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OP-ED
The Haunted Woods brings Halloween nostalgia to 2026



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Marshall » PAGE 6

Good Hope: Hotel plans hinge on gas line under interstate; new package store prepares to open

Krystal Corley
noah@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – A new business is about to open its doors in Good Hope, and city leaders are working to clear the way for a hotel, but first, the city needs to get natural gas under the interstate.

Mayor Jerry Bartlett shared the updates following the Good Hope City Council's regular meeting Monday, Oct. 26.

New package store opening

A new package store owned by Donald Estess is preparing to open in a new building at 6073 County Road 490, Suite A, across from the Scotty Hooper Museum. Bartlett said Estess' sons, Scotty and Skipper, are also part of the business.

A ribbon cutting is expected soon, though a date has not yet been set, according to city officials.

Gas line key to hotel

Bartlett said a hotel planned behind the new store is on hold until natural » PAGE 2

Halloween fun at WildWater



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
WildWater Cullman hosted its 2026 Trunk or Treat Tuesday, Oct. 27, welcoming attendees for some family-friendly Halloween fun.



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

Gene Sullins gave his time, his voice and his heart to Cullman County Schools



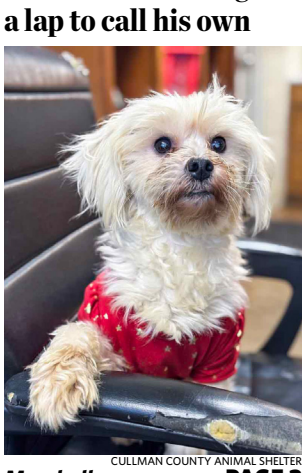
CITY OF CULLMAN
Gene Sullins died Monday, Oct. 26, 2026, at 84. » PAGE 5

Robert Gene Bates built a legacy from courthouse to community



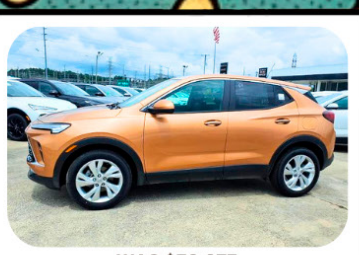
CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Robert Bates died Oct. 25, 2026, at 85. » PAGE 5

PET OF THE WEEK
Marshall is looking for a lap to call his own



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
Marshall » PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 28

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 28, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 26

- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $2,000

Oct. 27

- duty upon striking fixtures upon highway; person; damaged mailbox; $150; Morgan Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Oct. 26-27

Holmes, Roy D.; 51
- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wise, Dustin R.; 34
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – public intoxication

Williams, Jeremy O.; 40
- theft of property-1st degree

Flanigan, George L.; 49
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving without license

Hopper, Kalli G.; 25
- menacing
- harassment

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Good Hope (from Front)

gas service can be extended under the interstate.

The city had asked to run its gas line through a crossing being installed under the interstate for water lines, but was told the opening was too small, Bartlett said. Since then, grant funding is allowing the water line to be upsized because of a need for more water capacity in the area, and the city hopes the larger casing will also make room for Good Hope's gas line.

Officials are scheduled to meet with Cullman County leaders about the project Thursday, Nov. 5. No firm timeline has been set.

Bartlett said the growth will be good for the community.

Bartlett said the growth will be good for the community. "This is going to help a lot with economic growth," he said. A hotel would give visitors to the area a place to stay overnight, keeping them, and their spending, in Good Hope and Cullman County longer.

Council business

During Monday's meeting, the council reviewed the city's September financial reports. Also on the agenda was an offer on about three-quarters of an acre, a triangle-shaped piece of land at the end of Beech Grove Road.

According to the city's profit-and-loss report, Good Hope brought in $671,055.61 in total income in September, down 12.2% from $763,984.14 in September 2025. Sales tax, the city's largest general fund revenue source, totaled $149,830.51 for the month, compared with $443,416.06 a year earlier. Alcohol sales revenue came in at $33,761.53, down from $84,981.71 last September, though it finished ahead of the month's budgeted $29,915.

Grant dollars helped offset the decline. The city received $387,387.40 in grant funds in September, including $112,139.12 for a USDA multi-use storm shelter and $275,248.28 through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's State Revolving Fund for a sewer project.

The city finished September with $44,921.74 in net income, compared with $523,455.02 in September 2025. As of Oct. 26, Good Hope's bank balances totaled $1,742,854.84 across all accounts, including $778,088.49 in the Good Hope Economic Development Fund and $644,525.40 in the Alcohol Fund.

The council also approved minutes from its Oct. 13 meeting, when members voted to hire a full-time qualified EMT at up to $20 an hour plus benefits, paid from alcohol funds; to buy property at 2050 County Road 222 from John and Kathy Sims for $600,000 from the Economic Development Fund; and to annex that property into the city and zone it General Business. Councilman Billy Brown abstained from the annexation vote.

Coming up in Good Hope

- Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Teacher grants: Thursday, Nov. 5, 11:30 a.m.
- Jack's Western Wear recognized as Alabama Retailer of the Year: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2 p.m.
- Veterans Fireworks in the Park: Sunday, Nov. 8, with horses and flags at 4:30 p.m. and fireworks shortly after 5 p.m.
- City offices closed for Veterans Day: Wednesday, Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving Community Luncheon, served by council members: Wednesday, Nov. 25
- City offices closed: Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27
- Christmas parade followed by Christmas in the Park: Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.

The council's remaining 2026 meetings are set for Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 14 and Dec. 28.



You're invited to attend a
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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
- Friday, Oct. 30 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided. Guest speaker Steven East.
- Sunday, Nov. 1 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by guest speaker Steven East at 11.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville
The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.
- Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mud Creek Festival and BIG BOOK SALE
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, Closed in honor of Veterans Day

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

We are looking for community volunteers to read storytime on Wednesdays. Contact Teresa Rivera for details. Volunteers make our library successful, so we thank our local community.

Cullman 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."

16th Annual Mud Creek Arts & Crafts Festival
Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. along Commercial Street, centered at 106 Commercial St. NE, in downtown Hanceville. Street vendors, arts, crafts, food and fun for the whole family.

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.

Marshall (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – A gentle touch from Marshall is a simple request. He would like to be picked up, please, and if there is room in your lap, that is exactly where he hopes to stay.

Marshall, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, is an approximately 6-year-old Maltipoo available for adoption at the Cullman County Animal Shelter. This affectionate fellow knows what he wants most, and it is time close to his person.

Described as having plenty of common sense, Marshall makes his wishes known with that soft touch. For someone who enjoys the company of a lap dog, his desire to be held could be the beginning of a loving friendship.

Marshall has cataracts, but those caring for him say they do not hold him back. Prospective adopters can speak with shelter staff about his needs and care.

He is waiting for a home where his gentle requests for attention will be met with open arms and a place to settle.

Marshall's adoption fee is $130 and includes neutering, vaccinations and microchipping. To learn more about Marshall or meet him, visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. The shelter is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

Has Marshall already been adopted? Don't worry! Many more pets are waiting for their forever homes, and your perfect companion may be among them.

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YARD SALE - Power Tools, ladders, kitchen/household items, books, Alabama framed art & collectibles, new cutting boards, 2023 Keystone Passport Camper and lots more. 680 County Rd 804, Cullman, Friday and Saturday Oct, 30-31

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 29, 2026

PREP FOOTBALL

Good Hope eyes region title as Cold Springs opens regular-season finales Thursday

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Good Hope will visit unbeaten Scottsboro with a region championship still within reach Friday, while newly ranked Cold Springs opens the area's final regular-season football slate Thursday.

Cold Springs hosts Tanner on Thursday, Oct. 29. Friday, Oct. 30, sends Cullman to West Morgan, Good Hope to Scottsboro, Fairview to Cherokee County, Meek to Berry, Holly Pond to Falkville and Hanceville to Elkmont. All seven games are scheduled for 7 p.m.

Cullman's game at West Morgan has moved from Thursday to Friday, according to the school's Facebook announcement.

Cold Springs entered the Class 2A rankings at No. 10 in Wednesday's Alabama Sports Writers Association poll. Addison remains No. 2 in Class 1A, and Scottsboro holds the No. 2 position in Class 4A. Rankings throughout this preview reflect the Oct. 28 poll.

Thursday, Oct. 29

Tanner (4-5) at No. 10 Cold Springs (8-1)

Cold Springs will try to complete a nine-win regular season when it hosts Tanner at 7 p.m. in Bremen.

The Eagles enter their nonregion finale with three consecutive victories and the No. 2 playoff seed in Class 2A, Region 5 already secured. Thursday's result will not change their region position or their home assignment for the first round Nov. 6.

Cold Springs finished region play at 6-1 after defeating Carbon Hill 56-6 last week. Eli Voce and Brandon Chasteen each scored twice, while defensive lineman Lathan Shuford returned a fumble for a touchdown. Cooper Johnson and Blake Phillips also scored.

Tanner enters after a 36-35 loss to J.B. Pennington, its third consecutive defeat. The Rattlers finished sixth in Class 2A, Region 7 at 2-5 and have been eliminated from playoff contention.

The Eagles can finish the regular season 9-1 before turning their attention to the postseason.

Friday, Oct. 30

Good Hope (7-2) at No. 2 Scottsboro (9-0)

Good Hope's 7 p.m. visit to Scottsboro carries the area's most significant remaining region stakes.

Scottsboro leads Class 4A, Region 8 at 7-0. Good Hope and Cherokee County are both 6-1, leaving the Raiders with a path to the championship.

A Good Hope victory combined with a Fairview victory over Cherokee County would leave the Raiders and Scottsboro tied at 7-1. Good Hope would claim first place through the head-to-head tiebreaker.

If Good Hope and Cherokee County both win, Scottsboro, Good Hope and Cherokee County would finish tied at 7-1, requiring the AHSAA's three-team tiebreaking procedure.

A Good Hope loss would leave the Raiders third because Cherokee County holds the head-to-head advantage.

The Raiders secured their playoff berth with last week's 42-7 win over Hayden. Karson Hollis rushed for 116 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries.

Parker Johnson ran for 64 yards and two scores while throwing touchdown passes to Ayden Young and Kayden Collins.

Ross Clark recorded two sacks. Collins added a sack and a blocked punt recovery, while Young intercepted a pass.

Scottsboro will also celebrate homecoming and senior night during Friday's game.

Cullman (3-6) at West Morgan (6-3)

Cullman will close its season at 7 p.m. Friday at West Morgan High School in Trinity, seeking consecutive road victories after snapping a five-game losing streak last week.

The game was previously scheduled for Thursday but has moved to Friday.

The Bearcats defeated Jackson-Olin 42-13, producing their highest point total of the season. Cullman broke a 7-7 tie with 14 unanswered second-quarter points, led 21-7 at halftime and extended its advantage to 35-13 entering the fourth quarter.

The victory gave Cullman its first road win of the year and completed its Class 5A, Region 5 schedule at 2-5. The Bearcats had already been eliminated from playoff contention.

West Morgan enters with three consecutive victories and a postseason berth secured. The Rebels received seven votes outside the Class 4A top 10 in Wednesday's ASWA poll.

For Cullman, the nonregion finale offers an opportunity to finish 4-6 and carry a two-game winning streak into the offseason.

Fairview (5-3) at Cherokee County (6-3)

Fairview will return from an open week to close its season at 7 p.m. Friday in Centre.

The Aggies are 4-3 in Class 4A, Region 8 and have been eliminated from playoff contention. Guntersville's victory over Brewer last week secured a 5-3 region finish, and the Wildcats hold the head-to-head tiebreaker over Fairview.

A victory would give the Aggies a 6-3 overall finish and a 5-3 region record. It also could influence the championship race by helping Good Hope if the Raiders defeat Scottsboro.

Cherokee County enters 6-1 in the region and remains in contention for a home playoff opener. The Warriors hold a 40-21 victory over Good Hope.

Fairview's last game was a 41-6 victory over Crossville on Oct. 15. Conner Scott threw touchdown passes to Konnor Dunkin and Ayden Batz as the Aggies scored all 41 points in the opening quarter.

Joseph Harbison returned a fumble for a touchdown, and Fairview also scored on an interception return.

Friday's game will be Fairview's final opportunity to add a road victory after winning three of its four home games this season.

Meek (6-3) at Berry (4-5)

Meek will pursue its fifth consecutive victory when it visits Berry at 7 p.m. Friday in a nonregion finale.

The Tigers have secured the No. 3 playoff seed in Class 1A, Region 7 and will travel for the opening round Nov. 6. Friday's result will not change that assignment.

Meek finished region play at 5-2 after defeating Red Bay 30-22 last week. The Tigers built a 16-0 first-quarter lead and carried a 22-14 advantage into halftime. After a scoreless third quarter, both teams added eight points in the fourth.

The victory followed region wins over Waterloo, Belgreen and Phillips. Another win would give Meek a 7-3 regular-season finish.

Berry enters after scoring a season-high 54 points in a 54-52 victory over Pickens County. The Wildcats completed their Class 1A, Region 5 schedule at 4-3.

Holly Pond (2-7) at Falkville (4-5)

Holly Pond will close its season at 7 p.m. Friday at Falkville, seeking its third victory of the year.

Both teams have completed region play and will finish their seasons with the nonregion matchup. Holly Pond finished 1-6 in Class 3A, Region 6, while Falkville finished fifth in Class 2A, Region 7 at 3-4.

The Broncos enter after a 43-12 loss to Etowah. Holly Pond trailed 22-6 at halftime before the Blue Devils added 14 unanswered third-quarter points. Both teams scored in the final period.

Falkville enters with consecutive losses and can finish at .500 with a victory. Holly Pond can close 3-7 with a win.

Hanceville (0-9) at Elkmont (1-8)

Hanceville will have one final opportunity to earn its first victory when it visits Elkmont at 7 p.m. Friday.

The Bulldogs completed Class 3A, Region 6 play at 0-7 after last week's 62-0 loss to region champion Oneonta. The Redskins scored 35 first-quarter points and led 56-0 at halftime.

Elkmont also enters outside the playoff field. The Red Devils' only victory came Sept. 25, when they defeated Danville 35-6.

Friday's nonregion game will conclude the season for both teams. Hanceville is seeking a 1-9 finish, while Elkmont can finish 2-8.

Open dates and postseason preparation

Addison and Vinemont have completed their regular seasons and are open this week before beginning the playoffs Nov. 6.

No. 2 Addison finished 10-0 overall and 7-0 in Class 1A, Region 7 after defeating Hackleburg 33-7. The Bulldogs are the region champion and will host their first-round playoff game.

Vinemont finished 6-4 overall and 4-3 in Class 3A, Region 6. Its 12-7 victory over Susan Moore secured a seventh consecutive postseason appearance and the region's No. 4 seed. The Eagles will travel to Central-Florence for the opening round.

West Point's season concluded Oct. 23 with a 55-14 loss to Deshler. The Warriors finished 0-10 overall and 0-7 in Class 4A, Region 7.





Jacobs proclaims Hospice and Palliative Care Month in Cullman

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala.– Mayor Woody Jacobs presented a proclamation recognizing November 2026 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month in the city of Cullman during a ceremony held Monday, Oct. 26, in the mayor's office. Representing Hospice of North Alabama at the presentation were Shellee Blaxton, Anna Dove, Julie Doss and Cecily Miner.

The proclamation recognizes the important role hospice and palliative care professionals play in providing comfort, dignity and support to patients and families facing serious illness. This year's national theme, "Care You Can Trust," emphasizes compassionate, quality care and helping families make informed decisions about their loved ones' needs.

"We're fortunate to have several hospice organizations serving Cullman and the surrounding area," said Jacobs. "These folks do important work, helping people and their families through some of life's hardest times. We appreciate every one of them and the care they provide to our community."

Cullman is served by several hospice care organizations, including Hospice of North Alabama, Cullman Regional Hospice, Aveanna Hospice of Cullman, Enhabit Hospice, Gentiva Hospice and Affinity Hospice. These organizations provide care and support to patients and families, helping manage pain and symptoms while addressing emotional, spiritual and practical needs.

Shellee Blaxton of Hospice of North Alabama, which has served the Cullman community for 20 years, emphasized the importance of having local hospice providers available to families.

"We've been here in Cullman for 20 years, and we're local," said Blaxton. "Our office is right behind the Christmas market, and we want people to know we're here when they need us. We're proud to be part of this community and to care for our neighbors."

While hospice care focuses on comfort and quality of life for individuals nearing the end of life, palliative care can be provided at any stage of serious illness, including alongside treatments intended to cure or manage a condition. Both approaches emphasize personalized care, dignity and support for patients and their loved ones.



CITY OF CULLMAN

Pictured left to right are Shellee Blaxton, Julie Doss, Mayor Woody Jacobs, Cecily Miner and Anna Dove.

The proclamation also recognizes the physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, volunteers and family caregivers who work together to meet patients' physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Jacobs encouraged residents to recognize and thank the hospice and palliative care professionals throughout the community whose dedication makes a difference in the lives of patients and families every day.

Bates (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - In a third-floor courtroom at the Cullman County Courthouse on a Saturday morning in July 2000, Circuit Clerk Robert Gene Bates welcomed Sacred Harp singers, offered the opening prayer and read "The Old Bridge Builder."

The moment lasted only minutes, but it captured the two roles Bates carried for decades: keeper of the county's court business and a steady presence in the life of the community.

Bates, 85, died Sunday, Oct. 25. He is being remembered for 30 years of public service, a lifelong commitment to his church, 57 years as a Mason and a family life that included 66 years of marriage to his wife, Janice.

The Cullman County Commission said Bates' commitment during three decades as circuit clerk left a lasting impact on the community.

Mayor Woody Jacobs and the Cullman City Council also extended condolences to Bates' family and friends.

"We are grateful for his 30 years of dedicated service to Cullman County," the city said.

The circuit clerk serves as the court system's business manager.

The office maintains court records, issues summonses and subpoenas, collects court-ordered money and manages jurors.

In Cullman County, the circuit clerk also serves as the absentee election manager.

That meant Bates' work reached residents at consequential moments: filing a case, responding to a subpoena, reporting for jury duty, paying court-ordered money or requesting an absentee ballot.

His experience also shaped election work beyond Cullman County.

The Alabama Election Handbook credits Bates with reviewing its chapters on absentee voting qualifications, the duties of circuit clerks and the work of absentee election managers.

The Alabama Law Institute also lists him among the members of its 2003 Election Law committee.

Bates drew attention to the obstacles facing military personnel and other Alabama voters overseas.

His office mailed 153 absentee ballots to those voters for the 2004 general election, but 66 were not returned.

In 2008, Bates pointed to that gap as Alabama circuit clerks supported a more efficient electronic voting system for citizens serving or living abroad.

His service extended beyond the courthouse.

Alabama Secretary of State records show Bates and Roger Humphrey incorporated the Bates Masonic Scholarship Fund in Cullman County in 1998 for educational purposes.

Bates was listed as an incorporator and registered agent, and annual filings named him president in 1998 and 1999.

That work reflected a Masonic commitment that continued for 57 years.

According to his obituary, Bates conducted or participated in more than 300 Masonic services, standing with families during some of their most difficult hours.

Bates was also a lifelong member of Sharon Grove Methodist Church. His public prayers at the Cullman County Singing Convention and his repeated welcomes to singers in the courthouse in 2000 and 2001 offered another glimpse of a faith expressed through presence and service.

Born Dec. 10, 1940, in Cullman, Bates was the son of Robert Lem and Mamie Pearl Trimble Bates.

His family remembered him as "wise in counsel, patient in difficulty and steadfastly kind-hearted." They described a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather whose calm strength and love anchored generations.

In addition to Janice, survivors include daughters Cindy McSwain and Becky Faulk; grandchildren Brooke Berg and Brittany Tucker; great-grandchildren Olivia Yancy, Audrey Tucker, Caroline Berg, Anna Kate Berg and William Berg; and his brother, Frank Bates of Texas.

Away from public duties, Bates enjoyed hunting, fishing and farming. His family said he found joy in the outdoors and in working the land, carrying the same patience and dedication into those pursuits that marked the rest of his life.

Visitation was scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 4-7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Ave. NW in Cullman.

A celebration of life service will be Thursday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home, with the Revs. Paul Campbell and Delbert Freeman officiating.

A graveside committal service will follow at Shedd Cemetery in Trimble.

The poem Bates shared in the courthouse 26 years ago tells of a traveler who crosses a difficult span, then turns back to build a bridge for those who will follow.

The public record of Bates' life traces a similar outline: three decades tending the county's courts, work to strengthen elections, an educational fund for students and hundreds of services for grieving families.

His legacy in Cullman County is found not only in the years he served, but in the paths he helped make easier for others.

Sullins (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – For Gene Sullins, public service was never an abstract line on a résumé. It was a child waiting for a safer school bus, a teacher who needed encouragement, a ball field coming back to life after more than a decade and two communities trusting him to carry their concerns into a boardroom.

Henry Eugene "Gene" Sullins died Monday, Oct. 26, at 84. For 12 years and three elected terms, he represented District 1 on the Cullman County Board of Education, serving the West Point and Harmony communities. Along the way, he served in leadership roles including Board president and vice president.

"Gene loved Cullman County Schools, and he cared deeply about our students and staff," Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette said. "He understood that serving on the School Board meant serving people."

Barnette said Sullins gave his time and energy to helping the schools succeed, advocated for students, supported employees and represented his communities with commitment.

Sullins chose not to seek reelection in 2024 and completed his service at the end of his third term.

Voters first elected Sullins to the Board in 2012. He won reelection in 2016 and defeated a challenger in 2020 to secure a third term.

The role placed him at the table for decisions touching every part of the county school system, from personnel and special education services to transportation, facilities and long-range finances.

One of the most consequential decisions came in 2016. With Sullins serving as Board president, the Board unanimously selected Barnette as superintendent.

At the time, Sullins pointed to Barnette's experience as an educator and administrator and, most of all, his concern for children.

Eight years later, at Sullins' final Board meeting in December 2024, Barnette described the progress made during that period.

The system had moved from one day beyond the state-required reserve balance to around 140 days in reserve, completed about $70 million in projects and modernized or repaired facilities across the county.

Its graduation rate had risen from about 80% to about 97%, while the share of graduates considered ready for college or a career had climbed from about 72% to 99%.

Barnette credited Sullins, fellow departing Board Member Heath Allbright and the entire Board. Those gains belonged to a team, but Sullins served through every year of that eight-year span, helping shape the budgets, policies and priorities behind them.

The smaller moments said just as much about the kind of Board member he tried to be.

When Harmony School returned to its ball field in April 2021 after more than 10 years without a home game, Sullins spoke during the opening ceremony.

In a later Board of Education Recognition Month message, Harmony thanked him for the time he spent "encouraging and lifting up our students and faculty."

In 2023, Sullins was among the Board members present as Cullman County Schools began rolling out a new bus fleet.

The buses brought air conditioning, exterior safety cameras, collision-avoidance systems and real-time communication intended to help drivers protect children waiting at stops.

He also supported an unsuccessful 2020 proposal for a one-cent education sales tax. The plan was intended to replace aging buildings, strengthen campus security and build a new career-technical facility. The referendum failed, but Sullins' position reflected the needs he believed the school system had to confront.

In a 2016 campaign message, Sullins wrote that he carefully and prayerfully weighed Board decisions because they affected his family as well as other families throughout the system.

"Together we can continue to strive and achieve great things for our kids and school system as a whole," he wrote.

To his family, those public duties were only one part of the man they knew.

Marcia Yearwood, who identified herself as Sullins' sister-in-law, shared a remembrance on Cullman County Schools' public tribute.

"He loved Harmony school with all his heart. He always wanted the best for that school," Yearwood wrote.

She remembered Sullins as a man who never met a stranger, enjoyed a good conversation and loved her family deeply.

Public business listings and Sullins' own social media profile also show a working life rooted in Cullman County. He described himself as the longtime owner of a Cullman-area siding and sunroom business, dating his ownership to 1975.

In a public response to the Cullman County Commission's remembrance, Jeffrey Sullins recalled another chapter of Gene Sullins' public service, saying he had once served as an assistant probate judge under former Cullman County Probate Judge Tom Burleson.

The Commission remembered Sullins for his service to the West Point community and said his commitment to Cullman County students and families would be remembered.

When Sullins left the School Board in 2024, he did not use the moment to recite a list of personal accomplishments. He praised the people beside him. He thanked Board Member Kenny Brockman for years of help and friendship and expressed confidence in incoming Board Member Larry Duke.

"You guys will have a good Board member taking my place," Sullins said of Duke.

It was a fitting last word from the Board table. Even at the close of his own service, Sullins directed attention toward the people who had helped him, the person who would follow him and the schools and teachers the work was meant to serve.

Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory said visitation will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at Temple Baptist Church.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30. The funeral home said a full obituary would follow.

Sullins' legacy cannot be contained in one vote, one building or one set of numbers.

It lives in safer rides to school, improved classrooms, students encouraged and neighbors heard. It is the accumulated result of showing up, term after term, and treating a seat in public office as a responsibility to people.



Nostalgia (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

The Haunted Woods, a local fear-fueling attraction located in Hanceville is open to the public until Oct. 31, with some "old-school" classic scare tactics.

I visited the site on Saturday and truly enjoyed my experience!

Per my millennial heart, think 2003-2008 backwoods with a touch of "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" meets "Wrong Turn" – just my kind of haunted "house."

The entire venue is outside, but you get your steps in as well as, truly getting to experience 2026 Halloween like a teen all over again.

Think chainsaws, slow Michael Myers walks and Halloween lighting.

Parking is limited so be prepared to be a little tight in that department.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

10/10 recommend The Haunted Woods for a fun, little local haunt!

Tickets are affordable and available at the door: $10 for a regular visit and $20 for VIP.

Find it at 172 County Road 536 in Hanceville.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/TheHauntedWoodsinHanceville.

Challenge (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Every story starts with a blank page. This November, the Cullman County Public Library is inviting local writers to fill one.

In honor of National Novel Writing Month, the library is hosting a short story writing challenge from Monday, Nov. 2, through Wednesday, Nov. 25. Entries should be between 1,000 and 5,000 words.

"Whether you're new to writing or you have years of experience, all adults are welcome to try our writing challenge!" the library said in announcing the event.

Stories from writers of every age

The contest is open to participants of all ages, with entries judged in two categories: adults (18 and older) and kids (17 and under). That means young storytellers can try their hand at a tale of their own alongside seasoned writers.

Writers looking for a spark of inspiration can pick up writing prompts at the library, along with submission sheets.

Need help getting started? The library will also host a writing workshop for adults and students in grades 5 and up Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m., just days into the contest.

A month made for writers

National Novel Writing Month, often called NaNoWriMo, began in 1999 in the San Francisco area with just 21 participants. The idea was simple but daunting: write a 50,000-word novel during the 30 days of November, or about 1,667 words a day.

Over the years, the challenge grew into a worldwide tradition. While the nonprofit organization behind it shut down in 2025, writers, libraries and community groups have kept the November spirit alive with challenges of their own.

The library's short story contest offers a more approachable version of the challenge. Instead of an entire novel, writers can focus on crafting one complete story, whether it's their first or their fiftieth.

How to enter

For prompts, submission sheets and contest details, stop by the Cullman County Public Library at 200 Clark St. NE, email cullmanpubliclibrary@gmail.com or visit www.cullmanlib.org. The library can also be reached at 256-734-2720.

Library hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
OLAF NORMAN GREEN, * CASE NO.: PC2026-397
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TAKE NOTICE that Ancillary Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Kim Vecchiarelli Padilla, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Olaf Norman Green, deceased, 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.

Kim Vecchiarelli Padilla
Personal Representative

Christopher S. Hamer
Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC
18001 Fifth Avenue North - STE 400
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-53
TO ANNEX CERTAIN PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Cullman finds that the following property owners, Wesley and Sherry Moore, have petitioned the City under the provisions of Section 11-42-21 of the Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, that the following described property, owned by the petitioner, be annexed into the City of Cullman:
PIN: 89622. Parcel Number: 22-01-11-0-000-032.017. Property Address: County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Legal Description: Lot 1 of Bella's Ridge Subdivision.
PIN: 89623. Parcel Number: 22-01-11-0-000-032.018. Property Address: County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Legal Description: Lot 2 of Bella's Ridge Subdivision.
PIN: 89624. Parcel Number: 22-01-11-0-000-032.019. Property Address: County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Legal Description: Lot 3 of Bella's Ridge Subdivision.
PIN: 89625. Parcel Number: 22-01-11-0-000-032.020. Property Address: County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Legal Description: Combined Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Bella's Ridge Subdivision, First Addition.
PIN: 90974. Parcel Number: 22-06-14-0-000-002.006. Property Address: County Road 616, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Legal Description: Lot 2 of Bella's Ridge Subdivision, Second Addition.
SECTION 2. That the Council has before it a map showing the relationship of the properties proposed to be annexed to the corporate limits of the City of Cullman, and that said map is on file in the office of the City Clerk along with an acknowledgment by the property owner that they want it to be annexed into the City of Cullman.
SECTION 3. That the City of Cullman does hereby annex as a part of its corporate limits the above-described tracts or parcels of land as R-2 Residential District.
SECTION 4. That a copy of this ordinance after its adoption, which ordinance includes a description of the property annexed to the City of Cullman, be filed in the office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the county in which the municipality is located.
SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 26th day of October, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 26th day of October 2026./s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. APPROVED this the 26th day of October, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

Case# PC2026-394
PB MIN Book:247 Page:965
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/26/2026 4:02PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JOHNNY RAY GRANTHAM, * CASE NO.: PC 2026-394
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTIBUTION

A Petition for Summary Distribution of the Estate of Johnny Ray Grantham has been filed by Petitioner, **Jimmy Grantham,** on the 30th day of September 2026, in the Probate Court of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate are hereby to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

All claims must be filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County.

BLAND, HARRIS & McCLELLAN, P.C.
Attorney for Petitioner

Nancy F. McClellan
401 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 734- 4040

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.

DONE this the 26th day of October, 2026.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

10/19/2026 3:42PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
DONNA JO BUTLER, * CASE NO. PC 2026 - 412
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to David H. Butler as Personal Representative of the Estate of Donna Jo Butler, deceased, on the 14th day of October, 2026, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

David H. Butler
Personal Representative

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

Attorney for Personal Representative

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

Case# PC2026-046
PB MIN Book:247 Page:674
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/09/2026 4:25PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO.: PC2026-046
FLO ANN DYER, *
DECEASED. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to SETH WADE DYER as Administrator of the Estate of FLO ANN DYER, deceased, on this the 9th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County.

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

Seth Wade Dyer
Personal Representative

SMITH & KILGO LAW, LLC
Dean R. Smith
Attorney for the Administrator
421 3rd Ave SE, Ste. 245
Cullman, AL 35055

To: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cullman, AL 35055

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DOCUMENT 8

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
10/14/2026 4:33 PM
25-CV-2026-000021.00
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

HAMMONS VERNA,)
Plaintiff,)
)
V.) Case No.: CV-2026-000021.00
)
WEISSEND ASHLEY,)
RALPH JOHNATHAN,)
Defendants.)

ORDER

MOTION & AFFIDAVIT FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION filed by HAMMONS VERNA is hereby GRANTED.

DONE this 14th day of October, 2026.

/s/ J. CHAD FLOYD
CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
BILLY JOE JACKSON,) Case No.: PC- 2026-341
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to Brandon Jackson, 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.

Brandon Jackson,
Personal Representative

Shelbie G. Hankey
Hankey Law Firm, LLC
409 2nd Avenue 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 and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown, JUDGE OF PROBATE

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
EVELYN JOY SAMS, * CASE NO.: PC2026-387
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted to DANNY FELTON SAMS as Personal Representative of the Estate of EVELYN JOY SAMS, deceased, on the 20th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Danny Felton Sams
Personal Representative

Jeremy P. Summers, Estate Attorney
1275 Center Point Parkway, Suite 100
Birmingham, Alabama 35215

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
) CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
ROY H. DRINKARD, deceased.) CASE NO PC 2026-422

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the Last Will and Testament of the decedent to JUDY K. WHITE and JERRY D. KIMBROUGH, the Co-Personal Representatives of the deceased, on the 27th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against such estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of such Judge of Probate within six (6) months from the above date or the same will be barred and payment prohibited.

JUDY K. WHITE and JERRY D. KIMBROUGH,
Co-Personal Representatives,
Estate of ROY H. DRINKARD, deceased

Elizabeth H. Hutchins
Dentons Sirote, PC
2311 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

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

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TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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Obituary Announcements: Oct. 27-28

Frances W. Tate, 87

In Loving Memory of Frances W. Tate
May 24, 1939 – Oct. 24, 2026

Some people leave behind memories. Others leave behind a legacy of love, strength, and a family that will never quite be the same without them. Frances W. Tate, affectionately known as Mawmaw, was most certainly the latter. Born on May 24, 1939, Frances was one of nine children and the last surviving sibling. On June 25, 1960, she married the love of her life, Bill Tate, beginning a beautiful life together filled with love, family, and memories. Mawmaw was the heart of her family, the matriarch, the protector, and, let's be honest, the one you probably didn't want to cross. She loved fiercely, spoke her mind, and had a heart overflowing with love for the people she called hers. If Mawmaw loved you, you never had to question it. And if someone messed with her family, well, they quickly learned just how fiercely she could protect them. She had a remarkable gift for creating beautiful things. An avid gardener with a love for flowers, she could bring just about anything to life. She loved to bake, enjoyed reading, and could craft nearly anything she set her mind to. She had a special way of making those she loved feel cherished and protected. No matter how old her children or grandchildren became, they were still her babies. And she made certain they knew it. Every single night, without fail, she sent messages reminding her family that she loved them. It was such a simple gesture, but one that spoke volumes about the kind of woman she was. Her great-grandson, Nicko, was the absolute light of her life. The love and joy he brought her were immeasurable, and the bond they shared was something truly special. Mawmaw was a member of Union Grove Church in Holly Pond, Alabama. Her faith, her love for her family, and her unwavering strength were woven into the fabric of who she was. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bill Tate; her parents, John and Dollie White; her eight siblings; her daughter, Beverly Flournoy; and her granddaughter, Stacey Flournoy. She leaves behind her daughter, Kim Freeman, and son-in-law, Scott Freeman; her granddaughter, Amy Kemp, and her husband, Nathan Kemp; her cherished great-grandson, Nicko Galanis; and a host of nieces, nephews, and their children. Mawmaw's absence will be felt in countless ways. In the flowers she once tended, the things she lovingly made, the phone calls that can no longer be made, and the nightly messages that always ended with love. She leaves behind a family who knew what it meant to be loved fiercely and unconditionally. And while life without her will never be quite the same, the love she gave so freely will remain with them always. She was one of a kind, a force to be reckoned with, and loved beyond words. And knowing Mawmaw, she'd probably have a thing or two to say about all this fuss being made over her. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Union Grove Church in Holly Pond, Alabama.

Becky Burgess, 70

Becky Currier Burgess, age 70, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026. Becky was born April 11, 1956, in Savanah, Georgia. Becky was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher. Becky was preceded in death by her mother, Charlotte Currier, and her sister, Suzy Fields. Becky is survived by her husband of 32 years, John Burgess; her father, Thomas Jay Currier; her children: Patrick Cook, April Gray (Jeff), Erin Williams (Joel), and Ethan Burgess; four grandchildren: Brantly, Jack, Jordan, and Lily; nephews: Jacob Whittle (Katie) and Isaac Whittle; and a niece: Peyton Whittle. Becky was a special education teacher, and she spent most of her teaching career at the Cullman Child Development Center. After retiring, she continued her part-time work in special education eligibility for the Cullman County School System. Becky, aka "Granna", had a beautiful spirit and smile that would light up a room. Becky always put everyone else before herself and gave the best gifts. She loved her husband, children, and grandchildren with her whole heart. She was always available to help and care for a grandchild. Becky loved traveling with her family, including trips to the Great Smoky Mountains, the Bahamas, Savannah, and Walt Disney World. She loved staying busy and found satisfaction in working part-time. As an alumna of The University of Alabama, she also loved supporting her team. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in her name to Hayden Methodist Church. A visitation for Becky will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. at Hayden Methodist Church, 325 Third Avenue, Hayden, AL 35079, followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m.

Robert Gene Bates, 85

Robert Gene Bates, 85, of Cullman, Alabama, was born Dec. 10, 1940, in Cullman, Alabama, and passed away Oct. 25, 2026. He will be remembered with deep respect and lasting gratitude for a life marked by steady service, quiet strength, and unwavering devotion to those he loved. Robert served the people of his community as Cullman County Circuit Clerk for 30 years, carrying out his responsibilities with patience, integrity, and thoughtful care. He was also a Mason for 57 years, a faithful commitment reflected not only in longevity but in the generous work of his hands and heart—conducting and performing more than 300 Masonic services. A lifelong member of Sharon Grove Methodist Church, Robert's faith was not merely spoken, but lived through loyalty, kindness, and a gentle, consistent presence. Above all, Robert was a loving and devoted husband and a cherished father, grandfather, and great grandfather—a man widely regarded as one of the most wonderful men that ever walked this earth. His family knew him as brave and resilient in life's demands, yet always tender in spirit: wise in counsel, patient in difficulty, and steadfastly kind-hearted. As a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather, he was cherished for the calm strength and devoted love that anchored generations. Robert found honest joy in the outdoors and in the work of the land. Whether hunting, fishing, or farming, he carried the same hard-working dedication and quiet thoughtfulness that defined every part of his life. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Janice Bates; daughters, Cindy (Bobby) McSwain and Becky (Hayden) Faulk; grandchildren, Brooke (Bill) Berg and Brittany (Whitney) Tucker; great grandchildren, Olivia Yancy, Audrey Tucker, Caroline Berg, Anna Kate Berg, and William Berg; and brother, Frank Bates of Texas. He was preceded in death by his brothers, William "Bill" Bates, Grady Bates, Jack Bates, Thad Bates, and Terry Bates; his sisters, Myrtle Hendrix, Dorothy Hancock, and Viva Johnson; and his parents, Robert Lem and Mamie Pearl Trimble Bates. Rev. Paul Campbell and Rev. Delbert Freeman will be officiating. "What we do for ourselves alone stays with us, but what we do for others lives on and on." In that enduring truth, Robert's legacy remains—beloved, faithful, and deeply cherished. Visitation for Robert Bates will be held Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026 from 4-7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026 beginning at 1 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home with a Graveside Committal Service to follow at Shedd Cemetery in Trimble, Alabama.

Henry Eugene Sullins, 84

Henry Eugene Sullins (Gene) passed away at Huntsville Hospital on Oct. 26, 2026, at the age of 84. Gene is preceded in death by his parents Henry and Evis Sullins, his brothers C.J. Sullins, Bobby Ray Sullins, Edward Sullins, his sister Helen Sullins and Shelia Miller. Gene is survived by his wife, Lisha Sullins, of 32 years. They were married at Bell Springs Baptist Church on Jan. 7, 1994. He is also survived by his children Ken (Sylvia) Sullins, Kevin (Melanie) Sullins, Michele (Robert) Kimbril, Coby Sullins, his grandchildren Kyle, Tyler, Alyx and Ryan Sullins, Katti Mann, Jerred and Erik Schafer, Kayla Burttram, Tyler Williams, Kari West, Kaleb, Bryson and Henry Colt Kimbril, and Kaitlyn Hagemore. His great grandchildren Gabe, Rayn, Alison Lily, Lane, Isaiah, Eden, Judah, Eli, Wyatt, Ava, Lainey, Sylas, Tylee, J.P., Simon, Ali Jade, Maverick, Kolson, Bankston, Kenzly Mae, Hunt, Haisly, Grayson, and Cohen. His brothers and sisters, Alton (Sandra) Sullins, Ronald Dean Sullins (Brenda Mobley), Leroy (Barbara Jean) Sullins, Don Sullins (Sheron), Dewayne Sullins (Nita), Gary Macks Sullins, Betty Jean Chandler, Tiny Sullins, and a host/slew of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Gene enjoyed talking and fellowshipping with anyone and everyone that would talk to him. He loved being around family and hanging around all the family. He absolutely loved to hunt deer, whether it was sitting in a deer stand or chasing dogs with Leroy and the Mississippi gang. He loved watching all the sports activities, whether it was his family or not, but he loved watching them all. He loved his time on the Cullman County School Board. He was a board member for 12 years. He made sure he did everything he could to help not only the schools, but the children and the families. Last, but not least, he loved Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He loved all of his church family and, most importantly, he wanted to make sure everyone knew Jesus Christ. The visitation will be held at Temple Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama, on Highway 157 on Thursday evening, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m. and Friday morning, Oct. 30, from 9-11 a.m. The funeral service will be held at Temple Baptist Church on Oct. 30, 2026, at 11 a.m. Jerry Lake and Malcom Carter will be officiating the service. Interment will be at Bell Springs Cemetery following the funeral service.

Mary Elizabeth Faulkner, 94

Mary Elizabeth Faulkner, age 94 of Cullman, formerly of Jacksonville, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born, Nov. 25, 1931 to Rev. Olan R. Deason and Alva Mae Deason. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband and father of her son, Willie Lester Smith; second husband, Arthur Faulkner; brother, Elbert Deason; and sister, Janie Nunnally. Survivors include her son, Dallas (Kimberly) Smith; grandchildren, Zachary (Ashley) Smith, Jonathan (Katelyn) Smith, James (Ashton) Parsons, and Ashley (Jeremy) Crawford; 9, great grandchildren; nephew, Dennis Deason (Twyla), nieces, Lynn Nunnally and Denise Powell (Ed) ; and a host of other family and friends. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and her faith was a precious part of her life. Her hope rested in the promises of God, and her family finds comfort in knowing that she is now at peace in the presence of her Lord. She will be remembered for the love she gave, the lives she touched, and the memories she leaves behind. Her family was her blessing, and her love will remain a lasting part of their lives. Though she is no longer with them, her legacy will live on through every life she touched and every heart she loved. Those who knew and loved her will always remember her sweet and familiar words, "I love you, hun." Though her voice may be silent now, those precious words will live on in the hearts of her loved ones, a lasting reminder that love never truly says goodbye. The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Woodland Village Health Care and North Alabama Hospice for the love, compassion, and exceptional care shown to our mother. A memorial service will be held at a later date. 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

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Tools of the Trade: Wallace State hosts about 1.6K eighth graders for hands-on career showcase

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Hard hats, stethoscopes, welding helmets and a whole lot of curiosity filled Wallace State Community College's Hanceville campus Tuesday as eighth graders from across the region got an early look at the careers that could shape their futures.

Wallace State hosted its annual Tools of the Trade career showcase Tuesday, Oct. 27, welcoming students from Cullman, Blount and Winston counties for a day of hands-on career exploration.

"The Career and Workforce Development team here at Wallace State puts on Tools of the Trade every year for all of our eighth-grade students in our service area," said Lauren Wilson, Wallace State's dean of the Oneonta Campus and early college programs. "So today we have about 1,600 eighth-grade students visiting us to learn all about career choices, college choices, job opportunities and things that they can look forward to as they begin to plan their future."

A day of discovery

Throughout the day, students rotated through exhibits and interactive stations showcasing dozens of career pathways in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, skilled trades, public safety, information technology and other high-demand fields. Along the way, they talked with representatives from local businesses and industries, as well as Wallace State's academic, health and technical programs.

The event is designed to help students connect with future career opportunities and see the high-demand jobs available right in their own communities.

Timing is everything

Tools of the Trade reaches students at a key moment, just before they head into high school and begin choosing classes and pathways.

"By engaging students at this stage, we can spark curiosity and help them begin thinking about the education and training" they'll need for future opportunities, Wallace State Career Services Specialist Adam West said in announcing this year's event.

Local businesses were invited to take part at no cost, and organizers encouraged them to bring interactive activities and demonstrations to give students a real feel for the work. Businesses could also support the event through sponsorships or by volunteering as guides to help students navigate the day.

A community effort

Tools of the Trade is presented by Wallace State Community College, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cullman Economic Development Agency, the Blount County Economic Development Agency and Cullman County Economic Development.

For more information about Wallace State's career and workforce programs, visit www.wallacestate.edu.



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