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WEATHER

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

Fairview's 20-point fourth quarter stuns West Point; Aggies win Brandin' Iron Bowl, 27-19

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Joppa Volunteer Fire Department pushes back against allegations members caused recent fires

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

JOPPA, Ala. — Members of the Joppa Volunteer Fire Department are pushing back against allegations circulating in the community that members of the department may have » PAGE 8



JOPPA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Roy Drinkard, Cullman icon and nation's oldest living Marine, passes away at 106

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Roy Henry Drinkard, the World War II veteran, businessman, developer and civic leader whose influence helped shape modern Cullman, passed away Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026. He was 106.

Drinkard's family confirmed his passing to The Cullman Tribune late Sunday night. Funeral arrangements had not been announced.

For 77 years, beginning with his move to Cullman in 1949, Drinkard was woven into the city's economic, civic and charitable life. His legacy stretched from automobile dealerships and shopping centers to industrial recruitment, education, scholarships and generations of personal relationships.

At the time of his passing, Drinkard was recognized as the nation's oldest living U.S. Marine. The distinction represented only one part of a life that included service to his country during war and nearly eight decades of service to the community he made his home.

Drinkard was born July 12, 1920, in Falkville, where his father was a businessman and served as mayor for 20 years. He attended St. Bernard Preparatory School in Cullman before joining the U.S. Marine Corps and serving during World War II.

After returning from the war, Drinkard » PAGE 2



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

World War II veteran, businessman and civic leader Roy Drinkard helped shape Cullman for more than seven decades. He is pictured here on his 105th birthday in 2025.

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

The Willow Path preparing for annual fundraiser, Night in the French Quarter



CONTRIBUTED

The Willow Path staff and board include, front row, left to right, Denise Gilley, financial officer; Jessica Atchley, executive director; Marlee Wix, shelter lead; Lacey Lemley, child & family services coordinator; Leasia Murphee, residential services coordinator; Katelyn Dempsey, client services coordinator; (back row) Stephanie Childers, board member; Ashley Morton, board member; and Lori Williams, board member. » PAGE 6

Fairview Lions Club Labor Day celebration returns Sept. 7



2017 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

A longtime Labor Day tradition will return to Fairview on Monday, Sept. 7, when the Fairview Lions Club hosts its annual Labor Day celebration at Randall Shedd Community Park. » PAGE 3

What makes Baileyton home? Residents answer town's call for stories

» PAGE 5

Senior Day at Oktoberfest to bring contests, music and new traditions Oct. 2

» PAGE 2



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Aug. 24

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Aug. 24, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; FTA = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Aug. 20

- assault; CR 1332
- domestic violence; CR 1083
- trespassing; CR 813
- domestic violence; CR 43
- violation of protection order; CR 1332
- dog bite; CR 617

Aug. 21

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 8
- domestic violence; CR 1522
- theft of property; CR 781
- theft of property; CR 1625
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 783
- domestic violence; CR 1161

Aug. 22

- harassment; CR 565
- theft of property; CR 574
- resisting arrest; Hwy. 278W
- theft of property; CR 1606

Aug. 23

- theft of property; CR 1202
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1129
- domestic violence; CR 747
- assault; Hwy. 69S
- theft of property; CR 130
- domestic violence; CR 831
- domestic violence; CR 544
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- possession of marijuana; tampering with physical evidence; I65SB MM 299

ARRESTS

Aug. 20-23

Atchley, Brenda G.; 59
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Campbell, Jr., James L.; 61
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Campbell, Timothy D.; 46
- robbery-residence-strong arm

Couch, Thomas D.; 30
- FTA – theft-theft from yards

Garza, Adryan W.; 35
- traffic-speeding-no workers-construction zone
- resisting arrest

Harris, Skylar W.; 21
- assault-domestic-menacing

Hayes, Ashley T.; 40
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Henderson, Sheila A.; 58
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- FTA – negotiating worthless instrument

Johnson, Christine N.; 43
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Jones, Patrick E.; 40
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Kerby, Regina S.; 57
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Lackey, Shanna M.; 39
- FTA – theft-utility diversion

Peace, Charles D.; 43
- PROBATION VIOLATION – sex offense-possession of child pornography (4 counts)

Reid, James W.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Rhodes, Brandy L.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Schulte, Donna A.; 66
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Steele, Taylor L.; 30
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief

Townson II, Talmage A.; 41
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – resisting arrest

Uselton, Adam L.; 36
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous (2 counts)
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous theft, $1500-2500
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Weaver, Jason J.; 34
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Wilson, Matthew D.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Woods, Emmanuel J.; 32
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- tampering with physical evidence

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Aug. 22
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ave. C SE
- domestic violence – harassment; domestic violence – menacing; person; Clearwater Dr. NE
- theft of property-3rd degree; Radio Shack; radios; $750; Town Square SW

Aug. 23
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '22 Honda Civic; $1,000; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Aug. 21-23

Waller, Renee D.; 71
- DUI

Rhodes, Brandy L.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – no tag light
- FTA – fail to signal

Etheredge, Paighton E.; 41
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Johnson, Johnathon S.; 45
- FTA – DUI
- FTA – resisting arrest

Henderson, Sheila A.; 58
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



Oktoberfest (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County seniors are being encouraged to break out the dirndls, lederhosen and German-inspired attire as the Cullman County Commission on Aging prepares for Senior Day at Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct. 2.

The annual celebration will begin at 10 a.m. at Depot Park in Cullman and will feature music, food and a lineup of new contests and activities designed specifically for the county's senior community.

Organizers are giving participants plenty of advance notice this year, particularly for those who want to compete for the title of best dressed.

"Now is the perfect time to start planning your Oktoberfest look," the Commission on Aging shared. "Pull out your dirndl, lederhosen, or get creative with your own festive German attire for a chance to take home the winning prize for best costume."

The costume contest is one of several competitions planned for Senior Day.

Men and women will compete separately in stein-hoisting contests to see who can hold a traditional stein aloft the longest. Seniors will also have the opportunity to participate in a chicken dance contest and show off their vocal abilities during a yodeling competition.

This year's celebration will also introduce a new Oktoberfest tradition with the crowning of the first Ms. Senior Oktoberfest.

Live entertainment will be provided by the Good Bellows Band.

A free lunch sponsored by Walmart will be offered during the event, and transportation will be available to the first 600 seniors.

The Commission on Aging said the expanded lineup is intended to give seniors additional ways to participate in one of Cullman's signature annual celebrations.

"Get creative and bring your Oktoberfest spirit," organizers said. "We can't wait to celebrate Senior Day with you."

Senior Day contests
- Best dressed Oktoberfest attire
- Women's stein hoisting
- Men's stein hoisting
- Chicken dance contest
- Yodeling contest
- Ms. Senior Oktoberfest

Senior Day at Oktoberfest will be held Friday, Oct. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. at Depot Park in Cullman.

Get more information at www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com.

Drinkard (from Front)

operated a funeral home in Guntersville for several years before coming back to Cullman. He became a partner in Drinkard Pontiac-GMC in May 1949, then opened Drinkard Chevrolet Company in 1955 and operated it until 1974, when he turned the business over to his son-in-law, Mitch Smith.

Drinkard's business career expanded far beyond automobiles. As president of Drinkard Development, he developed and managed shopping centers, theaters, medical complexes, apartments and other commercial properties across the Southeast, with projects in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana and Ohio.

His developments were anchored by some of the country's largest retailers. He was recognized as Kmart's leading developer in 1981 and Kroger's leading developer in 1982, while his Cullman properties included Marktplatz Shopping Center, Arnold Village Shopping Center, Town Square Shopping Center and King Edward Shopping Center.

Drinkard also was the last surviving member of The Flying Fifty, the group of local business and civic leaders who traveled the country recruiting industry and investment to Cullman after World War II. The Flying Fifty Hotel in downtown Cullman was later named in honor of the group and the foundation it helped build.

As chairman of the Cullman Industrial Development Board for nearly 30 years, Drinkard helped recruit companies including King Edward Cigar, Bendix-Westinghouse, Americold and National Screw. That work helped broaden Cullman's employment base and contributed to the economic growth that followed.

His civic contributions extended beyond business and industry. Drinkard donated land for educational facilities for Cullman County Schools, helped raise thousands of dollars for college scholarships and remained a supporter of education throughout his life.

In April 2000, at nearly 80 years old, Drinkard was appointed to the Troy University Board of Trustees by then-Gov. Don Siegelman. He was reappointed twice, most recently by Gov. Kay Ivey in 2020, and continued serving the university well past his 100th birthday.

Troy University Chancellor Jack Hawkins Jr. called him "a national treasure" during Drinkard's 105th birthday celebration. By then, Drinkard had served as a Troy trustee for 25 years, bringing to the university the same commitment to service that defined his life in Cullman.

Among his many honors, The Cullman Times named Drinkard Cullman's Outstanding Citizen of the Century, and the City of Cullman presented him with the key to the city in 2017. He also received the Great American Hero Award and the Dr. Jack Hawkins Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025.

When he received the key to the city, Drinkard said, "I'm proud to be an American, proud to be an Alabamian, proud to be a Cullman Countian."

His patriotism remained visible throughout his later years. Drinkard led the Pledge of Allegiance before Donald Trump's 2021 rally in Cullman and again on the final day of the Alabama Legislature's 2025 regular session.

The recognition he received stretched beyond Cullman. Guests at his 105th birthday celebration included Gov. Kay Ivey, U.S. Sens. Katie Britt and Tommy Tuberville, U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt and other state and local officials. They joined family, friends and community leaders at the Borkenau, Drinkard's historic Cullman home, where Aderholt presented a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and entered a tribute to Drinkard into the Congressional Record.

Despite the businesses, buildings and honors attached to his name, Drinkard regularly measured his life through faith, family and relationships. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Cullman for more than 75 years, opened his home to visitors and maintained a weekly grandkids' night with his family.

During a 2023 visit with second graders at Sacred Heart School, Drinkard said, "I'm wealthy in life." He explained that he counted his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, the kindness of the community and his faith in Jesus among his greatest riches.

Drinkard's grandson-in-law, Jason Grimmett, said in 2025, "Everywhere he goes he makes friends. He's got an infectious personality." Friends and family said his humor, optimism and ability to find common ground remained with him throughout his life.

Drinkard's health was tested during his final year. After spending 123 days in the hospital, he met his goal of returning home before his 106th birthday on July 12, 2026. He passed away six weeks after reaching that milestone.

His 106 years reached across war, postwar growth and generations of change, but the measure of Drinkard's life was never confined to its length. The businesses, developments, land, scholarships and institutions remain, along with the stories of the people he welcomed, encouraged and helped.

When asked at 105 to share the lesson he carried from a lifetime of service, Drinkard's answer was simple: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Chamber sets calendar through May 2027

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce met recently set event dates through May 2027.

As events approach, check the Chamber's website for more details.

August 2026
- Aug. 25 Chamber Bring your Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.
- Aug. 26 Chamber Maximize Your Membership 9 a.m.
- Aug. 28 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

September 2026
- Sept. 1 Cullman Area Literacy Council (CALICO) Register for Scarecrow Trail
- Sept. 5-6 Cullman Coyotes Tryouts
- Sept. 10 Culinary in Cullman
- Sept. 10-21 Restaurant Week
- Sept. 11 Chamber Community Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 12 The Link Race to Restock
- Sept. 17 The Willow Path Night in the French Quarter
- Sept. 21 Chamber Bring your Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 23 Better Business Bureau Fraud Summit 10:30 a.m.
- Sept. 24 Chamber Burgermeister Ball 6 p.m.
- Sept. 25 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

October 2026
- Oct. 1 Cullman Area Literacy Council (CALICO) Scarecrow Trail
- Oct. 3 Cullman Library Picnic on the Porch
- Oct. 8 Hope Horses Grow Chuckwagon Dinner 5 p.m.
- Oct. 16 Chamber Community Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 19 Chamber Member Appreciation 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23 The Link Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 23-24 Trick or Treat with the Chamber 8 a.m.
- Oct. 24 Friends of the Library Spooktacular Storybook 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run
- Oct. 26 Chamber Bring your Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 27 Tools of the Trade
- Oct. 30 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

November 2026
- Nov. 3 Go Vote
- Nov. 5 The Link Gala
- Nov. 6 Chamber Community Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 13, 14 and 16 Chamber Christmas Open House
- Nov. 19 Pyramid Lighting
- Nov. 20 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 20 Tree Lighting & Parade

December 2026
- Dec. 6 Tour of Homes
- Dec. 18 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.
- Dec. 18 Cullman Area Literacy Council (CALICO) Free Children's Book Sportsman Lake 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 23-25 Chamber Office Closed All Day

January 2027
- Jan. 1 Chamber Office Closed
- Jan. 8 Chamber Community Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 25 Chamber Bring your Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 25 Chamber Business After Hours 5 p.m.
- Jan. 29 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

February 2027
- Feb. 6 Chamber Mardi Gras/Parade/Gumbo Cook-Off
- Feb. 6 Cullman Coyotes Football Game 2 p.m.
- Feb. 12 Chamber Community Luncheon 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 23 Chamber Bring Your Lunch & Learn
- Feb. 20 Hope Horses Casino Night
- Feb. 26 Chamber Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

April 2027
- April 12 Links for Literacy Gold Tournament
- April 27 Bring your Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.
- April 30 Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

May 2027
- May 10 Young Professionals Business After Hours 5 p.m.
- May 25 Bring your Lunch & Learn
- May 28 Young Professionals Coffee & Connections 7:30 a.m.

If you would like to add an event please contact the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center at 256-734-0454 or email info@cullmanchamber.org for more information.

See the event calendar at https://business.cullmanchamber.org/events.

Celebration (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — A longtime Labor Day tradition will return to Fairview on Monday, Sept. 7, when the Fairview Lions Club hosts its annual Labor Day celebration at Randall Shedd Community Park.

The community celebration will begin at 8 a.m. at the park, located at 649 Wesley Ave. N, and will include the annual car show, a parade, live music, food trucks and vendors, along with a cornhole tournament.

The car show is scheduled from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., while live music will be performed from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The cornhole tournament is set to begin at 10 a.m.

The annual Labor Day parade will begin at 11 a.m.

Parade participants will begin lining up at 10 a.m. on Butler Park Road in Fairview. All area fire departments are invited to participate and bring a fire truck, and children taking part in the parade are welcome to throw candy along the route.

The celebration continues a Fairview tradition that stretches back decades.

The Tribune reported in 2022 that the Fairview Lions Club's Labor Day parade had already been held for more than 25 years. The accompanying car, truck and motorcycle show was added years later and had continued to grow alongside the parade and other family activities.

The event has traditionally brought together fire departments, community organizations, Fairview students, churches, families and other participants for a parade through the community before activities continue at the park.

In 2019, The Tribune reported that the parade included fire trucks, the grand marshal, Miss Fairala, the Fairview High School marching band, youth football players and cheerleaders, churches and other community participants before making its way down Wesley Avenue to the park.

That year, then-Fairview Lions Club President William Criscoe described the celebration as an opportunity for the organization to give the community something it could enjoy together.

"It's just a small, close-knit community and we enjoy the times that we can do something like this," Criscoe told The Tribune following the 2019 celebration.

The park itself has a connection to the event's history. During the Fairview Lions Club Labor Day celebration in 2017, the community park was officially renamed Randall Shedd Community Park in honor of longtime Fairview resident and former Alabama Rep. Randall Shedd.

The Lions Club has historically used proceeds from its events to support its community projects and residents in need. Previous Tribune coverage has highlighted the organization's work assisting local families and supporting service projects throughout the Fairview area.

For more information about the event or participating in the parade, contact Felicia Bailey at 256-735-8722 or visit www.facebook.com/fairview.lionsclub.

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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
• Wednesday, Aug. 26 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup.
• Friday, Aug. 28 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, Aug. 30 – 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!

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singings
Saturday, Sept. 5, at 5 p.m. with The Perrys and Sunday, Sept. 20, at 5 p.m. with Living Faith. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 E, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond, on the left. Everyone is invited. For more information, call 256-339-1862 or 256-590-1501.

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

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 25, 2026

Fairview's 20-point fourth quarter stuns West Point; Aggies win Brandin' Iron Bowl, 27-19

Lucas Gray
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WEST POINT, Ala. — Opening the 2026 season with a bang, the Fairview Aggies, under first-year head coach Brian Simmons, headed into West Point on Friday night for the 10th annual Brandin' Iron Bowl.

A quick strike from the Warriors put them on top, and take-aways on defense helped maintain that lead until late, but a wild turn of events in the final minute of the game led to a stunning Fairview victory, 27-19.

"It just seems like we could never get over the hump- a lot of miscues. We've been talking a lot about discipline, and how we just didn't have discipline yet. There was lack of belief, a lot of people unsure, because all the guys that left and our guys are trying to figure this out. At halftime, I said, 'Do we need all those guys back, or can y'all do it? I think that's been the question that's been lingering over their head ever since the end of last season. So, the first three-and-a-half quarters were tough, but, you know, that's kind of what we've done over the last few years is find a way to win in the end, so we still have that grit, and we can work with that," Simmons said after the win.

After an offseason of questions surrounding whether the Aggies would still be *as* successful under new leadership, fans had the air knocked out of them on just the second play from scrimmage. West Point quarterback Max Patterson dropped back and hit wide receiver JJ Minck on a slant that he took all the way to the house, putting the Warriors up 7-0 just seconds into the game.

Fairview and new quarterback Conner Scott threatened on their first offensive drive, with running back John Short taking a run to the outside for a 32-yard gain to put the Aggies in enemy territory. After a couple scrambles from Scott got Fairview a fresh set of downs, the signal caller looked to the to the end zone and put a pass up, but West Point's Colton Kimbril came down with it, giving the Warriors a touchback.

After back-and-forth bouts of three-and-outs and a missed Aggie field goal, Fairview finally broke through in the second quarter. Their drive started near mid-field after a Warrior punt, and John Short took a couple defenders for a ride on a 12-yard rush to the outside to set the Aggies' offense up with a new set of downs. On the next play, James Short bounced outside to finish the defense off with a 37-yard Aggie score, and a made extra point tied the ballgame at 7-7.

Before the half, West Point's offense was set up nicely after the Aggies were forced to punt out of their own end zone. Again, Patterson hit Minck on a slant that gained West Point 10 yards, and on the next play, receiver Bryant Moon made a diving catch in the end zone for a West Point touchdown. The extra point was missed, but the Warriors took their 13-7 lead into the half.

After a Fairview running back coughed up the ball early in the fourth quarter, West Point was set up nicely at the Aggies' 35 yard line.

A nicely-thrown sideline shot from Patterson to Minck got the Warriors inside the five, and after a few run plays were stymied by Fairview, a six-yard swing pass out to Titan Thornton resulted in an Aggie linebacker being bulldozed, and a West Point touchdown. The extra point was missed, but the Warriors went up 19-7 with under ten minutes to go.

Backed up at their own 15, the Aggies had a long way to go, a growing deficit and a running clock. Things didn't start pretty, either, but four and five yard runs from John Short and Scott were enough to earn first downs and eventually get them close to mid-field, and after having to run backwards to grab a bad snap, Scott found his way forward on 2nd-and-8 for a nine-yard gain. On the way out of bounds, Scott took a late hit that earned a flag, too, sending the Aggies into Warrior territory. After a few positive plays and another penalty, this time a facemask, Fairview began their fourth-quarter comeback with an Easton Fitch touchdown run up the gut. The extra point was blocked, but Fairview had creeped back into the game with just six minutes to go, still trailing 19-13.

Both teams traded punts, and with just two minutes to go, West Point was in a position to potentially seal a win. Instead, on 3rd-and-7, West Point fumbled on a run attempt, the Aggies recovered and the chaos began.

As the clock ticked under 30 seconds, Fairview converted on 4th-and-one to set up a 1st down at West Point's 32 in front of a raucous crowd. On the next play, Scott launched a ball to the end zone, and Colt Dean came down with it despite two Warrior backs around him, tying the ballgame at 19. The extra point was good, and for the first time in the game, Fairview led, 20-19.

There was still time on the clock, however. West Point fielded a kick-off, and sent the offense out, looking for a miracle. Patterson attempted to hit a receiver on a quick out to stop the clock, but instead, Fairview put icing on the comeback cake with a pick-six to seal a 27-19 shocker.

The Aggies, now 1-0, will take on Hayden at home Friday, while the Warriors will head to Cleburne County.

Strong all-around game gives Vinemont a 48-0 season-opening win over Falkville

Ryan Guthery
Tribune Correspondent

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Vinemont Eagles hosted the Falkville Blue Devils to kick off the season. The Eagles came out firing on all cylinders on both sides of the ball, eventually coming away with a 48-0 victory.

Falkville received the opening kickoff but Vinemont quickly forced a turnover as Josh Rhodes intercepted a pass.

The Eagles methodically marched down the field, with the drive ending in a 2-yard touchdown run by Preston Hanners that put the Eagles up 8-0 midway through the opening quarter.

Vinemont quickly regained possession as Caleb Slain recovered an onside kick, and three plays later Hanners took it in from ten yards out to give Vinemont a 14-0 led with 4:18 to go in the first quarter.

On the ensuing possession, the Eagles defense forced a three-and-out to give the ball back to a fired up offense, and again, the Eagles marched right down the field, and capped off the drive with a 5-yard touchdown run by Karson Arbet that put the Eagles up 20-0 with 7:17 until halftime. Brandon Johnson gave the Eagles another possession, when he came up with a big tackle for loss on fourth down.

Late in the first half, a 4-yard touchdown run by Hanners gave the Eagles a 26-0 led.

The Eagles got one more chance to extend the led thanks to a squib kick that hit a Falkville player, and Brandon Johnson recovered, but time ran out for the Eagles in the half.

Vinemont received the second half kick-off and picked up right where they left off when Josh Rhodes scored from three yards out to extend Vinemont's lead to 34-0 with 7:37 remaining in the third quarter.

Early in the fourth quarter, Vinemont stretched the lead to 42-0 when Travis Speer scored from one yard out.

The Blue Devils managed to find a rhythm on offense, but the Eagles defense stiffened to force a turnover on fourth down when Yojan Patino recovered a fumble.

On the the final play of the game, Brennan Marlow raced 49 yards to the house to put an exclamation point on a 48-0 shut-out in the season opener in front of the Eagles' home field crowd.

Roberts and Addison cruise to a 48-0 win over Winston County

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

DOUBLE SPRINGS, Ala. — The 1A 3rd-ranked Addison Bulldogs traveled the 17 miles east and across the lake to take on their arch rival 2A Winston County Yellow Jackets. The game wasn't close, as Addison dismantled another opponent with lights-out defense and an offense that scores quicker than a Ferrari on a straight track. Addison won handily, 48-0.

Addison kicked off, and the Jackets took over at their own 16-yard line. After a first-play fourteen-yard run up the middle by Raphael Moore, the Jackets gained only six yards on their next three plays and had to punt. The punt was short, as Winston County struggled with their punting game all night.

The 'Dawgs took over and on their first play, Judah Wilkins took the Elijah Roberts handoff and rambled 72 yards for a touchdown. Don't get too excited though, as Addison was penalized for a hold, and Wilkins was only credited with a twelve-yard run instead. After an incomplete pass, Roberts decided he would just scamper 60 yards for the touchdown.

Roberts' run was excellent, as he broke several tackles and scored with ease. The Bulldog players must have had cooties on this night as the Jackets seemingly refused to tackle them for the majority of the game. After the surprise Connor Lane pass to Skylar Cleghorn for the two-point conversion, Addison led 8-0 with 8:56 to go in the first period.

The Yellow Jackets managed a first down and then punted, but Mr. Joey "Fire Plug" Wilson blocked the Jacket punt and Addison took over at the Jacket 46. The Jackets stood tall and stopped the Bulldogs on fourth down, taking over at their own 39.

WCHS's best drive of the night had them going all the way down to the 'Dawgs' 34, where they were forced to punt. Again, the dreaded shank punt happened, and Addison took over at their own 20. Two plays later, Addison's do-everything QB Roberts took the ball and, again, looked like Bo Jackson as he broke several tackles and went 50 yards for the touchdown. On the play before, he galloped for 30 yards. Roberts accounted for all 80 yards on the drive. Lane kicked the extra point and with 9:30 to go in the second quarter, Addison led 15-0.

After another Jacket punt, the 'Dawgs began their drive at their own 37. Five plays later, Roberts found Zane Smith for 40 yards and another touchdown.

The Lane extra point was good, and with only 1:46 to go in the half, Addison led 22-0.

Addison stopped the Jackets and forced another punt and this time, the punt traveled 14 yards and on the very next play, Addison's Roberts found Wilkins fora 38-yard touchdown. The extra point was no good, and at the half, Addison led 28-0.

The second half opened with Addison receiving the kick off and seven plays later, Smith romped in from 13 yards out for the touchdown.

Lane kicked the extra point, and at the 9:21 mark of the third quarter, Addison had salted this one away at 35-0.

After an exchange of possessions and a Bulldog turnover, the Jackets took over at the 'Dawg 35. Three plays later, with the Jackets facing a 3rd-and-20, Lane intercepted the Jacket pass at his own sixteen and returned the ball 65 yards down to the Jackets' 19.

Three plays later, Roberts hit Scout Flynn for a four-yard touchdown pass and catch. The extra point was missed, but Addison stretched the lead to 41-0.

Addison's Carson McCaleb recovered a Jacket fumble on their next possession and put the 'Dawgs back in business.

After an exchange of possessions, Addison's Kash Turner looked like Derrick Henry as he broke about 13 Jacket tackles to rumble the 41 yards for the 'Dawgs final touchdown. After Turner kicked the extra point, Addison led 48-0 and there was only 4:31 left on the clock.

So far through one official game and one jamboree, Addison has outscored its opponents 103-6. Addison moves to officially 1-0 and will host another county rival next Friday with the Lynn Bears coming to town. The WCHS Yellow Jackets fall to 0-1 and will travel to Meek Friday to take on the Tigers.

Cullman falls to Boaz, 21-14, after late score

Gary McGriff
Tribune Correspondent

BOAZ, Ala. — On Friday night, Coach Trent Walker loaded up his Cullman Bearcats and made a quick trip next door to take on the Boaz Pirates in a non-region matchup. After taking an early lead, the traveling Bearcats tried to hold onto it, but eventually fell to the Pirates, 21-14.

Boaz looked like they were driving early from their own 20-yard line. Quarterback Beau Bennett had a couple of long completions to put the Pirates on the Cullman side of the field. Bennett was sacked for a 12-yard loss by Cullman's Qwency Remy backing Boaz up. Two plays later, another sack by Cooper McSwain forced the Pirates to punt to Cullman after the drive stalled.

A kick interference and personal foul penalty had the Bearcats in operation at their own 47-yard line. Three plays later, quarterback Colt Colvard hit Sam Ellerby for a 46-yard touchdown pass. The PAT by Brooks West was good, and Cullman had a 7-0 lead with 5:07 left in the first quarter.

Cullman's defense forced Boaz into a quick three-and-out and the Bearcats were in business again at the Boaz 47-yard line. Hard running by Weston Keel and a 16-yard touchdown pass from Colvard to Morgan Holley put the Bearcats up 14-0 with 1:43 left in the first quarter.

Boaz, down by two touchdowns, took over on their own 20-yard line. On the second play of the drive, Beau Bennett hit Sage Bennett for a 68-yard touchdown pass and the Pirates were back in the game, 14-7 with 1:04 left in the first quarter.

Cullman took the over on their own 26-yard line on the drive and proceeded to get into the Pirates side of the field as the second quarter advanced. Facing a 4th-and-4, the Bearcats decided to punt to Boaz.

Unfortunately, the ball took a bounce in favor of the Pirates and Cullman was unable to down the ball, and it ended as a 9-yard overall punt.

Two plays later, Cullman's defense forced a Boaz fumble, and Carson Stancil recovered the ball for the Bearcats.

Both teams were unable to mount a serious drive until Cullman took over just before halftime. Boaz committed a couple of big penalties, and the Bearcats found themselves on the Boaz 40-yard line with just seconds left on the clock.

Ismael Esteban attempted to kick a 50-yard field goal as time expired. The attempt was just short, and Cullman had a 14-7 lead at intermission.

Cullman took the ball to begin the second half and facing a long second down appeared to have gotten the first down on a run. A holding call nullified the play and after an incomplete pass, Cullman was forced to punt.

Cullman's defense forced a quick punt by Boaz and Cullman took over their own 30-yard line. Later in the drive Cullman was facing a fourth and two from the Boaz 37-yard line.

A tough 13-yard run from Kolby Holt gave the Bearcats a first down. Boaz would force a Cullman fumble that ended the scoring threat.

Boaz took over deep in their own territory. Four plays later, the Bennetts connected again for a 72-yard touchdown and Boaz tied the game at 14 each with 3:36 left in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter began with the game still tied. Beau Bennett had a good drive going, when they faced a fourth and two from the Bearcat 12-yard line. Dayton Porter scored on the next play, and Boaz took their first lead 21-14 with 9:19 left in the game.

Cullman drove deep into Boaz territory when the Bearcats were intercepted on the Boaz 5-yard line. Just as it looked that the game was over, Cullman's defense forced a Boaz fumble that was recovered by Colling Kent.

Cullman's next drive was highlighted by a 4th-and-24 from the Pirates' 37-yard line. Colvard passed and Holt made an outstanding over the shoulder catch to get the first down and the Bearcats were at the Boaz 5-yard line. The drive stopped three plays later on a Boaz interception.

Boaz ran out the clock and won the game 21-14. Cullman ended the game with 357 total yards offense.

Cullman hosts Hartselle Friday at home.

Good Hope falls to Plainview, 31-24, in season-opener

Sammy Confer
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GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The 2026 football season is underway, and the Good Hope Raiders kicked off their season at home against the Plainview Bears, a team that defeated Good Hope in the third round of the playoffs last season. It went back-and-forth for most of the night, but in the end, a touchdown early in the fourth quarter by Plainview turned out to be the difference maker in the game, as they ended up holding off the Raiders at the end, 31-24.

Kayden Collins recovered the opening kickoff for Good Hope at the 43, and on the first play of the game, Web Buchanan found Parker Johnson for 27 yards and a first down at the 16. Karson Hollis and Johnson churned out some tough yards on the ground, and a penalty on fourth down kept their drive alive.

The Bear defense, though, stiffened, and Chase Prewett's 24-yard field goal gave the Raiders a 3-0 lead. Plainview didn't waste any time on their opening drive, as a 17-yard pass and a 31-yard run quickly put them at the 24. The Bears ended the drive by scoring on a 24-yard run to give them a 7-3 lead with 5:37 remaining in the opening period.

Hollis' huge kickoff return put Good Hope at the 28-yard line. Buchanan and Johnson helped them get to the 17, but a costly penalty on fourth down saw Prewett attempt a field goal, which fell short.

The Raider defense forced a punt on their next drive. On a 2nd-and-eight from the 25, Johnson connected with Hollis on a 15-yard screen pass, then Hollis broke free for a 59-yard run down the right sideline. Johnson punched it in from a yard out on the next play, as that gave Good Hope the lead right back at 10-7.

Back-to-back punts gave the ball right back to Plainview, and a pair of big runs put them at the 33-yard line.

Three plays later, they broke free for a 28-yard run to take a 14-10 lead. Both defenses stood tall to end the first half, and the Bears would take a 14-10 lead into the break.

Good Hope got the ball first to start out the second half, and they kept the ball on the ground with Hollis and Johnson. Johnson's 18-yard run put the Raiders at the 42, but a delay-of-game penalty put them behind the sticks, and they were forced to punt. Plainview's running game gave Good Hope's defense fits at times on their first drive of the third quarter, and a big run on third down kept their drive alive.

The Raider defense, though, tightened up after that, and the Bears ended up settling for a 24-yard field goal to make it 17-10.

Good Hope's offense got stuffed on the first three plays of their next drive, but they put a trick out of their bag on their punt attempt, as Johnson instead threw to a wide-open Ayden Young on the left side for a 70-yard score to tie the game up at 17 with 1:35 remaining in the third quarter. A sack by Buchanan on first down put Plainview's offense behind the chains, but as quickly as they got behind the chains, that's how quickly they found the end zone, as a 15-yard pass put them at the 47.

The next play saw them find a hole on the right side and ended up scoring on a 53-yard run to give the Bears a 24-17 lead early in the fourth.

The fun was just getting started, though, as on the ensuing kickoff, Johnson took it 80 yards to the house to tie it up at 24. That tie lasted just 16 seconds, as a 55-yard touchdown run gave them a 31-24 lead.

Behind Hollis and Johnson, the Raider offense quickly moved the ball down the field. Johnson's 10-yard run gave them a first down at the 28, but on fourth down, he threw an interception.

Good Hope's defense quickly forced a three-and-out, giving the ball back to their offense. A huge run by Ryker Hancock on third down gave them a first down at the 48, but two plays later, Johnson got picked off at the eight-yard line. Plainview collected a pair of first downs to help seal their 31-24 win over Good Hope.

Johnson completed a trio of passes for 89 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders; he added 59 yards on the ground and another score, plus the 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. Hollis finished with 119 yards on 17 carries. Jonathan Pitts and Buchanan each collected a sack in the game, and Collins recovered the ball on the opening kickoff.

Good Hope will start region play next Friday night, as they will go to Brewer.

Other Week One scores

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- Carbon Hill 59, Hanceville 28
- Holly Pond 20, J.B. Pennington 0

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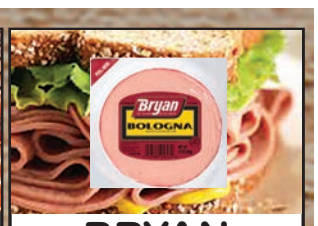
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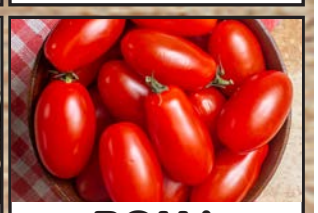
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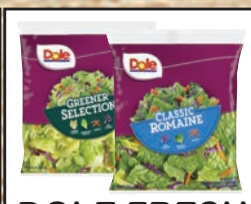
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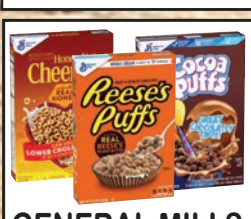
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$5.49 EA.



CHARMIN BATH TISSUE
6 Mega Rolls
$6.99 EA.



BOUNTY PAPER TOWELS
4 Double Rolls
$6.99 EA.



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
12 Pk.
12 Oz. Cans
2 for $12



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
8 Pk.
12 Oz. Bottles
2 for $10



DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$4.99 EA.



POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
8 Pk.
20 Oz. Bottles
$5.99 EA.

BODY ARMOR SUPER DRINK
16 Oz. Bottles
4 for $5

LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
4.75-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

FRITO LAY DORITOS
6-10.75 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

TOSTITOS SALSA OR DAIRY DIP
15-17.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

GOLDEN FLAKE, UTZ OR ZAPP'S CHIPS
or On the Border Tortilla Chips
7-12 Oz. Selected Varieties
2 for $4

LEWIS BAKE SHOP SOFT TWIST BREAD
20 Oz. Loaf
White
2 for $4

LITTLE DEBBIE FALL SNACKS
6-13.13 Oz. Fall Party Cakes, Pumpkin Delights, Gingerbread Cookies, Pumpkin or Football Brownies, Pumpkin Spice Rolls, Mini Donuts or Muffins or Oatmeal Creme Pies
2 for $6

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

BLUE BELL ICE CREAM SANDWICHES
12 Pk. Regular or 16 Pk. Mini
$5.99 EA.

BLUE BELL FROZEN BARS
12 Pk. Mooo, Fudge or Krunch
$4.99 EA.

COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE
15 Pk.
Pints
$19.99 EA.

MICHELOB ULTRA OR ULTRA ZERO
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$16.99 EA.

XXL WINE
750 mL
$8.99 EA.

JOSH CELLARS WINE
750 mL
$13.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE CRACKED PEPPER TURKEY
Deli Sliced
$11.99 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE PROVOLONE CHEESE
Deli Sliced
$5.69 LB.

KENTUCKIAN GOLD ORIGINAL HAM
Deli Sliced
$7.69 LB.

SUE'S ITALIAN CREAM CAKE
2 Layer
$16.99 EA.

FRESH FRIED CHICKEN
8-Piece
Bone-In
$7.99 EA.

FRENCH BREAD
Hot Baked
Loaf
$1.99 EA.



BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vinemont's Tatum Dyer on a rushing attempt against Fairview on Saturday, Aug. 22

Cullman County Youth Football Week One score recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The 2026 Cullman County Youth Football season kicked off on Saturday with a dozen local games. The Cullman Bearcats hosted the Hanceville Bulldogs, the Fairview Aggies traveled to take on the Vinemont Eagles, the Addison Bulldogs hosted the West Point Warriors, and the Holly Pond Broncos traveled to take on the Good Hope Raiders.

Hanceville at Cullman

- FP: Bulldogs 14 – Bearcats 12
- WW: Bulldogs 41 – Bearcats 0
- PW: Bearcats 30 – Bulldogs 0

Fairview at Vinemont

- FP: Eagles 32 – Aggies 14
- WW: Aggies 25 – Eagles 0
- PW: Aggies 12 – Eagles 6
- West Point at Addison
- FP: Warriors 6 – Bulldogs 0
- WW: Warriors 20 – Bulldogs 6
- PW: Bulldogs 20 – Warriors 0

Holly Pond at Good Hope

- FP: Raiders 39 – Broncos 8
- WW: Raiders 22 – Broncos 0
- PW: Broncos 8 – Raiders 0

Week Two schedule (Aug. 29):

- Addison at Cullman (9 a.m.)
- Cold Springs at Hanceville (9 a.m.)
- Fairview at West Point (4 p.m.)
- Vinemont at Good Hope (4 p.m.)
- Holly Pond: BYE

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Baileyton (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — Ask someone what makes a place home and the answer usually has very little to do with municipal boundaries.

In Baileyton, it might be family land passed from one generation to the next. It might be an old store, a neighbor who once stopped by for an egg or cup of sugar, a view across an open field or simply knowing the people around you.

For some, Baileyton has been home for generations.

For others, finding it happened almost by accident.

The Town of Baileyton recently turned to its residents on Facebook as it prepares to launch a new municipal website, asking them to explain why they moved to Baileyton, why they love living there and what they like most about the community.

The town also asked residents to share photographs, from Baileyton's earliest days through the present, that capture what makes the community special to their families.

"Your testimonial may be used on our new Town website that is being designed and should be ready to unveil very soon," the town posted.

The residents answered.

And somewhere among the stories of old Baileyton and those of its newest residents, the comments began creating something more than testimonials for a website. They became a snapshot of a small town as remembered by the people who built lives there.

Jenna Lynn Burgess said her family's roots stretch back at least four generations on the land where she lives today. Even the road near her property, which crosses into Morgan County, carries her grandfather's family name.

"I'm at least the 4th generation that I know of to live on the land I live on," Burgess wrote.

There is another generation coming behind her.

"Our kids are 5th generation," she added.

That kind of family continuity drew an enthusiastic response from Jenny Leslie, another Baileyton resident whose story begins at almost the opposite end of the spectrum.

Leslie and her husband were house hunting in 2024 and spent more than a year looking through several communities in surrounding counties. They initially wanted to remain closer to Oneonta.

Baileyton was not necessarily the destination. Then they found their house.

"We love being surrounded by farmland, being spaced out from our neighbors and having gorgeous views of both the sunrise and sunset," Leslie wrote.

It became the couple's first home.

"This is the one that just happened to work out for us," she said.

That mixture of old roots and new beginnings runs throughout the responses.

Shirley Fulmer's relationship with Baileyton began more than six decades ago when she found a house there while her husband, Buddy, was serving in the military.

When he returned, they bought it.

Over the years they remodeled the house, and even after Buddy died and Fulmer eventually sold the property, she did not leave Baileyton. She purchased land and built another home in the community.

"For the most parts it's quite and peaceful," Fulmer wrote. "Love this little town."

Dennis Martin found his way back toward familiar ground in 2017 when his children's grandmother's house became available as he was nearing retirement.

Martin had lived in nearby Joppa from seventh through 12th grade and said he wanted to return closer to the place he once called home.

"Best move ever," he wrote, before naming several longtime friends in the area. "Many great people in this area!"

For Kathy Smith, Baileyton exists partly in memory.

Smith grew up there before moving to south Alabama, then Texas and Oklahoma City. She still visits when possible and remembers attending the Methodist church, walking to school and going to Walker's store.

She remembers when gasoline cost 39 cents at the small store run by Howard Burden. She remembers Shorty Tipton, the gin near town hall and the Burks family's large picture window overlooking the community.

"Good times," Smith wrote.

Those memories reach into Baileyton's documented history.

The community was named for Robert Bailey, who established a homestead in the area around 1870 and operated a cotton gin. The first Methodist congregation reportedly met in his home. Baileyton's post office opened in 1882, and local residents constructed an early school around 1885, according to the Encyclopedia of Alabama.

The preservation of that history has long been visible inside Baileyton Town Hall.

When the current town hall opened in 2020 following a three-year project, The Tribune reported that its entrance featured miniature recreations of historic Baileyton buildings made by Orby V. Shedd from items including matchsticks, toothpicks and Popsicle sticks. Photographs of Baileyton's past mayors and other pieces of town history were also incorporated into the building.

The connection is even deeper than the displays.

The Tribune reported in 2021 that the new town hall stands on land where the home of Baileyton's first mayor, Rolfe Burks, once stood. At the council's first meeting in the building, Burks' daughter, Rhonda Van Zandt, spoke about the community vision her father and others shared decades earlier.

Some of the people responding to the town's latest request helped write more recent chapters of that history themselves.

Myra Martin said she and her husband, Bobby, moved to Baileyton from Fort Hood, Texas, in 1964 after he completed his Army service. They raised their children in Baileyton and remained there.

Bobby Martin later served 39 years on the Baileyton Town Council, according to Myra Martin, while she served four years.

"It was a privilege and blessing to be a part of the governing decision of the town," she wrote.

Martin said her term included construction of the new town hall.

"With the council's help we built a very nice building and we are very proud of it," she wrote.

Other residents reached even further into the community's everyday history.

Cathy Hyatt Hooper said Baileyton has been home to generations of her family, including her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Her grandparents once operated a small gas station and garage, followed by a furniture store. Her parents bought the house where she grew up 67 years ago.

What she remembers most, however, is not a building. It is the way people interacted.

"Back then, everyone knew their neighbors very well," Hooper wrote. "We visited them often, popped in to borrow an egg or cup of sugar."

Hooper lived in Baileyton from 1959 until she married and moved to Fairview in 1978. She returned in 1995 and has remained there since.

Richard Meherg responded to Hooper with the kind of answer that says quite a bit with very few words.

"I'm a newcomer, been here since 1995," Meherg joked, "not planning on going too far."

Some truly are newcomers. Tammy Maki said her family recently arrived and found what it was looking for.

"We Love how quiet it is," Maki wrote. "We wanted a place small town and close to things."

Lisa Cobb said she bought a home in Baileyton to live closer to her daughter and grandchildren.

"Absolutely love the country atmosphere," she wrote.

Even the occasional bit of small-town humor found its way into the discussion.

Michelle Brown Watwood, who said she moved to Baileyton three years ago, offered a tongue-in-cheek answer about the town's electronic message board.

"I love how every night that electronic reader board is so bright that it blinds you," she joked.

Taken together, the responses describe a community of just over 600 residents in northeast Cullman County where the reasons people stay are often remarkably similar to the reasons newcomers arrive: quiet surroundings, open land, family connections and a sense that neighbors still matter.

They also demonstrate exactly why Baileyton officials are asking for help as the town constructs its new website.

Municipal history can preserve dates, buildings, councils and milestones. Residents preserve everything in between.

They remember who owned the store. They remember the view through somebody's window. They remember walking to school, coming home from military service, raising children on the same land where their grandparents lived and finding a house in a town they never originally planned to call home.

Now Baileyton wants more of those stories.

Current and former Baileyton residents who have memories, photographs or simply an answer to the question, "What makes Baileyton special to you?" are encouraged to visit the Town of Baileyton, Alabama - Municipal Government page on Facebook and respond to the town's post.

The town said submitted testimonials and photographs may be featured on its new website when it is unveiled.

For Baileyton, the website may be new, but the stories behind it are generations in the making.

Fundraiser (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit The Willow Path (formerly Victim Services of Cullman) will host Night in the French Quarter on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6-10 p.m. at the Cotton Creek Venue.

Executive Director Jessica Atchley said this year's event is designed to make guests feel like they've stepped into the French Quarter for the evening.

"We'll have New Orleans-inspired food, dueling pianos, signature drinks, a bourbon tasting, caricature artist, magician, photo booth and plenty of other surprises throughout the night," Atchley said. "We'll also have a silent auction, with some really unique packages and experiences."

Atchley shared that they don't want this to feel like a traditional nonprofit fundraiser; they wanted it to be something more.

"We don't want participants to experience the normal expectations of coming in, eating dinner, listening to a speaker and going home," she said. "We want people to have an incredible night while also knowing that their ticket, sponsorship and auction purchases are directly helping survivors right here in Cullman County."

Last year was the fifth and final year of the group's annual Masquerade Ball, and they knew it was time to do something new, Atchley said.

"Instead of simply replacing it with another themed gala, we created the Passport Series," Atchley said. "The idea is that each year we can take our guests somewhere completely different without ever leaving Cullman. It gives us the freedom to reinvent the event every year and really create an experience. For our first 'passport,' New Orleans and the French Quarter just made sense. It's colorful, a little over the top, full of incredible food and music and there are so many different elements we can incorporate throughout the night. We really wanted the first year of the Passport Series to set the tone for what this event can become."

This is the sixth year for the group's annual signature fundraiser, but the first following the popular Masquerade Ball events.

"This fundraiser is incredibly important to us because unrestricted fundraising dollars give us the flexibility that grant funding often doesn't," Atchley said. "Grants are critical to our organization, but many of those dollars are restricted to very specific programs or expenses. The money raised through this event helps us fill those gaps and continue providing services when and where survivors need them."

The Willow Path provides emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy, child and family advocacy, case management, safety planning, prevention education and other support to victims of domestic violence and their children. Those services are provided at no cost to the survivors.

"At the end of the day, this event allows our community to directly invest in making sure those services remain available locally," Atchley added.

Atchley said 2025 was a milestone year for them with approximately 300 people in attendance, the largest crowd to date, and raised an estimated $50,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, auctions and other fundraising activities.

"The impact goes beyond the amount raised," Atchley said. "Last year's event was also where we publicly introduced The Willow Path to our community for the first time. It represented a major turning point for our organization and gave us the opportunity to share where we were headed. This year, we want to build on that momentum. We're preparing for approximately 400 guests, and of course we want to surpass what we raised last year."

More importantly, they want people to leave understanding what The Willow Path does and knowing that their support has a very real impact on families in this community.

"These aren't services being provided somewhere else with the money raised here," Atchley said. "The dollars raised here stay here and support survivors in Cullman County. Victim Services of Cullman was established in 1991, and that name served our organization well for more than three decades. But as the organization grew, we felt the name no longer fully represented who we had become or the journey of the people we serve. We chose The Willow Path very intentionally. The willow tree represents resilience, strength, flexibility and growth. A willow can weather incredibly strong storms because it bends without breaking. We felt that was such a powerful representation of the survivors we have the privilege of serving."

Atchley said the "path" represents the journey forward.

"There isn't one single path after domestic violence," she said. "For one person, the first step may be coming into an emergency shelter. For someone else, it may be counseling, walking into court with an advocate beside them, finding housing or simply calling our crisis line for the first time. The Willow Path represents both pieces — being rooted in strength while continuing to move forward toward safety, stability and hope. Our name changed, but our mission and our commitment to Cullman County did not."

The community can get involved in many ways, but first and foremost — attending the event.

"Buy a ticket, bring some friends and enjoy the night with us," Atchley said. "Businesses and individuals can also become sponsors, donate items or experiences for our auctions or simply make a financial contribution if they aren't able to attend. One of the things we love about this fundraiser is that there are so many ways to participate. You don't have to be able to write a huge check to make a difference. Buying a ticket, bidding on an auction item, sharing the event or introducing someone new to our mission all helps. We want this to be something the entire community feels ownership in because The Willow Path truly belongs to this community."

Tickets for Night in the French Quarter are available at https://thewillowpath.org/news-and-events. Ticket sales close Sept. 10.

"Most importantly, if someone reading this is experiencing domestic violence or is worried about someone they love, our crisis line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Atchley said. "You do not have to be staying in our shelter to receive help from The Willow Path. And whether someone supports us by attending Night in the French Quarter, donating, volunteering, sponsoring an event or simply sharing our information with someone who may need it, they become part of the path forward for survivors in our community."

For more information, visit thewillowpath.org or call 256-775-2600.

24-Hour Crisis Line: 256-734-6100

Cotton Creek is located at 417 Third Ave. SW in Cullman.

LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

DENISE ANN TANNER aka DENISE ANN CONNELL, 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 referenced child born on March 3, 2025, by the 8th day of September, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 29th day of July, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

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

FILED IN OFFICE
JUL 29 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JAMES RUSSELL OSBORN, TO ADOPT J.A.A.S. * Case Number AD 2026-021

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

TO: ANTHONY ARRON SNYDER biological father

Please take **notice** that a petition for adoption in the above styled matter has been filed in said Court by the Petitioner named above. As a notified party, you may appear in the adoption proceeding to contest or support the petition. Please be advised that if you intend to contest this adoption you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of service of this notice with the Clerk of the Cullman County Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days, the court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption and waiver of a right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. If the adoption is approved, your parental rights and responsibilities, if any, will be considered terminated.

DONE this 7th day of August, 2026.

Petitioner:
James Russell Osborn

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice four (4) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF AMBER PARKES WHITAKER MCGILL, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-222**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to KYLEE M. MCGILL, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of AMBER PARKES WHITAKER MCGILL, deceased, on the 20th 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.

Kelee M. McGill
Personal Representatives

Seth Thompson
Thompson Law Firm, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner
201 Second Avenue Southeast
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JANICE MAZE, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2025-357**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to ANTHONY MAZE as Personal Representative of the Estate of JANICE MAZE deceased, on the 20th 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.

Anthony Maze
Personal Representative

Andrew M. Herren
Attorney for Petitioner
409 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FENTRESS GARY WEITMAN, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-313**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Kimberley Ann Shedd, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fentress Gary Weitman, deceased, on the 7th 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.

Kimberley Ann Shedd
Personal Representatives

Sherry H. Barrett
Attorney for Joint Petitioner
P.O Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-229

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EUEL RAY METHVIN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF EUEL RAY METHVIN

TO: JEFFREY CAWTHON, JONATHON CAWTHON and JASMINE CAWTHON

The Petition of Euel Ray Methvin, Jr. to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Euel Ray Methvin, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 17th day of November, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of DARLA BOWEN, Deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 326

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Billy Joe Bowen as Personal Representative of the Estate of Darla Bowen, deceased, on the 20th day of August, 2026, 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.

Billy Joe Bowen
Personal Representative

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

Attorney for Personal Representative

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 to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

PURSUANT TO ALABAMA CODE 32-13-1, EARLS BODY SHOP INC. WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ON SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE VOLLOWING VEHICLES :

DATE 10/13/2026
TIME 7:00: AM
LOCATION: 2251 DECATUR AVE NW CULLMAN AL 35058

1997	CHEVROLET	GMT400	1GCEC19R2VE244327
2019	KAWKASKI	Z650	JKAEREG17KDA02666
2006	SUBARU	IMPREZA	JF1GG67696H821024
2001	CHEVROLET	SILV 1500	2GCEK19T011216374
2018	GMC	SIERRA 1500	3GTU2NEJ1JG173016
1998	TOYOTA	COROLLA CE	2T1BR12EXWC008523

First Source holding 'Baby Bottle Boomerang' donation drive

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — First Source for Women is a pregnancy resource center located at 203 Commercial Street NE, Hanceville. The nonprofit offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling and pregnancy education for new and expecting parents. It is currently accepting Baby Bottle Boomerang donations.

The center wrote, "Baby Bottle Boomerang is our largest fundraiser of the year, all proceeds go to support our mission of helping women in unplanned pregnancies by providing the care, services, and resources they need to plan a successful future. Thank you for joining us in this mission for life!"

These donations can be brought to First Source Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

How does it work? Get a baby bottle and fill it with cash and coins! Once full, bring it to the center and the donations will go to pregnancy resources previously mentioned.

Though organizers stated, "Donations can be made online, or mailed to PO Box 1343, Hanceville AL 35077."

Organizers suggest that there is also a need for size 4, 5 and 6 diapers, wipes, any formula and pack-and-plays.

Contact First Source for Women at 256-352-5683 or info@firstsourceforwomen.org for additional donation information.



FIRST SOURCE FOR WOMEN

Obituary Announcements: Aug. 22-24

Mattie Jewel Sams, 84
Funeral Service for Mattie Jewel Sams, age 84 of Cullman, was at 2 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Roger McManus officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation was from noon-2 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Sams passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026, at her residence. She was born Sunday, June 14, 1942, to Jim Baker and Verner Estelle Baker. She was preceded in death by her parents and a host of brothers and sisters. Survivors include her sons, Wayne (Doris) Downs and Ricky (Anita) Downs; grandchildren, Wendy (Cordell) Carithers, Franchesca (Darrek) Stanley, Steven Morales, Sharron (Toney) Steele; great grandchildren, Wesley (Savanah) Cruce, Naomi Carithers, Braylin Stanley, Hannah Brown, Shyanne (Brandon) Jones, great great grandchildren, Jaxon, Corey and Wesley, Jr. Cruce, Lillian Kisscok, Asteria Mebus; sisters, Brenda Hunt and Rhonda Allen; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Peter Marshall Honeycutt, 69
Peter Marshall Honeycutt, age 69 of Cullman, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, at His Decedent's Residence. He was born Thursday, July 4, 1957, in, Alabama to Donald Honeycutt and Helen Joan Laratta. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his sons, Marshall Honeycutt and Matthew (Shelby) Honeycutt; sister, Stephanie (Bryan) Sparks; niece, Whitney (Alex) Johnson; and a host of other family and friends. There are no services planned at this time.

Woodrow Wilson Miller, 77
Woodrow Wilson Miller, known to most as Woody, passed away on Aug. 19, 2026, at the age of 77. Mr. Miller was born in Cullman County, Alabama, on Aug. 12, 1949, to the late Floyd Woodrow and Dorothy Lue Quick Miller. Mr. Miller served our country honorably for six years in the United States Navy, including time served during the Vietnam War. His fortitude and dedication to our nation will be remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him. The skills Woody learned in the Navy led to a career as an Electrical Engineering and he went on to work for companies such as GE, Tufts Medical Center, and Massachusetts General Hospital. Mr. Miller is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Camille "Dolly" Feulo Miller; brothers, Earnest Miller, David Miller; sisters, Evelyn Beatrice Shaw, Mary Lue Miller; and brother-in-law, Tony Harper. Those left to cherish the many memories made with Woody include his children; twins, Kevin Miller and Laurie Miller Morrill. Brother, Matthew Miller; sisters, Shirley Fay Fraley (Paul), Doris Ann Miller Harper, Carolyn Elaine Flanagan, Martha Jo Miller. Granddaughters, Kayla Morrill (Tim Lescard), Alyssa Morrill (Jake Savage). Great-grandchildren, Mason and Millie Lescard. Nieces and nephews, Holly, Tracy, Casey, Jesse, Ryan, Bobby, Nick, Amanda, Dana; a host of great-nieces and nephews; and lifelong friend, Kelly Sullivan. Mr. Miller was a man who never met a stranger. His kindness and magnetic personality made him the favorite uncle, a friend to many, and someone always ready to talk with you about anything. He loved his family fiercely and he made certain they knew they meant everything to him. His love for them was never questioned, and they loved him with the same passion as he loved them. Woodrow's life was measured not only in years, but in the lives he touched and the memories he left behind. His family will miss his presence more than words can express, but they will carry his love with them always. He will forever be Bubba. Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever a part of the family he loved so dearly. Friends are invited to join the Miller family on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel for a time of visitation beginning at 11 a.m. Funeral services will follow, beginning at 1 p.m., with Darrell Bailey officiating. Mr. Miller will be laid to rest in Center Point Cemetery following services where he will receive military honors. His nieces and nephews will serve as his pallbearers. Obituary lovingly provided by the Miller family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Miller family.

Wilna Leanese Smith, 83
Wilna Leanese Smith, of Cullman, Alabama, entered the presence of our Lord on Aug. 21, 2026, at the age of 83. Ms. Smith was born in Morgan County, Alabama, on July 14, 1943, to the late Robert Franklin and Lillian Elzora Chambers Wood. Leanese is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Walter Franklin Smith; and brothers, Albert Wood, Conard Wood, and Tucson "Tooter" Wood. Those left to cherish the many memories made with Ms. Smith include her children, Boyd Smith (Linda), Steve Smith (Tamalyn), Sandra Hyde (Darrett); brothers, Jerry Wood (Margaret), Buford Wood (Mitzi), Larry Wood; grandchildren, Jesse Smith (Chivonne), Jason Smith (Cecily), Kristen Paul (David), Heather Foote (Jeff), Todd Mann, Amanda Blevins (Chris), Jacob Smith (Lyndsey), Heath Hyde (Kolby), Clancey Hyde (Lindsey), Jared Hyde (Kloie); a host of great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Ms. Leanese loved the Lord and will be remembered for her steadfast faith in Him. Friends are invited to join the Smith family for a time of visitation on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m. with Brother Nathan Chambers officiating. All services will be held at Plainview Missionary Baptist Church. Ms. Smith will be laid to rest in the Smith Family Cemetery, located at 1531 County Road 771, Cullman, AL 35055, following services, where her grandsons will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smith family.

William 'Bill' Hope Carroll, 90
Funeral Service for William "Bill" Hope Carroll, age 90 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Malcolm Carter, II and Parker Allen officiating; burial at Bethel United Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. William "Bill" Carroll was escorted Home by his Lord and Savior on Friday, Aug. 21, 2026. He was strong in his faith and was a member of Temple Baptist Church and former member of East Hanceville Baptist Church. Mr. Carroll was born in York, South Carolina on Jan. 24, 1936, to Archie and Mary Carroll. Bill proudly served his country in the United States Army National Guard. He was a hardworking man who worked from sunup to sundown and eventually retired from LP. He was also known as the best dog catcher Hanceville ever had—a job that reflected his love for animals and his dedication to his community. Above all else, Bill was a loving and devoted husband, father, Pawpaw, and friend. He shared 51 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Edna Carroll. He was a Father to Randall (Suzette) Smith, Dana (Kenny) Hyatt, Tina (Kenneth) Miller, Rita (Dale) Presto and Timmy Comer. Pawpaw to Christy Marie, Kevin Self, Sherenda (Steven) Sansing, Ashley (Daniel) Mosley, Justin (Sarah) Wood, Anthony (Christina) Swindle, Nathan (Destiny) Necklaus, Savannah (Brady) Liles, Brandon (Gabrielle) Necklaus , Kathryn Smith, Britany (Nick) Walls, Joshua (Sarah) Presto and Hunter Comer. Great Pawpaw to Harlee, Jeremiah, Bayleigh, Lillian, Carson, Miles, Kaysen, Journe, Grant, Elijah, Kylie, Kaydence, Kylie, Ryatt, Wrenleigh, Ryker and William Morris. Great-Great Pawpaw to David and Nikda. Pawpaw was never too tired to wrestle with his grandkids or buckle them into the big tree swing to see how high they could go. To his kids and grandkids he hung the moon. He was a man of integrity and strength. He made a lasting impression on anyone who knew him and he leaves behind a legacy like no other. He will be missed by many and because of his faith those who loved him hold onto the promise that they will see him again someday. He is preceded in death by his parents, Archie and Mary Carroll; his sons Randall Smith and Jimmy Hicks; his brothers Charles and Ray Carroll; his sister Margaret Clarkson, his grandson Timmy Hicks and his beloved dogs Lady, Baby, Raven, Cassie and Pepper.

Fred Helms, 75
Funeral services for Fred Helms, 75, of Hayden will be 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026, at High Rock FCM Church. Burial will follow the service at High Rock FCM Cemetery. The family will welcome friends for viewing from 1-2 p.m. at High Rock FCM Church. Heaven gained a beautiful soul today. Fred Helms entered the Gates of Heaven, where he is now resting in the loving presence of his Lord and Savior. Fred shared his love for the Lord through both his words and his actions, touching the lives of many people along the way. Fred was a loving, respectful, and caring man who was always willing to help others along life's journey. His kindness, faith, and generous spirit will be remembered by all who had the blessing of knowing him. Please keep Fred's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God comfort them, give them strength, and surround them with His peace. Rest in peace, Fred. Your work here is done, and your eternal home awaits. You will be deeply missed. Mr. Helms is survived by his children, Dewayne Helms and April (Chad) Kinard; step daughter, Tina Ryan; grandchildren, Stephanie (Colby) Williams, Savannah McCurry, and Michael McCurry; great grandchildren, Ava McCurry, Aiden McCurry, Liam Williams, Lilly Monroe, and Cashton Monroe; brother, Julius Helms Jr.; and friend, Gail Dixon. Mr. Helms was preceded in death by his parents, Julius and Irene Helms; and siblings, Jack Helms, J.C. Helms, E.C. Helms. Shirley Helms, and Gracie Brumblow. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Helms family.

Roger Edward Page, 77
Roger Edward Page, 77, passed away on Aug. 19, 2026. He was born on Jan. 29, 1949, in East St. Louis, Illinois, and later made his home in Vinemont, Alabama. Roger moved to Vinemont in 1964, beginning a lifelong connection to the community that would remain central to his story. From an early age and throughout his life, he carried himself with steady resilience and a deep loyalty to those he loved, meeting each season with quiet strength and an enduring sense of purpose. After high school, Roger entered the United States Navy, answering the call to serve with dedication and resolve. In later years, he brought that same work ethic to civilian life, operating his own business as a painting contractor. Those who knew him understood that he was hard-working to the core—reliable, capable, and committed to doing things the right way—while also possessing a warm humor that could lighten a room and put others at ease. Roger was, above all, a devoted provider for his family, placing their needs first and giving of himself generously. He and his wife, Deborah, were married in 1969, building a life rooted in steadfast love and shared devotion. Together, Roger and Deborah found joy in square dancing and in the traditions they made side by side, including attending Auburn Football games as season ticket holders and traveling to multiple National Championship games—moments that reflected not only their enthusiasm, but also the simple happiness they found in being together. Roger and Deborah were married for 57 wonderful years and together, through their eternal love, raised two daughters, Katina and Jamie. Roger will be remembered as beloved by those who had the privilege to know him—steadfast, giving, and faithful through the years, with a spirit that endured and a presence that will be deeply missed. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lowell H. Page and Herminda W.E. Wild; brother, PFC Roy D. Page; and sister, Gail Wykoff. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Rao Barbara Blumenfeld, Joan Wykoff, and Wendy Burk; brothers, John Page and Barry Wykoff; daughters, Katina Page (John Hamilton) and Jamie Cagle (David); grandchildren, Austin Tillman (Shea), Zane Tillman, Hadley Jordan, Bracie Cagle, Collin Cagle and Sari Evans; alongside a host of Great Grandchildren. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held Sept. 3, 2026, at 2 p.m. on the grounds of Mt. Olive at Providence Primitive Baptist Church – 50 County Road 1428, Vinemont, AL 35179.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 25, 2026

A glimpse into Cullman Oktoberfest and Burgermeister history

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CULLMANOKTOBERFESTIVAL.COM

Carl Stiefelmeyer, 1982 Cullman Oktoberfest Burgermeister

As fall approaches the city of Cullman, there are several things we know to expect for certain. You can always count on autumnal treats and beverages added to the menus of local coffee shops or eateries. Windows will be painted in pumpkins or leaves of various warm hues and decorations all the same will greet those along their walks to a downtown shopping spot. With all that the season brings, Cullman Oktoberfest is one of the most notable.

If you have visited Cullman during Oktoberfest, you know about the Burgermeister. It is tradition for the town to select an honorary community member to be the Burgermeister at the festival. They are appointed tasks such as wearing traditional German attire, working as the official festival ambassador and master of ceremonies and, at Oktoberfest, they have the honor of tapping the first keg.

Since Oktoberfest started in 1982, the keg had been filled with root beer – until 2011. In November 2010, Cullman went wet, about a month past the festival. So it was 2011 Oktoberfest that saw the first keg of real beer. That keg was tapped by Burgermeister Michael Sullins. Though root beer is still served during the event.

Last year, Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson explained, "The title of Burgermeister is more than ceremonial – it's a symbol of civic pride, leadership and a strong connection to our city's heritage. We consider individuals who embody those values, have a servant's heart and have helped advance Cullman's cultural, civic or community life."

The German word "Burgermeister" in English means "master of citizens." That adds an honorary historical element to the annual selection of a cherished local community ambassador, since Cullman was founded in 1873 by a German refugee named Colonel Johann Gottfried Cullmann. The first ever Cullman Burgermeister title would be given more than 100 years later to Carl Stiefelmeyer in 1982.

It is custom for male Burgermeisters to wear lederhosen and an Alpine hat, also known as Trachtenhut, with a feather. Lederhosen are knee-length trousers that, in this case, are paired with a button up shirt and held up by suspenders. Female Burgermeisters typically wear a classic Bavarian dirndl. This is usually fashioned of two pieces – the dress itself and an apron. In Bavarian fashion the dirndl blouse can be worn under the bodice.

Why lederhosen and dirndls? These were worn by 18th century servants and farmers in the Alpine regions of Germany. Men would wear leather breeches and women would wear cotton or linen dresses with aprons for household tasks.

The first Oktoberfest was held in Bavaria, Germany on Oct. 12, 1810. This was in celebration of the wedding of Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. It now combines a beer festival in addition to fair festivities on the Theresienwiese from mid-September to the first Sunday in October.

This year there is a chance for you to enter your child to be the 2026 Kinderburgermeister of Cullman Oktoberfest. This will include being featured in opening ceremonies and kid-friendly festivities. You can nominate your child at www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com/kinderburgermeister through Aug. 27.

Cullman Oktoberfest will take place Oct. 1-4, at Depot Park.

Visit www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com for more information.

Cullman County Historical Society welcomes Anita Whitlock

Emily McMunn
emily@cullmantribune.com



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Grandpa Ed Coker feeding bears in Tennessee

CULLMAN, Ala. – President Beverly Wilkerson welcomed everyone to this month's meeting of the Cullman County Historical Society at the North Alabama Agriplex. The guest speaker was Anita Whitlock, spoke about her book, "Strawberry Preserves and the Smoky Mountain Roads."

Whitlock is a retired English teacher who turned to writing after retirement. She compiled her grandparents' letters, songs, prayers and stories into her first book.

Her Grandma Hazel Coker was born in 1919 and grew up around the Decatur and Good Hope area. She married Ed Coker in 1937 after a memorable revival-night courtship story.

Whitlock said, "Grandma and her cousin Pansy were spending the night together at Grandma's house. That evening the girls planned to attend revival at Good Hope Baptist Church. While at the revival, the girls saw two boys they knew. And the boys said, 'Do you mind if we walk you home?' They were giggly and silly and so excited so, the four of them set off. They didn't think they were noticed at all; they hadn't gone very far when they ran into trouble. Big Daddy and Big Mama pulled up in the wagon with younger brothers and sisters in tow. Without so much as looking at the boys, he told those girls to get in the wagon. Buddy they did."

Whitlock said that a year later her grandmother would go on to marry that same boy, Ed Coker. The love story she told included struggles during the second World War, having to ration and Ed Coker having to go up to Tennessee for work on roads. She said, "Grandma would write to her sweet husband every little detail that happened like her feeding the kids, the kids got sick, she washed the quilts, she washed the dishes, just on and on."

Grandma Hazel also saved every letter. Ed Coker told Hazel about the hardships and the loneliness of being away from home. She assured him that being away from him was not pleasant and also very lonely. While Ed was building roads Hazel took care of the household in her own ways like putting up crates of strawberries. Whitlock said, "So they were a young married couple, so much in love, and so many miles between them. Papa worked hard, grandma worked hard and the kids had to step up."

Eventually, they raised enough money to buy a farm of their own in Good Hope. Ed Coker made

$30 a month; that's only about $566 in today's money.

Pre-World War II, Hazel Coker wrote on the back of letters from the Agriculture Department, informing her husband that fertilizer would be rationed. She made sure to tell her husband about everything going on at the farm. Whitlock said she loved that her grandmother saved that part of history. Her grandfather also wrote home sending lists of things to buy like a hog for $2.50 and hair bows for the girls.

Whitlock told the audience, "Here's what I want to encourage you to do... if mother, Amanda and I weren't here telling grandma's story, where would it be? It would be lost; nobody would know about that love, that connection, that long-distance relationship that turned into something really good."



EMILY MCMUNN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Anita Whitlock

Whitlock encouraged everyone to write down family history. "Your words are going to be read by generations down the road."

The guest for the next meeting will be Thomas Messersmith who will be speaking on the history of Oktoberfest. The next meeting will be held Sept. 27, at 2p.m.



Joppa (from Front)

been responsible for a string of recent fires, calling the claims "absurd and disgusting" after firefighters spent roughly 36 hours responding to emergencies in the area.

The allegations surfaced following a cluster of fires around County Roads 1763 and 1823 in the Joppa community.

WAFF 48 reported Thursday that approximately 12 fires occurred within a quarter-mile radius over a 36-hour period from Saturday night into Monday. The Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the fires, according to the station. The causes remained under investigation at the time of WAFF's report.

In a lengthy statement posted by "Joppa Fire-rescue" on Facebook and signed only as "33," the writer said the department recently learned that people in the area were suggesting Joppa firefighters intentionally caused some of the structure and vehicle fires.

"We find this absurd and disgusting to be thought of in this way," the statement said. "We here at Joppa Fire have put in way too much time, effort and even our own money making the department better to do something like this."

The statement said department members were exhausted following the series of fires and described a volunteer force attempting to handle the incidents while continuing to respond to other emergencies.

"Our members are tired and worn out from the fires that happened in the above area," the statement said. "We get minimal support from the community, and yet show up to the emergencies the best we can, with the highest level of training we're able to obtain as volunteers, with outdated equipment."

The writer said responding to fires for approximately 36 hours with limited personnel, even with assistance from neighboring departments, left Joppa firefighters stretched thin.

"Handling these fires for 36 hours with a very limited number of personnel, even with mutual aid from neighboring departments wore us very thin," the statement said.

The writer said accusations directed toward the department have caused some volunteers to question whether continuing to serve is worth the personal cost.

The statement was signed "33." No name was attached to the post, and The Tribune has not independently confirmed the identity of the person using that designation.

WAFF 48 reported that the fires caused significant property damage in the area.

Joppa-area resident Lance Burgess told the television station that a fire destroyed his shop along with two tractors, farm equipment, tools and family heirlooms.

Burgess estimated his uninsured losses at more than $100,000. Equipment belonging to his nephew that was being stored at the property for construction of a home was also destroyed.

"Wake up and realize, hey, it's not a dream. It's gone, but it can all be replaced," Burgess told WAFF 48.

WAFF also reported that a fatal fire occurred on Mat Morrow Road during the same general timeframe. That fire is being investigated separately, and investigators told the station they do not suspect foul play in that case.

The Joppa Fire-rescue statement also said authorities have a person of interest in custody and emphasized that the person is not a member of the department. The post used the abbreviation "CCDO" but did not identify the agency by its full name.

The Tribune has not independently confirmed that a person of interest is in custody or that the individual is connected to the fires.

No person has been publicly identified by authorities as responsible for the series of fires.

The post additionally suggested that fires in the area stopped after the person was taken into custody. That assertion has also not been independently confirmed, and the existence of a person of interest does not establish that an individual committed a crime.

The department's response drew an outpouring of support from firefighters and community members.

Steve A. Maze, who identified himself as a member of the New Canaan Community Watch Patrol and said he has worked alongside Joppa firefighters during fires, vehicle crashes and medical calls, criticized those spreading allegations without evidence.

"How sad that anyone would start a vicious rumor without any proof," Maze wrote. "If you had proof you should have already reported it to law enforcement."

Maze said his experiences with the department have been positive, describing its members as professional and efficient and thanking the volunteers for giving their time and expertise to the community.

Levi Himmelrick, who said in his comment that he was among those who worked the recent fires, described the response as an exhausting effort that included injuries to firefighters.

"It was 36 hours of hell with multiple fire fighters getting injured, to include one of our own," Himmelrick wrote.

Himmelrick said crews continued answering medical calls and assisting mutual-aid departments despite the prolonged fire response.

"This literally dropped the department to its knees but we still came to the call and worked our butts off without being able to rehab our trucks or ourselves in between," he wrote.

Nicholas Joseph Robichaux also defended the department and the firefighters who responded during the string of fires.

"This department has worked hard to build our name for this county," Robichaux wrote.

In a subsequent comment, Robichaux said Joppa firefighters and members of the surrounding departments put their own safety at risk while protecting residents and property.

"We give our sweat, blood and time to making sure this community is protected and safe," he wrote.

Other residents offered shorter messages of support. Wilda Malone wrote, "I think y'all do a great job," while Valerie Watson told the department, "I appreciate you guys more than you know."

Tim McAnnally wrote, "You guys rock it!! keep up the strong work and know you are appreciated and trusted."

The department's statement also addressed another problem at its station on Alabama Highway 69, saying a fire truck warning sign in front of Station 1 had been torn down and removed.

The writer said the department already struggles with motorists failing to yield to emergency vehicles as trucks leave the station.

"At this point, a little respect and support for what we do would go a long way," the statement said.

The writer closed by asking residents to consider the strain the recent fires and subsequent allegations have placed on the volunteer department.

"Whoever reads this, please pause, know that we are struggling and take into account the efforts as well as sacrifices the members and command staff are making to help keep Joppa safe," the statement said. "We don't need more problems, especially having our efforts diminished or a black mark on our department name from the actions of someone else."

The Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office continues to investigate the series of fires. WAFF reported that anyone with information concerning the incidents is encouraged to contact the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The Tribune will update this story as additional information becomes available from investigators.