


# The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 153 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 128

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



TRIBUNE.STORE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**OBITUARIES**
David Chad Cheeks, David Allen Shoemaker, Hershel Clinton Rasco, Sheila Monk Foster, Norma Jean Wrenn, Lester Wayne Collins
» PAGE 8

**WEATHER**
73 45
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

**Arrests and Incidents**
» PAGE 2

**Community Calendar**
» PAGE 3

**Games**
» PAGE 7



BOBI JO CREEL/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

**The victory formation that brought him home: Life-threatening injury could not shake Vinemont Senior Will Conquest's purpose**
» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

# Brooks' Place receives huge blessing following canceled event

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** - Hot Rods and Harleys in Dodge City holds an annual car show each fall to raise money for Brooks' Place in Cullman. This year's event was scheduled for Oct. 10, but due to inclement weather, it had to be canceled. But a selfless act took place.

Brooks' Place Board President Carrie Bentley said they have immense gratitude for Scotty and Karen Hooper, Laura Frezza and everyone at Hot Rods and Harleys Museum for their continued commitment to Brooks' Place.

"As part of this year's fundraiser, 300 tickets were sold for a chance to win a beautiful, bright red 1947 Ford Deluxe convertible," Bentley said. "The winning ticket was originally scheduled to be drawn during the museum's annual car show, but Hurricane Isaias unfortunately forced the cancellation of the event. Despite the change in plans, Sheriff Matt Gentry graciously came out to draw the winning ticket. Mr. Chuck Bothe of Valrico, Florida, was the lucky winner of the beautiful 1947 Ford convertible. After learning more about the important work Brooks' Place does for children in Cullman County, Mr. Bothe made the incredibly generous decision to donate the car back to the organization in memory of his longtime friend, Gentleman Jim Stidham of Eva. A successful businessman and Vietnam veteran, Mr. Bothe has turned an exciting win into an even greater gift for our community. We are deeply grateful for his kindness, generosity and heartfelt tribute to his friend."

The car show » PAGE 2

# Martin Aviation celebrates grand opening of new aircraft maintenance facility at Cullman Regional Airport



CARRIE BENTLEY

*Martin Aviation, local leaders and community members cut the ribbon on the company's new aircraft maintenance facility at Cullman Regional Airport – Folsom Field Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026.*

**Krystal Corley**
krystal@cullmantribune.com

**VINEMONT, Ala.** – With gleaming turboprops parked behind them and a packed hangar cheering them on, Martin Aviation, LLC officially opened the doors to its new aircraft maintenance facility at Cullman Regional Airport – Folsom Field Thursday morning.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted in partnership with the Cullman Regional Airport Authority and the Cullman Economic Development Agency, drew local leaders, aviation professionals, Martin Aviation's team and community members.

Jamie Troutman, executive director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency, welcomed the crowd and kicked off the program, which featured remarks from Martin Aviation Owner Chris Martin, local officials, Cullman Regional Airport Director Ben Harrison and Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs. Afterward, guests toured the new facility during an open house with light refreshments.

The 13,000-square-foot facility will offer aircraft maintenance and inspection services for jet and turboprop aircraft, filling a need for turbine maintenance right on the field.

"Folsom Field plays a huge role in supporting the growing industry in central Alabama," Martin said in a press release. "By bringing turbine maintenance to the field, we are able to keep both visitors and locals moving through the airport without worries of being stuck due to a maintenance issue."

**'A fantastic maintenance facility'**

Harrison thanked the airport's staff for handling day-to-day operations and fuel needs, saying the day wouldn't have been possible without them.

He also shared a lighthearted story about first meeting Martin years ago, when Martin was a young man spending plenty of time at the airport skydiving. Harrison joked that when Martin took his helmet off, his hair looked like Doc Brown's from "Back to the Future." Over time, Harrison said, he came to understand just how deep the Martin family's roots run in aviation.

"I'm so happy that you've chosen this location to set up this fantastic maintenance facility," Harrison told the Martins. He thanked everyone who had a hand in bringing the facility together and said he looks forward to the airport's continued growth.

In the press release, Harrison called Martin Aviation's investment "an exciting addition to our » PAGE 2

STATE VOLLEYBALL

**4 local teams carry championship hopes into AHSAA Elite Eight**
» PAGE 4

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

**Wallace State sweeps Calhoun, extends winning streak to 11**
» PAGE 5

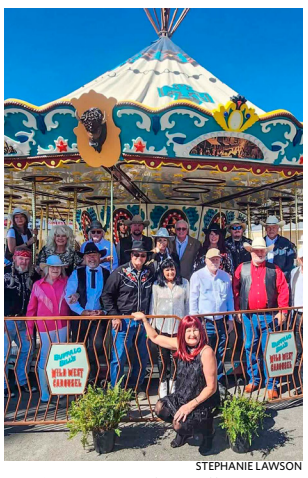
**2026 Junior Miss Cullman County Fair Princess**



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Cora Lee Ashley was crowned Junior Miss Cullman County Fair Princess on Oct. 21, 2026. See a full photo gallery at www.facebook.com/CullmanTribune.*

**Senior Day at the fair draws 500**



STEPHANIE LAWSON

*Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair took place Oct. 21, 2026.* » PAGE 3



CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 23

**Staff Reports**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 23, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**INCIDENTS**

**Oct. 19**

- domestic violence; CR 1196
- menacing; criminal mischief; CR 617
- domestic violence; CR 1106
- possession of marijuana; CR 565
- criminal mischief; CR 369

**Oct. 20**

- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747
- theft of property; Goodwin Rd.
- domestic violence; CR 1329

**Oct. 21**

- possession of controlled substances; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 747
- harassing communications; CR 627
- theft of property; CR 1184
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; CR 1515
- robbery; CR 222

**ARRESTS**

No arrests reported.

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**Oct. 21**

- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. NW

**Oct. 22**

- identity theft; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Ward Ave. SW
- harassment; person; Eva Rd. NE
- identity theft; person

**Oct. 23**

- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damage to '21 Ford F150; $300; Kim Ln. SE

**ARRESTS**

**Oct. 22**

**Chambers, Jimmy J.; 29**

- possession of controlled substances
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- receiving stolen property-1st degree
- attempt to elude

**Sears, Megan N.; 42**

- theft of property-4th degree

**Ohls, Levi R.; 22**

- FTA – driving without license

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No arrests and incidents reported.

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




# Facility (from Front)

airport and the aviation community in North Alabama."

"Having turbine aircraft maintenance services available on-site will enhance the level of service we can offer pilots and aircraft operators while supporting the continued growth of our airport," he said. "We're proud to welcome Chris Martin and his team to Cullman County and look forward to the positive impact this facility will have on our local economy and the next generation of aviation professionals."

Jacobs, who chairs the city-county Airport Board, pointed to the cooperation behind the project. The airport is jointly owned, and Jacobs said the city and county share in its projects.

"If you're going to use the word teamwork, we mean it around here," Jacobs said.

**From family flights to 19 states**

A corporate pilot who grew up in a flying family, Martin first began performing aircraft maintenance as a way to help family and friends with their own flying.

"I have two kids, so I want the people I care about to feel safe flying their families," Martin said. "I never intended for Martin Aviation to grow to this level. We are fortunate to be surrounded by clients and supporters who recognize our quality, and our purpose for doing this. It's hard work, but it's rewarding."

Martin Aviation, which Martin owns with his wife, Cheris, opened at Scottsboro Municipal Airport in 2018. Since then, the company has built a client list spanning 19 states and is recognized as a Textron Large MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) facility. Its services include full-service maintenance and inspections, jet and turbine engine maintenance, avionics, nondestructive testing, pre-purchase evaluations, paint and interior repair and maintenance tracking, and the company specializes in Beechcraft King Air aircraft.

The Martins' ties to Cullman go back years. When officials broke ground on the project in August 2024, Martin recalled that he and his wife became frequent visitors to the Cullman airport about 12 years earlier.

**Building a local pipeline**

Martin Aviation plans to keep both its Scottsboro and Cullman locations running, and Martin said the area's community colleges are a big reason why.

"As we get established in Cullman, we look forward to partnering with Wallace State Community College and supporting its aviation program," Martin said. "The Martin Aviation Cullman manager is a graduate of Snead State, so we understand the important role the community colleges play in training young mechanics. It really makes me proud that we are doing something here that will allow young people to have quality jobs without having to travel away from home."

**Learn more**

For more information about Martin Aviation, call 256-599-7948 or visit martinaviation.us.




# Blessing (from Front)

is an annual tradition and is expected to return next fall, with proceeds benefiting Brooks' Place.

"We look forward to another wonderful event and are thankful for the continued support of everyone who helps make it possible," Bentley said. "Their compassion for the children in our community is evident in everything they do, and we are truly thankful for their generosity and support."

Bentley said Scotty Hooper's involvement with Brooks' Place began when he purchased a car at an auction in Texas that benefited a local Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

"Inspired by the experience, he wanted to find a similar organization closer to home where he could make a difference," Bentley said. "After researching local Child Advocacy Centers, he discovered Brooks' Place and reached out to see how he could help. What started as a single car purchase has since grown into a meaningful partnership dedicated to supporting children in our community."

Brooks' Place Executive Director Gail Swafford said the nonprofit was founded in 1997 and brought the Child Advocacy Center model to the community, creating a multidisciplinary response to reports of child abuse.

"By uniting the agencies involved in these cases, Brooks' Place works to seek justice while prioritizing the well-being of child victims and their non-offending families," Swafford said. "We are the only agency in Cullman County that supports child victims from the time they disclose abuse through the legal disposition of their cases, and all services are provided at no charge. A child comes to Brooks' Place at a time of uncertainty, confusion and pain. They've experienced things that no child should ever have to experience or understand. Brooks' Place provides a safe, child-friendly environment for Cullman County children who have experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse or other forms of victimization. Our office is designed so that a child can tell what happened to them in an environment where they feel safe and heard. In partnership with the District Attorney's Office, Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Cullman City Police Department, Cullman County Department of Human Resources, Cullman County Juvenile Probation and Crisis Services, we use a coordinated team approach to support children and families from crisis through healing."

Swafford said children are referred to them by DHR or law enforcement after an allegation of abuse has been made.

"The child is brought to Brooks' Place to talk about what happened to them," Swafford said. "When they arrive, the child talks to a forensic interviewer who is specially trained to ask questions in a non-leading way. This prevents the child from being revictimized by repeatedly having to talk about their experience to different people. Afterwards, the child is referred for mental health counseling. Our clinicians are specially trained to provide trauma-focused counseling to child victims and their non-offending caregivers. All children are offered a medical exam on-site to ensure they are healthy and have no unmet medical needs. In addition, our family advocate assists families with finding resources for food, housing and other basic needs."

Brooks' Place is a nonprofit agency and its funding consists of fundraisers, grants and individual and corporate donations, Swafford shared.

"Since grant funding has been consistently and significantly reduced over the past several years, we rely on the community even more to help make up the shortfall," Swafford said. "No donation is too small. We accept monetary contributions, and donations such as paper products, snacks, cleaning supplies, play dough, crayons, etc. Because we are a nonprofit agency, all donations are tax deductible. Our most pressing need is for those in the community to be vigilant about child safety. If you suspect abuse, please call DHR or law enforcement to report your concern. You must only suspect abuse to report it. Remember: If you see something, say something."

Bentley said they are incredibly grateful to Bothe for his generous decision to donate the car back to Brooks' Place, giving them yet another opportunity to raise funds for the children they serve.

"We are currently exploring creative ways to make the most of this remarkable gift and maximize its impact," Bentley said. "While plans have not yet been finalized, we look forward to sharing what's next on the Brooks' Place and Hot Rods and Harleys Museum Facebook pages."

Hot Rods and Harleys is located at 6070 County Road 490, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Learn more about Brooks' Place at www.cullmancac.com.

You're invited to attend a
BOOK SIGNING
on October 31, 2026 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm
at the
Yates-Chance Christian Book Store
located at 1650 2nd Ave SW Cullman.
Love America
Written by local author Jim Humiston
U.S. Military Veterans No Cost
U.S. Military Now Serving No Cost
Others may receive a book by donating $10.00.
Proceeds go to a designated Veter-

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

Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!
Unclaimed/Abandoned Vehicles, Mobile Homes & Surety Bonds
JSE:Alabama's Vehicle Title Recovery Service!
We can help with most Titled Vehicles in Alabama, including Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's & Trailers. Stop in, by phone or online!
Free Phone Consultation
Call 1-256-850-0527
www.JSEAL.com



# Senior Day (from Front)

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** – Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair took place Wednesday, Oct. 21, bringing around 500 people aged 55 and older to enjoy a day at the Cullman County Fairgrounds.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Director Stephanie Lawson said a great event brings people together, but the fellowship is what truly makes it special.

"It was such a fun event with perfect weather for an amazing time had by all," Lawson said. "We had about 500 seniors in attendance. We are thankful that the Lions Club was able to cook extra corn dogs and hot dogs for our large group! Also, Jamie Looney and her Grand Ole Opry group provided wonderful entertainment."

Lawson said the event was sponsored by Aveanna, and Premier Bank sponsored the lunch.

"The event had free admission, free parking and free lunch for all," she said. "We did not offer rides, but they were able to enjoy the exhibits and purchase candied apples."

Lawson said one of her favorite moments of Senior Day was honoring veterans.

"They had the veterans come up and provided them with a certificate, while playing a patriotic song," she shared. "Everyone was on their feet to honor and thank them. It was a blessing to see. We also heard from several of our elected officials. Sheriff (Matt) Gentry, Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham and Commissioner Garry Marchman made their final Fair Day stage appearances in their current roles. There may have even been a few emotional moments as they reflected on their time serving the community. Our elected officials always make a great showing at Fair Day, taking the opportunity to thank our seniors for all they do and for the many ways they contribute to our community."

For more information about activities for seniors, visit https://co.cullman.al.us/coa/index.html or www.facebook.com/coacullman.

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. and 8:45 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.



Become an ADULT FOSTER CARE Provider
"Love Never Ages"

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
1-800-458-7214
dhr.alabama.gov/AFC

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**

# Will (from Front)

**Bobi Jo Creel**
Contributor

As a sports photographer, I've spent years documenting athletes in moments of triumph and in moments they never expected to face. But sometimes, the most important stories have little to do with what happens on the field.

Over the years, I've come to recognize something different about a Vinemont Eagles sideline. These athletes celebrate one another's successes, and when one of their own hurts, they rally around them in ways that extend far beyond the game.

This season, one of their own was sidelined in critical way. Yet even without pads on his shoulders, Will Conquest continued to show up. I watched this young man step into a role he'd never chosen for himself, and in doing so, reveal something about leadership that cannot be measured in statistics or captured in a single photograph – but I tried.

I saw the strength he offered others, but in the quieter moments, I caught glimpses of what it cost him when he thought no one was looking. Those moments stayed with me. That's why I chose to tell his story. Will and his mother, Mindy, were kind enough to share their story with me.

**Beyond the jersey**

Will described himself as a shy child who loved building elaborate Lego sets. As he grew older, that quiet child developed a competitive streak. In the Conquest home, even an ordinary day can become competition, especially when his dad is involved.

Football was part of his family's story long before he could run. His father played college football as a long snapper, and both of his parents have helped shape the young man he has become. His faith, church community, coaches and teammates have also influenced him. His mom would say he also inspires her – after all, she refers to him as her heart and he wears it proudly.

As a youth player, Will could be seen following upperclassman Garrett Boland around the sidelines. Boland may not have realized the impression he was making, but Will remembered. Now coaching Will, Boland has become part of the same story of mentorship Will hopes to pass along when he is no longer suited up as No. 1. It is obvious to me, seeing the number of waterboys in youth football jerseys who follow him around on the sidelines, that his influence has taken root already.

Before his senior year, Will hoped to enjoy the experience without losing sight of what mattered most: his faith, friendships and the man he wanted to become. He wanted to help his team advance in the playoffs, but he also hoped to pour into younger players and help them become successful athletes, teammates and young men.

Head Coach Stephen Robinson described Will as a leader who consistently looks for ways to improve those around him whether they are teammates or fellow students.

"He leads by example and loves people!" Robinson said.

That description would become even more meaningful as the season unfolded.

**The injury that derailed the plan**

During preseason play on July 14, 2026, Will was deflecting a pass in the end zone when a helmet struck his flank and back. Initially he thought he might have bruised or broken a rib. An emergency room evaluation revealed a far more serious situation – a grade-four laceration to his spleen and a grade-two laceration to his kidney. After transfers to Children's of Alabama and UAB, Will spent 12 days at UAB, 10 of them in the surgical ICU. His family faced difficult decisions in those days. Beyond the initial injuries, a pseudoaneurysm of the spleen was present and the large hematoma was pressing on his kidney, complicating the already serious situation. His family faced difficult decisions from watchful waiting to removal of his spleen, which would alter his immune system in the future. After prayer, they chose close observation. His injuries required multiple procedures to stop bleeding and remove other abnormalities that arose, but he never lost an organ in the process.

There were no guarantees about what would happen next, how quickly he would recover or whether he would return to the multiple sports he loved.

For a young man accustomed to setting goals and crushing them, waiting was difficult. He was not only in a lot of physical pain, but also emotional pain. Unlike most in a similar situation, Will told me hopelessness never crossed his mind. Any limit that they would give him or any chance of hope, he would cling to it and race toward the next step.

Will has carried 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 with him since childhood. During his recovery, its message about love and patience became more than familiar words. Football was taken away, familiar routines disappeared and the future was uncertain, but his faith remained something he could continue to nurture.

Will's recovery brought unexpected milestones – things he was told he would not do for months he would accomplish the next day. His family also witnessed the disappearance of that worrisome splenic pseudoaneurysm.

Will recalls his surgeon, Dr. Mark Patterson, telling him he was a tool of God in this, and that was the only way to explain how the pseudoaneurysm disappeared or how quickly Will had improved.

**The comeback**

As the season began, Will still didn't know when – or whether—he would play again. But he kept showing up. I watched this young man, who had every reason to withdraw from the season and the sideline, continue to find ways to be present.

I watched him stand on the sideline with a football in his hand as the first snap of the season unfolded. There was a heaviness in his eyes, but a smile on his lips. It intrigued me, so I kept paying attention.

I would often see him as he wiped visors, fixed arm bands, helped with pads, encouraged frustrated teammates and offered guidance to younger players. Coaches turned to him for his perspective. Over the following months, I watched the sadness in his eyes turn to a brightness of anticipation.

Principal Robin Netherton said Will's willingness to step back and let others have the spotlight while stepping back into the shadows made his response to this setback especially remarkable to witness. He said Will is a kid who would never seek recognition for going above and beyond.

"He's really a selfless person, a great example of being Christ-like and very kind," Netherton commented.

I saw that same selflessness – the going above and beyond with a great attitude, but in the quiet moments, I saw glimpses of the cost. There is a particular kind of disappointment in watching the game you love unfold in front of you while wondering whether you will ever participate again. Being strong didn't mean he never felt the weight of what happened.

He also learned to accept the encouragement he had so often given others. His community surrounded him with support. Letters arrived from other schools. A coach from Hatton High School reached out to pray with the family. A middle school player shared a tribute describing how much Will's time and encouragement had helped him. That imprinted on Will's heart.

Will had invested in others without asking for anything in return. During his recovery, he began to see just how deeply those relationships mattered.

**The victory**

Months after the injury, on Sept. 18, 2026, the Eagles traveled to Holly Pond. Will ran out with the team decked out in red and white, but this time, he wore full pads. I couldn't help but grin a little at what that might mean. Here was a kid who was told he might not ever take another easy step standing tall with his teammates. His father had told me he probably wouldn't take a snap that night unless the team had a comfortable lead. But those Eagles flew high and built an impressive lead.

I looked over to see Billy, Will's dad, with an arm around his shoulder. I knew what that meant and got in position to capture the moment.

With teammates behind him, a nervous trainer nearby and a mother understandably anxious about what she was about to witness, Will returned to the field.

He took the snap and a knee in victory formation.

It wasn't a touchdown or a game-winning play. It was a single snap. But after months of uncertainty, that moment carried a worth that could not be measured in statistics.

As the whistle blew and the clock hit zero, his teammates surrounded him. Hugs lasted longer than most 17-year-olds would comfortably allow in public, but the Eagles didn't care. Tears ran through eye-black and celebrations erupted as the emotions of the past months finally spilled over.

Coach Rudy Rudulph said that throughout the preceding months, something had been missing.

"The team dealt with the injury, but there was a dark cloud." Rudulph said. After Will's return, he said, the team felt immediately whole again.

Will's story didn't end with that appearance. Since then, he has taken the field in contact situations, continuing a comeback that has surely given his mother a few gray hairs.

For Will, every opportunity to play has carried meaning beyond a stat sheet. He had never stopped belonging to the team. After being faced with his own mortality and a plan derailed, every opportunity to run a route, throw a ball or hug a teammate carried a significance far beyond the number of snaps he would ever play.

**The impact**

Will entered his senior season hoping to make an impact, but his injury forced him to discover a new way to lead. He continued to trust God even when his steps were unclear.

As a photographer, I've learned that not every meaningful moment comes with a change on the scoreboard. Sometimes, it's a young man standing on the sideline with a football in his hand, finding a way to serve his teammates when he would give anything to be playing beside them.

I won't remember that night in Holly Pond for the score. I'll remember a father with his arm draped over his son's shoulders, a team anticipating him to take the field and a single snap in victory formation that brought months of uncertainty to a moment of unbridled joy. I'll remember the hugs, the tears and the feeling that the Eagles finally had their missing piece back where it belonged.

Will, a senior season filling a role that you didn't choose challenged you in ways beyond fairness, but as you said, God supported you through it. Sitting in that conference room you told me your pre-season goal was to pour into your teammates, but by your submission to your purpose, your reach went beyond those you would have ordinarily impacted. This will outlast your season. The younger players watching you have seen what leadership looks like when the spotlight moves somewhere else. Your teammates have seen what it means to stand beside someone through uncertainty and walk out in victory, arm in arm. And those watching from the stands have been reminded that a setback can change a plan, but it never takes away a person's purpose.

Will told me once that this year he didn't want to lose sight of himself. In the end, I believe he gained a new perspective and a stronger Will.

Sometimes the most meaningful victories are not the ones we plan for. Sometimes they're the ones that remind us of who we are, who stands beside us and what truly matters when everything else changes.

His story was never just about a sport or performance. It's a story about perseverance, determination and a Christ-like love for others that is already inspiring and shaping the "young Will" watching him.

As Principal Netherton said, "He's an Eagle."

After watching this season unfold, I understand why.

# Championship (from Front)

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** - Four local teams will take four distinct championship paths into the AHSAA Elite Eight next week at the Birmingham CrossPlex.

Class 1A North champion Addison and North runner-up Meek will open state play at noon Tuesday, Oct. 27.

West Point will begin the Class 4A bracket at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, followed by Cold Springs in the Class 2A quarterfinals at 1:30 p.m.

Addison is the defending Class 1A champion and will make its 26th consecutive state appearance. Meek returns after finishing as the 2025 state runner-up.

West Point carries a battle-tested roster back to Birmingham, while Cold Springs ends a 37-year absence from the state tournament.

All times are Central.

**CLASS 1A QUARTERFINAL | ADDISON VS. WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**Tuesday, Oct. 27 at noon on Court 1**

Addison enters the Elite Eight as the North's No. 1 seed after sweeping Wadley and Spring Garden, then defeating county rival Meek in five sets for the regional championship.

The Lady Bulldogs finished No. 2 in the final regular-season Class 1A rankings and arrive in Birmingham as the defending state champions. Addison defeated Meek 25-14, 25-15, 28-26 in last year's title match, securing the program's 15th state championship.

Senior middle Ava Bartlett, the 2025 state-tournament MVP, leads Addison's attack. The latest submitted season totals list Bartlett with 509 kills, 117 total blocks, 4.9 kills per set and a .377 hitting percentage. Junior setter AnnaBeth Powell has served 73 aces, while eighth-grade outside hitter Allie Ruth Powell averages 3.0 digs per set.

Addison has won 15 state titles during the past 25 seasons. The Lady Bulldogs made 15 consecutive trips to the championship match before semifinal exits in 2023 and 2024, then returned to win the title in 2025.

"We expect to be here. We expect to do our job," Addison coach Sadie Hall said after the Lady Bulldogs secured their state berth.

Washington County earned the South's No. 4 seed. The Lady Bulldogs defeated McKenzie 3-2 in the regional opening round, then fell to Kinston and Millry in straight sets.

The Addison-Washington County winner will return at 6 p.m. Tuesday to face Maplesville or Spring Garden in the semifinals. The Class 1A championship match is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Bill Harris Arena.

**CLASS 1A QUARTER-FINAL | MEEK VS. MILLRY**

**Tuesday, Oct. 27 at noon on Court 9**

Meek enters as the North's No. 2 seed after sweeping Woodland and Marion County before falling to Addison in a five-set regional final.

The Lady Tigers held the No. 1 spot in the final regular-season Class 1A rankings. They also bring recent state experience after reaching last year's championship match.

Junior outside hitter Addie Cate Henderson and eighth-grader Zarah Harden return after earning Class 1A all-tournament honors in 2025. Molli Sandlin has provided an experienced presence in the back row for a Meek team seeking its first state championship since 2015.

Millry, No. 9 in the final regular-season rankings, will arrive as the South's No. 3 seed. The Lady Wildcats swept Red Level in the opening round, lost 3-1 to Maplesville in the semifinals and swept Washington County in the third-place match.

The winner will meet South champion Kinston or North No. 4 seed Marion County at 6 p.m. Tuesday. Meek and Addison occupy opposite halves of the bracket and cannot meet again before Wednesday's championship match.

**Class 4A quarterfinal | Satsuma vs. West Point**

**Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 10:30 a.m. on Court 3**

West Point will take the North's No. 3 seed into a quarterfinal against South runner-up Satsuma.

The No. 7 Lady Warriors survived a pair of five-set matches at the North Super Regional. They defeated Sylacauga 3-2 to clinch a state berth, fell to top-ranked Guntersville in the semifinals and edged Moody 3-2 for third place.

Sophomore outside hitter Kenlee Perry leads West Point at 3.4 kills per set and carries a .253 hitting percentage. Senior Laklin Shadix has recorded 93 total blocks, junior libero Jordan Miller averages 3.6 digs per set and has served 62 aces and junior setter Brayley Phillips has distributed 1,047 assists.

Satsuma was listed among the honorable-mention teams in the final regular-season Class 4A rankings. The Lady Gators beat Beauregard 3-2 and swept Headland to reach the South final, where No. 3 Orange Beach won 3-1.

West Point's most recent state championship-match appearance came in 2020, when the Lady Warriors finished as the Class 5A runner-up.

The quarterfinal winner will face North champion Guntersville or South No. 4 seed Headland at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The Class 4A state championship is scheduled for noon Thursday, Oct. 29, at Bill Harris Arena.

**Class 2A quarterfinal | Ariton vs. Cold Springs**

**Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 1:30 p.m. on Court 3**

Cold Springs will step onto the state stage for the first time since 1989 when the North No. 3 seed meets South runner-up Ariton.

The No. 10 Lady Eagles swept J.B. Pennington in the regional opening round to end the program's 37-year state-tournament drought. They fell to top-ranked Fyffe in the semifinals, then outlasted Pisgah 3-2 and won the deciding set 16-14 to secure third place.

Hagen Ellis has supplied much of the offense and service pressure. School-posted season totals list Ellis with 446 kills, 100 aces and 305 digs. She and Kelsy Wilson earned all-county recognition, and Wilson gives Cold Springs a 6-foot presence at the net.

"It's exciting because it means we've been building that culture back," Cold Springs coach Kate Peek said after the Lady Eagles qualified.

No. 5 Ariton swept Vincent and Isabella to reach the South championship match before falling 3-0 to No. 2 G.W. Long.

The Cold Springs-Ariton winner will advance to a 6 p.m. Wednesday semifinal against North champion Carbon Hill or the South's No. 4 seed. The Class 2A state championship is scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Bill Harris Arena.

**Tournament information**

The AHSAA Elite Eight is a single-elimination tournament with best-of-five matches. Quarterfinals and semifinals will be played at the Birmingham CrossPlex, 2340 CrossPlex Blvd. Championship matches will move to Bill Harris Arena.

Daily admission is $14, including fees, through GoFan or with exact cash at the gate. Parking is $10 per day.



COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

# Wallace State sweeps Calhoun, extends winning streak to 11

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** - Wallace State turned a tight opening set into a convincing straight-set victory Wednesday night, sweeping Calhoun 25-23, 25-12, 25-18 at Tom Drake Coliseum.

The Lions improved to 27-5 overall and 11-2 in Alabama Community College Conference play. Calhoun fell to 21-15 overall and 11-3 in the conference.

The opening set was the closest of the match, with Wallace State prevailing by two points. The Lions created separation in the second set, winning by 13, then completed the sweep with a seven-point victory in the third.

Wednesday's result avenged Wallace State's four-set loss at Calhoun on Sept. 23. The Warhawks won that meeting 25-18, 21-25, 25-18, 25-18.

The victory extended Wallace State's winning streak to 11 matches and kept the Lions unbeaten through 10 home matches this season.

Wallace State entered the match with two new conference award winners. Sophomore opposite Cheyenne Lucas was named the ACCC Offensive Player of the Week after totaling 70 kills, averaging 3.9 kills per set and hitting .457 during the award period.

Sophomore setter Darcy Alford was named the ACCC Setter of the Week after recording 208 assists, nine aces, 29 digs and three blocks. She averaged 11.56 assists per set during the award period.

The ACCC Women's Volleyball Championship Tournament is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 1 at the Multiplex at Cramton Bowl in Montgomery.

Wallace State's opening opponent and match time had not been posted Wednesday night.

NORTH SUPER REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL

# Addison, Meek, West Point, Cold Springs clinch state berths

**Sammy Confer, Jared Spears, Noah Galilee**

**HOOVER, Ala.** - Four local volleyball teams punched their tickets to next week's AHSAA Elite Eight on Thursday, combining for six victories during a busy day at the North Super Regional.

Top-ranked Meek and No. 2 Addison each swept two Class 1A opponents to advance to Friday's North championship, guaranteeing the Tribune coverage area the region's top two seeds.

No. 7 West Point survived a five-set Class 4A thriller against Sylacauga and No. 10 Cold Springs swept J.B. Pennington in Class 2A.

Vinemont and Holly Pond saw their seasons end with first-round losses in the Class 3A bracket.

All first-round regional winners advanced to the state tournament, scheduled Tuesday through Thursday, Oct. 27-29, at the Birmingham CrossPlex and Bill Harris Arena. Friday's remaining regional matches will determine seeding.

**West Point 3, Sylacauga 2**

West Point held off a Sylacauga rally and won a decisive fifth set 15-8 to secure its place in the Class 4A Elite Eight.

The Lady Warriors took the first two sets 25-19 and 25-13. A 13-2 run late in the second helped West Point build a two-set advantage, but Sylacauga answered by winning the third 25-23 and controlling the fourth 25-14.

West Point surged ahead 8-2 in the fifth. Sylacauga cut the margin to 13-8 before the Lady Warriors collected the final two points and closed the match.

West Point entered the regional with Kenadi Pagan leading the team at 3.2 kills per set. Kenlee Perry carried a team-best .232 hitting percentage, Laklin Shadix had recorded 69 blocks, Jordan Miller led the defense at 3.5 digs per set and had served 58 aces and Brayley Phillips had distributed 864 assists.

The Lady Warriors will meet top-ranked Guntersville in a North semifinal at 9 a.m. Friday. The winner will play for the regional championship at 1 p.m., while the loser will play for third place at the same time.

**Meek sweeps Woodland and Marion County**

Top-ranked Meek earned its state berth with a 25-14, 25-19, 25-9 sweep of Woodland, then swept No. 5 Marion County in the Class 1A semifinals.

The Lady Tigers steadily separated from Woodland before overwhelming the Lady Bobcats in the third set. Meek followed with another three-set victory against Marion County to claim a place in Friday's regional championship.

Complete set scores and individual totals from the Marion County match were not included in the tournament results.

Meek will face Addison for the North championship at 11 a.m. Friday. The Lady Tigers swept Addison in the Class 1A Area 13 final last week after the Lady Bulldogs had beaten Meek in four sets at the Winston County Tournament three days earlier.

**Addison sweeps Wadley and Spring Garden**

No. 2 Addison surrendered only 35 points in a 25-8, 25-7, 25-20 opening-round sweep of Wadley, then defeated No. 4 Spring Garden 25-11, 25-13, 25-22 in the semifinals.

The two victories secured Addison's state-tournament berth and created an all-local North championship against Meek.

Addison entered the regional with senior middle Ava Bartlett averaging 4.9 kills per set, hitting .376 and leading the Lady Bulldogs with 117 blocks.

Eighth-grade outside hitter AllieRuth Powell led the team at 3.0 digs per set, while junior setter AnnaBeth Powell had served a team-high 70 aces.

The Addison-Meek winner will carry the North's No. 1 seed into the Elite Eight, while the runner-up will be seeded second.

**Cold Springs 3, J.B. Pennington 0**

No. 10 Cold Springs controlled its Class 2A opener from start to finish, sweeping J.B. Pennington 25-18, 25-9, 25-13.

The Lady Eagles allowed only 40 points across three sets and secured a place in the state tournament. The victory followed Cold Springs' four-set subregional win at West End on Monday.

Cold Springs will face top-ranked Fyffe in a North semifinal at 9 a.m. Friday. Fyffe advanced with a 3-0 victory over No. 3 Pleasant Valley. Friday's semifinal winners will meet for the regional championship at 1 p.m., while the losers will play for third place.

**Wilson 3, Vinemont 0**

No. 4 Wilson ended Vinemont's season with a 25-11, 25-18, 25-14 sweep in the Class 3A opening round.

Vinemont entered the regional after winning the Class 3A Area 10 championship and sweeping Danville in Monday's subregional match. The Lady Eagles could not extend that postseason run against one of the classification's top five teams.

**Central-Florence 3, Holly Pond 0**

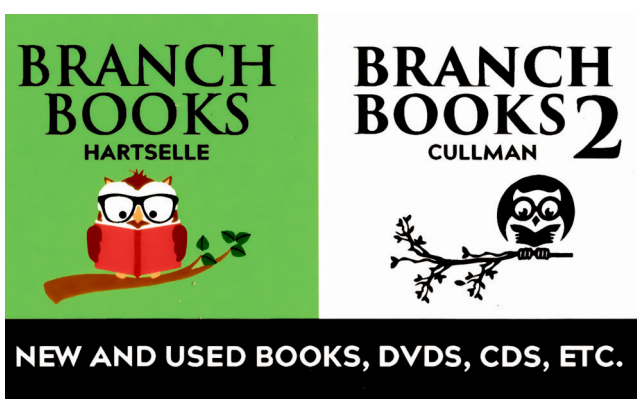
No. 5 Central-Florence eliminated Holly Pond 25-13, 25-23, 25-16 in another Class 3A first-round match.

The Lady Broncos' best opportunity came in a tight second set, but Central-Florence held on before closing the sweep in the third.

Holly Pond reached Hoover after sweeping Hatton in Monday's subregional round. The Lady Broncos' season ended one victory short of the Elite Eight.




THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!


















Prior to entering any Alabama school or child care center, an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization must be submitted for each child.

www.alabamapublichealth.gov/imm

Vaccines for Children Program · Alabama Public Health · IMM Immunization Division

AARP Alabama

**AARP is fighting for every voter who's counting on Social Security.**

As prices soar, protecting the Social Security you earned is more important than ever. Join AARP to stand up for Social Security in the upcoming election.

**Be a Social Security voter.**
aarp.org/SocialSecurityVoter

facebook.com/AARP | @AARP | aarp.org
paid for by AARP

**FREE MAMMOGRAMS AND PAP TESTS**

with FREE CANCER TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE WOMEN

*• Breast Cancer Screenings 40-64 yrs old*
*• Cervical Cancer Screenings 21-64 yrs old*

***DON'T DELAY***
***DO IT FOR YOURSELF***
***DO IT FOR YOUR FAMILY***

*For a referral or more information go to:*
*www.alabama.gov/bandc*
*scan the QR Code below,*
*or contact the hotline: 1-877-252-3324*

Breast & Cervical CANCER EARLY DETECTION Program of Alabama

# LEGALS

**Legal Notice**

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

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**JUSTIN ALLEN YOUNG,**
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900276.00**

**ALYSSA CHERIE CENTANNI,**
Defendant

**NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION**

Alyssa Cherie Centanni, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Justin Allen Young's Divorce Complaint by December 14, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case number 25-DR-2026-900276.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 15th day of October, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2026-375

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM HAROLD ODEN II, DECEASED.

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that a verified Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Sabrina Oden Buettner on September 18, 2026.

Thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Dated this the 21st day of October, 2026.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice **one time** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOSHUA LEE GOODIN Deceased.** * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-325**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Leigh Ann Goodin, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Joshua Lee Goodin, deceased, on the 21st day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Leigh Ann Goodin
Personal Representatives

Kristin Waters
Waters Sullivan, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner
2 Twentieth Street North
Suite 1350
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**
Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA**

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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

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

Brandi Langford McKinney
Personal Representative

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

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

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Kimberly Carolyn Williams, a single person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for DAS Acquisition Company, LLC, its successors and assigns dated September 29, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on October 6, 2022 in Deed Book 2030, Page 298 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2145, Page 209 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on December 21, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 1 WEST; THENCE S 88 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECONDS E 600.00 FEET TO AN EXISTING T-POST; THENCE S 8 DEGREES 28 MINUTES 09 SECONDS E 30.20 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE S 88 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 00 SECOND E 275.20 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ON THE WEST R.O.W. OF A PAVED COUNTY ROAD; THENCE S 8 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 31 SECONDS E 149.60 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON ON SAID R.O.W.; THENCE N 88 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 20 SECONDS W 275.13 FEET TO AN EXISTING IRON; THENCE N 8 DEGREES 26 MINUTES 35 SECONDS W 149.95 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 0.93 ACRES MORE OR LESS, SAID LAND LYING IN THE SW 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SEC. 8, T-9-S, R-1-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Said property is commonly known as **1625 County Road 1564, Baileyton, AL 35019**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Bidders must perform their own due diligence. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including nonjudicial foreclosures) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. As part of this Rule, purchasers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and the source of funds used in the reportable transaction, if applicable.* The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable. This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

* The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 26-08090AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
10/17/2026,10/24/2026,10/31/2026

26-08090AL

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

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

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

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

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

Done on this 4th day of September, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Cullman County, Alabama

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

EXHIBIT A

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

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

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

# Our final days on the Golden Isles

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



As we walked among the ancient tombstones at Christ Church on St. Simons Island, we marveled at the age of many of them. We saw the church building behind the graves. The exterior of the beautiful little church was covered with white clapboards and had a grey shingled roof. A steeple was attached to one side, about center of the of the sanctuary wall. It rose from the ground up and the base served as the foyer into the church. The shingled spire rose several feet above the roofline and had a tall cross on top. Beautiful stained-glass windows portrayed the history of Christianity and Christ Church.

Over 20,000 visitors explore the church and cemetery annually. Tours are given through the church, but no one appeared to be there giving them at that time. I so badly wanted to see inside of the church that General James Oglethorpe, with the leadership of Charles and John Wesley, had founded. A wide red-brick sidewalk, with gas lanterns on its sides, led up to the steepled entrance.

As we approached, a church member named Bess walked out to greet us. She said, "Welcome. You're a little early. Where is the rest of the group?" We were confused. She explained that she was there to give a tour through the church to a busload of senior adults, and we explained that we were not with the group. She graciously asked if we would like to see inside, while she waited on the others to arrive. I realized that she was an answer to my prayer. Our meeting was a divine appointment!

The Gothic Revival style inside was much more beautiful and moving than the exterior. The open ceiling with its exposed joists all matched the walnut-colored walls. The colorful stained-glass windows, set in the dark wood which completely filled the interior, popped with brilliant colors. Some of the pictures were of Jesus, Simon Peter and the Wesley brothers. As we eased up and down the aisle, I noticed plaques attached to the ends of certain pews. They contained the names of presidents who had sat there in worship. There was Calvin Cooledge, in 1928; Jimmy Carter, but no date; and George H.W. Bush in 1991. Woodrow Wilson had also been, but no one knows where he sat. My name won't be on a pew, but I was so blessed to simply visit Christ Church!

Later that afternoon, we toured another great landmark on St. Simons: the lighthouse and museum. A two-story, red-brick lightkeeper house sits at the bottom of the white lighthouse. The 104-feet tall, cone shaped brick-and-iron tower was built in 1872. The original lighthouse, built in 1810, was destroyed by Confederate troops in 1862 so Union warships could not use it. The original lighthouse was built by James Gould, who then became the lightkeeper for the first 27 years. I am currently reading about Mr. Gould in, "The Lighthouse;" the first book in a trilogy by Eugena Price. She is buried at Christ Church. Jean and I climbed the 129-step circular staircase, where we looked out across the breathtaking views of St. Simons Island and across the water at neighboring Jekyll Island.

The next day we visited Driftwood Beach, on Jekyll. This eerily beautiful sand beach is full of giant live oak driftwood trees and roots. They have been pushed over by the ocean tide but remain on the beach. From Driftwood Beach we looked across at St. Simons Lighthouse, where we had stood the day before looking across at Jekyll Island. God has indeed blessed that area with His creation, as well as some of mankind's work too.

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

HISTORY

# Files from Yesteryear: Oct. 24, 1940

*From the files of Oct. 24, 1940*

**Beech Grove News**
**By Jewel Harris**

Miss Dorothy Skipper visited Mrs. Vedmer Hammond Saturday.

Mr. Eugene Ryan and Mr. Walter Godfrey of Guntersville visited Beech Grove Friday.

Mr. K. L. Clay and sons made a business trip to Holly Pond on Saturday.

Mr. W. E. Skipper spent this week in Birmingham with his brother, Mr. John Skipper.

Mrs. Estes Ryan spent Friday afternoon in Cullman.

Miss Margaret Clay spent Saturday night with Jewel Harris.

Misses Marie and Mildred Hick visited Miss Lois White Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivory Johnson spent four days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Cone.

Mr. Will Harris spent last week with his daughter, Mrs. Montell Kretzschmar of Garden City.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Johnson and daughter, Marie, spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Berrie Hinds.

Mr. William White and sons, Henry and Clyde, spent Tuesday evening with his brother, Mr. Gaston White and family.

Miss Lillie Mae Harris spent Sunday evening with Miss Grace Moss.

Miss Dorothy Skipper spent this week with Mrs. Estes Ryan.

Everyone was glad to see Mrs. Ruby Moss back at church Sunday after a brief illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston White and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Noah Harris and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Amuel Williams of Birmingham spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Reese Williams.

We are sorry to report that Miss Elaine Scott is on the sick list. We hope her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Onie Miller spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. John Williams.

Miss Vedmer White visited Miss Elaine Scott, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery Stricklin spent three days with Mr. and Mrs. Wess Stricklin at Beech Grove.

Rev. Walter Curl will preach at Beech Grove next Sunday, October 27.

Mrs. Rosa Lee Lynn spent a few days with her sister, Mrs. Helen Dickerson.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Elliott of Prospect visited her parents this week-end.

Mr. Hershel White of Crane Hill spent the week-end with parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. White of Beech Grove.

Mr. Clois Raney of Virginia is spending this week with friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Clay and children, Jacqueline, Billy and Donald, spent Sunday afternoon in Hanceville.

Miss Marie Johnson spent Sunday with Miss Lois White.

We are glad to report that Mrs. Sam Casey is better after a short illness.

Mr. Curtis Gather is visiting friends here this week.

Mrs. Ruth Hammond spent last week with her son, Mr. and Mrs. Zellmar Hammond.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coggins of Birmingham spent Friday night and Saturday with his sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams.

Mr. Bill Chatham called on Miss Lois White Saturday night.

Mr. C. P. Smith has returned to his home after a month's visit with his son, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Smith of Birmingham.

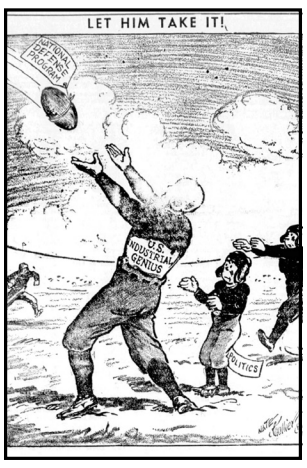
Miss Lois White spent Sunday night with Misses Marie and Geneva Johnson.

Miss Marie Hick spent Sunday evening with Mrs. McClendon.

**To and Fro**

County Agent C. T. (Doc) Bailey presided at the meeting of the Cullman Hunt Club on Monday evening at the Court House. Municipal officials W. J. (Bill) Nesmith and Rene Clark were accepted as members. According to Oscar Dunlap, secretary of the club, the first hunt will be November 20th and 21st.

Dr. L. H. Weaver, Cullman foot specialist, was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors at the twelfth annual meeting of the Alabama Association of Chiropodists which met in Montgomery on October 6th. At this meeting he was informed that he had been chosen




Vice-President of the American Mutual Association of Chiropodists, a national foot specialist organization.

Carl DeLoach, who was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Cora Lee Cochran DeLoach, and relatives, left Tuesday for Norfolk, Virginia, where he will board the U. S. Tuscaloosa. Carl has been awarded medals for Expert Rifle and Sharp Shooter. He has passed a radio course and is now working for a promotion from a Private, First Class, to a Corporal in the U. S. Marines.

John McKibben, secretary of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Rotarians on Tuesday evening. Commerce Secretary McKibben stressed the importance of marketing farm products and told those in attendance that a Chamber of Commerce is a necessary organization through which better markets can be established for the agriculturists.

## POET'S CORNER

### Drummer Boy

Randy C. Hale

Once a drummer boy, now a drummer man.
I wonder if others who played drums
in the high school band ever quit tapping and strumming
their fingers on counters, tables, or even steering wheels.

It all began in the 10th grade when my guidance counselor signed
me up for the school's inaugural year for a marching band.
She told me, "Just try it," so reluctantly I did, and what followed was
three enjoyable years of fun and fellowship and lots of drum beating.

So much until this day, almost 50 years later the cadences has
never left my brain, and why you might see me at any given
pause in time begin my rum-pap-pum-pum on some surface.

I loved those fall days, the games, and the parades. The trumpets
blaring, the trombones sounding their warm baritone. The flutes,
and the clarinets with high velvet shrills as songbirds in the trees.
The tubas' flair, the cymbals' clash, the snare drums' snaps,
and you could feel the bass drum in your bones.

The majorettes in glittering outfits with tassels, wearing white
heeled boots high-stepping, and twirling their batons.
The color guard waving their banners high
with Cleveland Panther Pride.

I had the honor of leading the band my senior year, setting aside my
drums, putting on the white gloves, and strutting like a rooster, with
a feather in my hat.
The band director announces from press box, "Drum
major, are you ready to take the field?"
I salute that I am, then sound off the count to begin our march
for our performance under those Friday night lights.

So much older now, and graying, but I can still feel the drumsticks
in a fan motion in my hands and imagine the performance of the
Cleveland High School Golden Force
Marching Band.

*To my fellow band members and*
*thank you Carolyn Murphree, Greylin Keen, Phillip Renda and*
*all the band boosters that made these memories possible.*

*Cleveland High School*
*Golden Force Marching Band*
*1979-80*

## CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

OCT. 24

C O N T R A C T O R R J V C L R E L W
G R I A P R I V I L E G E O A C K M D
A U E F S R P D Y F K L Z B U V A Z H
S R E V I S O M R E V I E W M C E S A
Z E A S E N I D A E A L I B I E H A E
L C P D S R J G U J L Y L G B V U E T
P O R C J E S U N C O I A G R A N T E
C G F E I E N I N M T R E E D S D R S
R N U D C R C T O C E I C F C I E I T
D I N I W O C T I N T N O U A V R A A
E Z G S M O G U I A A I T N L E A L T
V A I S H D V N I V L F O E T A G Y E
I N B E N E T Q I T E K T N E N E E N
S C L N A S S N R S F S E R R S F T O
E E E T E F N E U A A I O L A W B D N
P F S U A O V A E W C N E C B E E E A
S M Q K C O C L W S I N C E L R N M G
L E G A C Y P W H M A W A E E Q C U E
B E V I D E N C E P C A U S A X H R D

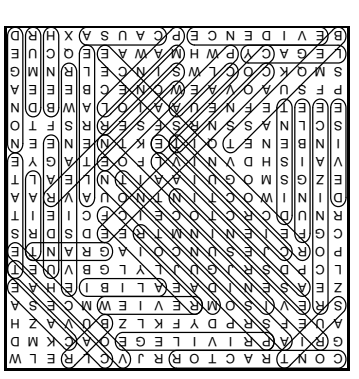
**Adjective**
**Alibi**
**Alterable**
**Assignment**
**Bar**
**Bench**
**Bequest**
**Case**
**Causa**
**Cause**
**Caveat**
**Circuit**
**Connivance**
**Contractor**
**Covert**
**Demur**
**Devise**
**Dissent**
**Essential**
**Evasive answer**
**Evidence**
**Fungible**
**Grant**
**Injunction**
**Legacy**
**Major**
**Minor**
**Nonaged**
**Panel**
**Plea**
**Privilege**
**Production**
**Recognisance**
**Recognizance**
**Relief**
**Reversion**
**Review**
**Scienter**
**Suit**
**Testate**
**Trial**
**Underage**
**Vouchee**
**Waste**

## CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

OCT. 24

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | | | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | 3 |
| | | 6 | 3 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| | | 1 | | | 6 | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | 2 | 8 | 7 | | |
| | | 8 | | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | 6 | 4 | 8 | | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | | | | | | | |

**ANSWERS:**



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



You're invited to the

FALL CELEBRATION AT SEVENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Balloons, Photo Prop Area, Face Painting, Candy and Hot Dogs

**All events will be in the gym.**




# Obituary Announcements: Oct. 22-23

**David Chad Cheeks, 50**
David Chad Cheeks, age 50, of Decatur, Alabama, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, in Huntsville. Born on Aug. 2, 1976, in Mississippi, David was the son of Glen Busby and Frankie Isberto Busby. A man of deep faith and a servant's heart, he devoted much of his life to encouraging and ministering to others. David was an active member of Impact 58 in Pelham, where he served as a mentor and helped guide people in their walk with Christ. He was also involved with E-3 Ministries, participating in mission trips and sharing God's Word with those he encountered. His faith was evident in both his actions and the way he lived his life. When not serving others, David enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson through the mountains, spending time fishing, and making treasured memories with his family, especially his grandchildren. His favorite scripture was Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." David was preceded in death by his father, Glen Busby; his aunts, Libby Bardwell and Savannah Booth; and his special cousins, Travis Gibson, Tammy Lass, and Beth Bardwell. Those left to cherish his memory include his two daughters, Chloe (Brandon) Revans and Kit Allen; his beloved grandchildren, Rowen and Parker Revans; his mother, Frankie (Jeff, Sr.) Allen; his father, Bruce Cheeks; his sisters, Jennifer Cheeks, Bree McCraw, and Elisha McCraw; his nephews, Luke Busby and Griffin Alderhold; and a host of cousins and other loving family members and friends. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 3 p.m. in the chapel of Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until the service hour. David's legacy of faith, compassion, and service will continue to inspire all who knew him. Though he will be deeply missed, his family finds comfort in knowing he is at home with the Lord he faithfully served.

**David Allen Shoemaker, 61**
David Allen Shoemaker, age 61 of Vinemont, passed away on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. A memorial service will be held in his honor at a later date. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. David was born on Sept. 15, 1965, to David E. Shoemaker and Vetra Daisy Johnson Shoemaker. He is preceded in death by his mother, Vetra Shoemaker. He is survived by his father, David E. Shoemaker and his brother, Michael J. Shoemaker. Family will remember David as a bright, outgoing individual, who loved his family and was always able to make you smile. He will be dearly missed.

**Hershel Clinton Rasco, 82**
Hershel Clinton Rasco, 82, of Guntersville, Alabama, born to Ronald and Flora Rasco, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026. He was a stubborn old soul who never wavered in his love for Mountain Dew and the Alabama Crimson Tide. Hershel was as hard-headed as they come, set in his ways, and always ready to have the last word. If you knew him, you knew that behind that stubbornness was a man who loved nothing more than to pester anyone he could. He endured the heartbreaking loss of the love of his life and one of his beloved children. Those losses left an emptiness that words could never fully describe. Though he carried that heartache with him, the love he had for them never faded. He was loved more than he probably ever realized, and he will be missed more than words can describe. The laughter, the aggravation, the stories, and even the moments when he tested everyone's patience will become treasured memories in the days ahead. Though our hearts are broken, we take comfort in knowing that his pain and suffering are over and that he is reunited with the loved ones who went before him. Until we meet again, may he rest peacefully, knowing he was loved and will never be forgotten. Hershel was preceded in death by his parents, Ronald and Flora Rasco; his wife, "Gerdie" Ann Rasco; his son, Billy Bailey; and his siblings, Ralph (Jan) Rasco, Joyce Gatlin, Gail (Kenneth) Adams, and Sharon (Ben) Bellew. He is survived by his children, Tommy Rasco and Tammy (Joel) Edge; his grandchildren, Telia (Danny) Creque, Treyla (Mason) Lindsey, Heath (Selitia) Garner, Corey (Kristen) Edge, and Heather (Byron) Williams; his great-grandchildren, Reece Garner, Kirra Garner, Brooks Creque, Madi Kate Lindsey, Caden Edge, Tenley Edge, and Bailey Williams; along with a host of nieces and nephews. The Rasco family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to "The Hugger" Michelle Simmons and Hospice of North Alabama for the phenomenal care, compassion, and support they provided to Hershel and his family during this difficult time. Your kindness and dedication will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. Visitation was held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Oct. 23, 2026, from 6-7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home on Oct. 24, 2026, from 11 a.m. A Committal Service will follow at Duck Creek Cemetery, Cullman, AL 35058, on Oct. 24, 2026, from 12:15 p.m. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Sheila Monk Foster, 75**
Funeral service for Sheila Monk Foster, age 75, will be Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home at 1 p.m., with Pastor Frankie Harris officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday, Oct. 24,2026, from noon-1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Foster will be laid to rest at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Sheila Monk Foster was born in Cullman, Alabama, on Oct. 28, 1950, to the late Roscoe and Dorothy Monk, and resided in Vinemont, Alabama. Deeply rooted in the community throughout her entire life, she was a woman whose heart belonged to her family, her faith, and the area she proudly called home. Growing up in Cullman, Sheila carried a bright spirit and a quiet strength. From an early age, her faith was her steady anchor. She grew up attending what was then East Cullman Church of Christ, continuing a lifelong walk of faith as a faithful member of Cullman Church of Christ. Her church family was an enduring part of her life, and her faith guided the gentle warmth and kindness she shared with everyone around her. Sheila dedicated many years to the family business, Monk's Flooring, which was founded by her parents, Roscoe and Dorothy Monk. Alongside her husband, Jerry, she also co-founded J&F Trucking, skillfully managing all the business and administrative operations of the company. Whether running the trucking business or serving customers at Monk's Flooring, she took tremendous pride in working alongside family, carrying forward a lifelong standard of hard work and dedication until her retirement. At the center of Sheila's world was always her family. Alongside her husband, Jerry Daniel Foster, she built a life grounded in love, loyalty, and togetherness. She was a devoted mother to her son, Jason Lee Foster, and daughter, Michelle Lynn Prince, dedicating herself to guiding and supporting them through every season of life. Truly selfless by nature, Sheila always put the needs of others before her own, consistently ensuring that everyone around her felt supported, cared for, and loved. Sheila was preceded in death by her parents, Roscoe and Dorothy Monk. Her love and memory are carried forward by her husband, Jerry Daniel Foster; her children, Jason Lee Foster (Tonya) and Michelle Lynn Prince (Frank); her brothers, Rick Monk (Joyce) and Ronnie Monk (Joanna); her cherished grandchildren, Michael Prince (Dakota), Caliee Prince, Eason Foster, Cale Foster, Savana Cooke (Delton), and Brody Sams (Natalie); and her beloved great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Issac, Emery Jean, and Naomi, along with a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and dear friends. "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." – 2 Corinthians 5:8

**Norma Jean Wrenn, 94**
Norma Jean Wrenn, 94, of Vinemont, Alabama, passed away on Oct. 21, 2026. Born Sept. 12, 1932, in Nesmith, Alabama, Norma Jean is cherished by those who knew and loved her and remembered with deep respect. She married her loving husband, Earl, on April 10, 1953, in Luka, Mississippi. She was an active member in ministry of Saint Andrew's Global Methodist Church since 1959. Throughout the years, she was a member of the Joy Circle, Chancel Choir, worked with children and youth, and many other ministry activities. She worked for Holeproof Hosiery, at the library at Vinemont School, and later as Secretary for Cullman County Head Start/Community Action. After retirement, Norma Jean and her beloved husband, Earl, embraced a season of travel and togetherness. As members of the Free State Sam's Camping Club, they traveled the country in their RV, and especially treasured sharing those experiences with family—taking children and grandchildren camping and to the lake for pontoon rides—creating memories that will last a lifetime. Norma Jean was preceded in death by her father, Alton Floyd Ray; her mother, Vera Pauline Ray; her beloved husband, Earl Edsell Wrenn; her infant twin sons, Dan and Van Wrenn; her sister, Ima Jean Hardin; her brother, Willie Joe Ray; and her grandson, Michael Stewart. She is survived by her daughter, Melissa Wrenn Ellenburg (Tim); her son, Greg Wrenn (Terri); her grandchildren, Melody Bradley, Morgan Stewart, and Will Wrenn (Katie); her great-grandchildren, Fletcher Bradley, Kase Wrenn, and Marlee Kate Wrenn; and her half brothers, Garland Ray, Darryal Ray, and Randal Ray (Brenda). The family would like to extend their appreciation for the grace, compassion, and kindness shown by the CRMC ER and 3rd Floor East staff during her final hours. Flowers are welcome, or if you prefer, donations may be made to St. Andrew's Church Foundation.

**Lester Wayne Collins, 68**
Memorial service for Lester Wayne Collins, 68, of Decatur will be at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Pastor Charles Williams officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:30-2:30 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Lester passed away Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026, at Decatur Morgan Hospital. He was born April 13, 1958, to Charlie G. and Aline Collins. Lester was a member of the Decatur Elks Lodge # 655 for 42 years. He was a past Exalted Ruler PDGER, Alabama State past president; Member of Elks National Hoop Shoot Hall of Fame, avid Alabama fan, Atlanta Braves fan, and loved to camp with his friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Alton "Toonie" Collins, Raymond Collins; sister, Charlene Crowe; father-in-law, W.H. Carter. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 45 years, Denise Carter Collins; son, Jason (Maria) Collins; bonus sons, James (Melody) Milligan, Zack Motley; sisters, Carolyn (Jim) Spinoso, Linda Gail Compton; grandchildren, Micah Collins, Vera Collins; brothers-in-law, Eugene (Tish) Carter, Phillip Carter; mother-in-law, Helen Carter; Elk friends, nieces, nephews, family and friends. In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to the Elks Scholarship Fund. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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.