lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Each volunteer will also receive an SLEPC Renew Our Rivers cleanup T-shirt. Shirts will be distributed at the conclusion of the cleanup.

Organizers said a registration link will be posted closer to the event. Prospective volunteers are encouraged to monitor SLEPC's website and Facebook page for the link.

Advance registration helps organizers determine how many meals, shirts and cleanup supplies will be needed.

Volunteers should wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots suitable for collecting trash along the shoreline. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also recommended.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to check with their employers to determine whether paid volunteer leave is available for community service projects.

The Cullman County cleanup is part of Alabama Power's 2026 Renew Our Rivers schedule. Other Smith Lake cleanups are planned in Winston and Walker counties during September, creating a broader effort to remove debris from the lake and its tributaries.

SLEPC typically organizes Renew Our Rivers cleanups in the spring and fall. During a previous cleanup, volunteers traveled aboard Alabama Power boats to collect trash along Simpson Creek, Ryan Creek and nearby tributaries.

SLEPC Treasurer Margaret Hill told The Tribune ahead of a 2025 cleanup that volunteers can see the results of their work by the end of the day.

"What I love most about the event is seeing the massive piles of trash at the end of the day," Hill said.

Hill said the collected debris represents waste that otherwise could have remained along the shoreline or entered the lake.

SLEPC was formed in 1995 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality of Smith Lake and its tributaries through education, volunteer service and cooperation with public agencies and other organizations.

According to SLEPC, its Smith Lake cleanups conducted in partnership with Alabama Power and Renew Our Rivers have removed more than 6.2 million pounds of trash from the lake since 2000.

Renew Our Rivers began as an Alabama Power employee-led cleanup on the Coosa River in Gadsden. Now entering its 27th year, the program has grown into a statewide volunteer effort.

Alabama Power reported that more than 3,500 volunteers participated in 28 Renew Our Rivers events in 2025, removing approximately 243,000 pounds of trash. Since the program began, volunteers have removed approximately 13.7 million pounds of debris from Alabama waterways.

Registration information for the Sept. 18 cleanup will be posted at SLEPC.org and on SLEPC's Facebook page when it becomes available.

For additional information, contact SLEPC Alabama Power liaison and lake cleanup coordinator Jim Murphy at 205-529-5981.

LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

**IN THE MATTER OF * **
K.C.L.C., * CASE NO.: JU 25-120.02
**a minor, DOB: 03-03-2025. * **

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

James Isaac Tanner, Jr., whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above child born to Denise Ann Tanner aka Denise Ann Connell on March 3, 2025, by the 17 day of September, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 7 day of August 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

REQUESTS FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received until Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Cullman City Hall located at 204 2nd Ave NE Cullman, AL 35055 and at said time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment and performing all work necessary for: Midfield Hangar Construction at Cullman Regional Airport. Major items of work include: Grade, drain, base, pave, electrical and hangar building.

Information for the Project can be found on the following website: https://www.gmcnetwork.com/bids/.

The Issuing Office for the Bid Documents is Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC, located at 117 Jefferson Street North, Huntsville, AL 35801 Email: jennifer.farineau@gmcnetwork.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bid Documents Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Goodwyn Mills Cawood located at 2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200, Montgomery, AL 36117.

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained from the issuing office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of a one-time administrative fee of $20 for digital access/file sharing access. Said cost represents the cost of printing, reproduction, handling, and distribution, therefore no refund will be granted. Checks for Bid Documents shall be payable to "Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC." Partial sets of Bid Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bid Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid guaranty in the amount of five (5) percent of the total amount of the bid, but not to exceed $50,000. The bid guaranty may be by certified check or bid bond made payable to the City of Cullman / Cullman County.

All Bidders bidding in amounts exceeding that established by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Chapter 8, Code of Alabama, 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Engineer; the Bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying the license number on the outside of the envelope in which the Proposal is delivered. "A contractor must have a general contractor's license to **bid as prime for this project**."

Bids may be held by the City of Cullman / Cullman County for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of evaluating bids prior to award of contract.

Title VI Solicitation Notice: The City of Cullman / Cullman County, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4), 28 CFR § 50.3, and 49 CFR Part 21, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of the owner's race, color, national origin, sex, creed, age, or disability in consideration for an award.

The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 including any amendments thereto apply to this contract. It is the policy of the City of Cullman / Cullman County to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. The Owner encourages participation by all firms qualifying under this solicitation regardless of business size or ownership.

All contracts and subcontracts that result from this solicitation incorporate by reference the provisions of 29 CFR Part 201, et seq, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), with the same force and effect as if given in full text. The FLSA sets minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor standards for full and part-time workers.

The Contractor has full responsibility to monitor compliance to the referenced statute or regulation. The Contractor must address any claims or disputes that arise from this requirement directly with the U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division.

The City of Cullman / Cullman County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in the bids received.

Woody Jacobs, Mayor
City of Cullman
231 County Road 1360
Vinemont, AL 35179

Legal Notice

Storage units will be sold at auction
Nunnelley's Storage
Hwy 67, Somerville, Al 35670 Sale date: 9/12/2026
Time: 10:00 A.M.

Unit#14 Mona Rands
2232 Indians Hill Rd Hartselle, Al 35640
Unit# 161 Justin Charest 1085 Cha rest Rd
Somerville, Al 35670

Unit# 107 Brittoin Prince
200 Wheeler St NW.
Hartselle, AL 35640

Unit #167 Valerie Yausof
20 Springfield Pvt. Dr.
Somerville, AL 35670

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
SHERRY HODGES,) CASE NO.: PC2023-182
Deceased.)

AMENDED
NOTICE OF HEARING
VERIFIED MOTION TO COMPEL FINAL SETTLEMENT OF DECEDENT'S ESTATE

TO: DEVAN HODGES, BETH WOOD, AMY BLAIR and all Known and Unknown Heirs of the estate of SHERRY HODGES, deceased.

The *Verified Motion to Compel Final Settlement of Decedent's Estate* has been set for hearing on **22nd day of October, 2026, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown Judge of Probate, Room 101.

Amended to add a Next of Kin.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition if they see proper.

DONE this 17th day of August, 2026.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2026 - 900273

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 14 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

TINA STRICKLIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

The North Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seven (7), Township 10 South, Range 1 West, containing 20 acres, more or less. Situated and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama.
LESS AND EXCEPT:
A part of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Northwest Corner of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 7, Township 10 South, Rage 1 West for the point of beginning of the land herein conveyed; thence South along the West line of said twenty a distance of 660 feet and being the Southwest Corner of said twenty acre tract; thence due East along the South line of said twenty acre tract a distance of 787 feet to a point; thence due Northerly along a fence to a point on the North line of said twenty that is 748 feet due East of the Northwest Corner of said twenty and the point of beginning; thence due West along the North line of said twenty a distance of 748 feet, more or less, to the Northwest Corner of said twenty and the point of beginning. Containing approximately twelve (12) acres, more or less.
LESS AND EXCEPT:
Commence at the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter Section 7, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, thence North 0 degrees 28' 30" E 664.30 feet to the point of beginning, thence S 89 degrees 53' W 485.23 feet a point, thence N 8 degrees 27' 22" W 450.0 feet to a point, thence N 89 degrees 23' 41" E 555.16 feet to a point, thence S 0 degrees 28' 30" E 450.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 5.35 acres, more or less. Said land lying in the NE ¼ - NW ¼ of Sec. 7 T 10S R 1 W, Cullman County, Alabama. According the survey of James W. Baldy, AL Reg. No. 11845, dated October 3, 1989. Leaving herein 2.7 acres, more or less. Said property is subject to all right of ways or easements of record.

Parcel ID: 15-03-07-0-001-005.000; PIN: 5784; Account Number: 72164,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,
AND

KATHY D. COLLUM FARLEY,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Kathy D. Collum Farley, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of July, 2026, a Complaint to quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Tina Stricklin against Kathy D. Collum Farley, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint on or before the 19th day of October, 2026, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiffs' Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
JANIS PHILLIPS COLLINS) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 202
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to James A. Phillips and Patsy E. Baker, as Co-Administrators of the Estate of Janis Phillips Collins, deceased, on the 4 day of August, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and 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.

James A. Phillips
James A. Phillips
Petitioner

Patsy E. Baker
Patsy E. Baker
Petitioner

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Second Avenue SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Co-Petitioners

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STEPHANIE ANNE HALL,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900192.00**

MARTY RAY HALL,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Marty Ray Hall, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Stephanie Anne Hall's Divorce Complaint by October 5, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2026-900192.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 5th day of August, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
B. KING
204 3rd ST N
ONEONTA, AL 35121-1452

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2026 - 900271

FILED IN OFFICE
AUG 14 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

TINA STRICKLIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

A parcel of land in the Southeast corner of the North half of the Northeast quarter of Southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 1 West, being all the property in the Southeast corner of said twenty acre tract which lies South and East of Monroe Bailey Road and embracing 1 acre, more or less. Said property is subject to all right of ways or easements of record.

Parcel ID: 11-05-22-0-001-020.000; PIN: 23753; Account Number: 17060,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

CURTIS WAYNE AND EARLINE THOMAS,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Curtis Wayne and Earline Thomas, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of July, 2026, a Complaint to quiet title and foreclose the right to redeem the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Tina Stricklin against Curtis Wayne and Earline Thomas, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the Complaint on or before the 19th day of October, 2026, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiffs' Attorney:
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Obituary Announcements: Aug. 18-19

Mary Nell Johns, 85
Funeral service for Mary Nell Johns, 85, of Cullman was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bowman's Chapel Cemetery, Bro. Stanley Dye and Bro. Etsel Riddle officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 9:30-11 a.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Johns passed away Monday, Aug. 17, 2026 at her residence. She was born Aug. 28, 1940, to Herman and Lillian Federer Keese. She was a long time member of Northside Baptist, Greater Vision and Logan Baptist Church. Mary Nell had a career for many years with R.E. Garrison Trucking Company, McGriff Transportation, Thompson Law Firm, St. Bernard College Business Office, and in 1996 she and Sam opened the Angler Seafood House Restaurant in Trimble, Alabama. They operated it for eight years. Her greatest joy was being Granny and watching the grands and great-grands in every sporting and academic challenge sitting on the sidelines loudly cheering for them There will be many wonderful memories by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, June Keese Nelson and Donna Keese Calvert; brother, George Keese; daughter, Mary Johns Bates; son-in-law, Terry Bates. Survivors include her loving husband of 67 years, Samuel W. Johns; daughter, Lola Johns (Greg) Ponder; grandchildren, Paige Ponder (James) Collett, Bradley (Brandy) Ponder; great-grandchildren, Caroline & Case Collett. Sipsey and Nanalee Ponder. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

J.D. Smith, 85
J.D. was born in Cullman and grew up in the Pleasant Grove community. He attended East Point and Cullman schools. As a young man, he began a career as a brick mason, a trade in which he was able to provide for his family. Known for his integrity, hard work, and exceptional craftsmanship, J.D. laid brick on countless homes and businesses throughout Cullman and the surrounding communities. J.D. was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He deeply loved and cared for his wife, children, extended family, and friends. He especially enjoyed camping with family and friends, as well as fishing, hunting, and gardening. He took particular pleasure in growing hot peppers, cantaloupes, and watermelons. He is survived by his beloved wife, Wanda Sue Smith; his daughter, Sharon Aldijaili; and his grandchildren, Derrick, Alyssa, Alannah, and Christine. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roxie and Bannie Smith, his son, Steven Smith and his brothers and sisters. Funeral services will be held on Aug. 20, 2026. Visitation will be from non-2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, with the funeral service beginning at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at Center Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. Bro. Wade Maynard will officiate. Flowers are not necessary but are welcome. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfunerahome.com.

Michael Newsome, 40
With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Michael Lee Newsome, who left this world on Aug. 14, 2026, just shy of his 41st birthday. Born on Aug. 29, 1985, in Augusta, Georgia, Michael later made his home in Cullman, Alabama, where he built his life and friendships. He was a cherished son, brother, grandson, and loved member of a large, blended family. His gentle nature, warm heart, and quiet strength will be remembered always. Michael faced many challenges in his life, including a long struggle with addiction. In 2024, he experienced a powerful turning point when he found Jesus and was saved. Even after that, he continued to battle his demons, but he did so with a renewed sense of hope and faith. His family holds dear to the promise that he is now in heaven, finally at peace, held in the grace he sought and believed in. Michael worked in HVAC, following in the footsteps of his father, and was known for his dedication, skill, and willingness to help anyone who needed him. He had many friends who loved him deeply, and his presence brought warmth and laughter wherever he went. He leaves behind his mother, Tammy Golden Sawyer, and her late husband, Serman K. Sawyer; his father, Bruce Newsome, and his wife, Rachael; and his brother, Cody A. Newsome, all residing in Augusta, Georgia. He is also survived by his grandparents, James and Betty Golden of Cullman, Alabama, and Wilton "Chubby" Newsome. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Rick and Dollie Pampuch, who welcomed him home with love. With a blended family, Michael was surrounded throughout his life by numerous stepbrothers, stepsisters, cousins, aunts, and uncles — each of whom held a special place in his heart. His absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, and those who loved him are still learning how to move forward without him here. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date in Georgia, where family and friends will gather to honor Michael's memory and the love he shared with all who knew him. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to assist the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Winham 'Bill' Eugene Yeager, 82
Winham Eugene "Bill" Yeager began his life's journey in the small town of Childersburg, Alabama. Up until that time it had been a sprawling metropolis of 500 or so folks. A few years back they had discovered there was a deep vein of marble that could be mined. The U.S. government was deeply mired in World War II. They would turn this sleepy little town into one of the main production sites for the munitions that would end the war. Bill was born there during all that transition on Sept. 27, 1943. He was one of three children born to the late Curtis Eugene and Pauline Abbott Yeager. Bill would spend his formative years up the road in the big city of Cullman. In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Mae Yeager Huebner. Following high school, Bill enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Armed Forces Police until he was honorably discharged on Nov. 29, 1972. He later attended and graduated from American University with a degree in Finance. He was offered a position at the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). It was while working at Fannie Mae that he was smitten by a young lady named Cindy Smith who also worked there. On May 26, 1979, they sealed the deal and became husband and wife. Their family grew with the addition of their daughter Brooke in 1980 and their son Paul in 1981. Bill was a man of bedrock values, and they would shape the story of his life for all the days to come. Bill was an introspective guy, and you knew he served his God, but in his own quiet way. He loved his country and served it to the best of his ability. He was loyal to his church, Central Baptist, and participated in its programs as long as his health permitted. Bill Yeager saw his most important opportunity in life was his desire to be the best son, father, husband, and sibling he could now be. He loved golf, snow skiing (he did not do much of that growing up in AL), travelling most anywhere, and music (think Vince Gill or Willie Nelson). It would be a significant slight not to include in this missive a word of Bill's devotion to Alabama football. Most Alabama folks have it in their DNA to be loyal to the Big A or that other college down the road in Alabama. Bill's life was blessed by his children and grandchildren, Brooke (and Alex) Beck, Paul (and Brittany) Yeager, Maddie Beck, Richard Beck, Hampton Yeager, Hayes Yeager. Also surviving is his brother Ken (and Bev). There is a large extended family of nieces and nephews. There will be a gathering of Bill's family and many friends at Central Baptist Church Sanctuary to celebrate the life of this good man on Aug. 8, 2026, at 1 p.m.. A reception will follow that service in the church's vestibule. At that point exaggerated stories about Alabama football and golf can be freely relayed. The verse John 14:27 tells us this truth, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." So many have been faithful to Bill through his illness, and his family acknowledges Adoration Hospice and caregivers Kesha, Electra, and Carla for their compassionate care during these final days. Those who may want to memorialize Bill's life may consider a donation in his memory to his beloved Central Baptist Church at centralbaptistnewnan.org or The Alzheimer's Association 225 North Michigan Avenue Floor 17 Chicago, IL 60601 (donorservices.alz.org). Please express your condolences online at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-4580.

Justin Rex Mosley, 48
Justin Rex Mosley, 48, of Auburn, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026. He was born on Jan. 12, 1978, in Cullman, Alabama, to Rex and Benita Mosley. Justin was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and friend. He was a loving husband to his wife of 22 years, Summer Jackson Mosley, and a proud father to their two sons, Jackson and Maddox. His family was the most important part of his life, and above all else, Justin made sure they always knew how deeply they were loved. Justin graduated from Cold Springs High School in 1996 as Valedictorian. He continued his education at Auburn University, where he graduated from the Harrison College of Pharmacy in 2002 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Justin was known for his adventurous spirit, wonderful sense of humor, and ability to make people laugh. He loved being silly when posing for pictures and never missed an opportunity to create a good memory with his family. He especially enjoyed watching his sons play sports, with baseball holding a special place in his heart. Being a dad was one of Justin's greatest joys. Justin was an avid Auburn football fan and enjoyed all things, Auburn. He also loved watching WWE wrestling, spending time at the lake, listening to music, playing Angry Birds (Swoosh Eagle), and spending time with his beloved dogs, Mac and Opie. Justin is survived by his loving wife, Summer Jackson Mosley; sons, Jackson and Maddox; parents, Rex and Benita Mosley; sister, Tiffany Gambrill (Chad); nephews, Calvin and Cade; nieces, Ansley and Ava; sister-in-law, Heather Jackson Nelms (Trae); and his in-laws, Billy and Ann Jackson. Justin's greatest legacy will be the love he gave to his family and the countless memories he created with them. His laughter, adventurous spirit, kindness, and unwavering love for his wife and sons will be treasured forever. Though he is no longer with those he loved the memories he made and the love he shared will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and friends. Services Visitation: Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026, at 6-8 p.m. at Frederick Dean Funeral Home. Funeral Service: Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the Chapel at Frederick Dean Funeral Homes, with Stephen King Officiating. Family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Interment will follow in Town Creek Cemetery in Auburn, Alabama. Flowers will be accepted, memorial contributions may be made in Justin's memory to Woof Ave, the Child Advocacy Center, or a charity of your choice. Frederick-Dean Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

William Douglas Glasscock, 72
Funeral Service for William Douglas Glasscock, age 72 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Butch Sharpton officiating; burial at Duck River Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Glasscock passed away on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026, at his residence. He was born, June 10, 1954, to Rev. William Lee Glasscock and Bertha Beatrice (Bea) Bradberry Glasscock. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Melanie Rae Manning; his parents; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Kent and Tom Gilley and his beloved Collie and companion, Cargo. Survivors include his wife, Betty Glasscock, his children, Maria Powe (Michael) and Shea Kubik (Louis); grandchildren, Mason, Max and Madeline Powe, Kenneth Kubik and Alex Jones; sisters, Mary Kent, Betty Howell (Regan), Connie Gardner (Daymon) and Robin Sandlin (Stanley); his Collie Puppy, Shadow and a host of nieces and nephews.

Jimmy D. Dill, 76
Jimmy D. Dill, 76, passed away surrounded by his family on Aug. 18, 2026. He was a devoted husband, loving father, and proud Pop. Jimmy was a 1968 graduate of Bessemer High School. He then served the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He went on to attend the University of Montevallo and have a successful career as a field support engineer. He retired from Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc., where he was named Field Service Engineer of the Year and received a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service and dedication for over 25 years. Jimmy was known for his kindness and wit and always had a joke ready to tell. He was very skilled with computers and was known to be able to fix anything. He loved aviation and enjoyed flying RC aircrafts with Cullman Aeromodelers. He served the Lord all of his life and loved going to church. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Jimmy is preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Flora Mae Dill; brothers, Bill Dill, Charles "Bo" Dill, and Joe Dill; sister, Betty Dill Hadaway; brother-in-law, L.C. Smith; and stepson, Wade Harris. He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Loretta Dill; daughters, Amy Dill Isbell (Brandon) and Lori Dill Watts (Eric); stepdaughter, Suzie Woodard (Wade); grandchildren, Olivia Isbell, Elliot Isbell, Emori Cummings, Gunnar Watts, Billy Gordon, Melisa Harris, Stacy Harris, and Caleb McCoy; multiple great grandchildren; sister, Barbara Dill Davis; sisters-in-law, Wanda Smith and Becky Mims (Tim); brothers-in-law, James Braden (Annie) and Steven Braden; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members. Services to honor Jimmy's life will be held Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., with the service to follow at 11 a.m. with his son-in-law, Brandon Isbell, officiating. Burial will immediately follow at Guinns Cove Cemetery in Hayden, Alabama. A special thank you to Grace and all the staff at SouthernCare New Beacon Hospice for their loving care.

Charles Ervin Easterwood, 85
Charles Ervin Easterwood, 85, of Bremen, Alabama, passed away on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, to enter his heavenly home. Raised in Bremen, Charles developed a love for athletics, particularly basketball. He and his wife, Evelyn, began their family in Brushy Pond. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to raising cattle, chickens, and three beloved daughters. Charles took immense pride in his herds and consistently excelled as a top poultry grower. His affection for animals, especially his "pup" and Coco, was evident as he ensured they were well-fed and had warm places to rest. Charles credited his father, Bernard, with instilling a strong work ethic through experiences at the tire store and in the fields. He passed these values on to his daughters, frequently acknowledging their capabilities as farm hands. Fascinated by the ways of earlier generations, Charles enjoyed hunting and collecting Native American arrowheads, tools, and artifacts. His interest in antique farm equipment led to an impressive collection of tractors, wagons, and plows, which he enjoyed refurbishing. An avid reader of historical novels, Charles devoted much of his reading time to scripture. As a long-standing member and deacon of Ryan's Creek Baptist Church, his mentorship and the example he set as a godly man continue to inspire those who knew him. His commitment to serving the Lord was unwavering, and his legacy lives on through his family and community. Charles never missed an opportunity to demonstrate love, compassion, kindness, and generosity, guiding his family with these values. Charles is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Evelyn, who was always by his side and cared for him. They celebrated their 65th anniversary on the same day he entered his eternal rest. He is also survived by his children, Lisa (Darren) Allen, Lynn (Nick) Harper, Libby (Jeff) Hill; grandchildren, Justin Haynes, Jesse (Trent) Brown, Chase (Beth) Allen, Austin (Willie) Crider, Garrett Crider, Sydney Crider, Makena Muggeo, and Addison Harper; great-grandchildren, Cullen Brown, Paisley Brown, Stella Allen, Camille Crider, and Lillian Crider; siblings, Betty Staffa and Helen Shelton. Charles was preceded in death by his parents Amos Bernard Easterwood and Elsie Rena Easterwood, and his sisters, Juanita Childers and Sue Jackson. Funeral services will be held at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church at noon on Thursday, Aug. 20. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10 a.m.-noon at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church.

Charlotte McQuaig Collins, 85
Charlotte McQuaig Collins, 85, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Aug. 15, 2026. Born Jan. 8, 1941, in Gardendale, Alabama, Charlotte's life was marked by a steady, quiet goodness—an affection that made people feel safe, seen, and cared for, often in the simplest and most meaningful ways. A graduate of Cullman High School, Charlotte went on to earn her Associate's degree in Accounting at Wallace State. She carried that diligence and steadiness into her work, taking particular pride in her time at the West Cullman Baptist Association—serving with the same gentle devotion she brought to every part of her life. Charlotte was, at her core, a nurturing soul. She loved in practical, unmistakable ways—by feeding people, by looking after them, by making sure no one left her care still carrying a need. She was famous for her homemade biscuits and cut strawberries, and if you so much as hinted that you were hungry, she would have been more than happy to make a full meal in the middle of the night. Her generosity was never performative; it was simply who she was, offered freely and without keeping score. Faith was the foundation of Charlotte's days. A God-fearing woman, she lived with a sincerity that shaped her choices and her kindness, and those who knew her best often said the best way to describe her was as a woman who lives by Proverbs 31. Alongside her faith, she carried a warm, easy humor and the gift of storytelling—bringing laughter, comfort, and a sense of closeness with the way she could share a moment. She loved to read, to play solitaire, and she had a tender heart for animals, reflecting a compassion that reached far beyond herself. Charlotte was preceded in death by her mother and father, Ralph and Jewell Adamson; sister, Zena Mae Wilcut; husbands, Charles McQuaig and Reverend Jack Collins. She is survived by daughter, Carla Miller; son, Patrick (Amanda) McQuaig; daughter, Tiffany Hill; son, Stuart (Whitleigh) Miller,; daughter, Natalie (Taylor) Carden; and sister, Zettie Faye. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Kira McQuaig, Annzleigh Miller, Devin McQuaig, Owen Miller, Bennett Miller, and Rylee Kate Hill. Visitation will be held at Northside Baptist Church, 1310 Katherine Street NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Aug. 20, 2026, from noon-1 p.m. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service will follow at Northside Baptist Church on Aug. 20, 2026, at 1 p.m. Graveside Committal Service will be at Cullman City Cemetery, Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Aug. 20, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. Charlotte will be remembered as beloved—gentle in spirit, generous in habit, faithful in heart, and selfless in the way she made room for others. Her love was unconditional, her care was constant, and her presence will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to be part of her life. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Erma Taylor Bates, 93
Erma Taylor Bates of Wynne, Arkansas, formerly of Trimble, Alabama went to be with her Lord on Aug. 15, 2026. She was born Oct. 13, 1932, in Trimble, Alabama to Adolphus Calvin Taylor and Pearlie Manolia "Pearl" Persall Taylor. She was a devout Christian, being baptized August 1946 at Bowman's Chapel Methodist Church. For the rest of her life, she was a member. She graduated from Cullman High School 1952. She met the love of her life, Wylmer Levester Bates, in her teens and they were married Dec. 24, 1953, at her parent's home in Trimble. They were married for 50 years until his death in 2004. She worked for Progressive Farmer for several years. When she had children, she stopped working until the youngest was school age. Then she started working at Good Hope School to be close to the children and have the same schedule as them until her retirement. She was proceeded in death by her husband Wylmer Levester Bates, parents Adolphus Calvin and Pearlie Manolia "Pearl Persall Taylor, her paternal grandparents Madison Henry Harrison and Nancy Sullivan Taylor, her maternal grandparents John Madison and Modenia Francis Calvert Persall, Danny Ray Taylor, John H. Harden, Jr. Her sisters and brother-in-laws Gracie Alene Taylor Speegle Russell (Roscoe E. Speegle and Hubert H. Russell) and Lottie Inez Taylor Stewart (Marvin E. Stewart), and one brother, Floyd Ray Taylor. She is survived by her son, Michael Taylor Bates (John Paul Myrick) of Wynne and like-children Gary M. Taylor (Terri Croy), Brenda Taylor Harden, Rodney J. Taylor (April Vanderburg), daughter-in-law Kathy Boyett Taylor. Grandchildren: April L. Taylor Delong, Jeremy D. Taylor (Rachel Tidwell), Christi N. Yarbrough Trevino (Tony Trevino), Jennifer P. Yarbrough Espinoza, Justin S. Vanderburg (Hallie Waters), Tyler J. Vanderburg (Lacy Smart), R. Chase Taylor (Mary Jay Sweeney), and Lindsey M. Taylor Hagan (Zach Hagan) Great-grandchildren: Lydia Burk, Torie Taylor, Christopher Taylor, Addison Foster, Zoey Espinoza, Brayden A. Vanderburg, Layla Smart, Ansley Vanderburg, Jordan T. Vanderburg, John Travis (JT) Taylor, Emyerson F. Taylor, Isabelle Hagan, Carter Matthew Hagan, Teddie Callen Hagan, and one due in September, and a host of nieces and nephews. A special thank you to Gentiva Hospice for taking care of Mother, during her time of need, caretakers Aretha, Taconia, Kamylle, Hannah, and Brittany. Grandchildren and Nephews will be the pallbearers. Delbert Freeman Officiating. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Aug. 20, 2026, from 9:30-10 a.m. A Celebration of Life will follow at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Aug. 20, 2026, from 10-11 a.m. A Committal Service will be held at Bowmans Chapel Cemetery, County Road 310, Cullman, AL 35057, on Aug. 20, 2026, from 11 a.m.-noon. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Anthony 'Tony' Lynn Ellard, 65
Anthony "Tony" Lynn Ellard, of Welti, passed away early in the morning of Aug. 16, 2026, at his hunting club in Clarke County, Alabama at the age of 65. Tony was a loving husband, father, brother, and son. He was a hard-working cattleman, a world traveler to over 80 countries, a patented inventor, and an avid outdoorsman who was well known for his breadth of knowledge and love of a good joke. He grew up in Holly Pond, spending summers riding his bike to Blountsville, where he spent time with his grandmother as a young boy. He graduated from Holly Pond High School in 1979 and continued his education at WSCC before enjoying a fruitful Ag engineering career and raising a family in Welti. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred O. and Lois Ellard, and brother, Mike Ellard. Tony is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Mary Burnham Ellard, sons, Will and Wes Ellard, sisters, Carolyn (Bartee) Bryan, Patsy (Roger) Brown, and Tina (David) Southerland, mother-in-law, Carolyn (Joe) Burnham, and brother-in-law, David Burnham. Tony's family will receive friends, family and neighbors for visitation on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 5-8 p.m. and funeral at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, both at Moss-Service Funeral Home. He will be buried at Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Moss Service Funeral home directing.

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Show (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — Ryans Creek Baptist Church will welcome vehicle enthusiasts and families Saturday, Aug. 29, for its fifth annual car show, a free community event featuring trophies, more than 50 door prizes, children's activities and a barbecue lunch.

The show was originally scheduled for July 25 but was postponed because of significant rain in the forecast.

The rescheduled event will be held at Ryans Creek Baptist Church, located at 24849 County Road 222 in Bremen. Admission and vehicle registration are free, although donations will be accepted for the church's food pantry.

Vehicle setup may begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by registration from 8-9. The first 25 participants to register will receive goodie bags.

Judging will take place from 9-10, with the awards presentation scheduled from 10:30-11.

A free barbecue lunch will be served beginning at 11, and the show will continue through lunch.

More than 50 door prizes will be awarded throughout the event, with a prize given approximately every 15 minutes. Everyone attending the show will be eligible for the drawings.

The church thanked the businesses and individuals contributing to the door-prize lineup: Tri Green Jasper, Fine Home Inspection, Strong Lands, O'Reilly, The Grille at Trident Marina, Basch Brothers Powersports, Bill Smith GMC, J&D Auto Service, Recreation & Performance Motorsports, Kennith and Kathy Fine, Hot Rods & Harleys, Carquest, Pops BBQ, Fredericks Outdoors, Lazarus Development, Smith Lake Gifts & Outdoors, Half Shell Oyster House, Tri Green Cullman, Van's Sporting Goods, Advance Auto Parts, Village Furniture, Traditions Bank, Peoples Bank, Doug Doggett Jewelers, Wheeles & Garmon Attorneys at Law, Cahaba Energy Solutions, Caldwell Crossings Dentistry and Alabama Power.

Twelve trophies will be presented, including Best of Show, three Top 3 awards, Just Because, Kids' Choice, People's Choice, Furthest Traveled, Best Motorcycle, Best Truck, Best Jeep and Best Rat Rod.

The event is open to cars, trucks, Jeeps, rat rods and motorcycles.

Activities for children will include a slide, face painting, a bounce house and balloons. Arley First Baptist Church's ice cream truck is also scheduled to be there.

The car show is part of Ryans Creek Baptist Church's Outdoor Ministry and is intended to provide an opportunity for fellowship, community outreach and friendly competition among vehicle owners.

The Tribune covered the church's inaugural car show in 2022, when muscle cars, classic cruisers and motorcycles filled the church parking lot. Rather than charging an entry fee, the church collected food donations to support its pantry and help families in the surrounding community.

That inaugural event also featured goodie bags, prizes donated by area businesses, activities for children and food for participants and visitors.

The church has continued that community-focused approach as the show has grown into an annual event.

"We look forward to meeting you and seeing your car," the church said.

For more information, call Ryans Creek Baptist Church at 256-287-1613 or 205-913-1573. The church may also be reached at info@ryanscreekbc.com.

Track (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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BAILEYTON, Ala. — The Baileyton "Good Time" Drag Strip, Cullman County's only active drag strip and a family operated racing landmark dating to 1966, has been placed on the market for $1.4 million.

Owner Russ Easterwood announced the sale in a Facebook post, describing the 18-acre facility as a fully operational, turnkey one-eighth-mile concrete drag strip. Easterwood emphasized that the listing does not signal an immediate closure.

"The track is not closing and will continue to operate at full capacity until it is sold," Easterwood said.

Easterwood said the decision is connected to another business opportunity rather than the track's performance.

"I am looking to focus on and grow my new business venture," Easterwood said.

The announcement drew an immediate response from racers and fans, some of whom have connections to the track stretching back more than five decades. While several expressed sadness over the sale, their comments largely focused on the memories created at the track and their hope that a new owner will preserve its traditions.

A 2026 Cullman County Revenue Commissioner property assessment lists Russ V. Easterwood as the owner of the 18-acre Summit Road parcel associated with the drag strip. Previous Tribune coverage has also identified Easterwood, the grandson of track founder Jack Walker, as the owner.

The World Drag Racing Alliance previously described Easterwood and his wife, Sasha, as the track's owners and operators.

Easterwood said the $1.4 million asking price is negotiable for a qualified buyer paying in full. Partial trades involving land, houses, vehicles or other assets may also be considered.

Owner financing may be available with a 50% down payment and negotiated terms. Additional acreage could potentially be purchased from a separate property owner, according to the listing.

The sale offering includes a series of improvements Easterwood said have been made to the racing facility over the past 12 years. Those improvements include:

• A new one-eighth-mile concrete racing surface completed in 2014

• A pull-through burnout box and wall added in 2016

• Concrete safety barriers installed in 2018

• Asphalt paving in the pit area completed in 2019

• An Accutime timing system and LED scoreboards added in 2020

• A 1,200-foot asphalt shutdown area completed in 2023

• A 30 by 30-foot, two-story tower completed in 2024

Facilities listed as part of the property include restrooms on the pit and spectator sides, a full bathroom inside the tower and an approximately 30 by 25-foot concession building with an additional bathroom.

Easterwood is also offering a $10,000 finder's fee to anyone who brings him a buyer who successfully completes the purchase.

The drag strip was established in 1966 by Easterwood's grandfather, Jack Walker.

The Tribune reported in 2015 that Walker selected the "Good Time" name because he wanted racers and spectators to enjoy themselves while attending events at the track.

Walker operated the drag strip for more than five decades. According to his 2023 obituary, he remained its owner and operator until 2021. Walker died Sept. 10, 2023, at age 87.

The facility remained a family operation throughout Walker's ownership. His wife, Sharron Walker, handled concessions, while their daughter, Lou Ann Easterwood, son-in-law Vance Easterwood, grandson Russ Easterwood and Russ' wife, Sasha, helped operate the track.

Over the years, Baileyton Drag Strip has hosted bracket racing, grudge racing, test-and-tune events, Southeast Gassers Association competitions, jet-powered dragsters and appearances by racers featured on Discovery Channel's "Street Outlaws."

Mark Smith said he spent 26 years operating jet-powered vehicles at more than 100 racing facilities. Of all the tracks he visited, Smith said Baileyton stood apart.

"During my 26 years of running jet-powered vehicles at well over 100 different racing facilities, my absolute favorite track of all time was by far 'The Good Time,'" Smith said in a Facebook comment.

Smith recalled racing down the track, burning the hill and walking back while exchanging high-fives with fans. He said the welcoming racers, track staff, Walker family and appearances by Walker's wheel-standing Tater Hauler created an experience he did not find at most other tracks.

"What really made it the best was the overall experience created by literally everyone involved," Smith said.

Smith also praised the improvements Easterwood has made and expressed hope that a new owner will continue the track's traditions.

"My sincere hope and wish for everyone involved is that, regardless of ownership, it remains open for many years to come and continues to carry on the attributes and traditions that proved to make it known as 'The Good Time,'" Smith said.

Longtime racer Wendy Marshall Green credited Easterwood with preserving and improving the track over nearly 15 years. She also acknowledged the work required to maintain a racing facility and carry forward a family legacy.

"People just don't realize what a hard life it is keeping a legacy going," Green said. "I personally thank you for all the 'good times' and I truly hope that someone else can take up this torch."

Ricky Gilliland said he raced at Baileyton from 1969 until 2022, giving him a connection to nearly the entire history of the track.

"Lots of great memories and friends made at that track, including Jack Walker," Gilliland said. "Hate to see it sold off after all these years. Best of luck, Russ."

Kelly Goodwin Nease also credited Easterwood with caring for the facility and said she hopes the eventual buyer maintains the standard he established.

"I hope somebody buys it and keeps it up as well as you did," Nease said.

The personal responses reflect the role Baileyton Drag Strip has played beyond racing. For generations of drivers and spectators, the track has served as a gathering place where friendships were formed, families spent weekends together and Cullman County's racing history was carried forward.

A 2018 Southeast Gassers event attracted an estimated 1,500 to 2,500 spectators despite rain delays. The historic track has also drawn racers and fans from throughout the Southeast and beyond.

In 2023, the track entered a multiyear sanction agreement with the World Drag Racing Alliance after previously being sanctioned by the International Hot Rod Association.

The agreement provided access to additional racer programs and championship opportunities.

The track remained active during the 2026 racing season and served as a stop for the Street Car Challenge on June 6.

No deadline has been announced for the sale. Easterwood said the facility will continue operating while a buyer is sought.

Serious inquiries may be directed to Easterwood by calling or texting 256-338-2914.

Vista Lago (from Front)

cation that the development team is considering whether to change the wastewater pathway authorized by ADEM. It does not amount to a final redesign, however, and Stoops did not identify where treated wastewater would go under an alternative plan.

"While our wastewater treatment plant was always designed to protect the lake, sometimes being a good partner means going a step further to address community concerns," Stoops said.

Current permit status

ADEM issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit AL0084516 to Maverick Construction LLC on May 27. The permit became effective June 1 and expires May 31, 2031.

It identifies Ryan Creek (Smith Lake) as the receiving water and authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater from a planned treatment plant serving Vista Lago.

The system has a design capacity of 60,000 gallons per day and is intended to serve an estimated population of 300. That figure represents the plant's planned capacity. It does not mean the development is currently discharging 60,000 gallons into Smith Lake each day.

ADEM describes the permit as the first NPDES permit to directly discharge into Lewis Smith Lake. The permit authorizes treated wastewater, not the routine discharge of untreated sewage.

Stoops' statement does not address whether Maverick Construction has asked ADEM to modify or terminate the permit.

The announcement alone does not change the authorization already issued by the agency. The regulatory steps required will depend on which alternative, if any, Vista Lago selects.

What could an alternative look like?

Stoops said the team is considering options "similar to existing discharge operations on Smith Lake."

The statement does not identify which existing operation or wastewater-management method Stoops was referencing.

In the second installment of The Tribune's "Beneath the Surface" series, ADEM identified four wastewater facilities operating within the Lewis Smith Lake drainage area. The agency said none directly discharge into the lake.

Good Hope's treatment plant discharges treated wastewater into Bavar Creek. Cold Springs School historically discharged into an unnamed tributary to Big Branch. Double Springs discharges treated wastewater into Clear Creek, while Addison uses land application.

Those systems demonstrate several possible wastewater pathways, but none is equivalent to the direct lake discharge ADEM identifies in Vista Lago's current permit.

Vista Lago's original permit application considered land application, connection to an existing publicly owned treatment system, relocation of the discharge, reuse or recycling, onsite or subsurface disposal and other treatment technologies.

The applicant ultimately selected an extended-aeration treatment plant and listed "Land not available" in its discussion of land application.

The new statement does not say whether Vista Lago is reconsidering one of those previously evaluated options or studying an entirely different plan.

Stoops thanked State Rep. Cindy Myrex and local business leaders for advocating for the Smith Lake community. Myrex previously said she had appealed on multiple levels for the developers to consider an alternative.

"We will keep the community informed as this process moves forward and will share more information with the public in the coming weeks," Stoops said.

SLEPC maintains opposition

The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee responded by reiterating its opposition to any direct discharge into Smith Lake, regardless of the treatment involved.

"SLEPC opposes the direct discharge of any wastewater or effluent" into Smith Lake, the organization said, whether it is treated or untreated.

SLEPC President Theresa Johanson said alternative wastewater-management methods are available that would avoid direct discharge.

"SLEPC requests that Vista Lago pursue these alternatives to protect the water quality and environmental integrity of Smith Lake," the organization stated.

SLEPC also called on ADEM, Vista Lago and elected officials to hold a public meeting concerning the wastewater plan.

The committee said it "resolutely supports efforts to remove Vista Lago's and any other NPDES permit threats to Smith Lake."

SLEPC's position is broader than the question of whether Vista Lago could comply with the pollutant limits contained in its permit. The organization opposes establishing any permitted direct effluent discharge into the lake.

Questions that remain

Vista Lago's announcement potentially changes the direction of the wastewater discussion, but several questions remain unanswered:

• Which alternative systems or discharge locations are being evaluated?
• Will the selected plan eliminate a direct discharge into Smith Lake?
• Will Maverick Construction ask ADEM to modify, replace or terminate Permit AL0084516?
• Which existing wastewater operation did Stoops reference in his statement?
• What engineering, environmental and financial evaluations will be conducted?
• Will Vista Lago participate in the public meeting requested by SLEPC?
• When will the development team announce a final decision?

The current public record therefore establishes three separate points:

• ADEM has issued an effective permit authorizing treated domestic wastewater discharge to Ryan Creek (Smith Lake)
• Vista Lago is now exploring alternatives to that plan
• and SLEPC continues to seek the elimination of any direct wastewater or effluent discharge into the lake.

The significance of Vista Lago's announcement will depend on the alternative ultimately selected and whether that decision results in a formal change to the ADEM permit.

Read The Tribune's "Beneath the surface" series:

• **Part 1:** ADEM says Vista Lago permit is first direct NPDES discharge to Smith Lake — www.cullmantribune.com/2026/08/11/beneath-the-surface-part-1-adem-says-vista-lago-permit-is-first-direct-npdes-discharge-to-smith-lake

• **Part 2:** 4 wastewater permits operate in Smith Lake watershed, but none discharge directly to lake — www.cullmantribune.com/2026/08/13/beneath-the-surface-part-2-4-wastewater-permits-operate-in-smith-lake-watershed-but-none-discharge-directly-to-lake

• **Part 3:** What the claims about Vista Lago get right, wrong and leave unanswered — www.cullmantribune.com/2026/08/15/beneath-the-surface-part-3-what-the-claims-about-vista-lago-get-right-wrong-and-leave-unanswered

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 20, 2026

OP-ED

Moths and a healthy ecosystem

Emily McMunn
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Moths are unsung heroes of the ecosystem, they pollinate plants, feed wildlife, recycle nutrients and serve as health indicators.

They are important pollinators for nighttime flowers and other vegetation like primrose and moonflowers. Even day-flying moths help pollinate plants much in the same way as hummingbirds. Gardenia flowers, Yucca plants and mountain mint are just a small few of the plants that get pollinated by moths.

Night owls, night hawks and bats are a few that rely on moths as feed while robins, bluebirds and swallows rely on moth larvae and also woodpeckers, who are very effective at maintaining moth population. Even small mammals, reptiles and amphibians eat moths.

Most moth larvae are voracious eaters, consuming large amounts of plant material such as leaves, stems, flowers and roots. It also helps break down plant matter, making nutrients more available to the soil. When they die, their bodies decompose, returning nutrients to the soil. Some adult moths also feed on animal waste or other organic matter, further contributing to the cycle.

Moths are sensitive to environmental changes, making them bioindicators of ecosystem health. They help us understand how our environment is doing; if they aren't around that tells us that perhaps our environment is too polluted or perhaps habitat quality is too low. However when you see them fluttering in the night that's a good indicator that the environment is thriving.

Moths are beautiful; they bring drama and mystery to our night skies and turn our gardens into nightly fairytales. With patterns that look like eyes and shimmering silk like wings, how could anyone want to hurt these beautiful night fairies?

Unfortunately, we hurt moths without even realizing it. Human activities that contribute to climate change can alter moth habitats and life cycles. Weather events, such as droughts, floods and wildfires can destroy moth populations by damaging host plants or their breeding grounds.

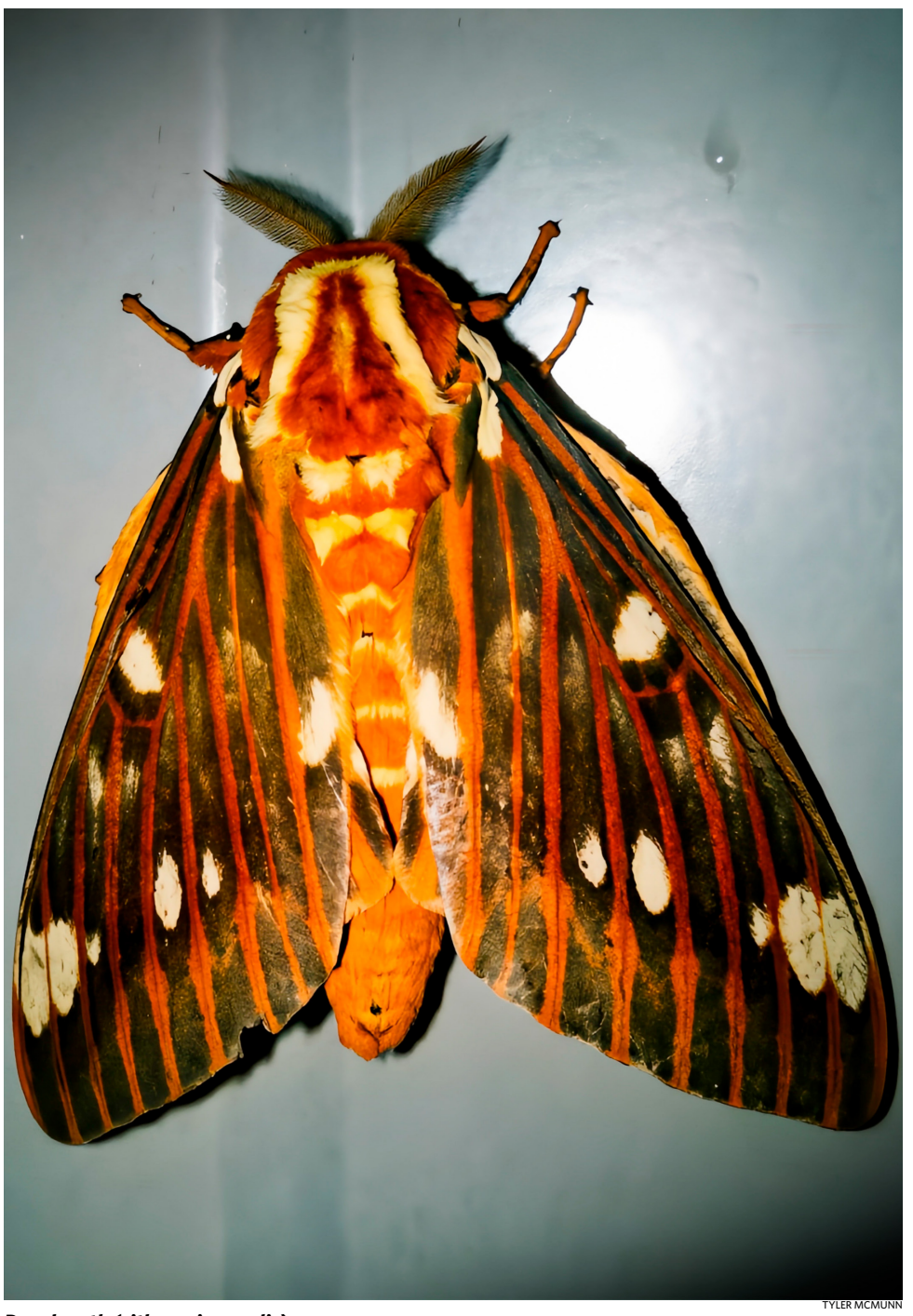
Moths have many natural predators, including birds, bats and other insects. Human activities that reduce predator populations can indirectly harm moths by removing their natural controls, but in some cases, it can also lead to moth population booms if predators are reduced too much.

Humans can harm moths through habitat loss, chemical exposure, light attraction, collection, climate change and direct pest control measures. These actions can reduce moth numbers, disrupt ecosystems, and affect the many ecological roles moths play, such as pollination and serving as food for other species.

So how do we attract moths to our homes to help our flowering gardens? Well, you could start by setting up lights, but not just any lights – black lights or mercury vapor lamps. You could also make a bait; moths are attracted to fermenting sugars like overripe fruit or tree sap. A simple mixture of different things including rotting fruit, sugar, molasses or even beer can be placed on tree trunks for easy feeding. Nectar-rich flowers are also a good option if you are blessed with a green thumb.

As previously stated, evening and night flowers are best to get a moth's attention. A lot of the same flowers that attract butterflies work for moths as well. If you have honeysuckles close to your house or night-blooming jasmine you'll most likely see moths at night.

Moths are most active on warm, humid nights and when the moon is new, so there's less light. Viewing moths can be a fun summer science experiment you can do with the younger generation in your family. You can hang a white cotton sheet up and use a black light or a mercury lamp. Teaching children about moths is important because moths are vital to ecosystems, rich in educational value and a gateway to understanding biodiversity.



TYLER MCMUNN

Regal moth (citheronia regalis)

Cinderella Project grows from one thrift store dress to more than 250, hopes to expand into Cullman County

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

BOAZ, Ala. — What began with a single thrift-store prom dress has grown into a Boaz-based nonprofit with more than 250 formal dresses, plans to serve approximately 50 students in 2027 with hopes of eventually expanding into Cullman County.

The Cinderella Project provides free prom dresses, formal wear, shoes and accessories to students whose families may otherwise struggle with the cost of attending prom.

President and Co-founder Malerie Farmer said the idea took shape earlier this year after she began seeing teachers in the area use social media to seek donated prom dresses for students who could not afford them.

"Earlier this year I saw multiple Facebook posts from teachers around our area asking for donated prom dresses, either for a student or multiple students that they knew weren't able to afford them," Farmer said.

Those posts reminded Farmer of her own experience preparing for prom.

"My mom was a single mom and couldn't afford a new dress," she said. "My prom dresses came from Facebook Marketplace."

Her aunt and fellow co-founder, Marie Boatwright, had faced similar challenges years earlier.

Farmer said Boatwright's prom dress was homemade because formal dresses were expensive and plus-size options were difficult to find at the time.

Then, while Farmer and her aunt were thrift shopping, Farmer came across a prom dress.

"This made me think, 'What if I could remove the financial burden and help as many girls as possible go to prom?'" she said.

That dress became the starting point.

Farmer said The Cinderella Project has since grown from one Goodwill dress to more than 250 dresses in sizes 00-26.

More than half of those dresses were purchased new through partnerships with individuals and businesses supporting the organization, she said.

The Cinderella Project helped approximately three students in April during its early stages. Farmer said organizers are preparing to serve about 50 students in 2027, possibly more.

The nonprofit currently serves students in Marshall, Etowah and Blount counties.

Farmer said the financial challenges surrounding prom often extend well beyond the cost of formal wear.

"Many people think the biggest expense is the dress or tuxedo, but the truth is that's the tip of the iceberg," she said. "Hair, make up, photos, prom tickets, flowers, shoes and dinner are all things included in the prom experience, and these things can end up costing families a lot of money and can even make prom feel out of reach for some."

The Cinderella Project is attempting to address several of those expenses while also creating an experience similar to visiting a traditional formalwear shop.

Students seeking assistance will first complete an intake form. Once the form is reviewed, the organization will schedule a time for the student to attend one of its shopping days.

Farmer said volunteers will help students throughout the process, from signing in to trying on dresses and selecting shoes and accessories.

Once a student chooses the items they want, the student signs a rental agreement agreeing to return them so they can be reused during future prom seasons.

Students will also receive contact information for hair and makeup artists and photographers who have volunteered their time and services, allowing students to arrange those appointments individually.

The organization also relies on a network of volunteers and community partners.

Its volunteer roles include the Tiara Team, which assists students during shopping and with paperwork; Memory Makers, who provide photography; Royal Stylists, who assist with hair and makeup; Petal Partners involving florists; Enchanted Ambassadors who assist with community outreach; and restaurant partners who help with meals.

Farmer said dresses are no longer the organization's greatest immediate need.

"At this point, we have enough dresses for this season," she said.

Instead, funding, shoes and men's formal wear have become priorities.

"Men's formal wear is very hard to come by, so we are hoping with the help of sponsors we can cover rental fees for those male students in need," Farmer said.

The organization is currently accepting donations of new or gently used prom and formal-style shoes. Financial support is also needed for expenses that cannot easily be met through donated items, including flowers and tuxedo and shoe rentals.

The Cinderella Project identifies itself as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Cullman County is not currently among the organization's three primary service counties, but Farmer said expansion into the area is a goal.

"For us to expand, we need financial support, along with volunteers, and a location for our pop-up prom shop," she said. "Any local individuals or businesses that are willing to donate could make this possible in the future."

Farmer said community support would make a formal Cullman County expansion possible.

"With the help of the community we will expand our services to Cullman County as well," she said.

Students outside the current service area are not necessarily excluded, however.

"Even though we currently serve Marshall, Etowah and Blount counties with hopes of adding Cullman County, we are open to helping others who truly need help from outside those counties, given resources available," Farmer said. "So please reach out and we can determine if we are able to help."

The organization may eventually reach much farther than north Alabama.

Farmer said someone has already approached The Cinderella Project about opening another chapter in east-central Texas.

"At this point we believe the Lord has opened many doors and hopefully we will be able to help many more students, even reach a greater area than what we originally thought," she said. "We are just going to go where He takes us."

Farmer and Boatwright founded The Cinderella Project. Dedra Puckett serves as chief financial officer, while Deborah Talton works with the organization as its "Royal Seamstress."

Farmer said continued exposure and community involvement will determine how many students the nonprofit can ultimately reach.

The Cinderella Project is currently preparing for the 2027 prom season while seeking sponsors, volunteers, shoes, financial contributions and additional community partners.

Students and families seeking assistance may apply through The Cinderella Project's website.

Those interested in donating, volunteering, sponsoring the organization or learning more may call 256-572-0310, email info.thecinderellaproject@gmail.com or visit www.thecinderellaprojectal.org.



CINDERELLA PROJECT

The Cinderella Project has grown from a single thrift-store dress to a collection of more than 250 formal dresses in sizes 00-26, many acquired through community donations and partnerships with individuals and businesses.

Case (from Front)

Chief Joey Duncan, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry and Special Agent Jamie King of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's State Bureau of Investigation. King was the lead investigator on the case.

The pleas represent the most significant movement yet toward resolving a case that began with the August 2024 death of a Hanceville Police Department dispatcher and ultimately resulted in six indictments, the dismantling of the police department and the dismissal of dozens of unrelated felony cases.

Crocker clarified Wednesday that Wilbanks will serve three years. Separate portions of Wilbanks' sentence will run concurrently, resolving conflicting accounts published earlier Wednesday concerning the amount of time he would actually remain in custody.

According to plea information distributed at the press conference, Wilbanks pleaded guilty to one count of using his position for personal gain. He received a 20-year sentence, with three years to serve day for day, followed by three years of probation.

Wilbanks also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime. He received a seven-year sentence, with one year to serve followed by three years of probation.

He additionally pleaded guilty to evidence tampering related to the Hanceville Police Department evidence room. That offense was treated as a misdemeanor, with a 12-month sentence. The sentences will run concurrently, leaving Wilbanks with three years to serve.

Wilbanks lost his Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission certification and, according to the plea information, will not work in law enforcement again. He was taken into custody Wednesday and immediately began serving his sentence.

Wilbanks had originally been indicted on two counts of computer tampering, two counts of use of office for personal gain, tampering with physical evidence and two counts of solicitation to commit a controlled substance crime.

The allegations against Wilbanks included using law enforcement databases to obtain information about individuals for others, using a department-issued cellphone to solicit controlled substances, traveling to a hospital while on duty to receive an anabolic steroid injection and soliciting anabolic steroids and hydrocodone.

Prosecutors also accused him of removing or mishandling evidence from the Hanceville Police Department evidence room.

Eric Kelso was originally charged with four counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and two counts of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute a controlled substance.

According to the indictments, Eric Kelso was accused of delivering anabolic steroids to Wilbanks and then-Officer Cody Alan Kelso, Adderall to another individual and hydrocodone to Wilbanks.

Prosecutors also accused Eric and Donna Kelso of conspiring to distribute anabolic steroids to Wilbanks and Cody Kelso.

Eric Kelso pleaded guilty Wednesday to two counts of distribution of a controlled substance. He received a five-year sentence with four months to serve and the remaining 56 months on probation.

Under his agreement, Eric Kelso also agreed to cooperate with the state and testify truthfully in related matters under penalty of perjury. He was taken into custody Wednesday and began serving his four-month sentence.

Donna Kelso was originally indicted on two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and two counts of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute a controlled substance.

Donna Kelso ultimately pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful possession of a prescription drug. She received a 12-month suspended sentence and 24 months of probation.

She also agreed to cooperate with the state and testify truthfully in related matters under penalty of perjury.

Marlin, who served as Hanceville police chief, was indicted on two counts of failure to report an ethics crime and one count of tampering with physical evidence.

Prosecutors alleged Marlin failed to report alleged ethics violations involving Wilbanks and Cody Kelso after being notified by the State Bureau of Investigation. He was also accused of removing or mishandling evidence from the department's evidence room.

Marlin ultimately pleaded guilty to two counts of obstructing government operations. He received a 12-month suspended sentence and 24 months of probation.

Marlin also lost his APOST certification and, according to the plea information, will not work in law enforcement again. Like Eric and Donna Kelso, Marlin agreed to cooperate with the state and testify truthfully in related matters under penalty of perjury.

Crocker said Wednesday that five of the six defendants have reached agreements with the State, although only four entered guilty pleas Wednesday.

The fifth defendant with an agreement is former Hanceville Police Officer William Andrew Shelnutt, who was indicted on one count of tampering with physical evidence. Prosecutors alleged Shelnutt removed or mishandled evidence from the Hanceville Police Department evidence room.

Shelnutt was not among the four defendants who appeared Wednesday to enter guilty pleas. The written plea information distributed Wednesday provides additional clarification concerning Shelnutt. Rather than listing a guilty plea or sentence, the document states that Shelnutt has applied for admission to Cullman County Accountability Court. His admission will be decided at a later date.

Accordingly, Shelnutt was not among the four defendants who entered guilty pleas Wednesday, and his Accountability Court application remains subject to approval.

The case against former Officer Cody Alan Kelso remains pending.

Cody Kelso was indicted on two counts of computer tampering, solicitation to commit a controlled substance crime, use of office for personal gain and tampering with physical evidence.

The allegations included accessing records from a Cullman County murder investigation, obtaining vehicle registration information for Eric Kelso, soliciting anabolic steroids, traveling to a hospital while on duty to receive a steroid injection and removing or mishandling evidence from the Hanceville evidence room.

Because Cody Kelso's case remains unresolved, he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

An investigation that began with a death

The criminal investigation grew out of the death of Hanceville Police Department dispatcher Christopher Michael Willingham, 49, who was found dead in his office at police headquarters Aug. 23, 2024.

According to an Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences autopsy and toxicology report, Willingham died from the combined toxic effects of fentanyl, gabapentin, diazepam, amphetamine, carisoprodol and methocarbamol. His death was ruled accidental.

Willingham's death prompted an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation that expanded well beyond the circumstances surrounding the death itself.

A Cullman County grand jury subsequently examined the department's operations, evidence-handling practices and conduct of individual officers.

What emerged was an extraordinary condemnation of a law enforcement agency.

The grand jury found there was a "rampant culture of corruption" within the Hanceville Police Department and said the department had recently operated "as more of a criminal enterprise than a law enforcement agency."

It found the department had abused public trust through failures of oversight, leadership, training and hiring.

The grand jury also concluded the department failed to account for, preserve and maintain criminal evidence to such a degree that evidence had become unusable.

Investigators found the evidence room itself was not properly secured. Previous Tribune reporting detailed allegations that individuals could gain access by using a broomstick through a hole in an exterior wall to manipulate the door.

The grand jury went further, finding Willingham's death was the direct result of the department's "negligence, lack of procedure, general incompetence and disregard for human life."

No individual was charged with causing Willingham's death.

The grand jury recommended that the Hanceville Police Department be immediately abolished and that another law enforcement agency assume responsibility for protecting the city.

Five Hanceville law enforcement officers and one officer's spouse were ultimately indicted: Marlin, Wilbanks, Cody Kelso, Eric Kelso, William Andrew Shelnutt and Donna Kelso.

The consequences did not stop with those six cases.

The same grand jury later reconvened and voted to no-bill 58 felony cases because of illegal conduct by former Hanceville officers and problems affecting the integrity of evidence and prosecutions.

Crocker said at the time that most of those cases involved drugs, although some involved crimes with individual victims.

"One dismissal is too many, but the Grand Jury had no other recourse," Crocker said when those dismissals were announced.

The fallout ultimately transformed law enforcement in Hanceville, with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office assuming responsibility for police services as city leaders dealt with the consequences of the investigation.

Wednesday's proceedings resulted in four guilty pleas, while Shelnutt's application for Cullman County Accountability Court remains awaiting a decision. Cody Kelso's criminal case remains pending.

But they do not completely close the Hanceville Police Department investigation.

Cody Kelso's case remains pending.

Previous Cullman Tribune coverage

- Hanceville dispatcher's cause of death revealed; 3 officers reportedly arrested — www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/19/hanceville-dispatchers-cause-of-death-revealed-3-officers-reportedly-arrested

- Grand jury calls for abolition of Hanceville PD; 6 arrested — www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/19/grand-jury-calls-for-abolition-of-hanceville-pd-6-arrested

- What happened to the Hanceville Police Department? — www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/26/what-happened-to-the-hanceville-police-department

- Hanceville Council votes to suspend police department — www.cullmantribune.com/2025/03/10/hanceville-council-votes-to-suspend-police-department

- DA: 58 cases dismissed due to Hanceville PD's illegal actions — www.cullmantribune.com/2025/05/07/da-58-cases-dismissed-due-to-hanceville-pds-illegal-actions

- 2 more defendants reach plea agreements in Hanceville Police Department corruption case — www.cullmantribune.com/2026/08/14/2-more-defendants-reach-plea-agreements-in-hanceville-police-department-corruption-case

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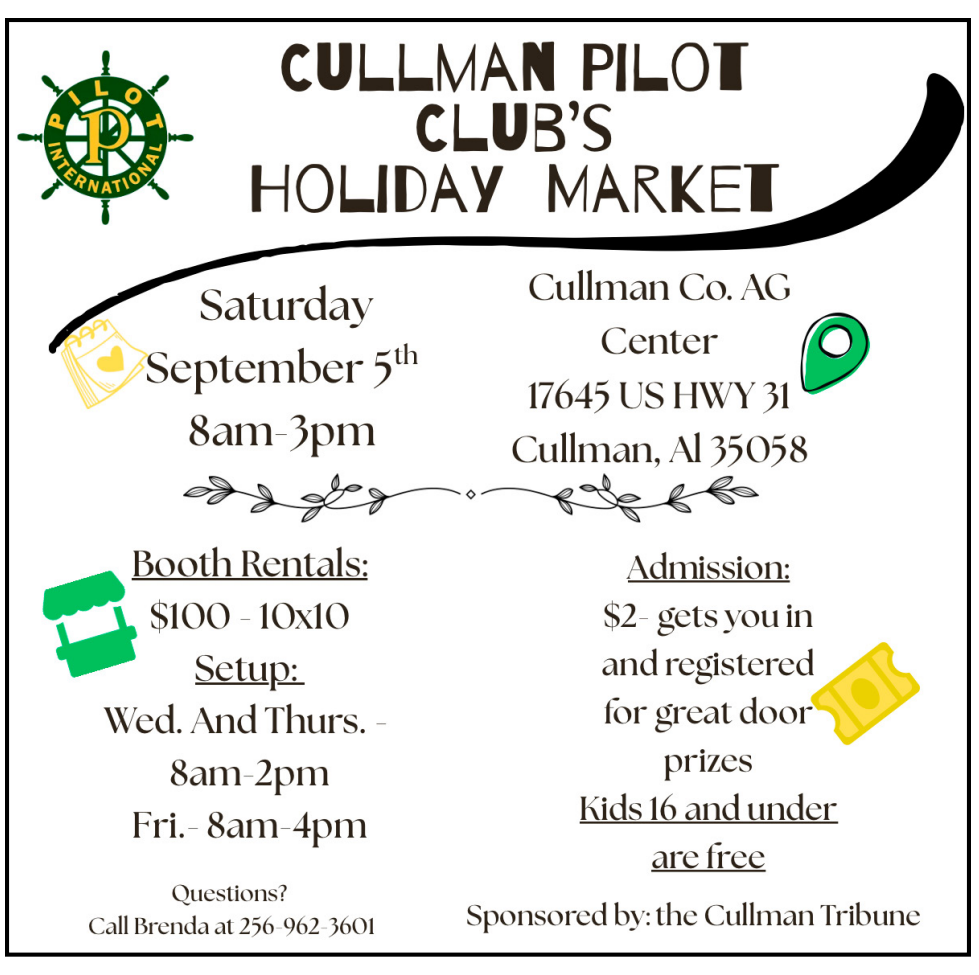




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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 20, 2026

Cullman Community Theatre casts 'Beauty and the Beast Jr.'

Emily McMunn
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Community Theatre recently held auditions for "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," casting the production that will be staged in late October.

Said Savannah Smith Seay, "To say the casting panel was blown away is an understatement. Cullman and the surrounding areas are packed full of talented children."

She said every child who showed up to audition had a special talent – be it singing or reading for an iconic character. Seay commended the children for showing true courage and maturity to walk into a room and display their gifts.

"A member of the CCT board often explains how casting a show is like putting together a puzzle, their own special shape and design, but each piece has to be intricately placed for the puzzle to be complete. Our panel worked together to create the puzzle that would best tell the 'tale as old as time.'"

She added, "We also looked for the ability to tell a story through singing, speaking and movement."

Because of the pool of talent, the panel chose to take a fresh perspective on a few components from "Beauty and Beast." Cogsworth will be brought to life by one of the young ladies in the cast; they will also be incorporating a variety of dance styles and trained fighting techniques to add professionalism and intensity to the show.

The cast includes:

- Belle: Natalie Freeman
- Beast: DJ Ervin
- Gaston: Dexter White
- Lumiere: Joshua Gross
- Gogsworth: Drakelyn Hollingsworth
- Mrs. Potts: Emma Millican
- Chip: Sellers Brown
- Babette: Lennon Baldwin
- Madame De La Grande Bouche: Lily Kilpatrick
- Lefou: Bowen Britt
- Maurice: Levi Johnson
- Monsieur D' Arque: Abe Warren
- Enchantress: Kate Higginbotham

The show will be held at Cullman High School on Oct. 22-24.

Get more information at www.facebook.com/Cullmancommunitytheatre.

