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-SPORTS-

Gardendale pulls away from Cullman 55-29 in region matchup

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PART 3 OF 3

Aging out? Cullman Regional filings identify management decisions behind cost reductions

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman Regional Medical Center's chief financial officer described approximately 29 employment decisions expected to save the hospital more than $2.5 million in a staffing plan developed during 2023.

"In total, the Action List details approximately 29 employment decisions that would save the Hospital $2,506,651.00," Chief Financial Officer Nesha Donaldson said in her sworn declaration.

The declaration and staffing documents were filed in former cardiology nurse Amanda McCormick's age-discrimination lawsuit. U.S. District Judge Harold D. Mooty III granted CRMC summary judgment Aug. 14, 2026, and dismissed her complaint with prejudice.

"McCormick has failed to present sufficient circumstantial evidence," Mooty wrote, » PAGE 8

Cullman proclaims Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day ahead of Oct. 17 walk



CITY OF CULLMAN

Left to right are North Central Neurology Associates Office Manager Debbie Simonson, Dr. Christopher LaGanke, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs and Clinical Research Coordinator Mary Beth Sellers.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs proclaimed Oct. 17 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in Cullman, recognizing residents living with the disease and those who care for and support them.

The proclamation, issued Wednesday, Oct. 7, coincides with the 2026 Move Over MS Walk, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8 a.m.-noon at Heritage Park.

North Central Neurology Associates, the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Center and MS Views and News will host the free event on the Olive Street side of the park.

"We have people right here in our community who live with MS every day, and we want them to know they have our support," said Jacobs.

The mayor also recognized Dr. Christopher LaGanke and the professionals, families and advocates supporting people with MS, and encouraged residents to learn more about the disease and participate in the walk.

Multiple sclerosis affects the central nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. Symptoms and the course of the disease vary from person to person, according to the City's announcement.

LaGanke, founder of North Central Neurology Associates, established the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Center in memory of his mother, who lived with MS. The city highlighted the center's work in patient care, research and clinical trials for new treatments.

The walk will offer live entertainment from The Overtones and free food, including biscuits, fruit, coffee and doughnuts, according to details previously provided to The Tribune by organizers. Pharmaceutical company representatives will have information and giveaways available.

Children are invited to participate in a Halloween costume contest, with prizes for winners. Candy will also be available.

A raffle will help support the event. Tickets are $5 each or five for $20 and can be purchased at North Central Neurology Associates before the walk or at the event. T-shirts and hats are also being sold.

Organizers have requested raffle prize donations, along with mums and pumpkins for decorations. Those interested in volunteering or donating items can email Office Manager Debbie Simonsen at dsimonsen@prn-inc.net.

The gathering continues a local tradition of bringing together patients, relatives and supporters. The Tribune reported in September 2023 that Cullman's MS awareness walk was returning after a COVID-19 interruption, with local organizers working to bring the event back to Heritage Park.

Registration for this year's walk is free at www.msviewsandnews.org/event/2026mswalk-cullman. Participants can select the "Going" RSVP button and indicate the number of people attending.

Those wishing to make a monetary contribution can visit www.msviewsandnews.org/donate.

For more information, contact Simonsen at 256-739-1210 or dsimonsen@prn-inc.net, or Mary Beth Sellers at 256-297-1162 or msellers@prn-inc.net.

Cullman VFW invites students to compete for scholarships, essay awards » PAGE 10

Vista Lago files wastewater revision proposing underground drip fields » PAGE 10

Hanceville High School National Honor Society chapter wins national award » PAGE 7

Going pink for a good cause



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Know before you speak — or type » PAGE 10

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Duke looks to regional leadership program for Cullman County opportunities » PAGE 4

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 9

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 9, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 5

- domestic violence; CR 1490
- harassing communications; Tennessee Ave. SE
- reckless endangerment; CR 1651
- reckless endangerment; Hwy. 278E
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Hwy. 157
- possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 515
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 798
- theft of property; CR 813
- theft of property; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; CR 1490
- arson; Main St. NW

Oct. 6

- domestic violence; CR 771
- assault; US. 31
- domestic violence; interference with a domestic violence emergency call; CR 1699
- theft of property; Rasberry Ln. NW
- burglary; Orion Dr.
- burglary; CR 1776
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1354
- theft of property; CR 818
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; Super Saver Rd.
- theft of property; CR 1034

Oct. 7

- domestic violence-strangulation; CR 68
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; CR 616
- assault; CR 1724
- trespassing; CR 310
- burglary; CR 1665
- domestic violence; CR 437
- possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Megan Ln.

ARRESTS

Oct. 5-8

Bagwell, Terry N.; 65
- reckless endangerment

Bailey, Bryan K.; 43
- assault-domestic violence-strangulation or suffocation

Ballard, Austin T.; 29
- FTA – mandatory release-to knowingly alter, disable, deactivate, etc. any device used to facilitate electronic monitoring
- FTA – destruction of property by prisoner
- FTA – certain persons forbidden to possess pistol-convicted of felony offense within previous 5 years

Barnes, Dustin M.; 48
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Black, Timothy V.; 63
- public intoxication
- possession of dangerous drugs

Compton, Patty L.; 45
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Couch, Monica F.; 42
- tampering with physical evidence
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Doss, James L.; 53
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Farr, Carles M.; 43
- attempting to elude a police officer

Fisher, Alexander M.; 26
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Garner, Joshua B.; 35
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Gillham, Brandon D.; 39
- FTA – conservation-fish (2 counts)

Holmes, James D.; 61
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – no seat belt
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Lay, Zackary J.; 38
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Mauro, Robert E.; 38
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Moultrie, Bradley M.; 40
- DUI (alcohol)

Norris, Dustin B.; 23
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- interference with a domestic violence emergency call

Russell, Justin M.; 32
- damaged property-criminal mischief
- GJ – burglary-residence-force (3 counts)

Smith, Braden S.; 19
- burglary-non-residence-force

Smith, Montana S.; 27
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Tuck, Nicole H.; 27
- FTA – no seat belt
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Whitehead, Heath D.; 53
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

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.





Jacobs proclaims October Alpha Delta Kappa Month in Cullman

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs has proclaimed October 2026 Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) Month in the city of Cullman, recognizing the contributions of ADK members to education and their communities.

Alpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary organization for women educators founded in Missouri in 1947 by Agnes Shipman Robertson, Marie Neal, Marion Southall and Hattie Poppino. Membership is honorary and based on peer recognition, with members committed to supporting education and serving their communities through educational, civic, cultural and charitable efforts.

ADK promotes educational excellence, professional and personal development, fellowship and world understanding while supporting altruistic projects, grants and scholarships. Each October, members celebrate the accomplishments of Alpha Delta Kappa and honor the organization's founders and their vision of recognizing outstanding women educators.

Cullman is home to two ADK chapters, Beta Delta and Alpha Theta, whose members include active and retired educators who continue giving back to the community.

"We're proud to recognize our local Alpha Delta Kappa members," said Jacobs. "These ladies have spent their lives helping others learn, and many of them are still giving back to our community even after retirement. We appreciate them and all they do."

Jacobs' proclamation recognizes ADK members for combining their energy and talents to enrich the lives of people in Cullman and throughout the world.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE:
The Welti Cemetery will be participating in the Wreaths Across American event honoring our deceased veterans. If you know of a deceased veteran buried at Welti whose grave does not have a military marker, please contact Gary Reid at 256-339-7236 by Dec. 1, 2026.

Grace Episcopal Church Cheeseball Sales are Underway! Place Your Holiday Order by Oct. 16.
The Grace Episcopal Church Women are currently selling their popular cheeseballs for the holidays! This year we are offering nine cheeseball flavors. The deadline to order has been extended to Friday, Oct. 16. 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
- Sunday, Oct. 11 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
- Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m. Adult book club
- Saturday, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m. Colin Hyde is back by popular demand to talk about bats, their habitats and where to find them in the area
- Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mud Creek Festival and BIG BOOK SALE
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, Closed in honor of Veterans Day

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Storytime
- Nov. 18, Susan Melton
- Nov. 25, Closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2, Dorenda Doyle as Mrs. Claus!
- Dec. 9, Anita Whitlock
- Dec. 16, Kerri with Cullman 4-H
- Dec. 23 and 30, No program
- Jan. 6, Beth Ellis will read "The After Christmas Tree"
- We have T-shirts for sale. Children's sizes are $15 and adult sizes are $20. Proceeds to assist the library's programs.

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.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, Oct. 12, at 11 a.m. at Williams BBQ in section Z (this Monday only). Lunch followed by a business meeting. A venue for our November Federal BCBS information meeting is yet to be determined.

Chambers Family Reunion
Sunday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center. Begins at 11, with dinner at noon. All family members and friends are invited to attend. Those attending, please bring a meat dish, vegetables and desert so there will be enough food. Also, bring family photos, stories and family research to be presented to others attending. If you are able to arrive early (9-10 a.m.) to assist in setup, it would be appreciated. Contact Rodger Walling at 256-734-8235 or 256-347-2092.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Nov 7, from 6-9 a.m. at the Holly Pond Lions Club Building. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee or juice by eat-in or takeout for a donation. The proceeds will benefit the HP Lions Club project fund and the food pantry located between town hall and the fire department. Come join us! Everyone is welcome. Thank you in advance for your support.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 10, 2026

PREP FOOTBALL

Gardendale pulls away from Cullman 55-29 in region matchup

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com



ELIZABETH SMITH/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman stayed within two touchdowns through three quarters Thursday night, but Gardendale used a 27-point fourth quarter to pull away for a 55-29 Class 5A, Region 5 victory at Driver Stadium.



ELIZABETH SMITH/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

GARDENDALE, Ala. - Cullman stayed within two touchdowns through three quarters Thursday night, but Gardendale used a 27-point fourth quarter to pull away for a 55-29 Class 5A, Region 5 victory at Driver Stadium.

The Rockets led 7-0 after the first quarter, 21-7 at halftime and 28-14 entering the fourth.

The teams then combined for 41 points over the final 12 minutes, nearly matching their 42-point total through the first three quarters.

Gardendale struck first and carried a 7-0 advantage into the second quarter.

Cullman answered with its first touchdown before halftime, but the Rockets added two touchdowns of their own during the period to take a 21-7 lead into the locker room.

The Bearcats continued to battle after the break. Cullman reached the end zone in the third quarter to cut into the deficit, but Gardendale answered and restored its two-touchdown lead at 28-14 before the period ended.

The pace changed dramatically in the fourth quarter. Gardendale scored 27 points in the period and kept Cullman from completing a comeback.

The Bearcats produced 15 fourth-quarter points, giving them three consecutive scoring quarters after being shut out in the first, but the Rockets' late surge put the game out of reach.

Gardendale's 55 points were the most Cullman has allowed this season, while the Bearcats' 29 points were their highest total of the year.

The result ended Gardendale's three-game losing streak and moved the Rockets to 4-4 overall and 3-2 in Region 5.

Cullman fell to 2-5 overall and 1-4 in region play with its fourth consecutive loss.

Cullman will return home to face Parker in another region game Friday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m.

Duke (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Cullman County Commissioner Kelly Duke

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman County Commissioner Kelly Duke hopes a new North Alabama leadership program will help the county learn from neighboring communities and build relationships that could bring future opportunities home.

Duke is one of four Cullman County participants in the inaugural class of The Exchange, a Launch Regional Partnership initiative supported by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The nine-month program brings together 29 leaders from 13 North Alabama counties for five sessions across the region.

The opening session took place Sept. 22-23 in Decatur and Morgan County. The Cullman County Commission announced Duke's participation on its Facebook page.

Joining Duke are Cullman City Council President Kim Hall, Cullman Regional Airport Director Ben Harrison and Wallace State Community College Dean of Applied Technologies Jerry Murcks.

Duke said Launch board members selected the four local participants to provide a cross-section of government, small business, education, economic development and workforce development.

"I felt like this would be a great opportunity to connect with leaders in North Alabama to see what other counties are doing to better their communities, and to grow as a leader of this county," Duke said.

The University of North Alabama's Office of Regional Engagement developed and is delivering the program.

Sessions included discussions, site visits and opportunities for participants to learn from one another, with subjects including health care, tourism, workforce training and entrepreneurship.

Duke said the work of the Decatur-Morgan County Entrepreneurial Center, known as The E-Center, stood out during the opening session.

"I believe their ability to collaborate together has benefited the citizens of Morgan county," Duke said.

The E-Center helps people start and grow businesses through coaching, counseling, mentoring and education. It also offers office space and shared resources.

Duke said he wants to learn more about the center and sees cooperation among Cullman County's municipalities as a way to benefit the broader community.

Asked which county need, particularly in rural communities, might benefit most from regional cooperation, Duke emphasized learning what has worked elsewhere rather than identifying a specific issue.

"We will be able to learn from their success and failures," Duke said.

He said the first session had led to connections or opportunities he plans to pursue, although he did not identify them in his response. His goals extend beyond the program's nine months.

"What I would like to accomplish stretches far beyond the nine month program," Duke said. "I hope the relationships we build will be beneficial for years to come."

Duke said those relationships could eventually lead someone to recommend Cullman County for a project that does not fit another community.

He said the Cullman County Commission will cover his registration and travel costs. His response did not include the amounts.

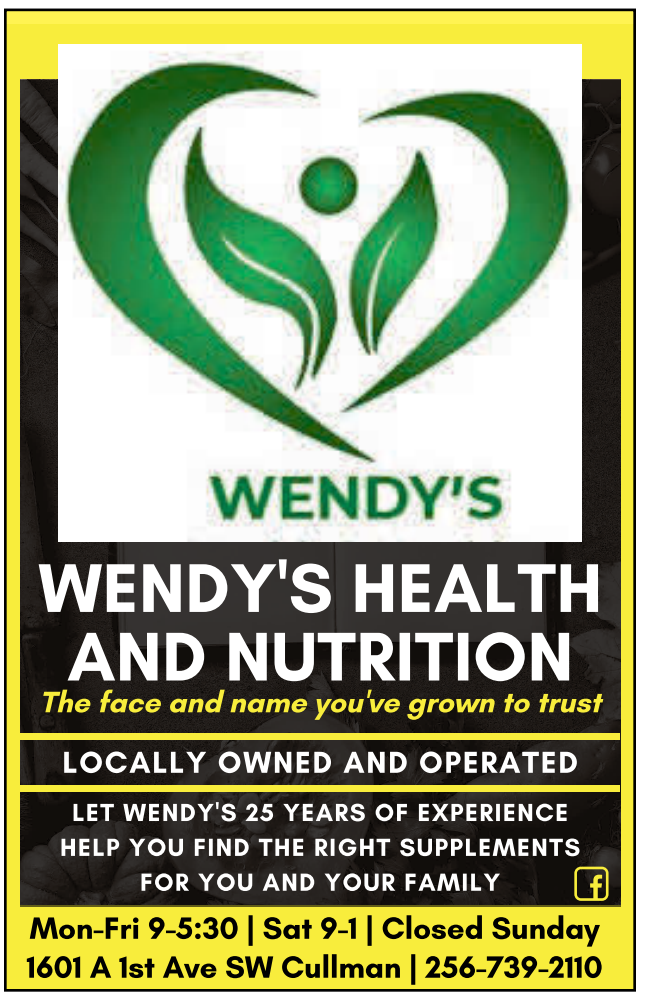
Asked how he plans to share what he learns with the commission and residents, Duke said he hopes to have opportunities to demonstrate that learning through his contributions to the community.

Duke has also participated in statewide county leadership work.

The Tribune reported in September 2025 that he was elected to the Association of County Commissions of Alabama's 2025-2026 Legislative Committee to represent Cullman County and help develop its agenda for the 2026 legislative session.

More information about The Exchange is available at https://exchange.launchtnvalley.org.







Pasta (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Flour, eggs and a little patience turned into a fall feast Thursday evening, Oct. 8, as the North Alabama Agriplex hosted "Pasta from Scratch," part of its Fall Pop-Up Kitchen Series.

The class, held from 6-8 p.m. in the Agriplex's teaching kitchen at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW, was led by Sarah Evans of Alabama Pasta Company.

"We are here tonight learning how to make a rustic pasta with a harvest vegetable cream sauce," Evans said.



KRYSTAL CORLEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sarah Evans of Alabama Pasta Company, left, and North Alabama Agriplex Classes Coordinator Sonya Boyd welcome guests to the Agriplex's "Pasta from Scratch" class Thursday, Oct. 8.

From flour to fork

Guests gathered around stainless steel work tables, each starting with just four ingredients: two-thirds of a cup of flour, one egg, a small drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and a shake of salt.

Following the class recipe, participants made a well in the flour, cracked the egg into the center and used a fork to whisk the egg and slowly work in the flour. Once the dough came together, they kneaded it by hand for about five minutes, pressing a thumb into the dough to check that it bounced back before letting it rest.

From there, the dough was rolled out into a thin, even layer, rolled into a log and sliced into small pieces, which unrolled into long noodles. The fresh pasta was cooked in salted boiling water for 8-10 minutes.

The finished noodles were tossed in a golden harvest vegetable cream sauce and topped with grated cheese, a dollop of ricotta and a crunchy nut topping, then served alongside a green salad.

A pumpkin for dessert

The evening ended with a seasonal sweet treat: "The Autumn Hearth," a baked pumpkin filled with apples and cranberries. Billed on the recipe card as "an old-fashioned harvest dessert," the dish is made by hollowing out a medium sugar pumpkin and filling it with diced apples, dried cranberries, brown sugar, maple syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, butter and optional pecans. It bakes for about 1.5 to 2 hours, until the pumpkin is tender and the filling is bubbling.

In a post on its Facebook page, the Agriplex called the class "a wonderful evening of food, learning, and seasonal flavors" and thanked Evans "for sharing her expertise and passion, and to everyone who joined us for a night of great food and community around the table!"

More pop-up classes ahead

The Fall Pop-Up Kitchen Series continues with "Southern Basics: Pies," a three-part series of evening classes, each from 6-8 p.m.:

- Sweet: Thursday, Oct. 29
- Savory: Thursday, Nov. 5
- Beyond Biscuits: Thursday, Nov. 12

Registration is available at www.agriplex.org. For more information, call the North Alabama Agriplex at 256-297-1044.

OP-ED

Ways to continue learning about Cullman's German heritage

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

German-themed learning display at the Cullman County Public Library System

Though Cullman has wrapped up its annual Oktoberfest, it doesn't mean we have to pause our appreciation for Cullman's heritage. While festivals are an exciting way to explore tradition, we can all continue learning about the foundation that Cullman was built on with the many resources available.

The Cullman County Public Library, during the recent festivities, created a German-themed display that allows visitors to learn different aspects of our heritage. The display ranges from cookbooks, travel guides, learning the language and fiction novels set in Germany.

The cookbooks ("The German Cookbook" by Mimi Sheraton and "German Christmas Cookbook" by Laura Sommers) offer a nice way for families to not only support the library, but also explore new recipes and start conversations about the dishes in comparison to our own.

Perhaps spending time together as a family to try new recipes could establish a newfound tradition.

If you're not much of a chef and don't have the time to pick up a new language, the fiction novels offer a great way to appreciate the German setting while simply getting lost in a book.

"The Pint of No Return" is a mystery novel, as part of the "Sloan Krause Mystery Series" by Ellie Alexander. The story takes place during Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, Washington, a Bavarian-themed alpine city. This follows Krause's investigation of a celebrity murdered shortly after arriving in the area.

"The Wurst is Yet to Come" by Mary Daheim is the 27th addition to the author's "Bed-and-Breakfast" mystery series. The story takes place in Bavaria during, you guessed it, Oktoberfest! Though the discovery of a corpse threatens the upcoming festivities.

Not much of a reader? Head on down to the Cullman County Museum! There you will find a variety of carefully coordinated displays revealing Cullman's founding along with its founder, Colonel John Gottfried Cullmann.

You can view traditional attire worn by early German settlers and even musical instruments and pieces from their homes. Each room contains a different element of tradition that changes with the season. So, if you haven't visited the museum be sure to go – and go often!

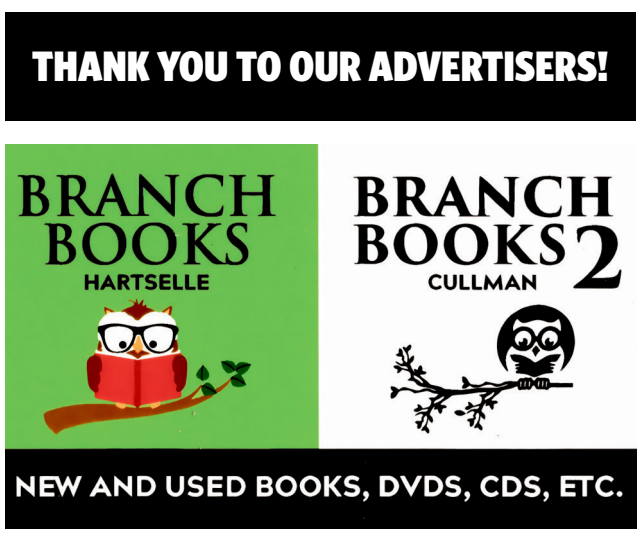
Throughout the holidays there will be a change of displays, which makes for an enjoyable, educational experience. There are also sound boards that feature German hymns and an interactive storybook wall in surrounding rooms.

The Cullman County Museum is located at 211 Second Ave. NE. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Cullman County Public Library is located at 200 Clark St. NE. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!











Case# PC2026-380
PB MIN Book 247 Page 232
Recorded in Above Book and Page
09/24/2026 8 11AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-380

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANKLIN D. BUTTS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Stuart L. Butts on the 23rd 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.

Stuart L. Butts
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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
BETTY KING DOOLEY AKA)
BETTY RENE BELL DOOLEY,) CASE NO.: PC2026-288
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR THE PROBATE OF LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF BETTY KING DOOLEY, DECEASED

TO: JIM LEE DOOLEY, TIMOTHY JOHN DOOLEY, SHANNON JAY DOOLEY, SHELTON SHANE DOOLEY, HOPE DOOLEY DUNN, HEATHER RUTH HARRIS, WILLIAM JACKSON DOOLEY, GENNEVA MAE CONANT AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KINS OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF BETTY KING DOODLEY AKA BETTY RENE BELL DOOLEY

Petition for the Probate of Last Will and Testament of Betty King Dooley, Deceased filed by April Dooley Nunnelley, Personal Representative, through Attorney, Laura D. Jacobs has been set for hearing on **7th day of January, 2027, at 11:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

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

DONE this 23rd day of September, 2026.

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

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

Laura D. Jacob
2310 Market Place Suite B
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Legislature at its 2026 Regular Session enacted Act No. 2026-141 (HB436), which ordered an election to be held on a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022 relating to Cullman County, Alabama; and

WHEREAS notice of this election, together with the proposed amendment, is required by law to be given by proclamation of the Governor, to be published once a week for four successive weeks preceding the date appointed for the election in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in the county affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, as Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby give notice, direct, and proclaim that on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, an election will be held in Cullman County, Alabama, in the manner and form provided by law upon the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of 2022 of the State of Alabama:

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-141

(a) In Cullman County, an individual 65 years of age or older may claim a senior property tax exemption for ad valorem tax purposes on real property located in the county which is owned by the individual, classified as single-family owner-occupied residential property, and used as the principal place of residence of the individual for not less than five years immediately prior to the tax year for which the individual first claims the senior property tax exemption. The senior property tax exemption shall freeze the assessed value of the property for the year immediately prior to claiming the exemption.

(b) The following provisions shall apply to the individual claiming the senior property tax exemption:

(1) The taxpayer shall continue to receive the senior property tax exemption as long as the taxpayer continues to use the property as his or her principal place of residence.

(2) The individual shall continue to be eligible to claim a homestead exemption and any other exemption authorized by law on the property.

(3) The property shall continue to be subject to any millage rate changes on the property.

(4) The assessed value of any additions to the property after claiming the senior property tax exemption shall be added to the assessed value of the property and subject to ad valorem tax based on the increase in the assessed value of the addition after the taxpayer claims the senior property tax exemption.

(5) This exemption may be claimed beginning October 1, 2027, for the value of the property on October 1, 2026.

(6) This exemption must be claimed in writing with the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner between October 1 and December 31.

FURTHER, I proclaim and direct that this proclamation shall be published once a week for the four successive weeks immediately preceding Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in Cullman County, Alabama.

LEGALS

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).

Case# PC2026-398
PB MIL Book:141 Page:460
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/09/2026 11:53AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
DELRINE HALE,) Case No.: PC-2026-398
)
DECEASED.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to Brandi Langford McKinney on the 9th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Brandi Langford McKinney
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey,
Hankey Law Firm, LLC
409 2nd Ave SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 736- 8744

To the publisher of ***THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE:***

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

Case# PC2026-311
PB MIN Book 247 Page 454
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/01/2026 10 24PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Evelyn M. Hays,) Case No. PC 2026-311
)
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Deborah A. Drinkard as Personal Representative of the Estate of Evelyn A. Hays, deceased, on the 1st day of October, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Deborah A. Drinkard
Personal Representative
Deborah A. Drinkard

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ERIC BURTON,)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Civil Action No.: 25-CV-2026-900286.00
)
A Parcel of Land in Cullman County,)
Alabama, et al.,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

To: JACKIE ALBERT HALE, JR., BARRY WILLINGHAM, REVENUE COMMISSIONER, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S., DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPT OF REVENUE, , WENDY HALE, J & W CUSTOM CABINET PAINTING, Estates of, any heirs or devisees, and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES, whose whereabouts are unknown, and which cannot be ascertained after the exercise of reasonable diligence, who may have some right, title, interest in or claim to the real property which is the subject of this litigation as described in EXHIBIT A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if set out in full.

Please take notice that a Verified Complaint to Foreclose Right of Redemption, Quiet Title in Rem, and for Ejectment has been filed by ERIC BURTON was filed on August 6, 2026 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, and the following are the names of all parties to the lawsuit: JACKIE ALBERT HALE, JR., BARRY WILLINGHAM, REVENUE COMMISSIONER, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S., DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, STATE OF ALABAMA DEPT OF REVENUE, , WENDY HALE, J & W CUSTOM CABINET PAINTING,, Estates of, any heirs or devisees, and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES, whose whereabouts are unknown, and which cannot be ascertained after the exercise of reasonable diligence, who may have some right, title, interest in or claim to the real property which is the subject of this litigation as described in EXHIBIT A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if set out in full.

You are hereby notified that you must file an answer or otherwise respond to the Complaint within thirty (30) days after the last date of publication of this notice, or thereafter a default judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO AL CODE § 40-10-197(c)(3): A person with a right to redeem the property may do so at any time prior to the entry of final judgment in this action by filing a timely answer or motion in the court. A judgment quieting title may cause a person with an interest in or claim on the property to lose their interest or claim. Any person claiming an interest in the property may appear in this action. Any person who is entitled to redeem may request that the property be sold at public auction. IN SUMMARY, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO LOSE ANY INTEREST OR EQUITY, OR BOTH, YOU MAY HAVE IN THE PROPERTY, YOU MUST TAKE ALL REQUIRED MEASURES TO APPEAR IN AND RESPOND TO THIS TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE ACTION.

Done on this 4th day of September, 2026.

Lisa McElwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Cullman County, Alabama

Jimmy Ray Earley Jr., Esq.
201 20th Street South
Irondale, AL 35210

EXHIBIT A

Legal Description:
Three (3) acres, more or less, out of the NW part of the SW Quarter of the NW Quarter of Section 22, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, described as beginning 70 yards South of the NW Corner of said forty (40), thence East 210 yards, thence South 70 yards, thence West 210 yards, thence North along the section line 70 yards to the point of beginning.

Tas Assessor Legal Description:
2.2 AC, BEG 210 S & 172 E NW COR SW1/4 NW1/4, TH E 455(S), S 210, W 455(S), TH N 210 TO POB

Cullman County PIN: 8241;
Cullman County Parcel ID: 09-05-22-0-001-011.000;
Commonly known as 0 County Road 1339, Vinemont, AL 35179.

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.

Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
WILLIAM DAN KEEL,) CASE NO.: PC2024-044
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
Petition of JUDSON BLAIR KEEL, for the Probate of the Will and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAN KEEL, Deceased and OBJECTION TO ADMITTANCE OF LOST LAST WILL & TESTAMENT AND OBJECTION TO GRANT OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY and MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO PROSECUTE OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO SET FINAL HEARING

TO: JUDSON BLAIR KEEL AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF WILLIAM DAN KEEL

Petition of Judson Blair Keel, for the Probate of the Will and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Dan Keel, Deceased, filed by Judson Blair Keel, through Billy W. Jackson and Roy Williams, which have withdrawn as Attorney of record.

Objection to Admittance of Lost Last Will & Testament and Objection to Grant Letters Testamentary filed by Zackary Edkar Knight, heir-at-law, through Attorney, William S. Pylant.

Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Prosecute or, in the Alternative, Motion to Set Final Hearing filed by William S. Pylant, Attorney for Zackary Edkar Knight, heir-at-law of William Dan Keel, deceased.

A hearing on these matters has been scheduled for the **15th day of December, 2026, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown Judge of Probate.

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

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

DONE this 1st day of October, 2026.

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

William S. Pylant
100 Washington Street NE, Suite 204
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

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

Case# PC2026-320
PB MIL Book:141 Page:178
Recorded in Above Book and Page
09/24/2026 12:10PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARY ROBINSON, * CASE NO PC 2026-320
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY AND PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARY ROBINSON, DECEASED, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OVER ESTATE

TO: JOEY ROBINSON AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF MARY ROBINSON

Petition for Letters Testamentary and Probate of the Last Will and Testament of Mary Robinson, Deceased, and Appointment of Personal Representative over Estate, filed by Robert Wayne Meadows, Petitioner, through Attorney John Eric Burnum has been scheduled for the **17th day of November, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 24th day of September, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper and send Proof of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

John Eric Burnum
Attorney for Petitioner
14414 Court Street
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
JIMMY WILLIAMSON,) CASE NO.: PC2024-439
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY AND AMENDMENT TO PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY

TO: JAMES SKINNER, TIM HESTERLY, ANDY MORRIS, LYNN WILLIAMS, FELICIA HULSEY AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KINS OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF JIMMY WILLIAMSON

Petition to Probate Will and for Letters of Testamentary, filed by Diane Skinner, by and through Attorney, C. Blake West, *and Amendment to Petition to Probate Will and for Letters of Testamentary* filed by, C. Blake West, Attorney for Personal Representative, Diane Skinner, has been set for hearing on **7th day of January, 2027, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

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

DONE this 23rd day of September, 2026.

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

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

C. Blake West
412 4th Avenue SW Ste 270
Cullman, AL 35055

Award (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - For its exemplary record of leadership, service and efforts to improve the school and community, the National Honor Society (NHS) awarded the Hanceville High School NHS the Chapter of Distinction award.

The NHS is supported by its parent organization, the National Principal's Association (NPA).

"I am very proud of what our NHS has accomplished over the past year. Ms. Teri Weaver is working very hard to not only promote high scholastic achievement, but to also build excellent leaders for the real world.

"We hope that the leadership abilities they learn will help make our school and community a better place," said Hanceville High School Principal Daniel Wakefield.

"The Hanceville NHS chapter demonstrates how powerful it can be when young leaders channel their talents toward meaningful service and positive change," said NPA CEO Ronn Nozoe.



TERI WEAVER

Top row, left to right, are Mia McGriff, Gracie Collins, Cierra Merriweather, Charlotte Little, Carson Cain, Keely Wood, Lyla Leusby, Genesis Marquez and Kynzlee Farr. Bottom row, left to right, are Zadey Brown, Arely Trejo, Walker Whaley, Penelope Heibel, Ava Ward, Adalynn Sharp, Callie Aker and Madeline Watwood.

"The NHS Chapter of Distinction Award celebrates chapters that truly embody what the National Honor Society stands for–students who don't just excel academically but actively strengthen their communities."

The NHS Chapters of Distinction is a national recognition program created by NHS to honor chapters that demonstrate strong leadership, sound operations and a deep commitment to the pillars of the Honor Society.

This distinction recognizes chapters that meet all of the essential standards and excel in key areas such as student governance and leadership development.

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 8-9

Patricia Ann Heinl Corbin, 76

Funeral service for Patricia Ann Heinl Corbin, 76, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Simcoe Methodist Cemetery, Bro. Tony Thomas officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from noon-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Corbin passed away Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026 at her residence. She was born July 11, 1950, to Voight Franklin & Mary Katherine Martin Heinl. She worked in the medical field as an LPN. She loved her dogs and especially her grandbabies. She enjoyed getting her kids and grandkids to go to concerts with her. She loved her husband, Jeston Corbin so much and was ready to go be with him. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jeston Corbin; her daughter, Lisa Rice; and her sisters, Vickie and Connie. Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Christopher Corbin; daughters, Tracie Campbell, Heather (Philip) Baker; grandchildren, Magan Buchanan, Hannah (Brandon) Brasher, Rachel (Tabitha) Allen, Chelsey (Chad) Swann, Tyler Jones, Rebekah (Chip) Jones, Chey (Tylar) Walker, Jonathan Campbell; great-grandchildren, Paxton (Kylee), Bryant, Cayden, Brayden, Lucas, Anna, Araina, Logan, Kinsley, Oliver, Elizabeth, Greyson, Mavery; family and friends. Pallbearers will be Paxton Buchanan, Bryant Shelton, Lucas Brasher, Cayden Self, Tyler Jones, Jonathan Campbell.

Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Andruw Jacob Sims (A.J.), 28

Andruw Jacob Sims (A.J.), 28, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away peacefully Oct. 4, 2026, surrounded by the family who adored him. Born on Oct. 7, 1997, Andruw brought an immense amount of light, laughter, and perspective into the lives of everyone who knew him. Though Andruw faced physical/developmental challenges throughout his life, he taught us what truly matters: patience, resilience, and unbridled joy in the smallest moments. He found happiness in music and playing his keyboard and Andruw Loved his sister's and aggravated them. A smile from Andruw had the power to completely transform a room. Andruw is survived by his devoted Mother, Pat Sims, his Sister's Ashleigh Sims, and Allyson Sims; his nephew, Jason Harper; and his aunt, Debbie Laux and a large, loving extended family. He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Sims his Grandparents George and Dot Laux. "Some people only walk this earth for a short time. Their presence, however, remains in our hearts forever." No services are scheduled at this time. In lieu of flowers the family would like Donation in Andruw (A.J) Name to Flourish of Cullman. Address: 1244 County Road 735, Apt B, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Phone: 256-735-4186 https://www.flourishofcullman.com/

JoAnne Elliott Hill McCormick, 86

JoAnne Elliott Hill McCormick, 86, of Huntsville, Alabama, passed away peacefully at her home on October 8. JoAnne was born on July 30, 1940, in Huntsville, Alabama, to Joseph Sigmon Elliott and Hazel Murphee Elliott. She graduated from Decatur High School, where she was named Miss Maid of Cotton. She attended Judson College during her freshman year before graduating from Howard College in Birmingham, now known as Samford University. She went on to earn her master's degree from the University of Alabama and taught for many years in the Huntsville City school system, at Stone Middle School and Ed White Middle School. JoAnne was deeply involved in civic life in Huntsville, including her work with the Huntsville Alabama Beautification Board. She was a founding member of the Gothic Guild and also held leadership roles in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Early-Works Society, and the Huntsville Botanical Garden. She was a dedicated member of the Democratic Party and served as a delegate to the National Convention in 1976 and again in 1980. JoAnne was a courageous and fearless woman overcoming leukemia with a bone marrow transplant in 1989 in Seattle Washington and multiple myeloma in 2014 with a stem cell transplant in Huntsville Alabama. JoAnne was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph Sigmon Elliott and Hazel Murphee Elliott, her sister Marjorie Rutherford, and her son Joseph (Joey) Sumner and sister-in-law Sandra Elliott. She is survived by her husband, Edward L. McCormick, her son Johnny Sumner, her brother James Elliott, her grandchildren Danielle Sumner and Haley Sumner Garcia (Ryan), and her great-grandchildren Oceana Garcia and Odysseus Garcia. Special thanks to her longtime caregiver and friend, Patti Hammett, and oncologist, Doctor Jeremy Hon, caregiver Marie Butterworth, Amedisys Hospice Care, and Home Instead caregiving. Graveside service will be held Friday, Oct. 16, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at Decatur City Cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday morning at Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. A celebration of life will be held at the Double Tree Banquet Room in Decatur, Alabama following the graveside service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cancer Society and Saint Jude's Children's Hospital. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home is honored to serve the McCormick Family.

Charles Wayne Morris, 82

Charles Wayne Morris, of Cullman, Alabama, entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior on Thursday evening, Oct. 8, 2026, at the age of 82. Wayne was born in Bessemer, Alabama, on Nov. 18, 1943, to the late Joseph Walker Morris, Jr, and the late Pauline Latta Morris. As a young man, Wayne accepted Christ as his Savior. For forty-three years Wayne served as a deacon in his beloved church home, New Hope #2 Baptist Church. His love for his Heavenly Father was evident, and Wayne served the Lord in various ministries within the church for many years. As well as serving as a deacon, Wayne maintained the church grounds for over twenty years. He also served alongside his wife as she cleaned and maintained the church interior. Together their dedication to the Father and His house kept New Hope a beautiful place to worship. Wayne also enjoyed his job as a door greeter. Mr. Morris loved his church family, and his greeter position allowed him the opportunity to show love to both church members and visitors. The many hugs, handshakes, and playful banter that Wayne shared as a greeter will be missed by the New Hope Church family. Mr. Morris was a graduating member of the Holly Pond High School Class of 1962. He is remembered by the community as an exceptional basketball player, a skill and passion he passed on to his sons and grandchildren. Wayne's love for the sport kept him in the stands many years after he played ball. Wayne loved cheering on his boys and grandchildren as they carried on his legacy on the court. A strong work ethic drove Wayne to work multiple jobs, sometimes up to three at a time, to ensure his family was provided for. He retired from General Dynamics where he worked for forty-two years as an inspector. Mr. Morris was meticulous in his care for his yard and flowers as well. On the rare occasion that Wayne had free time, he enjoyed wordsearch puzzles and he has completed multiple books of puzzles over the years. Wayne's love for his wife of sixty-four years, Geraldine Gunter Morris, was special and together they have worked in tandem, caring for their children and then grandchildren, keeping their home and yards beautiful, and serving in their church and community. Wayne loved his family and he looked forward to every visit with them. He was especially happy to spend time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and their visits and time together meant more to him than they will ever know. Wayne's love for his family, his church family, and his Savior touched the lives of many and we are all better people for having known him. He will be missed very much until the day we meet again. Those preceding Mr. Morris in death include his parents as well as his brothers, Clyde Morris and Fred Morris. Those left to cherish the many memories made with Wayne include his beloved wife, Geraldine Morris; sons, Mitch Morris (Charese), Mike Morris (Melanie); grandchildren, Cydney Rowell (Blake), Gunter Morris (Leah Marie), Griffen Morris (Tess), Peyton Morris, Paige Morris Chiriboga (Kyle); great-grandchildren, Noah Rowell, Brinley Rowell, Graham Morris, Landyn Morris, Lawsyn Morris, Emmett Morris, James Chiriboga; sisters-in-law, Sue Morris, Fran Morris; brother-in-law, Donald Gunter (Joyce), a host of nieces and nephews; and a cherished church family. Friends are invited to join the Morris family for a time of visitation on Monday, Oct. 12, 2026, from 10-11 a.m. Services will begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Austin Rowell officiating. All services will be at New Hope #2 Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery where Peyton Morris, Gunter Morris, Griffen Morris, Blake Rowell, Freddie Morris, and Keith Watts will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Morris family.

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Part 3 (from Front)

concluding that the evidence would not allow a jury to infer intentional discrimination by the decision-makers.

Donaldson said she met March 20, 2023, with Chief Executive Officer James Clements, Lisa Courtney, then vice president of physician services, and Schinley Land, then executive director of physician services.

"During that meeting, we discussed the need to make productivity adjustments at CRMC because of increased costs and certain areas of the hospital where profitability was a concern," Donaldson said. "We agreed that a RIF would be necessary as part of those productivity adjustments."

RIF refers to a reduction in force. Donaldson said CRMC had also implemented workforce reductions in June and October 2022.

"In March of 2023, productivity adjustments were considered based upon factors such as increased costs of salaries, increased costs of indigent care, and recent expenditures on a new hospital wing," CRMC stated in its written discovery answers.

"Schinley Land and Nesha Donaldson selected all persons included within the reduction in force," the hospital stated in another discovery answer.

Donaldson said she developed an action plan and a staffing list using information from managers about changes and anticipated savings. The plan labels its staffing figure of $2.5 million "Annual Projected."

The staffing list's Phase 1 total is $2,506,651 and 49.85 full-time equivalents.

Its entries include vacant positions, decisions not to replace employees, reassignments and position eliminations.

One hospital productivity adjustment accounts for 26 full-time equivalents and a projected $1 million impact.

Full-time equivalents measure staffing capacity rather than the number of individual employees.

The clinic entries include two Med Day registered nurse positions marked "Termination - do not replace," a vacant orthopedic registered nurse position to be changed to a medical assistant position and elimination of a dietitian position. McCormick's position carries a listed salary-and-benefit impact of $68,770.

Land said her March 21, 2023, email included proposed staffing changes at nine hospital clinics.

"My plan included termination of employees in other clinics and not replacing terminated or resigned employees in clinics," she said. "The total savings associated with those decisions was $522,812.80."

"I received Ms. Land's e-mail and incorporated her recommended changes into the Action List," Donaldson said of Land's recommendations.

The staffing list's entry for McCormick states, "Ace Beam will do Pacemaker Clinic."

Land said she initially considered assigning the duties to Beam, a certified registered nurse practitioner, but changed that plan.

"I ultimately determined that assignment of those duties to Mr. Beam would not be the most effective use of his skills as a CRNP," she said. "Mr. Beam never performed any of Ms. McCormick's former duties with the Pacemaker Clinic."

Land said she instead assigned the duties to practice manager Glenda Pelfrey. Pelfrey said she performed the pacemaker clinic duties until approximately May 19, 2025, when CRMC hired CV Remote Solutions to perform many monitoring, reporting and billing duties.

"I retained all of my other responsibilities as Physician Practice Coordinator and none of my other duties were removed or modified to account for my new Pacemaker Clinic duties," Pelfrey said.

Part 1 examined a separate employment decision from June 2022, before the March 2023 staffing plan. Records in Dr. Hansel Noffsinger's age-discrimination lawsuit describe management's involvement in the decision to terminate his employment.

Courtney said she met with Clements and Donaldson on or about June 6, 2022.

"During that meeting, we made the determination as a team that Noffsinger's employment should be terminated," she said. "The reasons we discussed for terminating Dr. Noffsinger boiled down to profitability and professionalism."

Asked in his deposition whether he recalled the meeting with Courtney and Donaldson on or about June 6, Clements answered, "I do not."

"I don't disagree, but I don't remember the specific meeting. I remember a discussion, but I can't tell you when that discussion occurred," Donaldson said when asked whether she disagreed with Courtney's account of a joint decision. She recalled discussions about complaints, an audit and Noffsinger's bonus structure.

Noffsinger's attorney, Allen D. Arnold, disputes CRMC's financial explanation and argues that it was a pretext for age discrimination. His brief compares cash payments and compensation for Noffsinger with figures for three younger physicians CRMC retained. CRMC denies age discrimination and attributes the termination to profitability and professionalism concerns.

A Sept. 25 order scheduled a hearing on CRMC's motion for summary judgment in Noffsinger's case for Oct. 23, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. in Courtroom V of the United States Courthouse in Huntsville. The order sets a hearing on the hospital's request, without setting a deadline for a decision.



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Regional

Source citations by paragraph

Paragraph numbering begins with "CULLMAN, Ala." and includes each standalone quotation. The headline and byline are not counted.

McCormick documents refer to McCormick v. Cullman Regional Medical Center, case 5:24-cv-00820-HDM. Noffsinger documents refer to Noffsinger v. Cullman Regional Medical Center, case 5:24-cv-00900-HDM. Page numbers are the filed document pages unless a deposition transcript page is also specified.

- Paragraph 1. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 3.
- Paragraph 2. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 3.
- Paragraph 3. "Memorandum Opinion and Order," McCormick Document 47, pp. 17-18; "Final Judgment," McCormick Document 48, p. 1.
- Paragraph 4. "Memorandum Opinion and Order," McCormick Document 47, p. 17.
- Paragraph 5. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 2.
- Paragraph 6. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 2.
- Paragraph 7. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 2.
- Paragraph 8. CRMC's answers to McCormick's interrogatories, McCormick Document 32-1, p. 16.
- Paragraph 9. CRMC's answers to McCormick's interrogatories, McCormick Document 32-1, p. 18.
- Paragraph 10. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 3; "ACTION PLAN - FY 2023 Q4," McCormick Document 25-11, p. 1.
- Paragraph 11. "Action List - March 2023," McCormick Document 25-12, pp. 1-2.
- Paragraph 12. "Action List - March 2023," McCormick Document 25-12, p. 1.
- Paragraph 13. "Declaration of Schinley Land," McCormick Document 25-1, p. 7.
- Paragraph 14. "Declaration of Schinley Land," McCormick Document 25-1, p. 7.
- Paragraph 15. "Declaration of Nesha Donaldson," McCormick Document 25-10, p. 3.
- Paragraph 16. "Action List - March 2023," McCormick Document 25-12, p. 1.
- Paragraph 17. "Declaration of Schinley Land," McCormick Document 25-1, pp. 11-12.
- Paragraph 18. "Declaration of Schinley Land," McCormick Document 25-1, pp. 11-12.
- Paragraph 19. "Declaration of Schinley Land," McCormick Document 25-1, p. 12; "Declaration of Glenda Pelfrey," McCormick Document 25-22, p. 2.
- Paragraph 20. "Declaration of Glenda Pelfrey," McCormick Document 25-22, p. 2.
- Paragraph 21. "Declaration of Lisa Courtney," Noffsinger Document 28, pp. 22-23.
- Paragraph 22. "Declaration of Lisa Courtney," Noffsinger Document 28, pp. 22-23.
- Paragraph 23. "Declaration of Lisa Courtney," Noffsinger Document 28, pp. 22-23.
- Paragraph 24. "Deposition of James Clements," Noffsinger Document 25-48, transcript p. 24, filed p. 6.
- Paragraph 25. "Deposition of Nesha Donaldson," Noffsinger Document 25-57, transcript pp. 37-38, filed p. 10.
- Paragraph 26. "Plaintiff's Brief in Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment," Noffsinger Document 29, pp. 19-20; "Declaration of Lisa Courtney," Noffsinger Document 28, p. 23.
- Paragraph 27. Sept. 25, 2026, text order setting a hearing on CRMC's motion for summary judgment, Noffsinger Document 34.

Background

- Part 1: www.cullmantribune.com/2026/10/06/part-1-of-3-aging-out-federal-lawsuit-filed-against-crmc-by-former-physician-could-be-coming-to-a-close
- Part 2: www.cullmantribune.com/2026/10/08/part-2-of-3-aging-out-former-cardiology-nurse-alleged-age-discrimination-judge-found-insufficient-evidence

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A great place for a walk, town and church

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



On Monday of our trip to the East Coast of Georgia, we decided to find a park for a morning walk.

We headed for the first of the two islands we would visit. To get to St. Simons Island, we took the E.J. Torras Causeway, crossed over the Mackay River, Lanier Island and then the Frederica River. Once we landed on St. Simons Island, we immediately found ourselves at Gascoigne Bluff Park. The walking trail there doubled as a 10-hole disc golf course and walking path. I think the walking path was also the fairway, but since no one was playing disc golf we walkers didn't have to dodge incoming discs.

The path was lined with enormous oak trees that looked like giant people with huge arms (limbs) hanging down to the ground. Those limbs were draped with Spanish moss. Some of the massive limbs reached all the way to the ground below and stretched outward. They reminded me of a loving parent with his/her arm lowered down to lift up a child. They did not physically lift me, but their magnificent beauty lifted my spirit as we walked underneath their canopy. Their giant branches and flowing Spanish-moss beards provided wonderful shade from the rising temperatures as we walked. Our trail took us directly beside the banks of Fredrica River and its peaceful flowing waters.

Since our old legs still had some walk left in them, we headed on to the next stop, which was the ruins of the village of Frederica. I've walked among the ruins of Pompeii and this was not that, but it was quite interesting in its own right. It took us back to early America before there were states and while England still ruled.

According to historical markers there, Frederica was established as a fortified town in 1736 by James Oglethorpe. The town and fort served as a military headquarters for operations during the Anglo-Spanish conflicts of 1736-1748. It became a thriving military town of around 1500 residents. Houses and shops lined both sides of the wide way that ended at the fort. The fort sat strategically on the banks of the river in order to guard the town, as well as the north end of the island, from enemy invaders, namely the Spanish. After the battles had ended, the economy began to fail. The Great Fire of 1758 almost wiped out all the buildings and the town became a virtual ghost town.

Today a good portion of the fort's wall is still standing, but the homes and businesses have all been destroyed. All that remains today are the foundations that archeologists have discovered and unearthed. As we walked down the still shady broad way, we had to rely on our imagination in order to see the houses that once lined the street. There are historical markers with written information at each site.

One thing that does still remain there is the church building. A short distance from the ruins of the city sits Christ Church. That church is older than our nation itself. It was established as a mission of The Church of England in 1736. In February of that year, General Oglethorpe landed on St. Simons Island. On the first day there, he and a number of colonists joined together for prayer. Then and there the roots of Christianity, through the Anglican church, were planted on the island. His dream was to plant a church there and with the assistance of two young ministers by the last name of Wesley, the dream came to fruition. That church still meets there today.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Oct. 10, 1946

From the files of October 10, 1946

SIMCOE NEWS
Cullman, R. 2, Oct. 9.—We had a fine rain the 7th which everybody was glad to see as water was getting very scarce.

Every man, woman and child is very busy now from sun rise to sun down gathering up their cotton, as its opening so fast it is impossible to catch up.

Prayer services at this place every Sunday afternoon are well attended.

Elfer Jetton is fixing to move from our burg to the Oak Level community.

Mr. Wise and Mr. Miller are thinking of building a new house in our burg.

T. J. Nunnelly of Baileyton and W. C. Waldrop of this place, returned from a week's visit out through Franklin county and through parts in Mississippi, Booneville, Marriatta and other parts visiting kindred. They report a jolly trip but said they found very sorry crops in most places. Some cotton will take 10 acres to make a bale and corn is very sorry. They came home perfectly satisfied to remain here in this county. They think this is the garden spot of the world.

Ray Baker and sister, are attending high school in Cullman.

Misses Alma Jones and Dorothy Hubbard spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Mae Brindle.

Mr. Jackson and Miss May Harper attended prayer services here Sunday.

CULLMAN R. 5 NEWS
Cullman, R. 5, Oct. 9.—There are a few cases of diphtheria in this community.

Cotton picking is the order of the day. People are nearly done now and there was not much to start with.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jordan Jr., are living in their new home.

Kenneth Johnson took dinner with Wallace Fowler Sunday.

Judge and Mrs. Tankersley made a flying trip to Cullman Saturday.

Misses Ruby Cornelius, Etta Roberts, Gertis and Flora Rooker, Myrtle Cornelius and Mrs. Oscar Cornelius and Otis Clements were seen going toward Cullman Sunday.

Miss Jewel Orr of Trafford, is visiting her cousin, Miss Bonnie Jordan at this place.

Roy Jordan and Homer Rowell made a flying trip to Birmingham Saturday.

Jim Fowler attended the singing at Friendship Sunday.

Leroy Parker filled his appointment at Mr. Morris' Sunday.

EAST POINT NEWS
Cullman R. 2, Oct. 9.—Our Sunday school is doing fine and we are glad to say that we have a good attendance.

Our choir practice is progressing. We do not only have a nice crowd of young people present, but we get good attendance from quite a number of fathers and mothers for which we are very thankful as it is a great help



to us to have these good parents with us. We had our pastor, Bro. Bright with us at our last meeting and we are certainly glad that he can be with us occasionally, it does our very soul good to hear him talk. We are thankful that we have him at East Point.

We had quite a crowd of good singers from Bolti with us on last Wednesday night and we invite you back. We are glad to have you any time and we appreciate your help very much.

Our singing Sunday was a success. We had a large crowd from other places and we want you to come back again. We sing every second Sunday afternoon. Our doors are open to all good singers and good people. We want you to come.

The singing given by Mrs. Herman Teichmiller Sunday night was enjoyed by a large crowd.

HEIDENERESCHT NEWS
Cullman, R. 1, Oct. 11.—We are having some cold rainy weather now and people are getting behind with their cotton picking.

The cotton picking given by Mrs. George McCombs was well attended and a big dinner was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller were the guests of their daughter, Mrs. Bailey in Cullman Tuesday night.

Mrs. Stansell's daughter returned to her home in Albany Saturday.

The stork flew over the home of Rubin Stephens' Wednesday, and left them a fine boy.

Misses Bertha Stansell, Grace Phillips, Gladys Coples and Stella Morrow were the guest of the Morrows Sunday.

POET'S CORNER

Old Sanford's Truck
Randy C. Hale



Now if trucks could laugh,
this one would.

"You Big Dummy!" said many times.
"Elizabeth, I'm coming to join you,"
shouted loud and clear.

Lamont, Grady, Bubba, and Fred,
there every day. Going back and
forth with funny things to say.

But when it comes to the greatest
laughs, to make this old truck cackle.
It was the things that Fred would say
to Aunt Esther in a heckle.

"Who let this old donkey in?"
were his words.
And Aunt Esther would take it
from him first.
Then she would say, "Watch it, sucker."
and swing her purse.

And so many other things they
would say, not all so nice in this
modern day.

But, if old trucks could laugh, this
one, would I do suppose? In that old junkyard, now sadly closed.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
OCT. 10

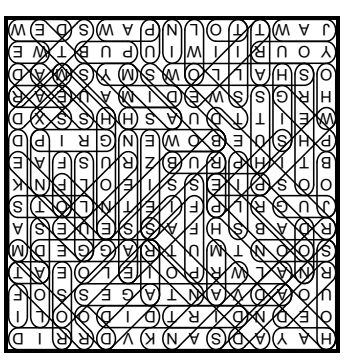
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
OCT. 10

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 10, 2026

Elysa Pierce crowned Miss Wallace State 2027; Auburn Burtis crowned Miss North Alabama's Teen 2027

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. -Wallace State Community College crowned a new Miss Wallace State during an event that also marked the 50th anniversary of the scholarship program.

Elysa Pierce of Hayden was crowned Miss Wallace State 2027, earning a $500 scholarship to Wallace State. Pierce, a graduate of Hayden High School, is a sophomore majoring in Nursing. She will advance to the Miss Alabama competition in June, which is a preliminary of the Miss America competition.

Brooklyn Grant of Warrior was named first runner-up, earning a $300 cash scholarship. Anneliese Kline of Cullman was named second runner-up and talent winner, earning $300 in scholarships. Alyson Graves received the $100 Beautiful Heart Scholarship.

Pierce was crowned by Miss Wallace State 2026 Anna Kate Taylor, who is currently a sophomore at Auburn University.

Also crowned was the Miss North Alabama's Teen 2027, Auburn Burtis, a junior from West Point High School. She was also the recipient of the Beautiful Heart Scholarship, for a total of $400 in scholarships. She will go on to compete at the Miss Alabama's Teen competition.

First runner-up and talent winner was Annaliese Dunn, a senior at Cullman High School, dually enrolled at Wallace State. She earned $300 in scholarships. Edie Gustin, a sophomore at Cullman High School, was named second runner-up, earning a $100 cash scholarship.

Burtis was crowned by Miss North Alabama's Teen 2026 Lily Shadeck, a junior at Cullman High School who is dually enrolled at Wallace State.

Before the crowning of the new Miss Wallace State, several past Miss Wallace State title holders were recognized as the college marked 50 years for the program. Along with Taylor as Miss Wallace State 2026, those in attendance included Savannah Lynn (2024), Audrey Fuller Spears (2023), Lacey Johnson Gilkey (2021), Emma Wright (2019), Rebecca Long Hayes (2013), Paige Harbison Clabo (2012), Wendy Mallory Dial (2000), Bonnie Barbee Shipp (1999), Cyndi Cox Burgett (1980-81), and Georgia Chaffin (1979-80).

Wallace State was also presented with a plaque marking the anniversary by Miss Alabama State Field Director Debra Talley.

"It has been a vibrant tradition that reflects the heart, intellect and evolving spirit of the young women who have competed," Talley said of the program. "Tonight we look back at a legacy that has empowered generations of leaders, advocates and change makers. You have built a platform that celebrates not just beauty, but character, purpose and college pride."



WALLACE STATE

Newly crowned Miss Wallace State 2027 Elysa Pierce walks across the stage at Wallace State Community College.

Scholarships (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman County middle and high school students have until Oct. 31 to enter two Veterans of Foreign Wars essay competitions offering national prizes of $5,000 and a $35,000 college scholarship.

Cullman VFW Post 2214 is inviting local students to participate in Patriot's Pen, a written essay competition for grades six-eight, and Voice of Democracy, an audio essay competition for grades nine-12.

Both competitions use the 2026-27 theme "What a Veteran Taught Me About America."

Entries must reach a participating VFW post by midnight Saturday, Oct. 31. Students and parents should contact Post 2214 before the deadline to confirm how to submit their materials.

Voice of Democracy participants must write and record an original three- to five-minute essay in English, using their own voice. The entry includes an MP3 recording, a typed copy of the essay and a completed entry form.

The national first-place winner receives a $35,000 scholarship paid directly to an American university, college or vocational or technical school. Each state-level first-place winner receives a scholarship of at least $1,000, according to the VFW.

For Patriot's Pen, students submit a typed, 300- to 400-word essay in English and a completed entry form. No oral presentation is required. The national first-place award is $5,000.

Both programs begin at the local post level, with selected entries advancing through district and state competitions toward national judging. The advertised top prizes are national awards.

Students enrolled in public, private and parochial schools, as well as homeschool programs, may participate if they meet the programs' eligibility requirements.

The VFW requires students to produce their own work. Both programs prohibit inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence tools.

Essays must omit names, school names and other identifying information from the essay itself to preserve anonymous judging. Identifying information belongs on the entry form.

Voice of Democracy recordings may not include music, singing, poetry or sound effects. Patriot's Pen essays may not include color or graphics, and poetry is not accepted.

The entry forms also require a parent or guardian's signature. Families should review the complete rules, including residency requirements and other eligibility restrictions, before submitting an entry.

Voice of Democracy judges consider originality, delivery and content. Patriot's Pen judges evaluate knowledge of the theme, theme development and clarity of ideas.

The post and its Auxiliary also support local families through community events. In August, The Tribune reported that the Cullman VFW hosted its third Back-to-School Bash, offering free food and activities for children from Cullman and surrounding communities.

Students can find Post 2214's competition flyers and entry links on the Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 Facebook page. The flyers include a separate QR code for each program.

National rules allow entries through a post-provided Scholars App link or QR code, along with other methods arranged with the participating post.

Students should use Post 2214's instructions for local submission. Entries sent directly to VFW National Headquarters will not be considered.

Complete rules and official entry forms are available at www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Vista Lago (from Front)

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BREMEN, Ala. - Vista Lago has submitted a revised wastewater permit application proposing underground drip fields instead of surface discharge.

ADEM's public records database lists an Oct. 5 permit modification application for Maverick Construction LLC under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit AL0084516. Vista Lago lead developer Nathan Stoops said the application is under review.

According to the developer, the proposed system would retain the development's extended aeration wastewater treatment plant and its 60,000-gallon-per-day design capacity.

Wastewater would be treated before being distributed underground through approximately four acres of engineered drip fields within undeveloped space on the property.

"Every gallon still goes through the same treatment plant first," Stoops said. "The only thing that changes is where the treated water goes once it leaves the plant."

In an Oct. 5 cover letter on page 1 of the 125-page filing, Landmark Engineering Group engineer Michael Shamsie wrote that the treatment plant's location had been revised to accommodate soil disposal of the treated effluent.

The letter places the four acres of drip fields directly west of the development's main entrance, in an area designated as open space. Treatment plant drawings on pages 113-114 identify a 60,000-gallon-per-day system.

The filing is an application for a modification. The public permit listing reviewed by The Tribune did not show an approval of the proposed change.

ADEM issued the existing permit to Maverick Construction on May 27. It became effective June 1 and expires May 31, 2031.

The permit identifies Ryan Creek (Smith Lake) as the receiving water and authorizes treated domestic wastewater from the planned treatment plant. ADEM described it in its response to public comments as the first NPDES permit to directly discharge into Lewis Smith Lake.

The permit authorizes treated wastewater. It does not authorize routine discharge of untreated sewage. The 60,000-gallon-per-day figure represents the plant's design capacity.

The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee previously called for an alternative to direct discharge and requested a public meeting concerning the plan, according to The Tribune's Aug. 20 coverage.

Stoops announced Aug. 17 that the development team was exploring alternative wastewater-discharge options. That announcement did not identify a selected alternative.

The Oct. 5 application identifies underground disposal through drip fields as the proposed alternative.

The original permitting process included consideration of land application and onsite or subsurface disposal. The applicant selected extended aeration treatment and listed land as unavailable in its discussion of land application.

The new filing identifies four acres for drip fields. It does not explain how that acreage became available or how the earlier assessment changed.

ADEM previously identified four existing wastewater facilities within the Smith Lake drainage area. The agency said none discharged directly into the lake. Addison uses land application, while the other facilities use creek or tributary discharges.

The proposed revision would change Vista Lago's wastewater disposal method from surface discharge to underground drip fields. ADEM has not approved the proposed modification.

Background: www.cullmantribune.com/tag/vista-lago

Editorial (from Front)

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Most of us have read something online that made us want to respond before we finished reading. A headline strikes a nerve, a comment feels unfair or someone takes a position we cannot understand.

Having something to say is natural. So is wanting to be heard.

The confusion often begins when a comment is removed from a social media page. For some, that becomes a question of freedom of speech. It is a concern worth answering, because understanding our rights helps us protect them.

The First Amendment protects our freedom of speech from government interference. That protection applies to federal, state and local government, and it gives us considerable room to criticize leaders, challenge decisions and express unpopular opinions.

Generally, however, it does not require a private business, newspaper or social media company to publish everything we want to say.

A newspaper serves the public, but it remains privately owned. Its Facebook page does not become government property because it reports on public business or invites readers to comment. It can set standards for the conversation it hosts.

The platforms have rules as well. Facebook and Instagram operate under Meta's Community Standards. X has its own policies, including restrictions on violent content and abuse. Users agree to applicable terms when signing up or using these services, even if they never read them.

A news page can also have rules that go beyond what the platform permits. It may remove profanity, crude sexual remarks, personal attacks or comments encouraging violence. The fact that a comment is allowed somewhere else does not mean every page must carry it.

That does not necessarily mean the comment was illegal.

The First Amendment often protects speech that is offensive, harsh or hateful. Profanity and sexual language do not automatically lose protection because someone finds them objectionable. True threats and certain forms of incitement fall outside that protection, but those exceptions have specific legal requirements. Incitement, for example, must be intended and likely to produce imminent lawless action.

A private page does not have to wait for words to meet those legal tests before enforcing its comment rules.

Government accounts are different. When officials use social media to exercise their government authority, removing comments or blocking people because of their viewpoint can raise constitutional concerns.

Criticism of a public official deserves protection even when the official would prefer not to hear it.

Our rights also do not disappear when we walk into a public school, courthouse or city hall.

Schools can maintain an environment for learning. Judges can preserve order in courtrooms. Jails can enforce security restrictions, and public meetings can have lawful rules governing participation.

Those restrictions must still comply with the Constitution.

Government ownership or federal funding does not create a blanket suspension of rights.

For newspapers, the responsibility goes beyond explaining what we may remove.

We should welcome disagreement, apply clear standards consistently and make room for readers to question our work. A comment should not be treated as abusive simply because it challenges us.

Readers have a part in that conversation, too. We can disagree firmly without making someone the target of humiliation or wishing harm upon them. Taking a moment to read, consider and respond thoughtfully gives our words a better chance of being heard.

Freedom of speech matters too much for us to misunderstand it. Knowing who is restricting speech, what rules apply and where government authority is involved helps us recognize when a right truly needs defending.

Before we speak for our rights, we should take time to understand them.

Know before you speak or type.

Going pink for a good cause

The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation held its annual favorite Little Pink Dress event Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026. The fundraiser benefits area cancer patients.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE


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NOT SO SCARY STORIES
SHOWING
OCT 11, 18, 25
ART PARK

BEAUTY & THE BEAST
SHOWING
OCT 22-24
CHS AUDITORIUM

TRUNK-OR-TREAT
HAPPENS
OCT 27
WILDWATER

CULLMAN RECREATION .ORG/CALENDAR

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!



Have a budget friendly Halloween

Chasady Woods
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As we approach Halloween, it seems that there's more stress associated with preparation this year than excitement. Prices are steadily climbing and everyone is feeling the impact of it. When you get ready for seasonal festivities, just know it's OK to take it easy this year.

There's pressure to stay ahead and compete with neighbors for the best props and the most candy. Though the most important thing about the holidays isn't what is so eagerly shoved into our faces.

Each year the Halloween and Christmas decorations are put out sooner and sooner. It used to be the month of or the month prior, if we were lucky, to see seasonal decor line an aisle or two. At this rate I'm surprised not to see Christmas be put out after the Fourth of July!

These areas have escalated from a few aisles to entire sections of stores. It has become another way to get people to consume and to do so sooner and for longer. With how early it is put out, you have time to change your mind twice before the season is actually here.

There is nothing wrong with using the same decorations you've had for years. There's nothing wrong with decorations you inherited or that have an actual story.

It's especially OK to make your own decorations from recycled cardboard boxes! Your decorations don't have to be this year's trend-setter to be valuable or acceptable.

Everyone is gritting their teeth at grocery receipts and the numbers climbing on the price of a gallon of gas. If all you can do this season is make memories – you've made a good choice.

Buy the cheaper candy if you'd like to buy any at all! Don't stress about those decorations you were eyeing, but couldn't get. I promise you they'll be at the nearest thrift store before the new year!

Holidays are not, and should not, be about how much you've spent on decorations, candy and costumes. They're about spending time with friends and family to make memories.

Memories will follow you to your grave, money will not.



WALLACE STATE
HANCEVILLE • ONEONTA

PREVIEW DAYS
2 DAYS TO CHOOSE FROM
OCTOBER 15
OCTOBER 24

9 AM - 12 PM EACH DAY

- Campus Tours
- Information Sessions
  - *Advising*
  - *Financial Aid*
  - *Admissions*
- Program Demonstrations
- Student Organizations
- Food & Family Fun Activities
  - *Face and Pumpkin Painting*
  - *Tractor Tours*
  - *Bounce House (October 24)*

RSVP

wallacestate.edu/previewday