

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 153 • 50¢ PER COPY | *TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 126

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



TRIBUNE.STORE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Keefe, Jeffrey Young Matz, Larry Wayne Raymond, Larry Dean Phillips, Tammy Diane Scruggs, Shirley Kay Faber, David Lynn Cegelski

» PAGE 7

WEATHER

76 46

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents

» PAGE 2

Community Calendar

» PAGE 3



SEPT. 25, 2026, CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO/KATIE DRUMMOND

– SPORTS –

Cold Springs secures home playoff game as Addison prepares for region title showdown

» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

County to consider Stony Lonesome cabin, storage building contracts

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Plans for new cabins and storage buildings at Stony Lonesome OHV Park will go before the Cullman County Commission on Tuesday, Oct. 20, as commissioners consider awarding three contracts tied to a federally funded improvement project.

The proposed awards would select Adams Building Co. LLC for separate contracts covering standard cabins and accessible cabins. A third contract, for metal storage buildings, would go to Burks Building Inc., according to the meeting agenda.

The work is part of improvements supported by a $711,539 Recreational Trails Program grant announced in August 2025. As The Tribune previously reported, the announcement also listed a $177,539 local contribution from Cullman County.

The original grant announcement called for eight prefabricated cabins, storage facilities, a small rescue vehicle and a drone to assist with rescues.

Storage was planned both for park equipment and for visitors to keep all-terrain vehicles and campers on-site. Revenue from cabin and storage rentals was intended to support park upkeep and trail development.

For the current contracting round, the county's published bid notices sought two accessible manufactured cabins, including installation, and the manufacture and installation of six metal pole barn buildings. The notices set an Oct. 13 deadline for bids.

Commission- » PAGE 3

'Leave your light on'

The Nightmare on Woodland Street



ZACH LEE

Jessica Lee

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Seventeen years ago, before "Nightmare on Woodland Street" became a destination Cullman neighborhood to visit on Halloween, resident Zach Lee said, it began with a simple birthday celebration.

The Lee family began Nightmare on Woodland Street in 2009. He noted that his daughter, Keyleigh Lee, was 6 at the time. And since her birthday lands on Nov. 1, treating Halloween as her birthday celebration became a family tradition.

"We would take her to my mom's, some aunts and different family members," Lee said of previous Halloweens.

Though in 2009 Lee told his wife, Jessica, "Let's stay home this year and we're gonna leave the light on, get some candy and we're gonna let Kayleigh hand out candy, have a party and a birthday celebration."

That year, he said, they saw about 10 children with only a pumpkin on their porch and a grim reaper prop.

"My daughter would go out with her little costume on and hand the kids the candy while my wife would lean the reaper character into the storm door to scare them. Then I was outside the corner of the house for the old-fashioned jump scare. We just really fell in love with that!" he laughed.

At the end of the season, they began purchasing from clearance sections to add to their lineup for the next year.

"We loved it, but we didn't have a lot of money to give toward it," Lee said. "It progressed and we wanted to do more in the yard. I brought home some wooden stakes and we would build little zombies and decorate them, stuffing them with pine straw."

He and his family went to local thrift stores and got the most discounted clothing to use. They stuffed the zombie figures with pine straw they raked up from their own yard.

"We would stuff them with pine straw and staple the pants and sleeves together," he said. » PAGE 8

2026 Move Over MS Walk raises more than $22K



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

North Central Neurology Associates, in partnership with the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Center and MS Views and News, hosted the 2026 Move Over MS Walk Saturday morning, Oct. 17, at Heritage Park in Cullman. » PAGE 6

Treats, tacos and a whole lot of heart: The Link hosting Trunk or Treat Night Oct. 23

» PAGE 6

Cullman's Guiding Light Psychiatry selected for Best of 2026 award, celebrates 2 years of service

» PAGE 2

Fire up your appetite: The Butcher's Smoke & Flames BBQ Cookoff set for Oct. 24



THE BUTCHER MEAT CO.

The Butcher's Smoke & Flames Barbecue Cookoff will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. » PAGE 2



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 19

Staff Reports
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 15

• possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65SB Rest Area
• theft of property; Hwy. 91
• theft of property; CR 1720
• resisting arrest; CR 1545
• using false name to avoid arrest; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1669

Oct. 16

• harassing communications; Fullert St. SW
• domestic violence; CR 1545
• violation of protection order; Speegle Rd.
• burglary; CR 1225
• possession of marijuana; CR 587

Oct. 17

• possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1269
• domestic violence; Ashwander St. NE
• domestic violence; CR 1269
• domestic violence; CR 1114

Oct. 18

• possession of controlled substances; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65NB MM 305
• possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; US. 31
• possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 91
• domestic violence-criminal mischief; Park Dr.
• burglary; CR 1185
• domestic violence; Hwy. 278E

ARRESTS

Oct. 15-19

Bailey, Christopher J.; 34
• assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Blair, Daniel C.; 19
• assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief

Cooper, Cassandra H.; 40
• assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Hernandez, Damian J.; 22
• DUI (alcohol)

Herron, Jason E.; 50
• harassing communications

Holcomb, Harley S.; 27
• PAROLE VIOLATION/REVOCATION – unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle
• PAROLE VIOLATION/REVOCATION – auto theft
• PAROLE VIOLATION/REVOCATION – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card

Holder, Jereme T.; 50
• possession of methamphetamine
• possession of dangerous drugs
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – pedestrian under the influence

Johnson, James R.; 58
• PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful distribution of controlled substance (3 counts)
• PROBATION VIOLATION – theft of lost property

Johnson, Nicholas B.; 27
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Merritt, Miles C.; 28
• DUI (alcohol)

Moore, Scott A.; 41
• GJ – assault-elder abuse and neglect

Motley, Barron R.; 45
• FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Murray, Denina R.; 61
• possession of dangerous drugs

Porter, Michael C.; 41
• assault-domestic-simple assault-family
• DUI (alcohol)
• possession of dangerous drugs

Ramsey, Virginia L.; 70
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Sands, Melinda L.; 51
• FTA – possession of methamphetamine

Trammell, Trenton L.; 21
• FTA – no seat belt
• FTA – driving while license suspended

Walton, Nina A.; 38
• FTA – traffic-speeding – no workers – construction zone

Watson, Ethan C.; 27
• possession of opium or derivative
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Weaver, Skye M.; 20
• assault-aggravated assault non-family-strong arm
• resisting arrest

Yates, Jr., Jimmy L.; 39
• FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
• FTA – theft of property-3rd degree – other motor vehicle-does not exceed $1,499

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 15

• harassment; person; 1st Ave. SE

Oct. 16

• harassment; person; Hwy. 157
• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $96; Hwy. 157

Oct. 17

• domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Katherine St. NW
• theft of property-4th degree; Werner's Trading Company; general merchandise; 4th St. SW

Oct. 18

• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Colonial Dr. SW

ARRESTS

Oct. 16-18

Richards, Michael S.; 42
• DUI
• obstructing governmental operations

Young, Jonathan P.; 44
• elder abuse & neglect-2nd degree
• making a terrorist threat-1st degree
• kidnapping
• possession of controlled substances
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• assault-3rd degree (2 counts)
• criminal mischief-3rd degree

Edmonds, Tammy L.; 56
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Ellis, Horace H.; 61
• theft of property-4th degree

Williams, Da'Jon L.; 24
• GJ – unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle
• GJ – theft of property-3rd degree
• GJ – criminal mischief-2nd degree

Oden, Jayden; 22
• domestic violence-3rd degree

Bullerin, Branden D.; 29
• receiving stolen property-1st degree
• certain persons forbidden to possess pistol

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

VIRGIL B. FOWLER
Real Estate and Insurance
AGENCY
Quality Since 1935
734-3821
vbfowlerinsurance.com
Successors to
WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY
COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

Cookoff (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. – Pitmasters, barbecue lovers and families are invited to follow the smoke Saturday, Oct. 24, as The Butcher's Smoke & Flames Barbecue Cookoff & Festival fires up from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 266 Park Drive.

Organizers describe the event as "a family-friendly, full-day celebration packed with incredible food, community spirit, and nonstop competition!"

Serious competition

The cookoff is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS), one of the largest barbecue competition organizations in the world, bringing in talented teams from all over to compete in Chicken and Ribs.

In addition to the official KCBS categories, the event will feature crowd-favorite ancillary categories, including a People's Choice Boston Butt contest and Dessert.

Something for everyone

The festival isn't just for the pitmasters. Guests can enjoy live music, a car show, local vendors and plenty of mouthwatering barbecue while cheering on their favorite teams throughout the day.

"Whether you're a serious BBQ lover or just looking for a fun-filled day with the family, Smoke & Flames has something for everyone!" organizers said.

Admission is free, according to event listings.

Hosted by a hometown butcher shop

The cookoff is hosted by The Butcher Meat Co., a locally owned and operated meat market in Vinemont owned by Justin and Kadi Smith. The shop opened in July 2022 at 149 Patton Drive, and Justin brings about 19 years of experience in the grocery and meat business.

Living up to its motto, "Where we cut MEAT not Corners!" the shop offers fresh-cut beef, pork, chicken and seafood, including mahi-mahi, grouper, tuna and steamed shrimp, along with specialty cuts made to order. The Butcher also smokes meats on-site, from baby back and spare ribs to chicken wings, brisket and Boston butts, and carries a selection of seasonings and sauces.

The Butcher Meat Co. is no stranger to bringing grillers together. The shop hosted a Backyard Grill-Off in Vinemont in 2022.

The Butcher Meat Co. is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information about the shop or the cookoff, call 256-747-5416, visit www.butchermeatco.com, or follow @thebutcherschuckwagon on Facebook and Instagram.

Award (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Guiding Light Psychiatry in Cullman has won a Best of 2026 award for psychiatry in Cullman from BusinessRate, an achievement that comes well-earned after two years since Guiding Light Psychiatry welcomed its first patients.

"Nov. 12 will be our two-year anniversary of seeing our very first patient in the clinic, which makes this recognition especially meaningful," shared Rachel Turner, founder and CEO of Guiding Light Psychiatry. "Opening my own business was never an aspiration or a dream of mine. It was truly a God thing, and none of what Guiding Light Psychiatry has become would have been possible without the love and support of my family, everyone who works at Guiding Light, and the people who have entrusted us with their care."

Over the past two years, Turner and her staff have worked to establish a practice focused on providing compassionate, individualized mental health care.

"Mental health care is deeply personal and not always easy work," Turner explained. "Many of the people who walk through our doors are facing some of the most difficult and vulnerable seasons of their lives. Our responsibility is to meet them where they are, treat them with dignity and compassion, and remind them that they do not have to navigate those seasons alone."

And her favorite reward in it all? Watching the staff at Guiding Light putting those principles into practice.

"What has made me especially proud is watching our team show up for our patients day after day-with patience, kindness, compassion and a genuine desire to help," she said.

"They go above and beyond to make sure people feel heard, respected and cared for, not simply as a name on a schedule or a diagnosis in a chart, but as a person."

She added, "Much of what our staff does happens quietly, without recognition or applause, but I see it, and I know our patients feel it."

While the BusinessRate award recognizes the clinic's based off of the patient reviews, Turner said the past two years have also brought challenges that required her team to learn and grow together.

According to Turner, building a practice from the ground up has meant navigating long days, unexpected difficulties and the responsibilities that come with caring for patients. Through those experiences, she said her staff has remained committed to supporting one another and the people who depend on them.

"Guiding Light Psychiatry is not the work of one person, it is the result of a team of people who care deeply about what they do and, most importantly, about the people who trust us with their care," she said.

As the clinic prepares to celebrate its second anniversary, Turner hopes the recognition reflects more than just positive reviews online.

She wants it to reflect the environment her team has worked to create, one built on hope and trust, where patients feel safe and can develop meaningful relationships that support their mental health journeys.

"I hope it says that we have created a place where people feel safe asking for help, where kindness and compassion still matter in healthcare, and where patients know that the person sitting across from them truly cares about what happens to them," she said.

And although Turner was the shepherd behind Guiding Light Psychiatry, she said the practice's growth and the recognition it has received belong to everyone who has contributed along the way.

"Guiding Light may have my name attached to it as its owner, but what it has become belongs to so many people," she shared.

"My family believed in and supported me, our staff helped build it and our patients trusted us enough to walk through our doors and allow us to be part of their lives."

She added, "I don't take any of that for granted. If this recognition gives me an opportunity to say anything, I hope it is simply this: I am incredibly grateful for the people who have helped build Guiding Light and I am very proud of the difference they are making, one patient and one family at a time."

For more information on Guiding Light Psychiatry and the services they offer, visit www.guidinglightalabama.org, call 256-530-4505 or email help@guidinglightalabama.org.

Guiding Light Psychiatry is located at 1935 Alabama Highway 157, Ste. B, Cullman AL, 35058.

Stony Lonesome (from Front)

ers will also consider a separate resolution rejecting a bid for security chain-link fencing at the park. The agenda cites noncompliance with bid requirements but does not identify the bidder or explain the deficiency.

The cabin and storage building awards remain subject to commission approval. The posted agenda does not include contract amounts, construction start dates or completion deadlines.

The Recreational Trails Program receives funding through the Federal Highway Administration and is administered in Alabama by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Stony Lonesome opened in 2009 with assistance from the program and received another grant in 2021 for trail construction and maintenance equipment.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO)

Stony Lonesome OHV Park is located at 10075 Alabama Highway 69 in Bremen.

The park is located at 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South in the Bremen area of Cullman County.

Tuesday's commission work session is scheduled for 4 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room at 500 Second Ave. SW in Cullman.

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

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.

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

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, 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.

3rd Annual Spooktacular Storybook 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run
Saturday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. beginning at the Cullman County Public Library. Hosted by the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County. The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE Cullman. To register, go to www.storybook5k.com.

Off-Road Candy Crawl Trunk or Treat
Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2-4 p.m. at Goat Island Brewing. The event will benefit the Cullman County Animal Shelter. Hosted by Muddy Misfits and Goat Island Brewing. For more information, visit Facebook/Muddy Misfits or www.facebook.com/goatislandbrewing. Goat Island is located at 1646 John Cooper Dr. Cullman.

Seventh Street Baptist Church Fall Celebration
Sunday, Oct. 25, from 5-7 p.m. Balloons, Photo Prop area, face painting, candy and hot dogs. All events will be in the gym. 708 Seventh St. SW, Cullman.

Cullman Police Department 9th Annual Trunk or Treat
Friday, Oct. 30, from 6-8 p.m. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/cullmanpd. The CPD is located at 601 Second Ave. NE.

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.

Cullman Veterans Day Celebration
Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cullman Regional Airport. Hosted by the Cullman Elks Veterans Committee, the celebration will feature historic military aircraft, live demonstrations, military displays and opportunities to honor local veterans. Admission and parking are free, and the event will be held rain or shine. One of this year's new featured attractions will be a Messerschmitt ME-262. Additional historic aircraft scheduled to appear include a D-Day C-47 and a Royal Air Force Spitfire. This year's celebration will also feature retired Chief Warrant Officer Mike Durant, a former U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter pilot who was shot down during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia, an operation depicted in the film "Black Hawk Down."

Cullman NARFE Chapter Meeting with Federal BCBS Representative
Monday, Nov. 9. This meeting will be held at the Cullman Golden Corral. Starting with a senior special Dutch lunch (11 a.m.) followed by the informative meeting. All interested parties are welcome and urged to attend!! 256-708-5326.

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

Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden FAMILY PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

Cullman.....$125.00
Outside Cullman.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
Chasady Woods - Reporter
Lauren Estes - Reporter
Emily McMunn - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Liz Tankersley - Graphic Design/Reporter
Sammy Confer - JV Sports Editor
Rhonda Richie - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist
Heather Tubbs - Marketing Specialist

PREP FOOTBALL

Cold Springs secures home playoff game as Addison prepares for region title showdown

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cold Springs secured a home playoff opener, Addison moved within one victory of a region championship and Vinemont kept its postseason pursuit alive during Thursday and Friday's local football action.

Cooper Johnson rushed for four touchdowns in Cold Springs' 48-21 win over Southeastern. Addison's reported 37-6 victory at Red Bay set up a meeting with unbeaten Hackleburg for the Class 1A, Region 7 championship, while Vinemont survived Glencoe's comeback attempt for a 28-21 road win.

Meek also has a postseason berth secured. Fairview remains in a contested qualifying race, while Cullman, Holly Pond, Hanceville and West Point cannot reach a top-four region finish.

Cold Springs 48, Southeastern 21
Johnson ran for 111 yards on 16 carries as Cold Springs improved to 7-1 overall and 5-1 in Class 2A, Region 5.

The Eagles led 16-14 at halftime before scoring 32 second-half points. Southeastern's first-half touchdowns came on an interception return and a 92-yard fumble return.

Johnson scored on runs of 4, 9, 32 and 1 yards. Blake Phillips added 67 rushing yards and a 7-yard touchdown, while Cason Alexander ran for 74 yards. Brandon Chasteen contributed 66 rushing yards and completed seven of 12 passes for 90 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Eli Voce caught four passes for 39 yards, including a 21-yard touchdown. He also intercepted two passes, returning one for the game's final touchdown. Ethan Day caught three passes for 51 yards. Elijah Moore and Alexander each recovered a kickoff to provide additional possessions.

Cold Springs has secured the region's No. 2 seed. Gordo holds the head-to-head advantage over the Eagles for first place, while Cold Springs' win over Lamar County protects second place even if those teams finish tied.

The Eagles visit Carbon Hill on Oct. 23 before hosting Tanner on Oct. 30.

Addison 37, Red Bay 6
Addison improved to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in Class 1A, Region 7 with its reported road victory Friday.

The Bulldogs have outscored opponents 451-19 this season, recording six shutouts and holding every opponent below 10 points.

Addison hosts Hackleburg on Oct. 23 in a matchup of the region's two unbeaten teams. Hackleburg is 8-0 overall and 6-0 in region play.

Both teams have secured playoff berths and home games in the first round. Their meeting will determine the region champion and No. 1 seed, with the loser finishing second. Addison is open Oct. 30.

Vinemont 28, Glencoe 21
Brandon Johnson's fourth-down sack ended Glencoe's final threat as Vinemont protected a seven-point lead Friday.

Josh Rhodes threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Jaxon Marotz with 10:30 remaining in the second quarter to open the scoring. After a Preston Hanners interception, Rhodes connected with Lukas Ming for a 25-yard touchdown with 1:42 left in the half.

Brennan Marlow then returned an interception 45 yards for a touchdown, helping Vinemont take a 22-0 halftime lead.

Glencoe cut the margin to 22-7 in the third quarter before Travis Speer answered with a 66-yard touchdown run two plays later. The Yellow Jackets rallied to within 28-21 with 6:21 remaining in the fourth quarter, recovering an onside kick between their final two touchdowns.

Marlow finished with two interceptions. Hanners recovered a fumble in addition to his interception, and Speer also recovered a fumble.

Vinemont improved to 5-4 overall and 3-3 in Class 3A, Region 6, tying Glencoe in the region standings.

The Eagles host Susan Moore on Oct. 23 in their regular-season finale. A Vinemont win paired with a Hokes Bluff win over Glencoe would secure a playoff berth for the Eagles. If Vinemont and Glencoe both win, a three-team tie involving Hokes Bluff would require the AHSAA tiebreaking procedure.

Meek 54, Phillips 6
Meek won its third consecutive game Thursday, improving to 5-3 overall and 4-2 in Class 1A, Region 7.

The Tigers remain unbeaten at home and have secured a playoff berth. Meek and Red Bay are tied behind Addison and Hackleburg, with both teams guaranteed to finish in the region's top four.

Meek hosts Red Bay on Oct. 23. The winner will finish third in the region and the loser fourth, sending both teams on the road for the first round.

The Tigers close the regular season at Berry on Oct. 30.

Fairview 41, Crossville 6
Fairview scored all 41 of its points in the first quarter of Thursday's reported victory, improving to 5-3 overall and 4-3 in Class 4A, Region 8.

The Aggies are tied with Guntersville in region record, but the Wildcats hold the head-to-head advantage from their 7-3 win Sept. 11.

Fairview is open Oct. 23 before traveling to Cherokee County on Oct. 30 for its final region game.

The Aggies' clearest qualifying path is a win at Cherokee County combined with a Guntersville loss at Brewer on Oct. 23. That would give Fairview five region victories while leaving Guntersville with four. Other combinations could produce multi-team ties, so Fairview's postseason position remains unsettled.

Cherokee County 40, Good Hope 21
Good Hope's six-game winning streak ended in a reported road loss Friday, leaving the Raiders 6-2 overall and 5-1 in Class 4A, Region 8.

The Raiders trailed 20-14 at halftime and 27-21 after three quarters before Cherokee County added 13 unanswered fourth-quarter points.

Good Hope hosts Hayden on Oct. 23 before visiting unbeaten Scottsboro on Oct. 30. The Raiders remain in the race for a home playoff opener. A win over Hayden would guarantee at least six region victories and a top-four finish without requiring a qualifying tiebreaker.

Cherokee County and Good Hope share 5-1 region records, with the Warriors holding the head-to-head advantage. Scottsboro leads at 6-0.

Parker 42, Cullman 24
Cullman cut its deficit to two points after three quarters before Parker pulled away in Friday's reported Class 5A, Region 5 result.

Morgan Holley caught a 35-yard touchdown pass during Cullman's third-quarter rally. The Bearcats also scored on a fumble return and added a field goal to reach the fourth quarter trailing 26-24.

Parker answered with 16 fourth-quarter points.

Cullman is 2-6 overall and 1-5 in region play. With four region teams already holding at least four victories, the Bearcats cannot reach a qualifying position.

Cullman visits Jackson-Olin on Oct. 23 before closing the season at West Morgan on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Lawrence County 35, West Point 31
West Point led in the fourth quarter before Lawrence County scored the decisive touchdown Friday in Moulton.

Max Patterson scored on a first-quarter run with 5:42 remaining, and Julio Fuentes later added a field goal. The Warriors held a 31-27 lead in the fourth quarter before the Red Devils converted a fourth down during their go-ahead possession.

West Point fell to 0-9 overall and 0-6 in Class 4A, Region 7. The Warriors have been eliminated from playoff contention and host region champion Deshler on Oct. 23 in their final regular-season game.

Susan Moore 17, Holly Pond 16
Holly Pond's one-point home loss Friday was reported after the Broncos held a 16-8 halftime lead.

Susan Moore cut the margin to 16-14 after three quarters and finished with a 17-16 advantage.

The Broncos are 2-6 overall and 1-5 in Class 3A, Region 6. They cannot reach the region's top four with one region game remaining.

Holly Pond hosts Etowah on Oct. 23 before visiting Falkville on Oct. 30.

Hokes Bluff 49, Hanceville 8
Hanceville's reported Thursday loss left the Bulldogs 0-8 overall and 0-6 in Class 3A, Region 6.

The Bulldogs have been eliminated from postseason contention and host region-leading Oneonta on Oct. 23.

Hanceville closes its regular season at Elkmont on Oct. 30.



WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

Warehouse Discount Groceries
5754 AL- Hwy 157 North
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4310

Warehouse Discount Groceries
1615 Town Square S W
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4380

Warehouse Discount Groceries
780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL 35077
256•352•6245

We Welcome Food Stamp Shoppers & W.I.C. Vouchers Accepted

Prices Effective - Wednesday, October 21 through Tuesday, October 27, 2026

FALLING PRICES

BONELESS PORK CHOPS
Center Cut Family Pack
$2.89 LB.
PRAIRIE FRESH
HOT price



T-BONE STEAKS
Beef Family Pack
$5.99 LB.
INSPECTED FOR WHOLESOMENESS BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HOT price



TOP ROUND ROAST
Beef Boneless
$5.99 LB.
PREFERRED ANGUS
HOT price



CHICKEN TENDERS
Fresh
$2.99 LB.
Sanderson Farms
HOT price



SEEDLESS GRAPES
White California Grown
$1.99 LB.
BARI Produce
HOT price



COLORADO RUSSETS
8 Lb. Bag U.S. #1
$3.99 EA.
HOT price



WHITE LILY FLOUR OR MEAL
5 Lb. Bag Selected Varieties
2 for $6
HOT price



BUSH'S BEST BEANS OR PEAS
or Chili Magic 14-16 Oz. All Varieties
4 for $5
HOT price



MARUCHAN RAMEN NOODLE SOUP
12 Pk. Chicken, Beef or Shrimp
3 for $10
HOT price



FOOD CLUB CHEESE
5-8 Oz. Selected Varieties
5 for $10
HOT price



5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL



Receive In-Store Specials, Announcements & View Our Weekly Ad!

Product Availability May Vary • Good Only While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Not Responsible For Typographical Errors • No Sales To Dealers At These Prices



GROUND ROUND
Fresh 85% Lean
Family Pack
$5.99 LB.



T-BONE STEAKS
Beef
Family Pack
$10.99 LB.



BABY BACK PORK RIBS
1 Piece
Previously Frozen
$3.99 LB.



BREADED CHICKEN FRIES
4.5 Lb. Bag
Restaurant Quality
$6.99 EA.



DEAN'S SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
2 for $7



HORMEL BLACK LABEL BACON
1 Lb.
Regular or Thick
$4.99 EA.



ZEIGLER WIENERS
12 Oz.
Red or Brown
2 for $5



ZEIGLER BOLOGNA
16 Oz.
Regular or Thick
$3.69 EA.



ZEIGLER SMOKED SAUSAGE
12 Oz.
Southern Style
$3.79 EA.



TENNESSEE PRIDE SAUSAGE PATTIES
30 Ct.
$9.99 EA.



JACK-O-LANTERN PUMPKINS
Large
$4.99 EA.



SWEET ONIONS
3 Lb. Bag
Peru
$3.49 EA.



ROMA TOMATOES
Red Ripe
$1.99 LB.



DOLE SHREDDED LETTUCE
8 Oz.
$1.69 EA.



ROASTED PEANUTS
1 Lb. In-Shell Salted
or No Salt Added
2 for $5



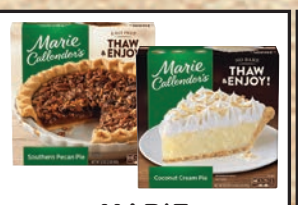
DAISY SOUR CREAM
8 Oz.
Regular or Light
2 for $3



FOOD CLUB BUTTER
1 Lb. Quarters
Salted or Unsalted
2 for $7



FOOD CLUB BISCUITS
5 Ct. Butter Me-Not
or Texas Style
4 for $5



MARIE CALLENDER'S PIES
24-40 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB WHIPPED TOPPING
8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



TOTINO'S PIZZA ROLLS
24 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



PILLSBURY TOASTER STRUDEL PASTRIES
11-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



TYSON CHICKEN OR ANY'TIZERS
20-26 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$7.99 EA.



FOLGERS COFFEE
9.6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



WIDE AWAKE K-CUPS COFFEE
10 Ct.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 EA.



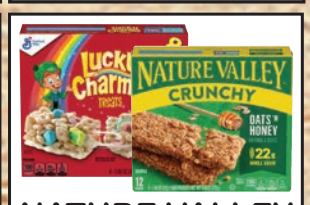
PURE LIFE WATER
24 Pk. 16.9 Oz. Bottles
or 24 Pk. 8 Oz. Bottles
3 for $12



POST CEREAL
11 Oz. Fruity, Cinnamon or Cocoa Pebbles or Fruity Pebbles w/Marshmallows, 11.5 Oz. Waffle Crisp, 14 Oz. Honey Ohs!, 10 Oz. Oreo Puffs or 14.75 Oz. Golden Crisp
2 for $5



KELLOGG'S POP•TARTS
12 Ct., 20 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



NATURE VALLEY GRANOLA BARS
5-8.9 Oz. Or General Mills
Cereal Bars Selected Varieties
2 for $6



ACT II POPCORN
3 Pk. Microwave
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



CHEF BOYARDEE PASTA
7.25-15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



CHEF BOYARDEE SKILLET MEALS
5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



BOUNTY PAPER TOWELS
6 Double Rolls
$10.99 EA.



CHARMIN BATH TISSUE
9 Mega Rolls
$10.99 EA.



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
3 for $13



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



DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$6.49 EA.



POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
8 Pk.
20 Oz. Bottles
$6.99 EA.



FAIRLIFE CORE POWER PROTEIN MILKSHAKE
14 Oz., 42 Grams of Protein
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



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

FRITO LAY FRITOS OR CHEETOS
6.5-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

GOLDEN FLAKE OR UTZ VARIETY PACKS
18 Ct.
$8.99 EA.

LEWIS BAKE SHOP 1/2 LOAF BREADS
12 Oz. Sourdough or
100% Whole Wheat
2 for $4

LITTLE DEBBIE SEASONAL SNACKS
6-10.5 Oz. Christmas Tree Cakes or Brownies, Cherry Cordials, Christmas Gingerbread Cookies, Christmas Mini Donuts or Muffins or North Pole Nutty Bars
2 for $6

BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon
Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.

CORONA OR MODELO
12 Pk. Cans or Bottles
All Varieties
$17.99 EA.

MICHELOB ULTRA
18 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$22.99 EA.

YELLOW TAIL WINE
1.5 Liter Bottle
$11.99 EA.

19 CRIMES WINE
750 mL
$10.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE HICKORY WOOD SMOKED TURKEY
Deli Sliced
$11.29 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE SMOKED GOUDA
Deli Sliced
$8.99 LB.

MICKELBERRY'S HAM
Deli Sliced
$5.79 LB.

MAMA TURNEY CHOCOLATE PIE
or Chess or Pecan
8-Inch
$10.99 EA.

ANNA MARY'S POUND CAKE
42 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$9.99 EA.

SEAFOOD SALAD
Fresh Made
$6.99 LB.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Cullman, Cullman Christian close regular season Thursday

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com


CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CULLMAN, Ala. - Cullman and Cullman Christian will get one more opportunity to race before the postseason begins when the Bearcats and Lions compete in separate invitationals Thursday.

Cullman will travel to Scottsboro for the Last Chance Invitational at the John R. Esslinger Trail of Champions. Cullman Christian will run at the seventh annual Oakville XC Invitational at Oakville Indian Mounds Park in Moulton.

Both meets come one week before AHSAA sectional competition Oct. 29.

Cullman at Last Chance Invitational

The Bearcats will test themselves against a deep 27-team field that includes Huntsville, Oak Mountain, Vestavia Hills, Scottsboro, Fort Payne, Bob Jones, Hazel Green and Thompson.

Henry Crocker leads Cullman's boys entry list with a 15 minute, 53.20 second seed mark. Avin Dempsey is listed at 16:12.39, Benjamin Stidham at 16:19.20, Thatcher Lucas at 16:40.24, Connor Robinson at 16:43.50 and Mason Gobble at 16:49.72.

That group gives the Bearcats six runners seeded under 17 minutes entering one of the strongest fields they have faced this season. Dawson Helton is next on the list at 17:07.59, while Alston Herrod, Graeme Greenlee, Walker Helton, Wade Blackmon, Vincent Campanella, Ayden Rabending and Brooks Bentley are also entered for Cullman.

The Bearcats' girls bring similar depth to Scottsboro.

Mabry Free owns Cullman's top seed mark at 18:43.36. Madeline Stidham is listed at 19:32.79, Addison Vogelaar at 19:44.80 and Khloe Nalley at 20:34.33. Tinley Alldredge, Aubree Lawrence, Katie Richter, Victoria Waldrop, Sophie Robinson and Avery Laney are also among Cullman's entries.

The meet gives Cullman a final competitive tuneup before the Bearcats travel to Decatur for the Class 5A Section 5 meet at Point Mallard Park on Oct. 29. State championship berths will be on the line there.

Cullman Christian at Oakville XC Invitational

Cullman Christian will face a 21-team field at one of Alabama's most familiar championship venues. The varsity girls race is scheduled for 3 p.m. and the varsity boys race will follow at 3:30 p.m.

The Lions come into the meet five days after competing at the Randolph Invitational in Huntsville.

Calub Pruitt led Cullman Christian's boys there with a time of 19:54.41, finishing one spot ahead of teammate Chasen Hampton, who crossed in 19:55.36. Cutter Gibbs finished in 21:25.95, Gavin Stidham recorded a 23:03.42 and Caleb Randolph posted a 23:52.17 as the Lions placed 16th as a team.

Elijah Rutherford, Landon Jones and Colton Olinger also competed for Cullman Christian at Randolph.

Meribelle Brock paced the Lady Lions with a 26:40.81, followed by Arden Brock at 28:10.73 and Aubrie Claire Rigsby at 29:32.15.

Thursday's meet gives Cullman Christian a short turnaround and another opportunity to sharpen its lineup before the postseason. It also brings the Lions back to the Oakville venue that will host the AHSAA State Cross Country Championships on Nov. 7.

Cullman Christian will join St. Bernard at the Private School Single A Section 3 meet Oct. 29 at John Hunt Park in Huntsville. The top four teams and the top six individuals not on a qualifying team will advance to the state meet.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Cold Springs seeks to extend county title streaks Tuesday

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. - Cold Springs will run for two more pieces of county history Tuesday when the Eagles host the 2026 Cullman County Cross Country Championship.

The Cold Springs boys will pursue their 23rd consecutive county championship, while the Lady Eagles will seek their 21st straight title.

The varsity girls race is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., followed by the varsity boys at 11 and the combined junior varsity races at 11:30. Awards will follow.

Cold Springs, Fairview, Good Hope, Hanceville, Holly Pond, Vinemont and West Point are registered for the meet at Cold Springs High School.

The Eagles scored 34 points to claim their 22nd consecutive boys' championship last season at Fairview.

Vinemont finished second, Good Hope placed third and West Point, Fairview and Holly Pond completed the team standings.

Cold Springs produced a perfect score of 15 in the 2025 girls race, placing all five scoring runners among the first seven finishers. Holly Pond placed second and Fairview finished third.

The Lady Eagles went on to win the 2025 AHSAA Class 1A-2A state championship, while the Cold Springs boys finished as the state runner-up.

Reese Swidecki returns as the defending county girls champion after winning last year's race in 20 minutes, 27.81 seconds. She later won the 1A-2A state championship in 19 minutes, 20 seconds.

Cold Springs enters Tuesday after winning the Valley Cub Twilight Under the Lights in Anniston on Thursday. Swidecki won the girls race in 19 minutes, 23.52 seconds, Gemma Swidecki placed second in 19 minutes, 31.44 seconds and Kynzlie Myrex finished fourth in 20 minutes, 19.83 seconds.

Claire Hancock and Ally Mavers completed the Lady Eagles' scoring five in Anniston. That group gives Cold Springs five runners who finished among the first 18 in its final race before the county meet.

Vinemont's Aurellia Powell is the top returning challenger from last year's girls championship after placing fourth.

Holly Pond returns Kynleigh Wood and Bella Gambrill from its 2025 runner-up team, while Fairview, Good Hope and West Point also bring runners with recent varsity 5K experience.

Holly Pond placed second in the 1A-3A girls division at the Hay of a Run with 34 points. Fairview posted a winning team score of 15 in the meet's 4A-6A girls division.

The boys individual championship will change hands after 2025 winner Brady Johnson of Vinemont graduated.

Good Hope senior Drake Nichols enters as one of the leading contenders after finishing second at last year's county meet. Nichols placed sixth at Saturday's Randolph Invitational in Huntsville with a time of 17 minutes, 8.64 seconds.

Cold Springs counters with Logan Perdue and Carson Rice. Perdue led the Eagles at Thursday's Valley Cub Twilight, placing 12th in 17 minutes, 37.19 seconds, while Rice finished 18th in 17 minutes, 58.62 seconds.

Vinemont's Anakin Powell placed sixth at the 2025 county championship and finished second at the Vinemont Invitational earlier this season.

West Point's Lincoln Parker, the defending county junior varsity champion, has moved into the Warriors' varsity lineup and ran 18 minutes, 51.55 seconds at the Hay of a Run on Oct. 1.

West Point won the 4A-6A boys team division at the Hay of a Run with 39 points. Good Hope placed third with 70 and Fairview followed with 73, giving all three teams a recent head-to-head comparison entering Tuesday.

Holly Pond's Eli Morrow and Hanceville's Ely Stinson have led their teams in recent varsity competition. Vinemont also returns Anakin Powell and Abram Powell from last year's county runner-up lineup.

The county meet begins the final championship stretch before AHSAA sectional competition Oct. 29. Cold Springs will host the Class 1A-2A Section 3 meet, Hanceville, Holly Pond and Vinemont will compete in the Class 3A Section 3 meet at Munford and Fairview, Good Hope and West Point will run in the Class 4A Section 4 meet at Scottsboro.

Tuesday's meet will be held at Cold Springs High School, located at 9010 County Road 109 in Bremen. Parking is $5 and official results will be provided by Xpress Timing.

Good Hope's Nichols finishes 6th at Randolph Invitational

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com


FACEBOOK/JEREMY SCOTT - ALFA INSURANCE/OCT. 6, 2026

"Congratulations to Drake Nichols our Good Hope High School September Student Athlete of the Month."

CULLMAN, Ala. - Good Hope senior Drake Nichols finished sixth in the small-school boys race Saturday, Oct. 17, leading local runners at the Randolph Invitational at John Hunt Cross Country Park in Huntsville.

Good Hope, Cullman Christian and St. Bernard competed in the meet's small-school varsity divisions. The Raiders placed 14th among 23 scoring teams in the boys standings with 359 points. Cullman Christian finished 16th with 420 points and St. Bernard placed 21st with 490.

Nichols completed the 5-kilometer course in 17 minutes, 8.64 seconds. Johnathan Murphy followed in 66th at 20 minutes, 21.15 seconds, while Oliver Horvath finished 76th in 20 minutes, 34.22 seconds.

Benjamin Regas placed 132nd in 22 minutes, 43 seconds and Ryland Quinn finished 147th in 23 minutes, 9.94 seconds to complete Good Hope's first five. John Self placed 207th in 29 minutes, 48.85 seconds.

Jada Alsup led Good Hope's girls with a 44th-place finish in 23 minutes, 4.66 seconds. Kaysen Wood placed 85th in 25 minutes, 19.59 seconds, Sara Self finished 93rd in 25 minutes, 49.55 seconds and Ashton Gray placed 119th in 27 minutes, 53.26 seconds.

Cullman Christian's Calub Pruitt and Chasen Hampton both finished under 20 minutes in the boys race. Pruitt placed 51st in 19 minutes, 54.41 seconds, with Hampton following in 52nd at 19 minutes, 55.36 seconds.

Cutter Gibbs finished 104th in 21 minutes, 25.95 seconds, Gavin Stidham placed 140th in 23 minutes, 3.42 seconds and Caleb Randolph finished 164th in 23 minutes, 52.17 seconds to complete the Lions' first five.

Elijah Rutherford placed 175th in 24 minutes, 51.08 seconds, Landon Jones finished 194th in 26 minutes, 39.81 seconds and Colton Olinger placed 210th in 30 minutes, 13.14 seconds.

Meribelle Brock led Cullman Christian's girls, placing 104th in 26 minutes, 40.81 seconds. Arden Brock finished 121st in 28 minutes, 10.73 seconds and Aubrie Claire Rigsby placed 129th in 29 minutes, 32.15 seconds.

Sean Daly paced St. Bernard's boys with a 46th-place finish in 19 minutes, 42.95 seconds. Jesus Sanchez followed in 57th at 20 minutes, 4.30 seconds.

Kieran Gargan placed 168th in 24 minutes, 3.99 seconds, Stephen Bissot finished 179th in 25 minutes, 8.84 seconds and Jacob Thurston placed 204th in 28 minutes, 32.81 seconds.

In the girls race, St. Bernard's Anamari Alonzo finished 120th in 28 minutes, 2.35 seconds and Lily Kerber placed 130th in 29 minutes, 45.87 seconds.

The Cullman County Championship is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Cold Springs High School in Bremen.



Name that tune, win the game: Shrimp Basket hosts SINGO music bingo every Wednesday

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Hump day just got a lot more fun. Shrimp Basket in Cullman is hosting SINGO Night, a music bingo game, every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at its restaurant at 716 Second Ave. NW.

"Your Wednesday nights just got a whole lot better," the restaurant said in announcing the weekly event.

Bingo with a beat

SINGO puts a musical spin on the classic game. Instead of listening for numbers, players listen as songs play and mark off the matching song titles on their game cards.

"Forget numbers – at SINGO, you're matching your favorite songs to your game card!" Shrimp Basket said. "It's music bingo, and it's a blast."

The game started earlier this month and is scheduled to continue weekly, with the next rounds set for Wednesday, Oct. 21, and Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Gulf flavor in downtown Cullman

SINGO players can make a night of it with a meal. Shrimp Basket, a Gulf Coast-inspired seafood restaurant that has been serving guests since 1993, opened its Cullman location on May 1, 2019. The restaurant is known for fresh Gulf seafood, including shrimp and oysters, along with burgers, frozen tropical cocktails and a full bar. Its patio with roll-up doors gives the dining room a breezy, beachfront feel, and the outdoor seating is pet-friendly.

The Cullman restaurant is one of more than a dozen Shrimp Basket locations across Alabama, Florida and Mississippi.

Plan your visit

Shrimp Basket Cullman is open daily from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information, call 938-800-1331 or visit www.shrimpbasket.com/location/cullman.

Wallace State releases performing arts schedule for 2026-2027 season

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. - Wallace State Community College's Fine and Performing Arts program released its schedule for the 2026-2027 season. The season begins in early November with the Wallace State Theatre's production of an adaptation of William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and concludes in April 2027 with its Spring Under the Stars concert.

'Much Ado About Nothing'

The Wallace State Theatre program is putting a 20th century spin on the 16th century masterpiece by placing its characters in the World War II era, complete with the music and dances associated with that time.

"Much Ado About Nothing" will be staged Nov. 6, and 7 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 8, at 2 p.m., at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children under 12.

'Salute to United States Veterans'

On Nov. 10, Wallace State will present its annual "Salute to United States Veterans." The annual concert features the Wallace State Concert Band and Jazz Band performing patriotic songs. A highlight of the event is the performance of the hymns of the different branches of the Armed Forces and the recognition of veterans in attendance.

The "Salute to United States Veterans" will be held on Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Admission is free.

'The Nutcracker'

Wallace State will host Ballet South as it presents its annual production of "The Nutcracker." The performance of the Tchaikovsky classic will present the story of Clara as her dreams take her on a magical journey through the Land of Sweets.

"The Nutcracker" will be held on Nov. 21, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Nov. 22, at 2 p.m., at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Admission is $15 for adults and $10 for children.

'Christmas Spectacular'

Another annual favorite is the "Christmas Spectacular" featuring all the Wallace State performing arts ensembles in a celebration of the season.

"Christmas Spectacular" will be held on Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. Admission is free.

'Broadway Night'

"Broadway Night" will kick off the spring season in February. Another annual favorite, "Broadway Night" is a student-led production featuring pieces chosen by the students ranging from Broadway's vast history to current productions.

"Broadway Night" will be held on Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., at the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is a $10 donation.

Solo & Chamber Ensemble Recital

Wallace State students will showcase their talent again during the Solo & Chamber Ensemble Recital. The program will feature instrumental and vocal performances by the college's small ensembles and soloists.

The Solo & Chamber Ensemble Recital will be held on March 18, at 7 p.m., at the Burrow Center Recital Hall.

'Our Town'

Wallace State Theatre will present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Our Town" as its spring production March 19-20, at 7 p.m. and March 21, at 2 p.m., at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children under 12.

'Doo Wop Ditties'

The Wallace State Singers will take you back in time with their production of "Doo Wop Ditties," featuring an array of music from the 50s and 60s.

"Doo Wop Ditties" will be presented April 9-10, at 7 p.m. and April 11, at 2 p.m., at the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children under 12.

Big Band Dance

The Wallace State Jazz Band will host its annual Big Band Dance on April 16, at 7 p.m., at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students and children under 12.

Spring Under the Stars

The season will conclude with the annual Spring Under the Stars concert. All Wallace State performing arts ensembles will share selections from productions and concerts presented throughout the year. Held outside of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, the event offers a night out with dining options from local food trucks. Admission is free; bring a chair or blanket for seating.

Scholarship auditions scheduled

The Fine and Performing Arts programs will hold scholarship auditions Feb. 12 and March 5, from 8 a.m.-noon at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Visit wallacestate.edu/fpa for more information or call 256-352-8277.

Walk (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - North Central Neurology Associates, in partnership with the Joanne P. LaGanke MS Center and MS Views and News, hosted the 2026 Move Over MS Walk Saturday morning, Oct. 17, at Heritage Park in Cullman.

Clinical Research Coordinator Mary Beth Sellers said the Move Over MS Walk was a shining success.

"We had 100-150 people participate in the walk and even additional to attend; it's been a great day," Sellers said. "I was told that this was the biggest MS Walk we've had so far and the most well attended. From sponsorships alone, we raised more than $22,000 for MS Views and News."

The event featured live music from the Overtones and family Halloween fun for all attendees.

Dr. Christopher LaGanke said they were so excited with the attendance and nice day for the event.

"We are so happy with the support we received from the community," LaGanke said. "Truly this was a blessing."

Founder and President of MS Views and News Stuart Schlossman shared, "This was a great event and the attendance and support will help further our programs."

The MS Walk in Cullman is held to raise awareness and support for people living with multiple sclerosis.

"MS can have a profound impact on young and middle-aged adults and their families," LaGanke said. "My mother's experience with this disease inspired my calling to care for those affected, so this cause is deeply personal to me. We're thankful for our community's support, and with live music, children's activities and more, we hope everyone will come out for a morning of fun and fellowship while supporting this important cause."

The walk also raises funds benefiting MS Views and News, a nonprofit organization that provides educational programs and resources for people affected by MS.

Official 2026 Move Over MS Walk T-shirts and MS Warrior hats are available for purchase at North Central Neurology Associates.

T-shirts are $20 for sizes small through extra-large and $23 for sizes 2X and 3X. MS Warrior hats are $25 each. Payment is cash or check only.

The clinic is located at 1809 Kress St. in Cullman.

For more information about the clinic, visit www.facebook.com/northcentralneurology.

Learn more about MS Views and News at www.msviewsandnews.org.

The Link (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Grab a costume and a candy bucket. The Link of Cullman County is hosting a Trunk or Treat Night this Friday, Oct. 23, from 6-8 p.m. at the Desperation Church Student Center, 202 Elizabeth St. NE in Cullman.

Families can stroll from trunk to trunk collecting candy, and there will be plenty of treats for grown-ups too. Food vendors scheduled for the evening include:

- Betos Tacos
- Devil Dawgs
- Holders & Beans Coffee Truck
- A Little Something Extra Ice Cream

For The Link, a night like this is about more than candy. It's a chance to do what the organization has been doing for more than a decade: bring neighbors together.

Born from a calling

When Dawn Owens moved to Cullman, she knew no one outside her husband's family. But as she settled into her new hometown, she couldn't shake the needs she saw around her.

"God made me really uncomfortable," Owens told The Tribune in 2017.

That restlessness became a calling. In 2010, guided by the scripture to love God and love your neighbor, Owens envisioned a central hub where families in need could find support all in one place. She began meeting with local people, churches and groups to share the idea.

"Little by little, people started to come on board with me," she said.

Churches opened their doors to help. St. John's Church provided The Link's first home on Third Avenue, and The Link officially opened March 1, 2012. In 2017, Cullman Church of Christ provided a larger home: a converted church building at 708 Ninth St. SE.

More than a decade later, that same faith still anchors everything The Link does.

Neighbors, not clients

Today, The Link describes itself as a faith-based nonprofit working to break the cycle of poverty in Cullman County through encouragement, education and employability training. Its guiding belief is simple: "All people are valued and loved by God, and it is our joy to serve them and our God."

That belief shows in how staff talk about the people who walk through their doors. Rather than "clients," The Link calls them neighbors, and the organization says it measures success by the quality of life of those neighbors.

Over the years, that has meant help in many forms: the Master's Hand Food Pantry; literacy and tutoring programs; kindergarten readiness and summer enrichment camps; parenting and life-skills classes through Renew U; supervised visitations at its Nurturing Place; community meals; and even a warming shelter during freezing weather.

The Link's work continues to grow. In May, the organization received $1 million in state funding, secured by Sen. Garlan Gudger Jr. and local state representatives, to expand tutoring, parental and financial education and summer enrichment camps for local students. Executive Director Melissa Betts called it "an incredible opportunity to continue strengthening programs" for local children and families. Last month, The Link celebrated its accreditation and membership in the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers.

Join the fun

Trunk or Treat Night is set for Friday, Oct. 23, from 6-8 p.m. at the Desperation Church Student Center, 202 Elizabeth St. NE.

To learn more about The Link of Cullman County, volunteer or give, visit linkingcullman.org or stop by The Link at 708 Ninth St. SE.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JOYCE ANNETTE HAMMOND, * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 384
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Amelia Kathryn Hammond as Executor of the Estate of Joyce Annette Hammond, deceased, on the 15th day of October, 2026, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Amelia Kathryn Hammond
Executor

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

Attorney for Executor

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF TRACY ANDERSON DECICCO FOR THE ADOPTION OF BRIANA DAWN TAYLOR AN ADULT — CASE NO.: AD 2025-052

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: PAULA JOYCE DECICCO, BOILOGICAL MOTHER WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

Please take notice that a *Petition for Adoption of an Adult and Amended Petition for Adoption of an Adult* to adopt B.D.T. born on February 5, 1993, was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Tracy Anderson Decicco, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 9th DAY OF October, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Petitioner
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DAVID CECIL CAPLES, * CASE NO.: PC2026-400
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to DAVID A. CAPLES as Personal Representative of the Estate of DAVID CECIL CAPLES, deceased, on the 9th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

David A. Caples
Personal Representative

James B. Griffin, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 911
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
RICHARD LEE BRUMFIELD,
Deceased.
Case Number: PC2026-363

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Richard Lee Brumfield, Deceased

Letters Of Administration, having been granted to the undersigned on the 9th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Hattie Rae Brumfield
Personal Representative

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

TO PUBLISHER: The Cullman Tribune

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 17-19

Robert "Bob" Keefe, 84
Berkeley Bob was born Robert J. Keefe in Northampton Massachusetts, November of 1941 to John and Evelyn Keefe. Bob was the oldest sibling of three. The family moved to California where his father, a WWII veteran, got a job as the City Planner of Modesto and Evelyn taught school. In the hills of California Bob cultivated his love of nature. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Forestry at the University of California Berkeley. His adventurous spirit sent him to Alaska where he fought wildfires. He enlisted into the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and became a helicopter pilot. He flew many combat missions and once saved his entire crew after the tail rudder was shot off the Huey he was flying. The survivors tried to get him a Congressional Medal of Honor for many years after the incident with no avail but they always kept in touch and thanked Bob for saving their lives. After the war Bob found peace and music in the Okefenokee Swamp and eventually married Geri (Rutz) Keefe. They recently celebrated 50 years together. Once he retired from his 25 year career as a forester with International Paper he and Geri opened Berkeley Bob's Coffee House in 2001. In this sixties style coffee he poured his love of fresh coffee, folk music and lively conversation into the Cullman community. Bob's was a success eventually becoming a well known attraction, getting write ups from magazines such as Southern Living and was listed as the Best Coffee House in Alabama. His listening venue became well respected among artists and musicians came from all over the nation to be heard. He retired again selling the coffee house in 2014. Bob passed suddenly and peacefully his home surrounded by loved ones on Oct 1st. He will always be remembered as a loving husband and dad and one heck of a banjo frailer. He is survived by his faithful wife Geri and his many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Sean Keefe, wife Stevie Kristan and Mark Struck their children Ryan, Tanner and Sadie Shelly Hicks her children Jeremy, Brad, Lauren and son Caleb. Kenny Lindsay Michael Eady, his wife Angela their children Grayson and Sierra, husband EB Todd Eady, wife Sonia, children Logan and Hayden, Taylor, husband Hunter and their children Houston (Hoot), Hunt and Hatton Erin Brooks, husband Josh, their kids Fisher and Asher

Jeffrey Young Matz, 63
Memorial Service for Jeffrey Young Matz, age 63 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Matz passed away on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at Cullman Regional. He was born, Jan. 8, 1963, to Gary Matz and Sheryl McKinney. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jennifer Matz. Survivors include his wife, Kris Matz; daughter, Morgan Matz; father, Gary (Birdie) Matz; mother, Sheryl (Gerl) McKinney; sister, Julie (Jason) Teague; brothers, Gerl Wayne (Wendy) McKinney, Brian (Laura) McKinney, and Jeff Allen (Paula) McKinney; and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends.

Larry Wayne Raymond, 50
Funeral services for Larry Wayne Raymond, 50, of Bremen will be 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Cold Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday Oct. 18, from 5-7 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. In Loving Memory of Larry Wayne Raymond May 31, 1976 – October 12, 2026 Forever loved, forever missed, and forever our protector. Larry Wayne Raymond, age 50, gained his heavenly wings on October 12, 2026. Though his time here was far too short, the love he gave, the lives he touched, and the legacy he leaves behind will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. Larry was a devoted husband, a loving father, a cherished son and brother, and a loyal friend. He was a man whose heart was as big as his presence, whose hands could build beautiful homes, and whose love could make the people around him feel safe, protected, and cared for. To know Larry was to know someone who would show up for you without hesitation. He was the friend everyone needed and the kind of person who always had your back, no matter the circumstances. If someone needed him, he was there at the drop of a hat. Larry was the ultimate hard worker. He spent most of his life as a carpenter, perfecting his craft and taking tremendous pride in everything he built. His dedication and determination led him to earn his General Contractor's License and start his own custom homebuilding company, an accomplishment he was incredibly proud of. Larry was always striving to better himself and his work, never settling when he knew he could do more. Building was more than a job to him; it was a passion and a part of who he was. Even after becoming disabled and no longer being able to work as he once had, his love for his trade never faded. He continued to dream of working, building, and doing what he loved. That was Larry—an incredible work ethic, an unbreakable spirit, and a heart that never stopped wanting to provide. But as proud as Larry was of the homes he built, nothing in this world compared to the family he built and the love he had for them. Larry's greatest accomplishment in life was being a daddy to his seven children: Jacob, John, Addison, Preston, Alivia, Alaina, and Liam. Those babies were his whole world, his reason for living, and the greatest source of joy in his life. If you ever asked Larry what he was most proud of, the answer would always be his children. He loved them more than anything this world could ever offer. He was a devoted father whose love knew no limits, and he treasured every moment of being their daddy. Larry loved all children and was happiest when the house was full of kids, laughter, noise, and life. His heart had room for everyone, and his home was a place where love was meant to be shared. To his family, Larry was a giant teddy bear—a gentle soul with a tender heart who was fiercely protective of the people he loved. Beneath his strength was a kindness that made him special. He was the one who wanted to make sure everyone was okay, the one who would stand up for those he loved, and the one who could be counted on when life got hard. He had a way of making people feel that, no matter what happened, they were not facing it alone. Larry was just as wonderful of a husband as he was a father. He and his wife, Rhonda Raymond, shared a love that was unmistakable. From their very first date, they knew they had found something special in one another, and they married just a little over two months later. Their love was sure, deep, and unwavering. It was rare to see one without the other, and that was exactly how they wanted it. They chose to walk through life side by side, facing its joys and hardships together. They were partners in every sense of the word, and the life they shared was a testament to a love that knew where it belonged. Larry was Rhonda's husband, her best friend, her companion, and her other half. The bond they shared was one that time could never erase. Larry leaves behind his beloved wife, Rhonda Raymond, and their seven precious children, Jacob, John, Addison, Preston, Alivia, Alaina, and Liam. He is also survived by his mother, Sherry Diane Williams (Mike); his father, Leroy Raymond; his brothers, Kenneth Berryhill, Leroy Raymond (Kimberly), and Robert Raymond; his sisters, Tina Phillips, Amanda Raymond; and a host of nieces and nephews who will carry his memory in their hearts. Though Larry's hands can no longer build, the things he built throughout his life will remain. The homes he worked so hard to create, the lessons he taught, the friendships he nurtured, the family he adored, and the countless lives he touched are all part of the legacy he leaves behind. His greatest work was never measured in lumber, blueprints, or finished homes. It was measured in the love he gave, the people he protected, and the family who will forever carry a piece of him. There are no words that can truly capture the emptiness left behind when a husband, father, son, brother, and friend like Larry is gone. His absence will be felt in the quiet moments, in the everyday routines, in the sound of children playing, and in all the moments when his family wishes they could turn to him one more time. But his love will remain—in the hearts of his children, in the memories he created with Rhonda, and in the lives of everyone fortunate enough to have known him. Larry was deeply loved, and he will be missed beyond measure. Though he has gained his heavenly wings, his love will never leave the people who meant everything to him. His children will forever be able to say they had a daddy who loved them with his entire heart. Rhonda will forever carry the love of the man who stood beside her through life. And all who knew Larry will remember a man who worked hard, loved deeply, protected fiercely, and gave of himself without hesitation. Rest peacefully, Larry. You spent your life building, providing, protecting, and loving. You built homes with your hands and a family with your heart. Your work here is done, but your love will continue to live on in all of us. You were, and always will be, our protector, our safe place, our gentle giant, and our beloved Larry Wayne Raymond. Until we meet again, you will forever be loved, forever missed, and never forgotten.

Larry Dean Phillips, 80
Larry Dean Phillips, 80, passed away on Oct. 15, 2026, at 7:12 a.m. at Brookwood Baptist Medical Center. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin Alonzo Phillips and Nona Mae Speegle Phillips. He is survived by his daughters, Lacinda Phillips Bolio and Sherry Larinda Goode (Earl); his grandchildren, Daniel Taylor Bolio (Isabella) and Gehrig Tyler Bolio (Aylin); along with many extended family members and friends who will miss him. Born and raised in Cullman County, Alabama, Larry graduated from Cullman High School in 1965. He began his career with Monsanto in Decatur and was known throughout his life as a hardworking man who believed in providing for his family. He was married to Barbara Thomason Phillips for 46 years, and together they raised two daughters and were blessed with two grandsons. Larry enjoyed a wide variety of interests throughout his life. He loved arrowhead hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, traveling, and photography. He especially enjoyed spending time outdoors and searching for pieces of history. An avid collector, he built impressive collections of arrowheads and Native American artifacts, coins, marbles, and knives. He was always eager to share his knowledge and stories behind the items he collected. Music was also an important part of Larry's life. He sang in a gospel quartet for a few years and enjoyed playing the organ. More than performing, he loved sharing music with family and friends. Many fond memories were made gathered around the organ as Larry played and led sing-alongs for guests, friends, and family members in his home. In his later years, Larry developed a love for cooking and gardening. One of his greatest pleasures was sharing the food he prepared and the vegetables and crops he grew. Family, friends, neighbors, and others were often recipients of his garden's harvest and homemade meals. It was one of the ways he showed he cared for others. Larry loved his family through a lifetime of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. He took pride in providing for those he loved and ensuring his family was cared for. He was proud of his daughters and found great joy in spending time with his grandchildren, who held a special place in his heart and were among his greatest blessings. Faith remained an important part of Larry's life. At a young age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at Bethsaidia Baptist Church. Over the years, he served as a deacon in the Baptist church and later as an elder in the Methodist church. He was active in several congregations, participated in mission trips to the Caribbean Islands and Cuba, and made two pilgrimages to Israel. Larry will be remembered as a man of strong values, steady character, and generous spirit. He enjoyed life's simple pleasures: time with family, a good meal, a productive garden, an interesting find for one of his collections, and music shared with those around him. His legacy lives on through the family he loved, the lessons he taught through his example, and the many memories he leaves behind. A life well lived is measured not only by years, but by the people whose lives were made better because you were part of them.

Tammy Diane Scruggs, 64
Tammy Diane Scruggs, age 64, went to her Heavenly Home on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. Tammy was born Feb. 11, 1962, and lived a life filled with happiness, laughter, and simple joys. She graduated from the Margaret Jean Jones Center in 1980. Over her lifetime, she enjoyed cruises and other trips and spending time on the fishing boat with her parents. Some of Tammy's favorite pastimes included watching the Andy Griffith Show and "Spin the Wheel" (aka Wheel of Fortune), drinking Yoo-Hoos and Mountain Dew, playing Wii Bowling, and circling letters in her Search A Word Puzzle Books. She is preceded in death by her father, Herman Scruggs, her brother, Gene Scruggs and her grandparents, Clyde & Ida Scruggs and Ocie & Ruby Golson. She is survived by her loving mother, Emma Scruggs; her brothers Scott (Alesia) Scruggs, and Steve (Kathy) Scruggs; her sister, Janet (Don) Wilson and her sister-in-law, Robin. She is also survived by her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, along with numerous friends that she has made throughout the years. A Visitation will be held at Moss Service Funeral Home (1901 Second Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35055) on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from noon-2 p.m. A graveside service will follow at 2:30 p.m. at the Jones Chapel Cemetery (across from Jones Chapel Church of Christ, 121 County Road 1115, Cullman, AL 35057).

Shirley Kay Faber, 75
Shirley Kay Faber, age 75, of Decatur, Alabama, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital, with her loving family by her side. Born on March 19, 1951, in Florida, Shirley was the daughter of Mack "Jack" E. Boyd and Lola Bell White Boyd. She was a dedicated business owner and familiar face in the Decatur community, serving as the owner of Tobacco Road for more than five years after having worked there since the 1980s. Shirley found great joy in spending time with her family and making memories with those she loved most. She cherished trips to the beach, collecting seashells along the shoreline, and relaxing during weekends at Joe Wheeler State Park, where she enjoyed staying in a riverside cabin surrounded by family. Her strength, resilience, and love for life were evident as she courageously battled illness for the past 17 years. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Lola Boyd, and her sister, Nancy Lyle. Those left to cherish her memory include her devoted husband of 54 years, Michael Faber; her daughter, Lauren Boyd Faber; and her beloved grandson, Jacob Boyd Herlong. A Celebration of Life service will be held at the Point Mallard Clubhouse at a later date. Shirley will be remembered for her unwavering strength, her love of family, and the countless memories she created with those she held dear. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home is honored to serve the Faber Family.

David Lynn Cegelski, 72
David Lynn Cegelski, age 72, of Decatur, Alabama, passed away on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. Born on July 28, 1954, in Dallas, Texas, David was the son of Bennie Cegelski and Rosabell Wilms Cegelski. He spent many years working as a log haul truck driver and proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Army. David enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. He loved fishing and hunting, was a devoted fan of the Dallas Cowboys, and never missed an opportunity to watch the team's cheerleaders. He will be remembered for his love of the outdoors, his sense of humor, and the many memories he shared with family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bennie and Rosabell Cegelski, and his brother, Stephen Cegelski. David leaves behind his brothers, Michael Cegelski and Tom Cegelski; his sisters, Cindy White, Donna Rohling, and Mary Curling; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews who will cherish his memory. A graveside interment at Alabama National Cemetery will be held at a later date. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cegelski Family.

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

CULLMAN'S ON-SITE STATE OF THE ART CREMATORY NOW OPEN
DIRECT CREMATION $1,695 | NO HIDDEN COSTS

100% Locally Owned & Operated by Steve and Hilda Rodgers

(256) 734-3144
461 U.S. Highway 278 East
Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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

Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130





'Someone commented...': The lack of originality on social media

Claire McPhillips
Contributor

This piece is part of a series The Tribune is featuring from Cullman High School's student newspaper, The Highlight.

It's kinda weird how we're all reading this right now, right? Trends can become an excuse for a lot of things, including comments that may say, "I'm bored let's delete our accounts" and, "It's not that deep" that tend to have a sense of fun entwined in them. However, this is leading to a far larger issue than just humor.

I am describing this online behavior as the "bot epidemic." This term comes from everything online being practically copy-and-pasted from other comments to the point where they are all you see. The way in which bots interact online are more-so along the lines of spam messages and comments, like the infamous three-emoji comment. To know the way in which I am categorizing these is important to the understanding of this piece, as I mainly focus on the repetitiveness of online behavior rather than legitimate robots.

Popular comments have always been a staple in social media, but they used to all be original and fit the post they were under. Now, it seems that any possible comment can fit any post regardless of topic. According to TikTok comments, you have to check your Flo app under anything that seems different or "weird" to the general public. Online users who get emotional at a wholesome video are now seen as overreacting because others do not take emotions seriously. The Flo comments can also have a greater effect of belittling women's emotions when they are used to make fun of the creator of a video. Women are still trying to become equals with men, and these push us back rather than contribute to progression.

Alongside the struggles of women are the implied insults hidden behind words of encouragement that can affect almost anyone. When someone might comment, "I love whatever's wrong with you," they are passive aggressively commenting on someone's qualities and characteristics being endearing.

Backhanded "compliments" further contribute to forcing people into boxes and the regression of society.

The constant need to repeat what others say ends up dwindling the humor in the post or comment. For example, if someone posts a comment that gets so many likes it is the first one you see, someone is bound to post their own comment that says, "Someone commented..." and follow it with the top comment. This act completely diminishes the overall meaning and uniqueness of the original comment. This also happens with posts as well, even on other platforms. Twitter posts are copied, pasted and uploaded onto TikTok by different creators, and it receives more traction on the latter rather than the former. Even posts on TikTok are stolen and uploaded on – you guessed it – the same platform!

I feel like I should also address the actual bots: the ones that try to scam you or just spam unnecessary comments. Robots are nearly everywhere one may go on the internet, but a lot of the time interacting with bots can be avoidable, even if the endless notifications of them liking a comment of yours from two years ago is annoying.

Then, of course, there are the comments that are supposedly bots because they are "rage-baiting" other commenters. Whether it be a controversial topic under a post that directly opposes the bot comment or someone simply disagreeing with another's basic opinion, rage-baiting is becoming a more common descriptor than ever; some instances blatantly so to the point they are put under the category of bot comments. While this may seem a bit of a harsh categorization, a lot of online users seem to use this because they, too, are tired of the endless attempts of trying to cause turmoil through disagreements. The internet is supposed to be a way to connect and learn things and is not truly meant to be an environment where everyone argues with each other all the time. Although realizing this will not prevent these interactions, it does give insight to anyone who realizes it.

Like most things, the bot epidemic has an alleged origin that can be supported – that origin is the usage of generative artificial intelligence. Modern generative AI – the AI that a lot of the population uses today – surfaced around 2020; the most popular form, ChatGPT, was released to the public in 2022. It has gained more and more popularity over the years, especially as more branches of generative AI are being created. Now, online users will comment AI stickers, post AI videos and create AI posters; basically anything a human could do with time and motivation is instead being created by using a generative program.

These types of "creations" are leaving users with unoriginal ideas, which directly correspond to the repetitive comments. The common online users are losing their autonomy of coming up with original ideas. It can be further thought out like groupthink – thoughts influenced by conforming to societal views – where everyone who comments the same ideas can be seen as sharing a single thought process. The groupthink mentality is extremely damaging to individuality due to the fact that people stop having their own opinions and agree with everything they see without deciding to view the other side. Without individuality, what is the purpose of living and being able to learn?

Overall, the bot epidemic is damaging the sense of community more than we originally thought. Comments such as, "Nope doesn't ring a bell" and, "Stop stealing my likes" take away from the point that some people are trying to get across, especially if the latter is said by the creator of the video and the video is, in the end, a serious discussion. Contributions from generative AI have furthered this process in that they decrease creativity and influence other users to use such platforms, generally decreasing the originality that a lot of individuals used to hold.

Nightmare (from Front)

"My wife and I would sit on the back porch and build these zombies together."

He laughed, "We thought we were big time! We have 12 or 13 zombies – you would've thought we brought the circus to town!"

The number of trick-or-treaters began to increase each year, going from 10-15 kids to several hundred over the first few years.

"Our goal at that time was to get everyone in the neighborhood to participate because when I was a kid growing up in the 80s that's what I cherished as a child, going trick-or-treating around the neighborhoods," Lee explained.

He said it remained a birthday celebration, but the overall goal was to inspire community effort.

It started with the neighborly encouragement of saying, "Leave your light on."

He said only three to five houses left their lights on and handed out candy for the first five or six years. Though participation would soon grow and the neighborhood would earn its reputation.

The neighbors began dressing as Michael Myers from "Halloween" while Lee dressed as "Leatherface" from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

"My daughter was Freddie Krueger and my other neighbor was Jason Voorhees. We had all these 80s characters and it just stuck!" Lee exclaimed.

Woodland Street now has roughly 25 neighbors participating throughout the holiday. "It blows my mind to know where we're at right now," he said.

In 17 years, the Lee family helped Nightmare on Woodland Street go from one porch light to a street full of children. In 2025, the Lee residence handed out 17,000 pieces of chocolate candy to 4,000 kids.


ZACH LEE

Kayleigh Lee



ZACH LEE

Zach Lee

Zach and Jessica Lee also gave thanks to a friend, who would like to stay anonymous, who has helped the family with candy throughout the last few years.

"Hundreds of props, thousands of lights, power grids and everything that goes into this just blows my mind!" he laughed. "I love seeing the smiles on the kids' faces, but I had no clue it was going to be what it is today."

Lee spoke of the tradition they wanted to give to the neighborhood – just like they grew up with. He expressed gratitude for all of his neighbors. "My wife and I are so thankful for the friends that have given support with our yard over the years, We are very thankful for our friends."

One year, the family ran out of candy and was fortunate enough to have friends willing to help pick up more. Though they handed out butterscotch, peppermints and Dum-Dums for the rest of the night, no children left their yard empty handed.

The family said from that moment that they would never run out of candy and they would never go unprepared.

They now spend months beforehand preparing props and goody bags. The goody bags ensure every child has the same amount and no one feels left out. In preparation, the family watches horror or slasher films while putting together goody bags and creating new props over a cup of coffee.

Lee also gave credit to his wife, "I could not do this without her; she has really helped me organize this chaos over the years. Anytime I have a wild idea she's always there to help me see it through. Also she always has the best costumes. She is my Halloween sweetheart."

Lee noted that this is all about involvement and giving back to the community. "A lot of people get intimidated by some of the yards in the neighborhood that go extremely big. It doesn't matter if you have one pumpkin on the porch and you're out there with two buckets of candy – that's just as good!"

He reiterated that it's all worth the effort and any involvement is a step in the right direction. What matters is leaving the light on and giving the generations to come a glimpse into tradition.

In honor of Kayleigh's upcoming 24th birthday, Zach and Jessica Lee included the following message for her.

To our wonderful daughter:

None of this would have happened without you. Your birthday and Halloween celebration has given your mom and I wonderful memories that will carry on forever. Just know that, on Halloween night, when thousands of people are coming through the yard and door to door throughout our street making their own memories, this all started with you and hoping that Mom and Dad can make memories for you that will hopefully carry on forever.

Happy Halloween!

Love you,
Mom and Dad

You can find Woodland Street Northwest between U.S. Highway 31 North and St. Joseph Drive Northwest, in the Woodland Heights subdivision in Cullman.