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WSCC

– SPORTS –

Wallace State volleyball defeats Snead State in four sets

» PAGE 4

Breaking down the City of Cullman's $158.8M FY2027 budget

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Sept. 14, adopted a $158.8 million budget for fiscal year 2027, including a $58.4 million General Fund that is approximately 1.3% smaller than the current-year budget.

City Clerk Wes Moore said no figures were changed between the Aug. 30 budget presentation and the council's Sept. 14 adoption. The city also provided a 42-page line-item worksheet containing revenues and expenditures for each fund.

The budget takes effect Oct. 1.

City Council President Kim Hall said the council focused on maintaining city services while investing in infrastructure, completing previously approved projects and supporting city employees.

"Our goals were to prioritize the continuation of quality services for the citizens, ensure enhanced infrastructure projects are taking place, budget for the completion of previously approved capital projects and provide support and benefits for our employees," Hall said.

The adopted budget includes:

- $158,775,893 in total appropriations across all city funds
- $58,427,213 for the General Fund
- $25,467,000 for the Water Fund
- $11,465,000 for the Sewer Fund

The FY2026 amended General Fund budget is $59,186,795. The FY2027 General Fund is $759,582 lower, a reduction of approximately 1.3%.

That comparison resolves discrepancies » PAGE 2

AmFirst completes Cullman branch rebuild, celebrates reopening



JANET CHANDLER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

AmFirst marked the completion of its rebuilt Cullman branch Sept. 10, 2026, celebrating a new facility at 300 Fourth Ave. SW with employees, community leaders and representatives of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — AmFirst marked the completion of its rebuilt Cullman branch Sept. 10, celebrating a new facility at 300 Fourth Ave. SW with employees, community leaders and representatives of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

The project replaced the credit union's previous building rather than simply updating its interior.

Employees continued serving members from a temporary branch on the same property while the old facility was demolished and its replacement constructed, according to AmFirst.

An August 2025 announcement from the credit union placed the start of construction in June of that year.

At the time, AmFirst said the project would provide additional office space, ATMs accessible by vehicle and new safe deposit boxes.

The improvements were intended to accommodate the branch's growth and make service more convenient for members.

The project also appeared in a September 2025 construction permit report.

Michael Seale's Sept. 29 article for Hville Blast, using information compiled by Report Construction LLC, listed a Sept. 25 permit for the property with a valuation of $2.875 million.

Sykes Weaver LLC was identified as the builder. That figure represents the reported permit valuation, not a confirmed final project cost.

Reinvestment in Cullman

AmFirst President and CEO Kevin Morris traced the credit union's commitment to Cullman to 1979.

In the reopening announcement, he pointed to the community's growth and the institution's participation in downtown improvements as important parts of its role as a community-chartered credit union.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs also connected the rebuild to investment in the surrounding area.

In remarks included in AmFirst's announcement, Jacobs said establishing a district can encourage property owners to make improvements, and he thanked the credit union for investing early in that process.

During construction, Cullman Branch Manager Daniel Boggan said the new facility would create opportunities to broaden the branch's local involvement.

Community connections

The Tribune's archives document AmFirst's involvement with local schools, including its partnership with Cullman County Schools to recognize teachers and staff.

The credit union provides a $100 gift card to each employee selected for the monthly recognition program. The partnership recognizes work taking place both in classrooms and in the support positions that keep schools operating.

The branch rebuild was completed during AmFirst's 90th anniversary » PAGE 2

Holly Pond Town Council votes to surplus water tower



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Councilmen Eli Howard, Ricky Carr and Paul Brown; Mayor Carla Hart; Town Clerk Connie Moore; Councilwoman Deborah Holcomb and Councilman Dwight Kidd at the Holly Pond Town Council meeting on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026. » PAGE 12

Listerhill Credit Union's Cullman branch moves to brand new location



LISTERHILL CREDIT UNION

Listerhill Credit Union has opened a new branch at 702 Industrial Dr. SW in Cullman. » PAGE 4

Cullman City Schools ranks No. 2 in Alabama in percentage of National Board Certified Teachers » PAGE 8

YOUTH FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Four county matchups headline Week 5 slate » PAGE 4

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Sept. 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Sept. 18, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Sept. 14

- domestic violence; CR 699
- assault; CR 89
- harassing communications; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 747

Sept. 15

- illegal possession of prescription drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; certain person forbidden to carry firearm; CR 109
- possession of controlled substances; Hwy. 157
- violation of protection order; CR 1062
- harassing communications; CR 942
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69N
- criminal mischief; CR 386

Sept. 16

- harassing communications; CR 655
- possession of dangerous drugs; certain person forbidden to carry firearm; Main St. NE Hanceville
- domestic violence; CR 1512
- theft of property; CR 1402
- domestic violence; 2nd Ave. SW
- criminal mischief; Beech Ave. SE

ARRESTS

Sept. 14-16

Clay, Jeffery L.; 51

- retail theft

Cobble, Kenneth K.; 49

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Dover, Anbella R.; 40

- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Elliott, Robbie C.; 72

- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- public intoxication

Gillilan, Gabriel R.; 39

- FTA – sex offense-failure to register as sex offender

Hann, Christopher A.; 36

- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Hessom, Shelley D.; 57

- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Johnson, James R.; 58

- certain person forbidden to possess pistol
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Kimberly R.; 45

- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Martin, Billy J.; 52

- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

McKinnon, Roger K.; 28

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Miller, Brasha N.; 35

- buying/receiving stolen property
- burglary-residence-no force

Palmer, Christy D.; 52

- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – negotiating worthless instrument (3 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Price, Claudie L.; 53

- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Raymond, Mackqies M.; 25

- FTA – receiving stolen vehicle (6 counts)

Schwan, Jr., Douglas G.; 58

- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Schwan, Sherry A.; 57

- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Stapleton, Jacie G.; 20

- damaged property-criminal mischief
- criminal trespass

Sweaza, Michael J.; 47

- public intoxication

Talley, Robert R.; 38

- possession of methamphetamine

Tucker, Daniel B.; 35

- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Whitaker, Brian K.; 45

- possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- certain person forbidden to possess pistol

Yarbrough III, William; 36

- theft-shoplifting

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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AmFirst (from Front)

year.

The institution, formerly America's First Federal Credit Union, began July 23, 1936, when 19 steel industry employees pooled their resources.

Originally known as the Iron and Steel Workers Credit Union, it initially operated from the Ensley Works of United States Steel before expanding its offices, services and membership over subsequent decades.

The Cullman branch's telephone number is 256-734-4750.

Payment transition notice for Cullman County Water and Sanitation customers

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

The Cullman County Commission posted the following notice for Cullman County Water and Sanitation customers:

PAYMENT TRANSITION
Important Notice to Cullman County Water & Sanitation Customers
Sept. 25 is the final day Cullman Electric Cooperative (CEC) will accept payments for Cullman County Water & Sanitation accounts. No water or sanitation payments can be accepted between Sept. 26-Oct. 4, 2026. Payment processing will resume Oct. 5, 2026, with Cullman County Water Department.

Grace period
A GRACE PERIOD will be in effect during the transition period. Customers will not be penalized for payment delayed due to the temporary system conversion.

Payments made after Sept. 25, 2026

Any payment made to Cullman Electric Cooperative after Sept. 25, 2026, will be applied ONLY to electric service accounts. They will not be credited to water or sanitation accounts.

Beginning Sept. 26, 2026
- All new water service applications/new meter taps
- Move-in and move-out requests
- Disconnects
- All other water inquires

Must be handled directly through the Cullman County Water Department.

Automatic bank and credit card draft (AUTOPAY)
- Any draft established through Cullman Electric Cooperative WILL NOT TRANSFER to the new billing system.
- There will be some customers where draft will not come out due to the transition.
- After September drafts are completed, NO MORE DRAFTS will be processed until you set up draft directly with Cullman County Water Department.

Customers will need to enroll directly with Cullman County Water Department. To enroll you can go to ccwaterandsanitation.payub.com or come into the office (All this can be done once we go live Oct. 5, 2026)

Sanitation information
All sanitation information, including service questions, account updates and other inquiries, should be directed to Cullman County Sanitation at 256-287-1142.

Payments
Payments for both water and sanitation services will need to be made at or to the Cullman County Water Department.

- Website: ccwaterandsanitation.payub.comPayment Phone Number (IVR): 888-299-1527
- In office: 2020 Beech Ave. SE Cullman, AL 35055 (In person, drop box and mail)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our customer service and billing process.

Budget (from Front)

within the Aug. 30 presentation, which used several rounded General Fund figures and referred to an approximately 2% reduction.

$35.9 million decline largely tied to capital projects

Total appropriations across all funds decreased from $194,634,790 in FY2026 to $158,775,893 in FY2027. The difference is $35,858,897, or approximately 18.4%.

Moore said the majority of that decline comes from fewer capital projects moving through the city's budget. City officials initially expected a $31 million project associated with U.S. Highway 278 to be administered through the city, but the state later decided to administer the project.

"The reduction in capital projects does not create a loss of revenue for the city," Moore said.

The distinction means the city is not projecting a nearly $36 million collapse in revenue. The lower all-funds total primarily reflects how capital projects are funded and administered from one year to the next.

Parks project completion drives Quality of Life decrease

The Quality of Life allocation decreased by $5,154,668, or approximately 35.8%. Moore attributed most of that change to the completion of the Lazy River project at WildWater.

Other categories increased, including:
- Public Works: $3,017,928
- Public Safety: $796,689
- General Government: $639,423

"Currently, there is no plan to reduce services, staffing, operating hours or programming," Moore said.

Moore said department heads will continue reviewing their operations for opportunities to restructure services. He cited the recent addition of utility bill collections at the City of Cullman Water Department as an example intended to make city services more convenient.

"The goal is to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible," Moore said.

Local sales tax declines as online collections rise
Updated projections provided by Moore show the city expects to collect approximately $29.15 million in local sales tax during FY2026, down approximately 2% from FY2025.

Simplified Sellers Use Tax, or SSUT, revenue associated with online purchases is projected to reach approximately $1.95 million, an increase of approximately 14% from FY2025.

The updated comparison shows:
- FY2020: $587,802 in SSUT and $20,426,830 in local sales tax
- FY2025: $1,704,048 in SSUT and $29,698,755 in local sales tax
- FY2026 estimate: $1,947,990 in SSUT and $29,147,308 in local sales tax
- FY2027 budget: $1,875,000 in SSUT and $29,400,000 in sales and use tax

From FY2020 through the FY2026 estimate, SSUT revenue increased approximately 231%, while local sales-tax revenue increased approximately 43%. SSUT growth therefore exceeded local sales-tax growth by approximately 188 percentage points during that period.

Moore said Alabama collects an 8% SSUT on qualifying online transactions and distributes portions of the revenue to cities and counties based on population. The city's most recent remittance was $159,565 from $45,067,726 collected statewide.

The presentation compared $100 spent at a local business with $800 spent online. Moore said the illustration was based on the city receiving approximately 35 cents from a $100 online purchase and approximately $1.75 from a $100 purchase made at a Cullman business.

Moore then applied a 1.6 economic-velocity multiplier to the local transaction, producing an estimated $2.80 local effect. An $800 online purchase would generate approximately $2.80 for the city under the model.

Moore said economic-velocity calculations often use a multiplier of four, which would make a $100 local purchase comparable to approximately $2,000 in online spending. He said he used the lower multiplier to produce a more conservative estimate.

Road figures cover different costs
The city's FY2027 street plan identifies approximately $1.976 million in paving materials. Moore said that figure does not include city labor, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, utility risers or grant-funded projects accounted for through capital funds.

Moore said $5.065 million is the appropriate figure for the city's broader road infrastructure investment.

Dedicated transportation revenues in the adopted budget include:
- Rebuild Alabama: $175,000
- 4-cent gasoline tax: $102,000
- 7-cent gasoline tax: $179,000

Those figures replace amounts shown in an earlier street plan document that was based on the previous budget.

Moore also identified several broader appropriations connected to street, neighborhood and downtown work:
- General Fund: $2.5 million, including maintenance
- Community Development Block Grant neighborhood projects: $800,000
- Downtown revitalization: $2 million, including utility work
- Transportation enhancement: $2.245 million, including utility work

Because some of those appropriations include maintenance or utility expenses, they should not all be counted as road construction. The city's stated road infrastructure total remains $5.065 million.

Water and Sewer budgets increase
The Sewer Fund increased from $9,567,000 in FY2026 to $11,465,000 in FY2027, an increase of $1,898,000, or approximately 19.8%.

The Water Fund increased from $24,893,500 to $25,467,000, an increase of $573,500, or approximately 2.3%.

Moore attributed the increases to inflation affecting chemicals and repair materials, additional maintenance projects that city employees will complete in-house and debt service associated with sewer line rehabilitation and replacement of a primary water distribution line.

The water distribution project is estimated to cost approximately $10.5 million and is expected to be financed through two State Revolving Fund loans.

Moore said the city will provide the debt service schedules, including principal amounts, interest rates, repayment terms and anticipated annual payments, separately.

Employee pay and retiree insurance
The FY2027 budget includes a 3% adjustment to the city's employee pay scale.

The city also established a retiree insurance benefit. Employees eligible to retire may qualify, while retirees with at least 25 years of service to the city will qualify for a 75/25 premium match.

Moore estimated the retiree insurance program will cost between $100,000 and $200,000 annually, depending on the number of participating retirees.

The city is also adding a flexible spending account and an additional employee wellness day. Moore said the flexible spending account is expected to save money for both the city and participating employees.

The city did not provide a separate total cost for the 3% pay scale adjustment or quantify the financial effect of the flexible spending account and wellness day.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Grace Episcopal Church Cheeseball Sales are Underway! Place Your Holiday Order by Oct. 5.
The Grace Episcopal Church Women are currently selling their popular cheeseballs for the holidays! This year we are offering nine cheeseball flavors. Orders must be placed by Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. You may place your order by going to www.gracechurch.org where you can order online or print out an order form to mail in. You can also call the church office 256-734-6212 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to place your order. Cheeseballs will be ready for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 19, at Grace Episcopal Church. 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 Kid and Wallace State Campus Ministries.

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
• Saturday, Sept. 19 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Sept. 20 – 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, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. Storytime with Susan Melton "Ten Red Apples" by Pat Hutchins
• Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Children's book club and storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs, children's book club
• October-November, regular Wednesday 10 a.m. storytime continues. Please visit the Facebook page for weekly detailed information.
• Adult book club meets monthly- Saturday, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m.
• Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mud Creek Festival BOOK SALE
• Library will be closed on Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day
• 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.

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.

Cullman County Fair Parade
Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. U.S. Highway 31, from Seventh Street Southwest to Arnold Street Northwest.

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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Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist
Heather Tubbs - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Wallace State volleyball defeats Snead State in four sets

Special to The Cullman Tribune

BOAZ, Ala. — Wallace State earned a 3-1 conference victory on the road at Snead State, winning 26-24, 25-23, 8-25, 28-26.

Zoe Jones led the Wallace State attack with 21 kills and a .255 hitting percentage. She added three service aces, five digs and two block assists.

Cheyenne Lucas finished with nine kills and one dig, while Abby Langlois contributed eight kills, one solo block and three block assists.

Darcy Alford handed out 21 assists and collected three digs. Maddie Morris added 10 assists, and Emily Walton recorded five.

Emersyn White led the Lady Lions with 12 digs. Maya Henderson added 10 digs and two block assists.



WSCC

Listerhill (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Listerhill Credit Union's Cullman branch moved to a brand new location on Sept. 16. The branch is now located at 702 Industrial Dr. SW. It was previously at 1850 Cherokee Ave. SW.

Groundbreaking for the new branch took place on Nov. 6, 2025. President & CEO Brad Green stated at the time: "Today's groundbreaking reflects our promise to evolve with our members' needs. We're not just building a new branch, we're building a better experience rooted in trust, innovation and community."

The new branch has an open floor plan and expanded self-service options. "Our newest branch is officially open! We're still right here in the community you call home - just a little further down the road, in a space built to serve you even better. We can't wait to welcome you in!" Listerhill wrote on social media.

A grand opening will be held Thursday, Oct. 15, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Organizers told the Tribune, "There will be food and free gifts. It's gonna be fun."

Find Listerhill online at www.listerhill.com or www.facebook.com/listerhillcu or call 256-383-9204.

Matchups (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Four sites will host Cullman County youth footballm Saturday, Sept. 19, with eight local programs connmmpeting across the Fireplug, Wee-Wee and Pee-Wee divisions.

Addison visits Fairview and Vinemont travels to Cold Springs at 9 a.m. Good Hope visits Hanceville and Holly Pond travels to West Point at 4 p.m. Cullman has an open date.

Each listed time is the Fireplug kickoff. The Wee-Wee game follows, then the Pee-Wee game. Cold Springs does not field a Pee-Wee team.

The schedule is confirmed through the league slate published before the season.

Records below are based on finals reported to The Tribune in Week 1, Week 2 and Week 4. A complete Week 3 score sheet was unavailable, so the marks should not be treated as official league standings.

Addison at Fairview
Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.

- Fireplug: Addison 0-3, Fairview 2-1
- Wee-Wee: Addison 0-3, Fairview 2-1
- Pee-Wee: Addison 1-1, Fairview 3-0

Fairview's Pee-Wee team carries the strongest published record into the matchup. The Aggies have posted verified victories over Vinemont, West Point and Hanceville, including a 39-13 win over the Bulldogs last week.

Fairview also defeated Hanceville 12-6 in last week's Fireplug game, while Hanceville edged the Aggies 12-6 in the Wee-Wee division.

Addison's last reported action came at Cold Springs. The Eagles defeated the Bulldogs 27-12 in Fireplug and 28-0 in Wee-Wee. No Pee-Wee game was played because Cold Springs does not field a team at that level.

Addison's Pee-Wee victory came against West Point in the season opener. The Bulldogs fell to Cullman in their other reported game.

Vinemont at Cold Springs
Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.

- Fireplug: Vinemont 2-1, Cold Springs 2-0
- Wee-Wee: Vinemont 1-2, Cold Springs 1-1
- Pee-Wee: No game

The Fireplug matchup features two teams with winning marks in the published results.

Vinemont's Fireplug team defeated Fairview 32-14 in Week 1 and Holly Pond 47-6 last week. Cold Springs has reported victories over Hanceville and Addison, scoring 31 and 27 points in those games.

Vinemont enters after sweeping Holly Pond at all three levels. The Eagles won the Wee-Wee game 21-20 in overtime and posted a 38-0 Pee-Wee victory in addition to their Fireplug win.

Cold Springs also swept its available games last week, defeating Addison in Fireplug and Wee-Wee.

Good Hope at Hanceville
Saturday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m.

- Fireplug: Good Hope 3-0, Hanceville 1-2
- Wee-Wee: Good Hope 3-0, Hanceville 3-0
- Pee-Wee: Good Hope 0-3, Hanceville 0-2

The Wee-Wee game is the most compelling division matchup on Saturday's schedule.

Good Hope and Hanceville are each 3-0 in the published finals. Good Hope has outscored Holly Pond, Vinemont and Cullman 86-0. Hanceville has outscored Cullman, Cold Springs and Fairview 94-6.

Good Hope's Fireplug team also owns a 3-0 reported mark. The Raiders have defeated Holly Pond, Vinemont and Cullman, including a 22-0 victory over Cullman last week.

The Pee-Wee game gives both programs an opportunity to earn their first victory in the available published results. Cullman defeated Good Hope 26-0 last week, while Fairview topped Hanceville 39-13.

Holly Pond at West Point
Saturday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m.

- Fireplug: Holly Pond 0-2, West Point 1-1
- Wee-Wee: Holly Pond 0-2, West Point 1-1
- Pee-Wee: Holly Pond 1-1, West Point 0-2

Holly Pond's Pee-Wee team opened its season with an 8-0 victory over Good Hope before falling to Vinemont last week.

The Broncos nearly earned their first published Wee-Wee victory in that Vinemont series, falling 21-20 in overtime. Vinemont won the Fireplug game 47-6 and the Pee-Wee game 38-0.

West Point was open last week. The Warriors' reported victories came against Addison in the season opener, 6-0 in Fireplug and 20-6 in Wee-Wee.

Cullman open

Cullman's Tribune-tracked records are 1-2 in Fireplug, 1-2 in Wee-Wee and 3-0 in Pee-Wee.

The Bearcats' Pee-Wee team has recorded three shutouts, defeating Hanceville 30-0, Addison 37-0 and Good Hope 26-0. Cullman has outscored those opponents 93-0.

Cullman Football Academy hosts Triumph

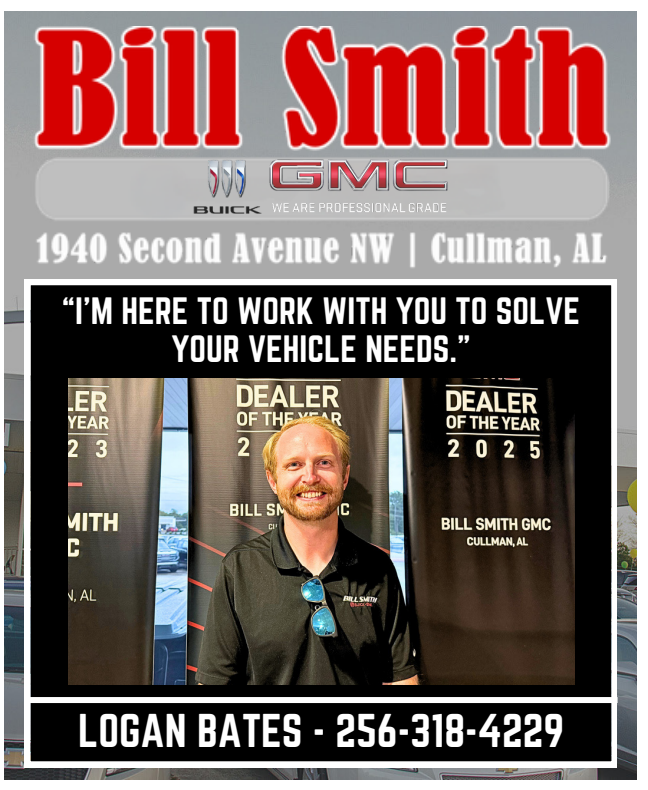
Cullman Football Academy, which competes separately in North Alabama American Youth Football's age-based divisions, will host Triumph at Cullman High School.

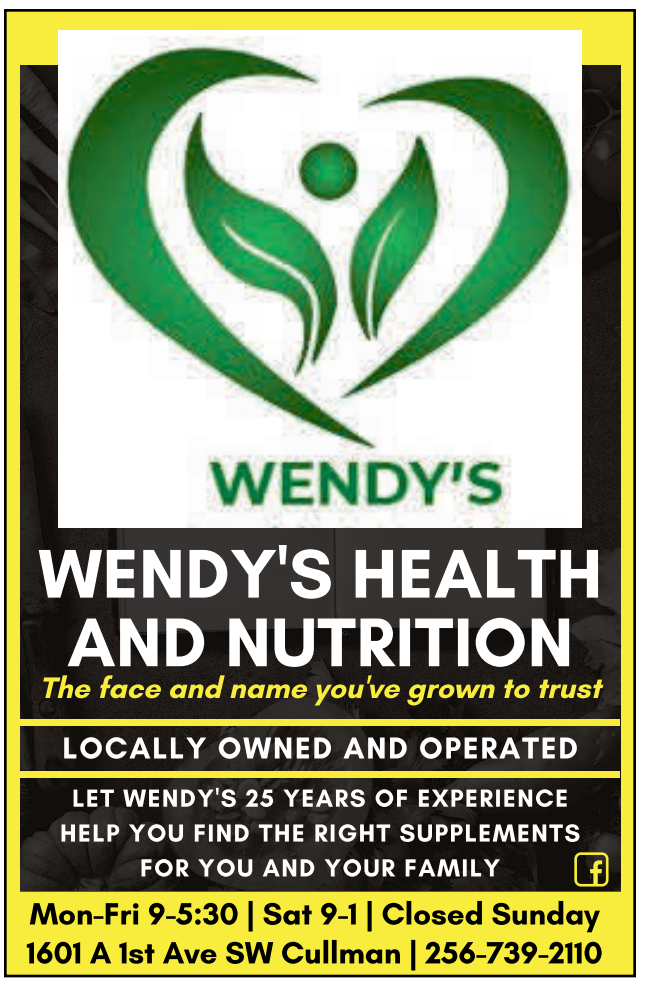
- 8U: 9 a.m.
- 9U: 10:30 a.m.
- 10U: 12:15 p.m.
- 11U: 2 p.m.

Cullman won three of four games at Huntsville last week. The 9U team won 14-0, the 10U team won 18-13 and the 11U team won 32-0.

Huntsville defeated Cullman 20-14 in the 8U game. Saturday's times and site are posted on the official NAAYF schedule.







‘Refill, not landfill’

Schafer Refillery opens in Cullman

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Schafer Refillery LLC held their ribbon cutting on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026

CULLMAN, Ala. — Schafer Refillery LLC held their ribbon cutting on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026 with the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce. The new business is owned and operated by Jennifer and Christopher Schafer.

“For a long time, we talked about starting a business together, but we weren’t sure exactly what that would look like. Then we discovered the concept of a refillery, and it just made sense for us.” Mrs. Schafer explained.

“We had already been trying to make more natural and sustainable changes in our own home by choosing simpler products, cutting down on unnecessary ingredients and disposable plastics, and being more mindful about what we were using every day. When we realized there wasn’t a place locally where people could easily shop this way, Schafer Refillery was born.”

The refillery also carries cleaning products by Brightly Green. They expressed that their reasoning on picking this product was because of it being 100% all-natural, biodegradable, sustainable and plant-based.

The establishment offers a chance for Cullman and surrounding areas to become zero waste. Have you ever stopped to consider how often you buy items such as dish soap, laundry detergents, cleaners and other items in bottles that only get used once? Those one-time use items add up.

The refillery explained, “Instead of buying a brand-new bottle every time you need laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, and other everyday products, you can bring your container to us and refill it. You purchase only what you need, by weight or volume depending on the product.”

Though effort towards sustainability and zero-waste is encouraged, it is not required.

“You definitely don’t have to be “zero waste” to shop here! We also carry bar soaps, bath and body products, reusable household items, natural cleaning products, gifts, and lots of other things we’re excited for you to discover.” Schafer noted.

“We would truly love for you to stop by, say hello, look around, and see what a refillery is all about.”

Don’t forget your containers!

Schafer Refillery LLC is located at 2018 2nd Avenue NW, Cullman and can be reached at 256-747-5645. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.













THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Historically Cullman: The Flying Fifty Hotel

Anabelle Howze
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This feature originally ran in our Community Matters magazine.

Before Cullman was known for its manufacturers and industries, most of the county relied on agriculture. For many families, farming was more than a way of life and something they heavily depended on. Things began to change in the 1950s when a group of local businessmen, later called the Flying Fifty, took bold action to bring new jobs to Cullman.

Even though they were called The Flying Fifty, the group actually had about 47 or 48 members. They got their name because they were willing to fly out of town to look for new industries for Cullman, which was unusual for a small Alabama community back then.

The story began when Dr. Leroy Bledsoe learned that people from King Edward Cigar Company were passing through Cullman on their way to Mississippi to look for a place to build a new factory. After his wife told him the news, Dr. Bledsoe reached out to local businessman Roy Drinkard. In just a few hours, community leaders came up with a plan.

The next day, 47 men paid their own way to travel to Jacksonville, Florida, to meet with executives of King Edward Cigar Company. With help from Alabama Governor Jim Folsom, the group rented a ballroom at the Hotel Mayflower and invited the company's board of directors to lunch.

At the meeting, Cullman's representatives explained why the cigar factory should come to their city. They convinced the company leaders to visit Cullman and take a closer look at the proposal. To make the project happen, the community needed money to buy land for the factory and to support future efforts to attract new businesses. So, local leaders put up a small building on the courthouse lawn, which people started calling the "Cigar Shack."

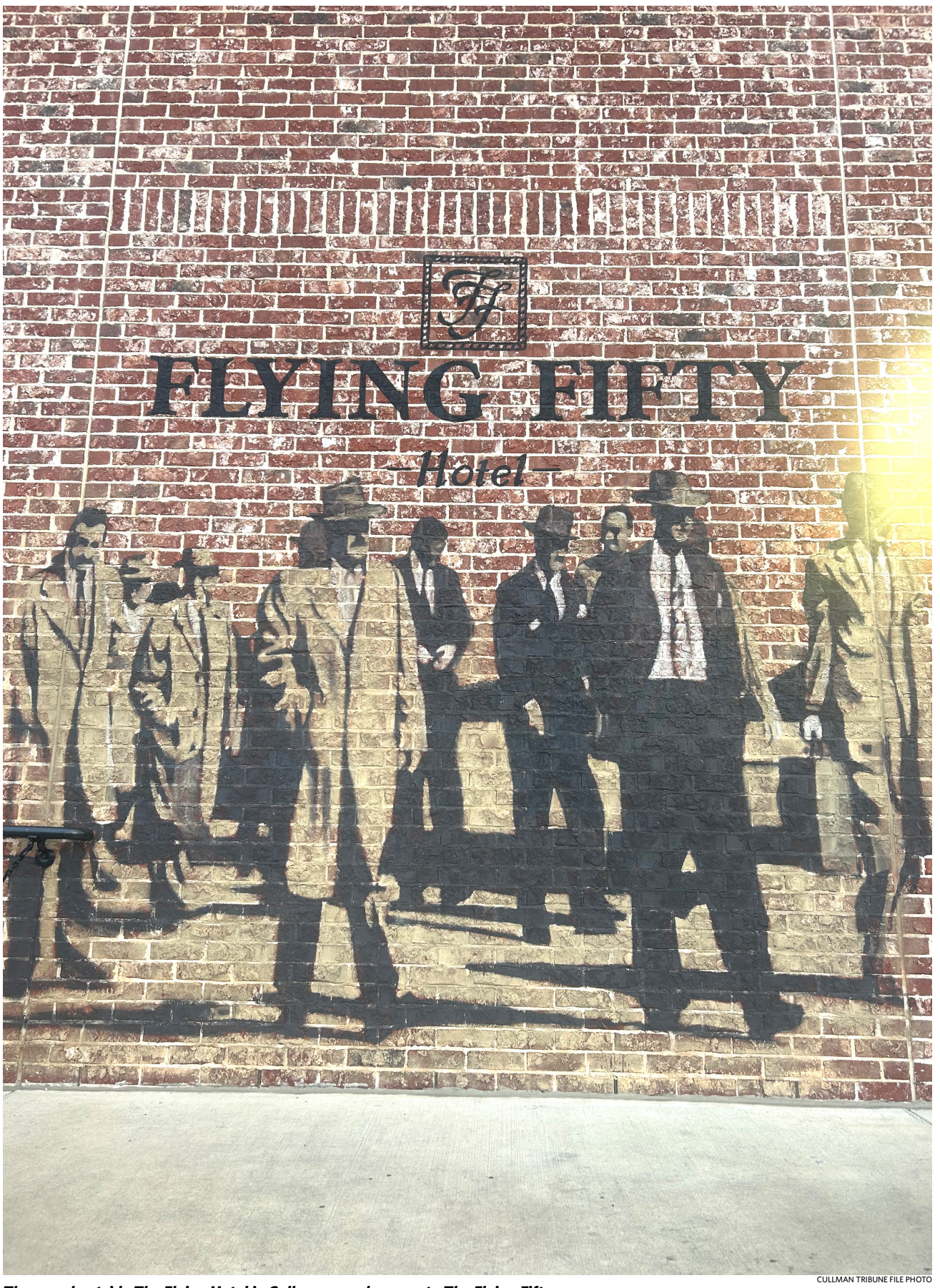
The fundraising campaign soon involved the whole county. Local radio stations stopped their usual shows and broadcasted from the shack while volunteers made phone calls. People from all over Cullman County gave what they could, from children's pocket change to bigger donations from businesses and community leaders. In just a few days, they raised over $83,000.

Their hard work paid off. King Edward Cigar Company chose Cullman for its new factory, bringing hundreds of jobs and new opportunities beyond farming. For many people, this was the start of a new chapter for the local economy.

Although the group never traveled together as a whole again, many members kept working to bring new businesses to Cullman for years. Many Flying Fifty members later joined Industrial Development boards and Chamber of Commerce committees, continuing their efforts to boost the local economy. Their wives also played a key part by welcoming visiting business prospects into their homes and helping show off the community.

Today, many people know the name "Flying Fifty" from the hotel, but fewer know the story behind it. The group's legacy lives on in the industries, businesses and jobs that came to Cullman because of their work.

The Flying Fifty Hotel is located at 515 Fourth St. SW in Cullman. Find it online at www.theflyingfifty.com.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The mural outside The Flying Hotel in Cullman pays homage to The Flying Fifty, a group of local businessmen who brought industry to Cullman.

Local Eats: Pop's Place Bar BQ

Anabelle Howze
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This feature originally ran in our Community Matters magazine.

Over the last decade, Pop's Place Bar BQ in Dodge City has earned its reputation by using fresh ingredients, sharing family recipes and staying dedicated to the Cullman County community.

Pop's Place started as a concession trailer at festivals, community events and baseball games before growing into a full-service restaurant loved by residents and visitors. The business moved from a small 32-seat spot to its current location, which seats about 100 guests and welcomes regulars and newcomers.

Pop's Place focuses on making food from scratch. Barbecue sauces, side dishes and meats are made fresh using recipes passed down through the family.

Favorites like baked beans, coleslaw and green beans come from these recipes, and the meats are smoked and prepared daily.

One of the most popular menu items is Pop's Chips, hand-cut potato chips that customers have loved for years. Many guests make sure to order them every time they visit.

Barbecue is still what Pop's Place does best, with pulled pork, brisket, turkey and chicken as top choices.

Guests can also enjoy smoked wings, burgers, ribs, sandwiches and changing specials.

New items like Friday catfish have been added, but the focus on homemade quality remains the same.

Consistency has been key to Pop's Place's success. Many staff members have worked there for years, so customers see familiar faces each visit.

Experienced employees, fresh food and a friendly atmosphere have helped build strong relationships with guests over time.

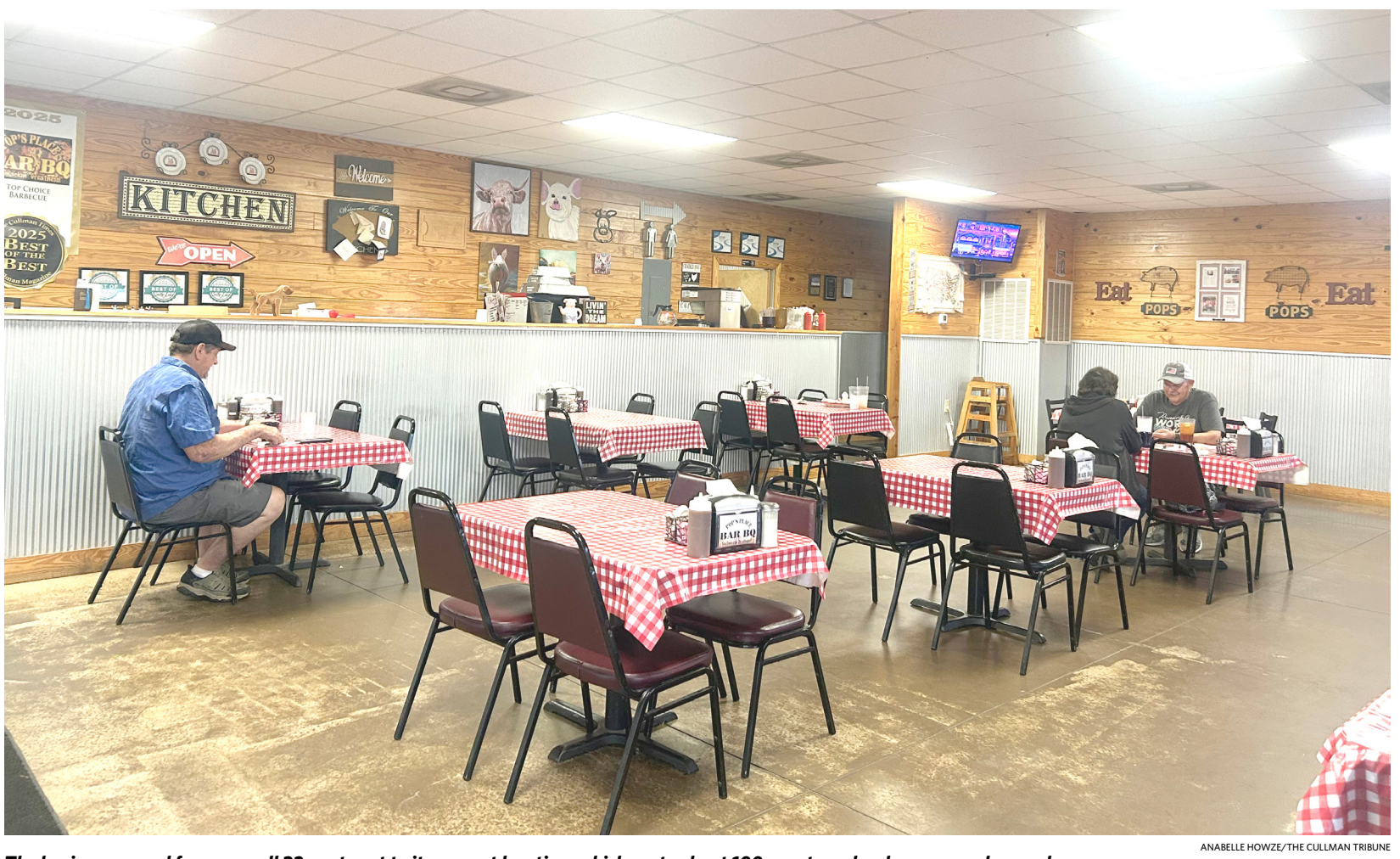
Support from the community has helped Pop's Place grow.

Regulars who have come since the beginning still visit and travelers often find the restaurant through recommendations or online. Inside, a map shows where visitors from across the country have come from.

Looking ahead, the restaurant's long-term vision centers on continuing family traditions, community connections and homemade flavors that bring people together one meal at a time.

Pop's Place wants to keep its legacy going for the next generations. With help from family, loyal staff and returning customers, the goal is to keep Pop's Place a place where great food and real hospitality meet.

Pop's Place is located at 721 Alabama Highway 69 S, Hanceville, AL, 35077. Find it online at Facebook/Pop's Place Bar BQ.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The business moved from a small 32-seat spot to its current location, which seats about 100 guests and welcomes regulars and newcomers.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Pop's Place is located at 721 Alabama Highway 69 S, Hanceville, AL, 35077.

Creative Cullman: Katie B. Kirkwood Architectural and Interior Design

Chasady Woods
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This feature originally ran in our Community Matters magazine.

Katie B. Kirkwood Architectural and Interior Design is a residential design studio in downtown Cullman. The studio officially opened April 10, 2026, and has since been carefully planning designs for each project.

Kirkwood told The Tribune, "We do everything from floor plans, full house construction documents, but we also had someone yesterday come in that just needed new curtains."

Kirkwood said she can meet with homeowners and contractors to walk their sites. This opens the path for her design process and layout. Current house layouts and existing paint colors that clients prefer narrow down design revisions and updates, but Kirkwood brings more to the table than pretty colors.

She earned an architecture degree and an interior architecture degree from Auburn University, as well as a master's degree in construction.

"I've always been super creative," Kirkwood said.

She recalled wanting to be a pediatrician in first grade, but she had more enthusiasm about designing waiting rooms than treating patients.

"Kids are sick and they are sitting there miserable," she said. "That's when I noticed I focused on making the waiting room colorful as opposed to the actual practice."

For customers who walk in and are in the beginning stages of a new build, she asks the fundamental questions: Do you have a land survey or topography map? Do you have a desired contractor?

"We trek through the woods and mark trees that need to be taken down, making sure that we're inside property lines before we start laying out bedrooms and bathrooms," Kirkwood stated. "We build an entire construction document."

A standard document set includes the foundation, floor plans, roof plan and detailed elevations.

"Then we dive into the fun stuff!" she smiled.

This stage of the design process includes light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, paint, upholstery, cabinet hardware and all the details.

"On interiors I like to start with the conversation piece," she said. "Paint is never my first selection because paint can be changed."

Kirkwood emphasized that the art of design and craftsmanship is not a quick process and also not one that can be rushed.

"We understand our services are not cheap so we want to get it right the first time," she explained. "We are designing spaces that directly affect the way our clients live so we really get to know our clients."

She used nurseries as an example for determining design.

"We have to know all about the baby and what attracts their attention. However, we have to consider what space the mother feels comfortable in because they will be in the nursery probably more than the baby will be," she said.

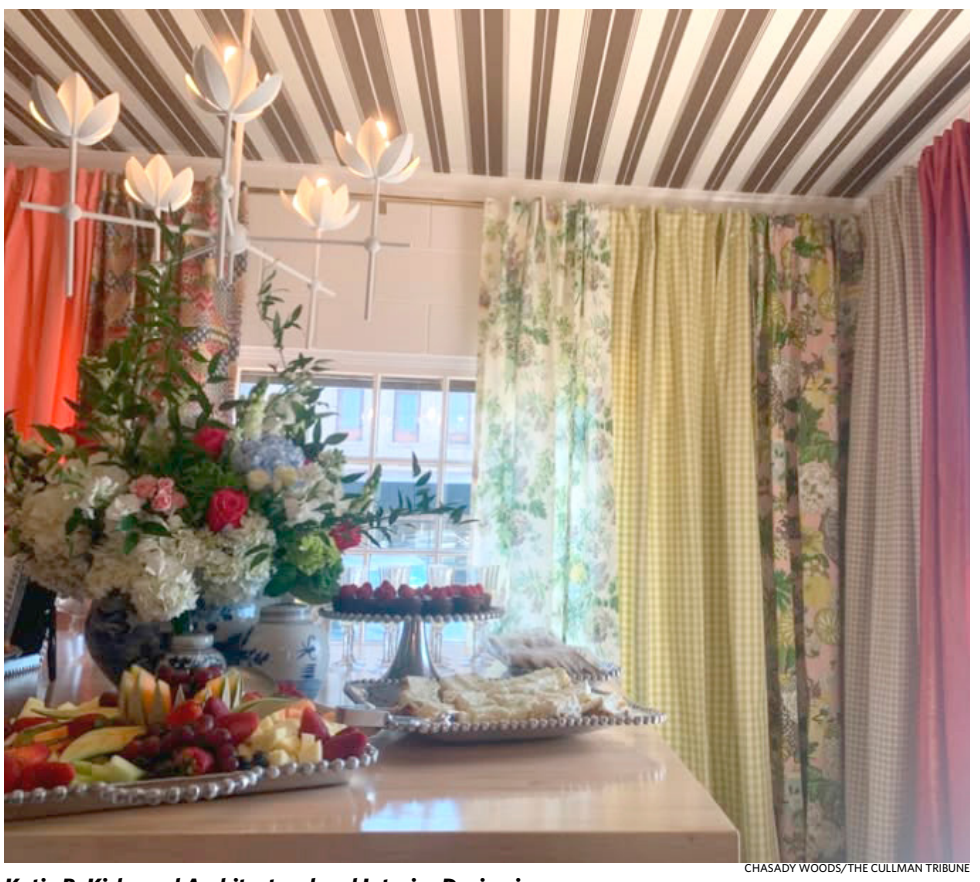
"The most enjoyable part of schematic design is when we have people we've never met before come into the studio and by the end of schematic design we know how they live and operate," she shared.

"Sure they want a pretty dining table, but if they are never going to sit at it, we have to make sure they have an island with comfortable stools because that is where all the conversation is going to be had."



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The design studio features a bold green that grabs your attention as you walk in.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Katie B. Kirkwood Architectural and Interior Design is a residential design studio in downtown Cullman.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

There is an array of samples for curtains, flooring and plenty of décor.

The design studio features a bold green that grabs your attention as you walk in. There is an array of samples for curtains, flooring and plenty of décor.

"I thrive in this chaotic studio," Kirkwood laughed. "There's lime green shelves, brown wallpaper and drapes of different fabrics. Though I know that, for someone else, this may induce anxiety."

Kirkwood noted that the uniqueness of the studio doesn't have to be the style that comes to your home.

"Our goal is not for our projects to look the same. We want someone to know Katie B. Kirkwood was the designer due to the details and thoughtful elements, not because it looks like our last project."

For Katie B. Kirkwood Architectural and Interior Design, what the customer wants, the customer gets.

"Once we understand our clients, the pretty or decorative process is easy, but the primary foundation is all about understanding our clients' wants, needs and interests so we can successfully design their spaces."

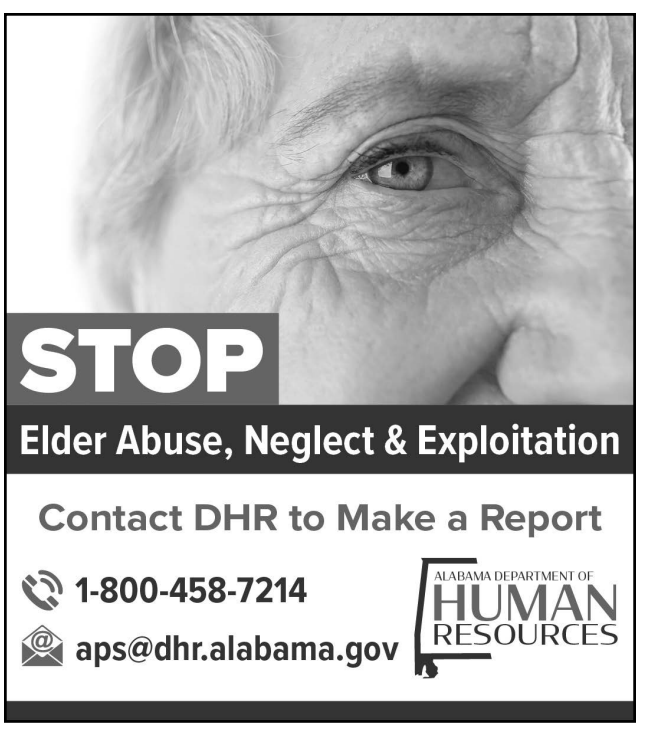
Katie B. Kirkwood Architectural and Interior Design is located at 221 Third Ave. SE. It is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays are reserved for appointments only and the business is closed on weekends.

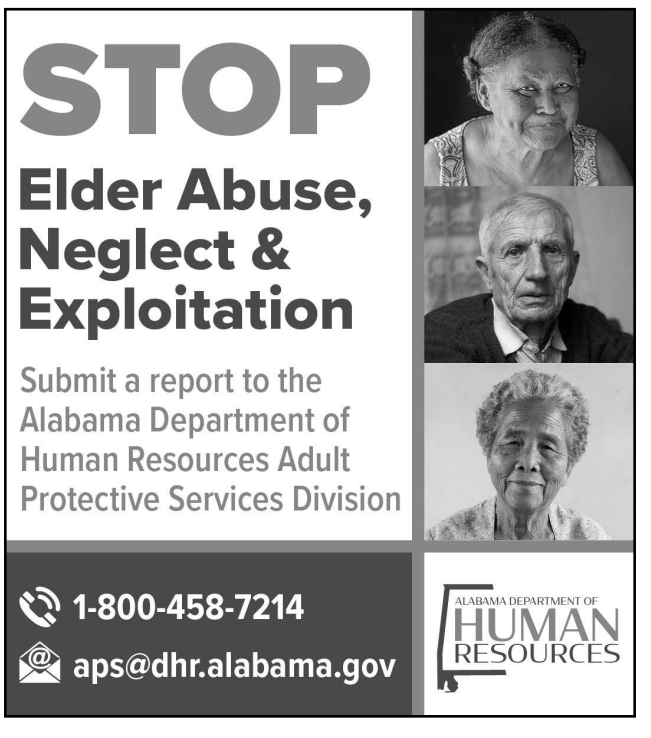
Call 256-339-4403 or email design@kbkirkwood.com to schedule an appointment. Follow kbkarchandintdesign on Instagram to find out more.











Mom Corner: Be prepared, and be prepared early

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

The preparation and attention given to the tiniest of details prior to welcoming your bundle of joy into your home can be the most exciting. While the "nesting" phase helps you prepare for bringing your baby into their new domain, the journey doesn't stop there.

It can be refreshing to wipe away every piece of dust and move items into the most convenient and aesthetically pleasing spots to make the post-partum transition as easy and comfortable as possible. Though the reality of being a parent, and specifically caring for a baby, is the constant need for foresight.

There are many variables that contribute to the post-partum experience. Whether it be balancing schedules, appointments, acid reflux, feeding complications, lack of sleep, healing from birth, hormonal fluctuations or any and all of the mind-boggling quirks of being a parent. Though there are a few safety factors that are often overlooked in the 40-week wait.

Infant CPR

The importance of knowing how to perform CPR goes for everyone, not just expectant parents. This skill isn't reserved for days in water, either. This can help you save your infant or someone else in the event that your baby chokes on food or liquids, your baby experiences unexplained collapse and stops breathing unexpectedly or accidental suffocation from a blanket or other unsafe environments.

You may never have to perform CPR on your child, but you should never be the parent who doesn't know and risks their child's life.

See what establishments near you offer CPR classes.

Proper car seat installment

If you're unsure that you've installed it correctly, fire stations do sometimes offer to inspect the car seat and ensure it's right.

You can visit www.alabamapublichealth.gov/injuryprevention/car-seats.html to review the Alabama installation guidelines.

Key takeaways are that infants should be rear-facing and anything designed as rear-facing should be in a rear-facing position.

The base should not swivel and should be tightly secured. If it moved even an inch - it needs to be readjusted. Any movement could cause damage to the baby during a crash. Which leads to the importance of the harness.

The harness should be at armpit level and should be snug enough that you cannot pinch the strap, but not so tight as to cause discomfort.

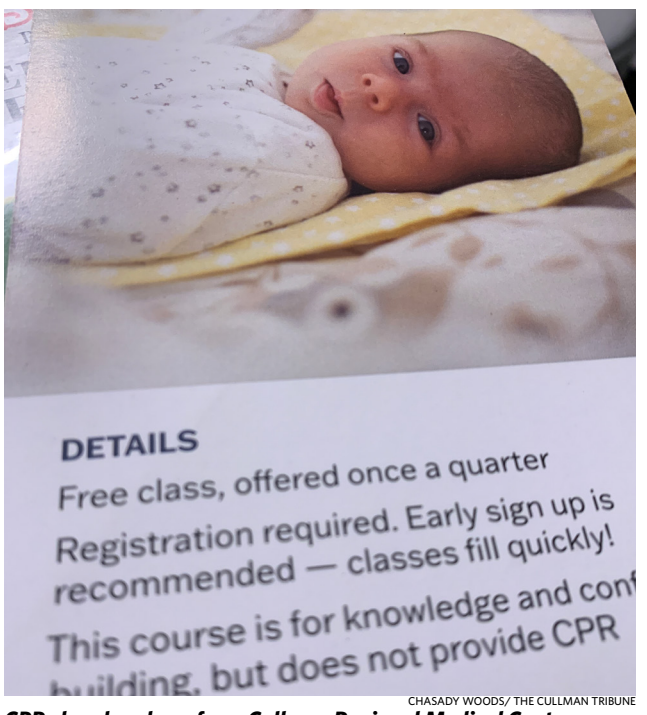
Keep in mind that infant car seats typically have inserts that are to be taken out once the baby reaches a certain weight. The weight restrictions for infant car seats are typically between 4-30 lbs., but read the instructions on your specific car seat to keep it most accurate.

Car seat dos and don'ts

No small toys, snacks or drinks should be given to children in their car seats. Choking can be silent and it is best to avoid any hazards when you cannot keep your full attention on your child. Be sure that any groceries are also out of reach for this reason.

In winter weather, puffy coats can look so snuggly, warm and cute on your baby, but they pose a serious risk to car seat safety standards. This leaves too much space between the straps and your baby. The harness may feel snug, but the jacket traps air. During impact the compression flattens the padding and can cause the child to slip through the straps.

To avoid this, place the coat or a blanket over the child in the car seat (not covering their face).



CHASADY WOODS/ THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CPR class brochure from Cullman Regional Medical Center

Choking hazards

It's important to educate yourself on the many choking hazards hidden within your home such as small refrigerator magnets, button batteries and any small household items your baby will inevitably try to place in their mouth.

Button batteries are found in household items such as thermometers and car keys, but can also be found in pet toys, remotes and more. Know what batteries your child's toys include and know what to do if they are ingested.

At the end of the day, parenting and CPR classes can take up 1-2 hours of your time and can be the difference between life and death - or your sanity. Baby proofing done sooner can prevent the scares and the anxiety of last-minute completion. Not to mention taking the time to research any hazards that may not be the most discussed.

Being a parent is the most rewarding experience, but it can be a lot! So be prepared, and be prepared early!

Cullman City Schools (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools ranks second among Alabama public school systems in the percentage of teachers holding National Board Certification, according to a 2025 ranking shared by the district.

Piedmont City Schools ranked first, followed by Cullman City Schools and Homewood City Schools.

The ranking measures the percentage of a school system's teachers who hold the voluntary advanced credential, rather than the total number employed by each system. The graphic shared by the district does not state Cullman's current percentage, number of active National Board Certified Teachers or total number of teachers used in the calculation.

Cullman City Schools serves more than 3,100 students.

"National Board Certification represents a significant commitment to professional growth and instructional excellence," the district said. "The dedication of our teachers to becoming and remaining National Board Certified reflects the culture we strive to build at Cullman City Schools: professionalism, collaboration, continuous improvement and an unwavering commitment to our students."

The 10 Alabama school systems listed in the ranking are:

1. Piedmont City Schools
2. Cullman City Schools
3. Homewood City Schools
4. Leeds City Schools
5. Mountain Brook City Schools
6. Muscle Shoals City Schools
7. Madison City Schools
8. Gulf Shores City Schools
9. Vestavia Hills City Schools
10. Hoover City Schools

Cullman previously surpassed 20%

The recognition continues a distinction Cullman City Schools received several years ago.

In 2021, the district reported that more than 20% of its teachers held National Board Certification. Cullman was one of four Alabama systems and fewer than 50 systems nationwide at the time with more than one-fifth of its teachers holding the credential.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards also recognized Cullman as a National Board Accomplished District.

The current announcement does not indicate whether Cullman's percentage has increased or decreased since 2021.

What certification requires

National Board Certification is an advanced professional credential available to teachers and school counselors. It is separate from the state certification required to work as an educator.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers certification in 25 areas. Candidates must complete four components designed to evaluate:

- Content knowledge
- Differentiation in instruction
- Teaching practices and the classroom learning environment
- Effectiveness, reflection, assessment and collaboration

The process includes a computer-based assessment, student work samples, written analysis and video recordings of classroom instruction.

Teachers must later complete a maintenance process to keep the credential active.

Cullman City Schools said the certification process benefits students by encouraging teachers to examine their instructional practices, respond to individual learning needs and continue developing professionally.

Alabama ranks seventh nationally

The Alabama State Department of Education reports that the state has 3,116 National Board Certified Teachers and ranks seventh nationally.

The 2025 ranking graphic also lists Alabama as:

- Seventh in the number of active National Board Certified Teachers
- Seventh in the percentage of active National Board Certified Teachers
- Fifth in newly certified teachers
- Sixth in teachers who maintained their certification
- Sixth in the number of certification candidates during 2023-2024
- 11th in the total number of teachers ever certified

Alabama provides a $5,000 annual base salary supplement to qualifying National Board Certified Teachers employed in public K-12 schools.

Certain classroom teachers working in designated schools and holding certifications in specified subject areas may qualify for an additional $5,000 targeted supplement.

The state has also offered financial assistance to teachers pursuing the credential.

Cullman City Schools said its placement reflects both the work of its teachers and the district's emphasis on professional development.

"Our teachers are not only impacting the lives of 3,100-plus Cullman City students; they are helping raise the standard for public education across Alabama and our nation," the district said.

MS. SENIOR CULLMAN COUNTY PAGEANT
November 7, 2026
at Fairview High School Auditorium
Ages 60 and above
Applications will be coming soon.
If you have any questions, reach out to us.
Email: msccp2025@gmail.com
Call: 256-507-1687
Facebook: Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant

PAYMENT TRANSITION

Important Notice to Cullman County Water & Sanitation Customers

September 25 is the final day Cullman Electric Cooperative (CEC) will accept payments for Cullman County Water & Sanitation accounts. No water or sanitation payments can be accepted between **September 26th through October 4, 2026. Payment processing will resume October 5, 2026 with Cullman County Water Department.**

Grace Period
A grace period will be in effect during the transition period. **Customers will not be penalized for payment delayed due to the temporary system conversion.**

Payments made after September 25th, 2026
Any payment made to Cullman Electric Cooperative after September 25, 2026, will be applied ONLY to electric service accounts. They will not be credited to water or sanitation accounts.

Beginning September 26, 2026:
- All new water service applications/New meter taps
- Move-in and move-out request
- Disconnects
- All other water inquires

Must be handled directly through the Cullman County Water Department.

Automatic Bank & Credit Card Draft (AUTOPAY)
- Any draft established through Cullman Electric Cooperative **WILL NOT TRANSFER** to the new billing system.
- There will be some customers where draft will not come out due to the transition.
- After September drafts are completed, **NO MORE DRAFTS** will be processed until you set up draft directly with Cullman County Water Department.

Customers will need to enroll directly with Cullman County Water Department. To enroll you can go to ccwaterandsanitation.payub.com or come into the office (All this can be done once we go live October 5, 2026)

Sanitation Information
All sanitation information, including service questions, account updates, and other inquiries, should be directed to Cullman County Sanitation.

Cullman County Sanitation: 256-287-1142

Payments
Payments for both water and sanitation services will need to be made at or to the Cullman County Water Department.

Website: ccwaterandsanitation.payub.com
Payment Phone Number (IVR): 888-299-1527
In Office: 2020 Beech Ave SE Cullman, AL 35055 (In person, drop box, and mail)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our customer service and billing process.

The 10th Annual Bernard Blues & BBQ concludes

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Bernard Abbey wrapped up its 2026 Bernard Blues & BBQ on Sunday, Sept. 13. The two-day festival featured signature barbeque along St. Bernard Abbey and Preparatory School.

St. Bernard Ambassador Kevin Daugherty stated, "This is the 10th annual St. Bernard Blues & Barbeque Festival. It is a benefit for St. Bernard Preparatory School Campus."

He explained that several volunteers are also teachers or alumni of the school.

"I am an alumni from when this campus was a four-year college. It was a wonderful place to go to college. The buildings from that time are still here and it's just a perfect environment for a prep school!"

He acknowledged that the festival was brought together by collective community interest. "Local Cullman people have supported St. Bernard for such a very long time- since 1891."

Daughtery noted that the event, although at its core is a benefit for the school, it also works as an attraction for the whole family, children and adults alike, with its vendors or music.

The festival showcased a wide variety of vendors each displaying unique inventory. This included tables of baked bread, jellies, seasonings, succulents, repurposed clothing and bags, leather wallets, stained glass art, caramel apples and seasonal decor.

Lynette Walker with Reclaimed Grace featured handmade farmhouse decor along with freeze-dried candy and "puplicious" dog treats.

"Reclaimed Grace consists of reclaimed wood, pallet wood and leftover construction materials. I try to source everything out as 'reclaimed'. I repurpose my frames for my hand-lettering items" Walker stated.

She told the Tribune, "I just want all my pieces, when they go into a home, I want them to bless that home. I want the people that buy them to bless the holy spirit and to have some connection to God."

This was also Mrs. Walker's first year as a vendor at St. Bernard. She stated that while it was very hot "I've met some very nice people. It has been very pleasant and enjoyable!"

Several vendors expressed the slowness due to heat, but showed appreciation and devotion for the community despite it.

Many attendees gathered beneath tents roaming through the festival's intricacies. Others found themselves enjoying slow cooked barbeque under nearby shade trees surrounding the stage where live bands performed as children enjoyed a train ride around the campus.

Marketing and Festival Director, Anabelle Howze spoke with the Tribune in regards to the event. "Being part of my first Bernard Blues & BBQ as festival director was such a rewarding experience. There are so many people behind the scenes who give their time, energy and talents to make this weekend possible, and seeing all of that hard work come together was incredibly special."

She gave credit to those who worked to make the festival possible. "I'm so grateful to our volunteers, vendors, sponsors, students and everyone who came out to support St. Bernard. I couldn't have asked for a better first year."



CHASADY WOODS/ THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Crowd at St. Bernard 10th Annual Bernard Blues & BBQ festival

Obituary Announcements: Sept. 17-18

Billy Fay Smith, 83
Billy Fay Smith, age 83, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Sept. 16, 2026 surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on Nov. 2, 1942, in Alabama to Theodore Roosevelt Smith and Wilma Lorine Fuller Smith. Throughout his life, Billy was known for his hard work ethic as a truck driver, kindness, and what you saw is what you get, and for the love he had for his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend who touched the lives of so many people. To his family, he was more than just a Pawpaw. He was a source of love, strength, wisdom, laughter, and countless memories that will be cherished forever. His grandchildren held a very special place in his heart, and some of his happiest moments were spent surrounded by his family. Billy lived a life full of love, hard work, memories, and family. He will be deeply missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He is survived by Vickie Smith (Loving Wife of 33 Years); his siblings, Lou Williams, Donnie Smith, Ted Smith, Ricky (Betty) Smith, Donna Smith (Sister-In-Law); his children, Colette Huber, Belinda (Jeremy) Harris; his grandchildren, Kagan (Matt) McCravy, Mariah (Ryan) Miles, Cierra (Dusty) Rose, Colten (Mattie Grace) Smith, Breaunah (Garrett) Smith and a host of great grandchildren and nieces and nephews and friends who loved him dearly. He was preceded in death by Theodore Roosevelt Smith (Father) Wilma Lorine Fuller Smith (Mother) Ray Smith (Brother) Jerry Smith (Brother) Tommy Smith (Brother) Kelly Smith (Daughter) Phillip Smith (Son) Lisa Boatright (Daughter). Although our hearts are broken by his passing, we find comfort knowing that he is no longer suffering and that he has been reunited with the loved ones who went before him. His memory will live on through his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all of the lives he touched. "A life well lived is a legacy of love." A Graveside service will be held on Sept. 19, 2026, at 4 p.m. at Emeus Baptist Church. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Joseph Martin Hanners, 61
Joseph Martin Hanners, age 61, passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by family, Sept. 16, 2026. Joseph was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was a man who believed in family and was there for the people he loved. Joseph was a devoted husband to his wife, Robin Patrick Hanners and shared many years and memories with her. He was also a loving, devoted father who loved his children unconditionally. Joseph was a truck driver for 20 years, a career he dedicated himself to with pride and commitment. Joseph will be remembered for the love he showed his family, the memories he created, his strong work ethic and the lasting impact he had on the lives of those who knew him. His absence will leave a deep void in the hearts of his family and friends. Joseph was survived by his loving wife, Robin Patrick Hanners; his children, Bobby Hanners, Robert E (Patsy) Stewart, Justin (Heather) Stewart, Amber Stewart, Joseph (Bridget) Millwood; grandchildren, Ryan Stewart, Cody Stewart, Makenzie, Kevin Puckett III, Shakala Puckett, Robbie Stewart, Chasity Stewart, Raleigh Stewart, Justlyn Stewart, Justin Dale Stewart (JJ), Preston Hanners, Landon Hanners, Riley Hanners, Bubba Hanners, Britton Hanners, Austin, Cayden, Maci, Adrianna, Selena, Anna; great Grandkids, Kennedy Stewart, Rynlee Puckett and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his son, Todd Hanners; father, Joseph Thurman Hanners; mother, Emma Ophlia Thomas. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Martha Grace Jetton, 83
Martha Grace Jetton, age 83, resident of Hayden, Alabama, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 16,2026. Martha was a member of the graduating class of 1961 at McAdory High School where she received two varsity letters in cheerleading. She went on to attend the University of Alabama and earn a B.S. Degree in Bacteriology from the School of Chemistry. After receiving her degree, she studied to become a Registered Medical Technologist and made a career of 25 years at UAB Hospital in the Hematology Lab. Martha loved photography and spending time outdoors. She loved to photograph nature scenes and share the beauty with others. She is preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Sylvester and Bertha Merritt Jetton, her son, Jeffery Jetton, five brothers and one sister. She is survived by her brother, James Luther Jetton, and numerous nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at Cullman Funeral Home, Cullman, Alabama, on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Gideons International. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Maude Louise Rutledge, 92
Funeral Service for Maude Louise Rutledge, age 92 of Cullman, will be at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Terry Michael officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Rutledge passed away on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing Home. She was born, Feb. 26, 1934, to Vance Deason and Ruby Byrd Deason. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charles Rutledge; son, Donn Rutledge; daughter, Susan Michael; son-in-law, Jerry Collins; sister, Carolyn Stimus; brother, Vance Deason, Jr. Survivors include her children, Tony Rutledge (Cheryl); Cathy Collins, David Rutledge (Summer), Patricia "Patti" Lynn Cantrell-Wilson (David), Beth Glasscock (Michael),21 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren; sisters, MaryAnn Deason and Agnes O'Sullivan (John), sister-in-law, Marie Key and son-in-law, Terry Michael. Rema Hancock, 89
Rema Hancock, 89, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Sept. 6, 2026. Born on Sept. 12, 1937, in Cullman, Alabama, Rema's life was marked by steady strength, sincere faith, and a deep devotion to the people she loved. From her earliest days, Rema learned the value of perseverance and independence. She attended school in a one room schoolhouse in Brushy Pond, an experience that helped shape the thoughtful, wise spirit so many came to rely on—grounded, honest, and quietly inspirational in the way she met life with courage and grace. Rema was hard-working in the truest sense, giving her best wherever she was needed and doing so with a generous, selfless heart. Over the years, she worked at Blue Bell and sewed wranglers, worked at Zero Bullet, and sold Avon. In every role, she brought diligence, loyalty, and a kind-hearted steadiness—never seeking attention, yet earning lasting respect through her reliability and the care she showed others. Even in demanding seasons, her resilience held firm, and her gentle humor could brighten an ordinary day. Family was at the center of Rema's world. She loved her boys, loved her grandkids, and loved her great grandkids. That love was not merely spoken, but lived—through compassion, thoughtful presence, and the devoted ways she made others feel cherished and safe. Rema also carried an adventurous spirit, finding joy in seeing new places and taking in the beauty of the world around her. She liked to travel and especially loved the beach, the forest, and out west—places that matched her quiet bravery and appreciation for life's wide horizons. A faithful member of Ryans Creek Baptist Church, Rema's life reflected a steady devotion and a gentle goodness that will be remembered with gratitude. She was beloved and will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. A graveside service will be held at Ryan's Creek Baptist Church, 24849 County Road 222, Bremen, AL 35033, on Sept. 19, 2026, from 11-11:45 a.m.

Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory
– "Sincere Compassionate Care" –

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461 U.S. Highway 278 East
Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

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Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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

Notice is hereby given that CROM, LLC whose office address and phone number are as follows: 250 S.W. 36th Terrace Gainesville, FL 32607 and (352) 372-3436, has completed all work on the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman Water Treatment Plant Improvements Contract No. 5 Inspection, Cleaning & Rehabilitation of Ground Storage Clearwell Tanks. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named Contractor and the Owner's Engineer (St. John & Associates, Inc., 256-734-2114).

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
IRA STONEY LEE MILBURN, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-242**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted to Nathan Milburn as Personal Representative of the Estate of Ira Stoney Lee Milburn deceased, on the 10th day of September, 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.

Nathan Milburn
Personal Representative

Jerry L. Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
421 3rd Avenue SE Suite 245
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 CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JAMES OLEN REID, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-369**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration having been granted to **ADRIENNE N. WHITEHURST** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **JAMES OLEN REID**, deceased, on the 17th day of September, 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.

Adrienne N. Whitehurst
Personal Representative

Erin G. Adams
Attorney for Petitioner
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Birmingham, Alabama 35210

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)
DONALD JOE LYNN) CASE NO.: PC 2026 - 296
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Douglas E. Harris, as Administrator of the Estate of Donald Joe Lynn, deceased, on the 9th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Douglas E. Harris

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

Attorney for Administrator

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

STATE OF ALABAMA)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: *[Day, Month Date, 2026, at 11:00 a.m./p.m.]* 19th October

Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Writ of Execution Parties: SouthPoint Bank v. Cody Hurt

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Cullman County, Alabama Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Cody Hurt, real property located in Cullman County, Alabama described as follows:

From the point where the New Prospect Church Road intersects a private road known as the Lalon Edwards Road for the point of beginning. Thence go South (105 feet, deed) field measurement 140 feet to an existing 1/2 inch iron pipe, thence West along the South line of above property 420 feet to the East bank of Cone Mill Branch, thence meandering along said branch 490 feet more or less to a point on the South right of way of County Road 38, thence meandering along said South right of way 555 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, being a part of the East half of the Southeast Quarter, Section 24, Township 12 South, Range 4 West.

Property Address: 4469 County Road 38, Hanceville, Alabama 35077

Parcel ID: 27-06-24-0-000-017.000

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Writ of Execution issued on or about July 20, 2026 in case DV-2026-900066.00 in the District Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Cody Hurt, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 11th day of September 2026.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

Legal Notice

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
* 1 Page(s)
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-355

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MABLE MARIE KELLY, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to KAREN KIM BOONE on the 1st day of September, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

KAREN KIM BOONE
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please cause the above notice to be published once a week for three successive weeks in said newspaper, and thereafter forward an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
sherry@smithandsmithllp.com

STATE OF ALABAMA * 1 Page(s)
* **IN THE PROBATE COURT OF**
CULLMAN COUNTY *
* **CASE NO.:** PC 2026-238

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMES ROLLO, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to the undersigned, Christie Rollo, on the 2nd day of September, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Dated this the 2nd day of September, 2026.

Christie Rollo
CHRISTIE ROLLO
Personal Representative of the Estate of James Rollo, Deceased

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

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2026-048

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF DANIEL LEE SWINDOLL and CHARLOTTE LOUISE SVENSON SWINDOLL.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: CASEY MARIE BURTON,
RUSSELL ALFRED AUSTIN and
ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF D.M.C.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of D.M.C., a minor child born June 21, 2024, to Casey Marie Burton was filed on the 28th day of August, 2026, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioners Daniel Lee Swindoll and Charlotte Louise Svenson Swindoll. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioners, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days, the court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption of the minor child and as a waiver of the right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. Additionally, if the adoption is approved, your parental rights, if any, pertaining to the minor child will be terminated by the adoption proceedings.

DONE this 1st day of September, 2026.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE* and *THE SELMA TIMES JOURNAL*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH ATTORNEYS, LLC
Attorneys for Petitioners
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4721

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

Notice is hereby given that the Cullman City Council will meet in public session at 7:00 p.m. on September 28, 2026, in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium in Cullman City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055, to consider the approval of an economic development agreement (commonly known as a "772 Agreement") pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, including, without limitation, Section 94.01 of the Constitution of Alabama 2022 (formerly codified as Amendment No. 722 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended), with First National Bank Corporation in the city limits of Cullman, Alabama. The proposed project has a capital investment of approximately $15,000,000 and is located on the property directly north of the intersection of 4th Avenue SW and 3rd Street SW (Highway 278) in Cullman, Alabama. This agreement would authorize the City to provide certain public incentives, including but not limited to the use of public funds or resources for the installation of a decel lane on Highway 278 in exchange for the economic benefits associated with the project, such as job creation, increased tax revenues, and significant commercial development in an underdeveloped area of our downtown business district. The Cullman City Council has determined that the proposed economic development agreement serves a valid public purpose by promoting economic and industrial development in the City of Cullman, Alabama. This proposed economic development agreement excludes any type of tax rebate or tax abatement. All interested citizens are invited to attend. The full text of the proposed economic development agreement (commonly known as a "772 Agreement") is available for public inspection during normal business hours of the office of the City Clerk in Cullman City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Published this 19th day of September 2026.
Wesley Moore - Cullman City Clerk

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO.: PC2025-429
JOHNNY PIERCE STEWART, *
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JASON PAUL WHITEHEAD, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHNNY PIERCE STEWART, deceased, on the 9th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same be barred.

JASON PAUL WHITEHEAD
Personal Representative

David P. Dunford
Attorney for Petitioner
317 W Market St. Suite 201
Athens, AL 35611
256-620-0007

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

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO.: PC-2026-332
DONNA GAY CREEL *
DECEASED. *

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE TO FILE CLAIM

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONNA GAY CREEL, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration on the Estate of Donna Gay Creel, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned Alexandria Lathem, on the 1st of September, 2026, by the honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of said county, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are herby required to present the same within the time allows by law, or the same will be barred.

Alexandria Latham
Administratrix

Annaleigh B. Holt
Attorney for Administratrix
725 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, Alabama 35016

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF)
)
BRENDA OBERHOLTZER,) CASE NO.: PC-2026-270
An alleged incapacitated person.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND SPECIAL CONSERVATOR and
AMENDED PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND SINGLE TRANSACTION CO-CONSERVATORS

TO: CHRISTOPHER SHANE ANAGNOS, JAMES ANTHONY ANAGNOS, JR. and ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Petition for the Appointment of Letters of Guardianship and Single Conservator and Amended Petition for the Appointment of Letters of Guardianship and Single Transaction Co-Conservators filed by Natasha Gossett and Tammy Nadeau, Petitioners, through Attorney Amanda H. Schafner. A hearing has been **scheduled for the 15th day of October, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

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

DONE this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Amanda H. Schafner
Attorney for Petitioners
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, Alabama 35210

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
OLEN LEO POPE, * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2026-144

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Glenda Gale Pope, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Olen Leo Pope, deceased, on the 9th day of September, 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.

DONE this the 9th day of September, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorney for Petitioner:
Michael J. Baggett
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
256/737-0740

STATE OF ALABAMA * **IN THE PROBATE COURT OF**
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * **CASE NO.:** PC 2026-317

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOAN E. SMITH, DECEASED,

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to DANIEL BRENT SMITH, as Administrator of the Estate of JOAN E. SMITH, Deceased, on the 31st day of August, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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.

DANIEL BRENT SMITH
Administrator of the
Estate of Joan E. Smith,
Deceased

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

TO: The Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Have you lost your marbles?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



About 30 years ago, I went with a mission team to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. After we drove through El Paso, Texas, we crossed the Rio Grande River and there we were. The enormity of the city was almost as much of a surprise to me as was the culture.

Our lodging for the week was in the city of around 1.5 million, but each day we drove about an hour south of Juarez into the desert. Our mission site was a small church located in a squatters' settlement. Residents could claim a spot of land there as long as they put a "permanent structure" on their land. Those structures included old parked school buses with the tires removed and the interior converted to living space. Many of the homes were made from scrap wood or shipping pallets and covered with cardboard from boxes. Since it rarely rained there, the covering wasn't normally any problem. Most had no doors, or window coverings, and had dirt floors. They had no running water or electricity, but a few had televisions. Some got electricity from gas-powered generators or large rechargeable batteries.

The church was about the same as the houses. For pews they used old discarded school bus seats.

Each day we led Bible school for the children and each evening a worship service for everyone. One evening, as I played guitar and sang, something began stinging me as it crawled up the inside of my pants leg.

They probably thought the gringo preached had been moved by the Spirit! Fortunately, I managed to slip out before I slipped out of my pants!

One day, I came up on a small group of young boys huddled around in a circle. I couldn't tell what they were doing. They were laughing and talking with excitement, but since I spoke very little Spanish, I had no idea what they were saying. When I realized they were playing some kind of game, I drew closer to see.

Although their surroundings were quite different from my own when I was their age, their game took my mind back to my own childhood days.

None of them, or myself when I was their age, played with any kind of computerized game. I heard the clacking of glass before I saw their marbles. Two of the boys finished their game and then two more took their turns. One of them smoothed out the dirt with his bare foot. Then he scratched out a fresh circle in the dirt that was about 3 feet in diameter. Then two boys took turns placing their marbles in a straight line in the middle of the circle.

Each one then used his shooter marble to try to knock the marbles outside the ring. Each boy kept every marble he knocked out until all the marbles had been knocked out. The one with the most marbles won.

I don't remember now if those boys played for keeps or just for fun. When I was a boy, my mama allowed me to take my marbles to school, so we could shoot marbles during recess, but she counted them before I left and after I came home.

I didn't necessarily have to come home with the same marbles, but I had better come home with the same number of marbles.

I loved watching those boys, who had so little, have so much fun with such a simple game. If we haven't lost our marbles, maybe we should play a game ourselves sometime. Simple things are often the best, especially when you don't have much!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Sept. 19, 1946

From the files of Sept. 19, 1946

Pleasant View News
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Rich of Birmingham and Mrs. C. N. Dalton were the guests Tuesday of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Purdy.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Moore, Jr., and little Linda Joyce of Birmingham were the week-end guests of relatives.

Beamon Pinkerton who has been spending some time with the T. H. Moore family has gone to Florida.

Mrs. J. O. Crawford on arriving for a visit with her brother, J. H. Bonner of Castle Hayne, N. C., found him in the hospital with neuritis and arthritis.

Dock Bentley spent Saturday night with his mother. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Rainwater and Neil Ed enjoyed the birthday dinner of Harold Moore, Sunday.

Joanne Pinkerton spent Friday night and Saturday with Thera Nell Barr.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Purdy spent Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bonner of Birmingham.

Mrs. Amon Pinkerton spent Monday afternoon with Mrs. Gurvis Garrison.

Mrs. Marvin Mann and her neice, Mrs. Elizabeth McGee spent Sunday at the singing at Center Grove.

Randall Barr has gone back to camp in San Antonio, Texas after spending a few days with his parents, the B. B. Barrs.

Baby Contest Will End September 25th
The boy and the girl who receive the most votes in the Walter League sponsored Baby Contest will each be presented a beautiful engraved trophy at the Cullman Theater at the beginning of the first show on Wednesday evening, September 25.

Wagner's Studio will also present each of the winners with a photograph of himself or herself.

Fifteen babies between the ages of six months and two and one-half years are in the contest.

Twins Have First Birthday Together In 34 Years
For the first time in thirty-four years C. F. Burrow and his twin brother, R. S. Burrow, celebrated their birthday together on September 8.

The dinner party for the 57 year old twins was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Burrow of Rt. 2, Cullman.

Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Burrow and children, Marcell, Juenita, Virginia and Dwight Jerry; Mr. and Mrs. Hulet Burrow and children, Edwin, Betty Jean; Rayford Coffey; Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Burrow, Earney O. Burrow, recently returned after three years military service and Kenneth Burrow.

North Vinemont News
Mrs. Margaret Thompson of Good Hope spent last week with her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Drake and family.

Mrs. Earnest Ray visited Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Ray, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Drake and children visited Mr. and Mrs. Purvie Wilhite, Sunday.

Mrs. Millie Ann Olson visited Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Holmes at Vinemont, Monday.

Mrs. Margaret Thompson and Mrs. Johnnie Drake and Mrs. Hollis Wilhite and Carlis and Imogene Drake spent Friday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Walker Holmes at Eva.

Ruby Manner and Mrs. Bert Huffstutler visited Mrs. Purvis Wilhite, Friday.

Everett Lawrence is improving in the Cullman Hospital. He was seriously hurt by a mule on last Wednesday afternoon.

Hanceville Happenings
By HAZEL CARSTENSEN
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Quattlebaum and family were the dinner guests Tuesday night of Rev. and Mrs. Woodfin K. Grove in Falkville.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Allred and daughter of Birmingham have moved to Steppville where they are making their home with Mr. Homer Byrom.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Burkart and son, Leland and Mrs. E. C. Kinney of Cullman spent Sunday in Auburn with Dr. and Mrs. O. P. South.

Mrs. Royce Dunlap is spending a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dunlap.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Ellisor,



Jr., of Tuscaloosa, spent last week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Chandler.

John Donald Dean of Camp Croft, S. C., spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dean.

Mesdames George A. Green, J. R. Edmondson, D. B. Lamont, and G. H. Wiggins attended the First District Federated Club meeting which was held in Cherokee, Saturday.

Mr. R. D. Chandler, Nelliedean, and R. D. Jr., of Birmingham, visited Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Chandler and family Sunday.

Cpl. Avis Dean of Camp Hood, Texas is spending a 14 day furlough at home.

Harris Griffith is quite ill in Cullman hospital.

Mrs. A. A. Self was the week-end guest of Eula Grimmett.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Roberson of Fairfield Highlands spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Reid.

POET'S CORNER

The Motion of Stillness

By: April McCay

In the slowness of the rush,

new discoveries amid the hush.

They were there all along,

waiting in the stillness to be known.

Discoveries during devotion,

in the heart stirs new motion.

A new respect and appreciation,

where once things taken for granted.

Families bonding like never before,

neighbors helping neighbors,

kindness spread so much more.

In this time of uncertainty

and slowness of pace,

Now is the time to notice

God's abundant grace.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

SEPT. 19

B	F	U	P	E	A	E	H	L	T	U	G	S	T	T	L	R
A	O	P	L	N	L	G	R	R	Y	N	M	O	N	I	U	E
T	X	U	A	G	D	A	O	A	A	U	S	U	A	L	P	F
G	B	T	N	O	E	F	R	S	G	O	H	H	E	L	L	R
S	Y	A	G	D	M	R	W	O	L	F	E	D	Y	V	A	I
J	E	M	G	O	A	O	F	Y	O	H	D	E	X	S	C	G
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K	T	I	X	P	G	C	O	W	S	T	I	E	T	O	T	T
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W	M	T	L	O	I	N	S	E	W	U	N	E	H	S	O	R
L	A	Y	O	I	K	T	Y	A	C	A	B	I	A	C	T	S
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F	E	N	E	T	D	E	O	R	B	I	T	H	E	O	O	U
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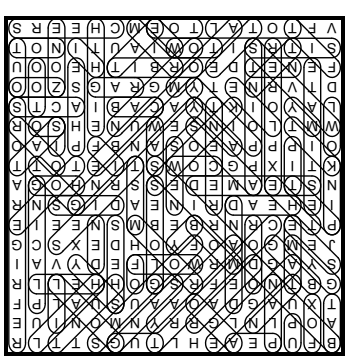
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Orbit
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Pink
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Rag
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Up
Waves
We
Wolf
Yawning
Yea
Zone
Zoo

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

SEPT. 19

		4			7			
9		1				4	3	
					2			8
				9	5	7	6	
	6				4	5	8	2
								3
							4	5
	5					9		
8				2				

ANSWERS:



8	4	6	5	2	9	3	7	1
7	5	3	4	8	1	9	2	6
1	9	2	6	7	3	8	4	5
4	7	5	2	6	8	1	9	3
3	6	9	7	1	4	5	8	2
2	1	8	3	9	5	7	6	4
5	3	7	9	4	2	6	1	8
9	2	1	8	5	6	4	3	7
6	8	4	1	3	7	2	5	9

Holly Pond (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Town Council at its Sept. 14 meeting voted to surplus the town's water tower.

The Council noted that the water tower has been up since 1966 and has not been in service for many years. All members acknowledged that it would be in the town's best interest to surplus the structure, as the town's water is supplied through the county.

"It was checked out and determined, due to its condition, it would be best to remove for safety and liability factors," Mayor Carla Hart stated.

The town is looking for the best option for the removal of the water tower, but hopes to have it removed soon.

Business licenses

The Council discussed a business license ordinance, including timing of issuance prior to events and if the license fee should cover an event if has to be postponed due to weather concerns.

The council came to an agreement to revise Ordinance No. 260914-01 to allow licenses to be purchased within seven days prior to the event, not including the day of the event. They also aimed to correct the phrasing of the ordinance to not limit a license's validity in the event of postponement.

Project updates

Hart told the Council and attendees that the previously addressed camera installations have been completed. Other improvements such as the Governors Park concession stand facia board replacement and pressure washing the pavilion roofs have also been completed. The final phase of these improvements will include painting the pavilions and concession stand roof.

The Council is awaiting quotes for revamping local softball and baseball fields. An update should be announced, ideally, at the next meeting.

Upcoming events

- Halloween Trunk of Treat at Holly Pond High School on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026

- Christmas Tree Lighting and Luminaries in the Park at Governors Park on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026

Times will be confirmed at a later date.

Next meeting

The next Holly Pond Town Council meeting will be Monday, Oct. 5, at 6 p.m. in the Guy Hunt Library conference room.



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Bill Smith

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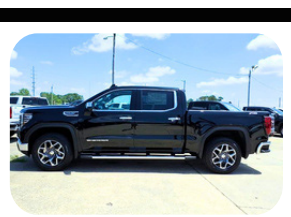
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- Leather
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