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Cullman man charged in Madison child sexual assault investigation

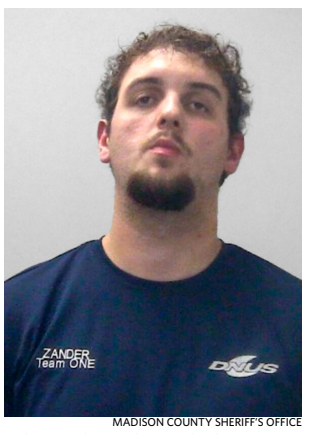
Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

MADISON, Ala. – A Cullman man faces three charges after a middle school staff member's report led police to investigate allegations that he sexually assaulted a child, Madison Police said.

Alexander Riley Schultz, 23, is charged with one count each of second-degree rape, second-degree sodomy and traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act.

Madison County jail records show Schultz was booked Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 6:05 p.m. The records list bonds totaling $120,000: $30,000 each on the rape and sodomy charges and $60,000 on the traveling charge.

During a Thursday, Nov. 5, press conference, Madison Police Detective Teresa Taylor-Duncan said school resource officers received a report from a middle school staff member who noticed an unrelated adult transporting a student » PAGE 2



MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Alexander Riley Schultz

Construction begins on Bella Balle Condominiums in downtown Cullman



CULLMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Construction has begun on Bella Balle Condominiums, a three-story development that will add four condominiums and ground-floor commercial space to downtown Cullman.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Construction has begun on Bella Balle Condominiums, a three-story development that will add four condominiums and ground-floor commercial space to downtown Cullman, according to the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA).

Stephen Gannon's project is expected to take 12-14 months to complete. Susan Eller, CEDA's retail and workforce development manager, provided the construction update following a groundbreaking for the building.

Public real estate listings place the development at 208 Fourth St. SE, adjacent to Hele Bowls and 412 Public House, which Gannon owns.

Plans call for commercial space on the first floor, with two condominiums on each of the second and third floors, Eller said.

"One has already been sold to a local family," she said in her written update.

Eller did not identify the buyer or disclose the purchase price.

Real estate listings provide additional details about the residential portion of the project.

The advertised units have three bedrooms and two bathrooms, with listed floor areas ranging from 1,983 to 2,040 square feet.

Asking prices range from $649,900 to $699,900. Those figures are advertised prices, not confirmed sale prices.

A listing dated Nov. 3 advertises Unit 2B, a 2,040-square-foot condominium, for $649,900. The listing provides another look at the residential offerings as construction gets underway, although it does not identify which unit Eller said had sold.

Marketing materials identify balconies among the planned residential features and credit AB Smith with the building's design and Yearwood Construction as the builder.

Published architectural renderings depict a brick exterior with storefront windows at street level and covered balconies above. The images illustrate the proposed building rather than completed construction.

While the upper floors are being marketed as individual residences, the agency's update did not identify a tenant for the first-floor commercial space. It also did not specify whether that level would accommodate one business or multiple businesses.

The project adds a residential component to an area where Gannon has restaurants and food-service businesses. 412 Public House is located at 412 Second Ave. SE. and opened in 2018. In October 2020, The Tribune reported that Gannon and fellow 412 Public House » PAGE 2

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WEATHER

56 32
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

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Laney Hulsey joins Cullman County Public Library to lead 'Every Chapter Matters' campaign

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The Cullman Tribune invites community to 'Cocoa, Cookies and Claus' Dec. 5

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Jack's Western and Outdoor Wear Founder Larry Allred named Bronze Alabama Retailer of the Year



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Jack's Western and Outdoor Wear Founder Larry Allred

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 6

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 6, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 29
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65SB MM 299
- criminal mischief; CR 1196
- possession of controlled substances; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 31
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1806

Oct. 30
- violation of protection order; I65NB MM 302
- theft of property; criminal mischief; CR 1372
- domestic violence; CR 222
- assault; CR 1141
- possession of controlled substances; I65NB EX 299
- theft of property; CR 703
- theft of property; CR 329
- burglary; CR 201

Oct. 31
- domestic violence; CR 1168
- theft of property; CR 1579
- violation of protection order; CR 1629
- domestic violence; CR 18
- possession of dangerous drugs; illegal possession of prescription drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 91

Nov. 1
- assault; Hwy. 278W
- domestic violence; CR 1343
- possession of dangerous drugs; illegal possession of prescription drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; School House Rd.
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1269
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69S
- criminal mischief; CR 1343

Nov. 2
- criminal mischief; CR 225
- assault; Arkadelphia Rd. NE
- theft of property; CR 1422
- theft of property; Goodwin Rd.
- theft of property; CR 1662

Nov. 3
- assault; US. 231
- harassing communications; Hwy. 69N
- theft of property; Pine Ln. SE
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- harassing communications; CR 1702
- domestic violence; CR 587
- harassing communications; US. 31
- assault; CR 1141
- possession of marijuana; I65SB MM 313

Nov. 4
- domestic violence; CR 940
- theft of property; CR 223
- theft of property; CR 1107
- domestic violence; CR 1196

ARRESTS

Nov. 2-5

Bailey, Bridget L.; 31
- PROBATION REVOKED – assault-child abuse-simple family

Buie, Logan A.; 27
- FTA – assault-aggravated assault-menacing gun (2 counts)

Burgin, Ethan S.; 21
- public intoxication

Calloway, Jeffery C.; 43
- PROBATION REVOKED – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- PROBATION REVOKED – theft of property-2nd degree, $500-less than $1500

Carnes, Reese I.; 25
- PROBATION REVOKED – burglary-3rd degree – domestic violence

Chandler, Brandon E.; 42
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Coker, Michael B.; 39
- theft-miscellaneous
- forgery-counterfeiting (2 counts)

Cottingham, Katrilla M.; 44
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Denton, Sara J.; 32
- PROBATION REVOKED – possession of methamphetamine (2 counts)

Franks, Raymond P.; 77
- DUI (controlled substances)

Goff, Jamar M.; 24
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- assault-aggravated assault police officer-other weapon

Griffin, Heather N.; 35
- PROBATION REVOKED – promote prison contraband

Jackson, Ethan N.; 21
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Lee, Johnny D.; 56
- sex offense-failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restriction
- sex offense-adult sex offender - violation of homelessness restrictions
- theft-miscellaneous

Lee, Stephanie A.; 37
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Looney, Jimmy D.; 69
- criminal trespass

McDonald, Shannon A.; 45
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Patterson, Alicia N.; 38
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Ramsey, Byron C.; 45
- burglary-residence-force
- theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- criminal trespass

Runyon, Jeremy A.; 39
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Serrano, Luis; 34
- DUI (alcohol) (2 counts)

White, Charles E.; 39
- FTA – buying/receiving stolen property (2 counts)
- FTA – burglary-non-residence-no force
- FTA – possession of burglars tools
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – damaged property-criminal mischief
- FTA – improper tag light
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 30
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $40; Olive St. SW

Oct. 31
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $112; Hwy. 157

Nov. 3
- harassment; person; 4th St. SW

Nov. 4
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $6,500
- theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; $15,000
- criminal trespass-1st degree; person; Ave E. SE

Nov. 5
- theft of property-4th degree; person; jewelry; $500; McNabb Rd. SW
- criminal mischief; person; damage to '20 Ford F150; $400; Cherokee Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Nov. 5

Jackson, Ethan N.; 21
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – insurance violation

Fulton, Brandon K.; 43
- FTA – driving while suspended
- FTA – insurance violation

Moore, Melanie S.; 45
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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256-352-2221

Investigation (from Front)

to and from school.

The student subsequently reported being sexually assaulted by the man, who had traveled from Cullman to Madison on multiple occasions, Taylor-Duncan said. At the time of the initial report, the child knew him only by a nickname and could not provide further identifying information, she said.

Taylor-Duncan said Schultz and the child met through Snapchat and made arrangements for transportation. The child was taken to Cullman County on at least one occasion, she said. She also said Cullman County authorities were involved in the investigation but did not identify a specific agency.

School security footage provided investigators with a vehicle description and part of its license plate number, Taylor-Duncan said.

"In this situation, we had a make, model, color and the first two digits of the tag number," Taylor-Duncan said. "That was all we could make out from the school security video."

Investigators used that information to search the Flock camera system, then checked possible vehicle matches against registration information through other databases, she said.

"Detectives input the data into the Flock system and were able to identify the suspect within minutes," Taylor-Duncan said.

After identifying Schultz and obtaining warrants, investigators entered the vehicle's complete license plate number into the system, Taylor-Duncan said.

Information about the vehicle's location and direction of travel helped patrol officers intercept him less than a block from the child's home, minutes before a school bus arrived to drop off students, she said.

Taylor-Duncan said the investigation remains ongoing.

Schultz is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Gudger (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Alabama Senate Republicans nominated Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, on Thursday, Nov. 5, to continue as president pro tem for the 2026-2030 legislative term, setting up a full Senate vote in January.

The nomination came during the caucus's post-election meeting in Birmingham, according to a news release announcing the decision.

The caucus vote does not formally elect Gudger to another term as the chamber's leader.

That decision rests with the full 35-member Senate when lawmakers meet for their organizational session in January 2027.

The release described the Republican caucus as having 24 members and said its members have pledged to vote together, giving Gudger enough support to win the leadership election if that commitment holds.

"I appreciate their ongoing confidence," Gudger said in the statement.

Gudger has served as president pro tem since Feb. 4, 2025, when senators from both parties unanimously elected him to succeed Greg Reed, R-Jasper. Reed resigned from the Legislature effective Jan. 1, 2025, to join Gov. Kay Ivey's administration.

Thursday's nomination puts Gudger in line for his first full four-year term leading the chamber after initially taking over during the previous legislative term.

"If elected to serve again as Senate pro tem at the upcoming organizational session, I will continue working to ensure that every member's voice has an opportunity to be heard in the committee rooms and chamber of the Alabama Senate," Gudger said.

The process follows the same two-step path that brought Gudger to the position nearly two years ago.

The Tribune reported that Senate Republicans selected him during a Dec. 3, 2024, caucus meeting. The full Senate's election followed when the 2025 regular session opened in February.

Gudger represents Senate District 4, which includes portions of Cullman, Marion and Winston counties.

He first won election to the Senate in 2018 and was reelected in 2022.

Before becoming pro tem, he chaired the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development Committee.

Gudger won election to the Cullman City Council in 2004. He served on the council for 14 years, including 10 years as council president, before moving to the Legislature.

In a December 2024 interview with The Tribune, Gudger credited local leaders with shaping his approach to representing constituents.

"They taught me to be fair and to take care of all the people you represent," Gudger said.

Construction (from Front)

co-owners Trey Jordan and Rico Nishimura expanded into catering through Seasoned Catering Co. in the former Top of the Town space on the upper floor of the Cullman Savings Bank building downtown. Hele Bowls opened in 2022 and is located at 410 Second Ave. SE.

CEDA's construction update did not provide a total investment figure for Bella Balle Condominiums, the amount of ground-floor commercial space or a specific completion date beyond the projected 12-14-month construction period.

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Contest (from Front)

Special to The Tribune
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Power Board and Cullman Electric Cooperative are launching the inaugural Hometown Lights Contest, offering $4,000 in cash prizes and creating a countywide trail of Christmas displays.

Participation is free. Pre-registration closes Nov. 23, and final entries are due Dec. 1. Participating displays will appear on an interactive Hometown Lights Trail map beginning Dec. 7.

Presented by Alabama Outdoor Lighting, the contest includes five award categories for residential displays, coordinated neighborhood decorations and illuminated Christmas cards.

"Christmas has a special way of bringing people together, and that's what this contest is all about," Cullman Power Board CEO Allison Bright said.

The Clark Griswold Award will provide $2,000 for an elaborate residential Christmas display. The Home for the Holidays Award will provide $1,000 for traditional Christmas decorations, and the People's Choice Award will provide $1,000 for the public's favorite display.

The Deck the Halls Award recognizes a coordinated display involving five or more homes. The winning group will receive a private Winterhaus celebration at Cullman Christkindlmarkt.

The Christmas Card Trail Award is open to residents, businesses, schools, churches and organizations creating illuminated Christmas cards. Its winner will also receive a Winterhaus celebration.

"Although we serve different areas, we share a commitment to the people who call Cullman County home," Cullman Electric Cooperative CEO Tim Culpepper said.

"We're excited to bring our communities together and create a Christmas tradition families can enjoy for years to come."

The online trail map will allow families and visitors to locate participating displays throughout Cullman County. People's Choice voting is planned for later in December.

"We want everyone to feel like they can participate, whether they decorate with a few strands of lights or thousands," Brian Lacy, vice president of member engagement and communications at Cullman Electric Cooperative, said.

"And for families who love driving around to see Christmas lights, we're creating something special for them, too."

Registration, contest rules and additional information are available at www.ChristmasInCullman.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Grace Episcopal Church cheeseballs will be ready for pick up Thursday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. You may enter the church on the Arnold Street side through the French doors under the breezeway between the church and the Arnold House. Let us take this opportunity to thank all of you who purchased cheeseballs enabling our Episcopal Church Women to contribute to many deserving organizations in our community. Together, we are making a difference one cheeseball at a time! Dianne Moyer, 256-734-2231

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
- Saturday, Nov. 7 – 8 a.m. Men's breakfast; 10:30 a.m. Foundry Farm outreach
- Sunday, Nov. 8 – 8:15 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd.
- Saturday, Nov. 14 – 9-11 a.m. (Pick up) Free community Thanksgiving meal

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.

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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m. with The Williamsons from Oklahoma. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information, call 256-339-1863 or 256-590-1501. Everyone is invited.



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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
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Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

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CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 7, 2026



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Jack's (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — For Larry Allred, the story of Jack's Western and Outdoor Wear has always been about more than boots and western wear. It is a story of family, hard work and a community that helped shape his life.

Fifty years after opening a small store connected to Jack's Truck Stop and Café, Allred has grown the Good Hope business into a nearly 30,000-square-foot destination. In recognition of his success and the legacy he has built over five decades, Allred has been named the Bronze Alabama Retailer of the Year by the Alabama Retail Association.

Allred's connection to the business runs deep. As a boy, he spent long days working on his grandfather's farm. In 2013, he purchased that same land, once owned by his great grandfather, and built the store that stands there today. As Allred puts it, "We are still working the land."

Family remains at the heart of the business. His daughters, Sara Allred Barnett and Kristin Allred Mazur, and son-in-law Les Barnett help keep Jack's moving forward, while all four grandchildren pitch in, too. From boots and inventory to marketing and modeling outfits, everyone finds a way to contribute.

Allred's commitment to community is rooted in his own experience. When his family lost its home in a fire during his childhood, Cullman families stepped in to help them through a difficult time. Among the gifts he received was a pair of cowboy boots he wore every day. He has never forgotten the kindness shown to his family.

"I know what it means to have people show up for you when you need help," said Allred. "That has stayed with me throughout my life. If we can help another family or support the community that has supported us, then that is something we want to do. It is part of who we are, not just something we do as a business."

Today, Jack's supports local events, schools and community organizations, sponsors food and toy drives, and donates clothing to those in need. What began with just 35 pairs of boots has grown into a business offering tens of thousands of boots and western and outdoor apparel for the whole family. Through e-commerce and social media, Jack's now reaches customers nationwide while remaining rooted in the community where it began. Jack's Western and Outdoor Wear is also a member of the Alabama Retail Association.

"Larry has built more than a successful retail business. He has created a family legacy and stayed true to the community that helped make it possible," said Rick Brown, president of the Alabama Retail Association. "Recognizing a family business like Jack's is what this award is all about."

For more information about Jack's Western and Outdoor Wear, visit jackswestern.com. To learn more about the Alabama Retail Association and its Retailer of the Year program, visit alabamaretail.org.

Veterans (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



2024 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO/GAUGE DAY

The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame inducted six veterans in the class of 2024 their lifetime of service to both their country and their community. Back row from the left: Richard (Rick) L. Leigeber (U.S. Army), Van T. Hutchins Jr. (U.S. Army) and Clarence E. Benefield (U.S. Air Force). Front row from the left: Robin, daughter of LTC (ret.) Julian R. Campbell (U.S. Air Force); Jan Sutton, daughter of James T. Watts Jr. (U.S. Army); and Staff Sergeant (ret.) Hollis W. Baggett (U.S. Army).

CULLMAN, Ala. - The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame will induct a new class Tuesday, Nov. 17. The ceremony and dinner will take place at Loft 212, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and the event beginning at 6:15.

Committee Lead Col. Don Fallin said the mission of the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame (CVHOF) is to pay tribute and recognize the veterans who honorably served the country, display great character and continue a lifetime of service to the country and state.

"This will be our fourth year honoring our county veterans and recognizing those who have both served our country and our community with distinction," Fallin said.

"Cullman has over 7,000 veterans and this is our small way to thank them for their service. We are fortunate and thankful for our many local sponsors and business owners' contributions that allow us to host the event."

Fallin said their committee is composed of members from three service organizations in Cullman: VFW Post 2214, DAV Chapter 101 and American Legion Post 4.

"This year we are honoring veterans from several generations – World War II, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror," Fallin said.

"Following dinner, each inductee will be honored by the committee and will be presented a plaque with their picture and a short bio that will be displayed in the courthouse."

Other guests will include local service recruiters, Cullman County commissioners and chairman, the mayor and many other veteran supporters.

If you would like to attend, reach out to any of the service organizations or Fallin at donald.fallin@gmail.com or 910-308-4197.





Hulsey (from Front)

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Public Library is looking toward the future with its "Every Chapter Matters" capital campaign, an initiative aimed at raising $1 million to support the renovation and expansion of the library while bringing greater awareness to the resources and services it provides to the community.

Helping lead those efforts is Laney Hulsey, the library's new capital campaign marketing & community engagement manager, who hopes to strengthen community connections, encourage involvement and help residents envision what the future of the library could look like.

With a background in marketing and advertising, Hulsey brings experience in building relationships, increasing awareness and connecting organizations with the communities they serve.

"I really enjoy meeting new people, building connections and finding ways to bring people together," Hulsey said. "I love having the opportunity to be creative, work with others and be part of something that makes a difference."

Hulsey said the opportunity to combine her professional experience with a project that will benefit Cullman for generations was what initially drew her to the position.

"I was especially drawn to the capital campaign because it's more than your typical marketing position," she explained. "It's about bringing people together around a common goal and helping build something that will benefit Cullman for years to come."

The Every Chapter Matters campaign focuses on two primary objectives: increasing public awareness of the library's existing resources and raising $1 million to support improvements to the facility.

Originally constructed in 1967, the library's current building has served generations of Cullman County residents. However, as the community has continued to grow, so have the demands for additional programming, technology, study areas and gathering spaces.

"The current building was built in 1967, and Cullman has grown, along with our community's needs," Hulsey said. "Our current space can no longer fully accommodate the programs, technology, study areas and gathering spaces we want to offer."

Through the proposed renovation and expansion, the library hopes to provide additional room for educational programs, expanded resources, improved technology and spaces designed to accommodate residents of all ages.

Beyond the physical improvements, the campaign also aims to change how residents view their local library.

"We want to raise awareness of everything the Cullman County Public Library offers and help our community see that the library is much more than a place to check out books," Hulsey said. "It's a place for learning and connection, as well as a hub of technology and resources for all ages."

In her new role, Hulsey will oversee marketing, communications and community engagement efforts associated with the campaign. Her responsibilities include sharing the library's story through social media, its website and other outreach efforts, while also developing relationships with local businesses, organizations, potential donors and volunteers.

As she settles into the position, one of her first priorities is listening to the community.

Hulsey hopes to spend time getting to know library patrons, learning more about existing programs and gathering feedback on what residents would like to see in the library's future.

A community survey is currently helping library officials better understand which programs, services and resources matter most to local residents.

"I want to spend time meeting patrons and hearing about their experiences with the library," Hulsey said. "Our current community survey is a great way to better understand what matters most to residents, what resources and programs they'd like to see and what they hope the library will offer in the future."

Community participation will also play a significant role in reaching the campaign's fundraising goal.

While monetary donations are an important part of the initiative, Hulsey emphasized that financial contributions are not the only way residents can make a difference.

Local businesses and organizations can support the campaign through partnerships, sharing information and connecting the library with potential supporters. Individuals can contribute by volunteering, attending fundraising events, making donations or simply spreading awareness.

"We know support doesn't look the same for everyone," Hulsey said. "One of the biggest things is getting people talking about the campaign and helping them understand why it matters. We want everyone to feel like they can help shape the future of their library."

Looking beyond the campaign's immediate fundraising goal, Hulsey hopes the initiative will establish a lasting foundation of community support for the library.



CHRISTY STALNAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Laney Hulsey

An expanded facility could mean more opportunities for children to learn and explore, additional study space for students, more programming for families and greater access to resources for residents who depend on the library's services.

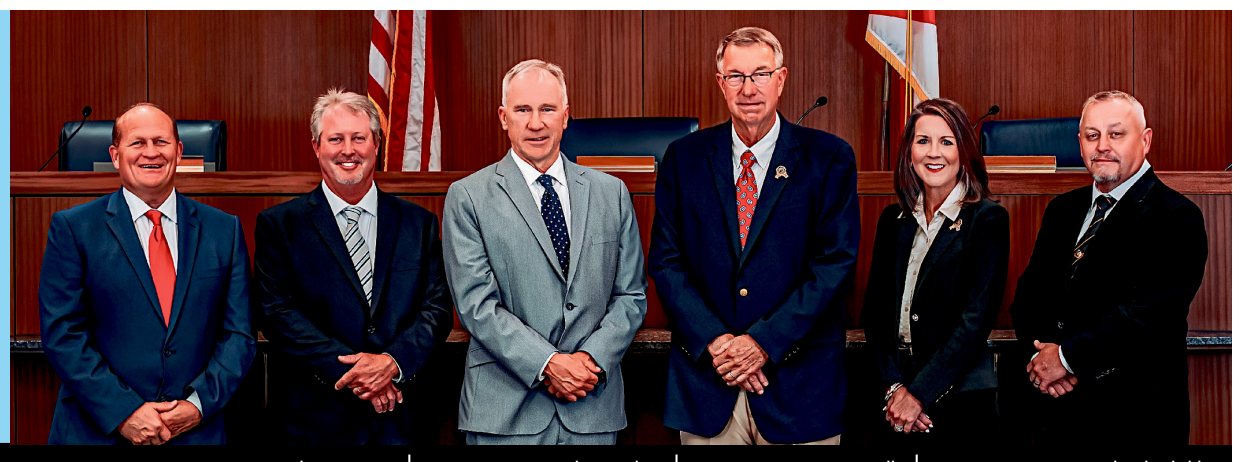
Hulsey also hopes the campaign will inspire continued giving and involvement long after construction is complete, allowing the library to maintain and expand the programs, resources and technology available to the public.

"I hope this campaign has a lasting impact beyond the building itself," Hulsey said. "Of course, we want to give the library more space and resources to better serve our growing community, but I think the bigger impact is what that will mean for Cullman."

For Hulsey, the success of Every Chapter Matters will ultimately be measured not only by the improvements made to the building, but by the opportunities those improvements create for future generations.

"It's about more than building something new; it's about investing in what happens inside those walls and creating something future generations can enjoy, benefit from and feel proud to be a part of."

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LEGALS

DCM Form C-14
Revised February 2024

E-MAILED 11/5/26 Pd

Pd#64341

FORM OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given

that B&M CONTRACTING
(*Contractor Company Name*)
Contractor, has completed the Contract for ☒(Construction) ☐(Renovation) ☐(Alteration) ☐(Equipment) ☐(Improvement) of (*Name of Project*):
GOOD HOPE HIGH NEW FIELD HOUSE

at GOOD HOPE HIGH SCHOOL
(*Insert location data in County or City*)
for the State of Alabama and the (County) (City) of CULLMAN COUNTY,
Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify

CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
402 ARNOLD STREET NE
~~CULLMAN, AL 35055~~
ATTN: WESLEY LANEY
(*Architect / Engineer*)

B&M CONTRACTING
(Contractor)

180 COUNTY ROAD 819
CULLMAN, AL 35057
(Business Address)

NOTE: This notice must be run for a minimum of three weeks for projects of $100,000.00 or more. For acceptable methods of advertisement, see General Conditions of the Contract, Article 34. Proof of publication of the notice shall be made by the contractor to the authority by whom the contract was made by affidavit of the publisher or website owner and a printed copy of the notice published. A final settlement shall not be made upon the contract until the expiration of 30 days after the completion of the notice.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF

ROBERT CHARLES MONTGOMERY, JR., **CASE NO.: PC2026-426**

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Stephanie Montgomery Meadows, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robert Charles Montgomery, Jr., deceased, on the 28th 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 time allowed by the law or the same will be barred.

Stephanie Montgomery Meadows
Personal Representative

Kallie C. Lunsford
RILEY & JACKSON, P.C.
3530 Independence Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

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

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

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

DOCUMENT 13

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

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
215 MAIN AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

TO PUBLISHER: BEGINNING OCTOBER 22nd, 2026 PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN CULLMAN TRIBUNE.

*PLEASE BILL PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FOR THE COST OF PUBLICATION IF HE/SHE DOES NOT PAY WHEN THIS IS DELIVERED TO YOU.

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 PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

Case# PC2026-351
PB MIN Book:248 Page:26
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/29/2026 12:47PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
MW

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) **IN THE PROBATE COURT**
) **OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**
CHARLENE ALICE BRADFORD)
DECEASED.) **CASE NO. PC 2026-351**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Take Notice that Letters of Administration of the Estate of CHARLENE ALICE BRADFORD are hereby granted to MARK ALAN BRADFORD on the 28th day of October, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge for Cullman County, Alabama.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Salem Resha, Jr.
Attorney for the Estate
Wilson Resha LLC
P O Box 130067
Birmingham, Alabama 35213
(205) 939-0449
Snresha47@gmail.com

TO: The Cullman Tribune
Publisher of Newspaper

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

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

Case# PC2026-420
PB WIL Book:141 Page:792
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/28/2026 3:35PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
MW

STATE OF ALABAMA,)
) **IN THE PROBATE COURT**
CULLMAN COUNTY.)

PC 2026-420

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JANET RUTH DEHEER,
who is one and the same person as JANET LEE DEHEER, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to NELSON LENWOOD LEE, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF JANET RUTH DEHEER a/k/a JANET LEE DEHEER, deceased, on the 28th day of October, 2026, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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.

Nelson Lenwood Lee
Personal Representative

Michael E. Sparkman
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 1166
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

TO: 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.

DONE this 28th day of October, 2026.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Case# PC2026-427
PB WIL Book:141 Page:783
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/28/2026 3:20PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
MW

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-427

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF REBECCA AUDREY BAILEY, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY JOINT PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to LISA M. BENNETT and WILLIAM W. BAILEY as Joint Personal Representatives on the 28th day of October, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

LISA M. BENNETT and WILLIAM W. BAILEY
Joint Personal Representatives

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

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Joint Personal Representatives
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. TAPAA – TA26(900)
CITY OF CULLMAN
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF CULLMAN AT THE CULLMAN CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 204 Second Avenue NE, CULLMAN, AL 35055, UNTIL **2:00 PM, LOCAL TIME, ON DECEMBER 8, 2026**, AND AT THAT TIME PUBLICLY OPENED FOR CONSTRUCTING THE FOLLOWING:

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG 3RD AVENUE SW/5TH STREET SW IN THE CITY OF CULLMAN

THE BRACKET ESTIMATE ON THIS PROJECT IS FROM $1,000,000 TO $1,400,000. THIS BRACKET RANGE IS SHOWN ONLY TO PROVIDE GENERAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO CONTRACTORS AND BONDING COMPANIES CONCERNING THE PROJECT'S COMPLEXITY AND SIZE. THIS BRACKET SHOULD NOT BE USED IN PREPARING A BID, NOR WILL THIS BRACKET HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE DECISION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT. THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF WORK ARE APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS:

459 SQ YD – Concrete Sidewalk and Driveway Removal
1,125 LIN FT – Curb and Gutter Removal
6,926 SQ YD – Crushed Aggregate Base Course
940 SQ YD – Concrete Paving for Sidewalks, Curb Ramps and Driveways
617 LIN FT – Roadway Pipe, Various Sizes
9 EACH – Storm Structures
1,748 LIN FT – Curb and Gutter, Various Types
1 LUMP SUM – Decorative Lighting
147 SQ YD – Brick and Concrete Sidewalks

THE ENTIRE PROJECT SHALL BE COMPLETED IN ONE-HUNDRED FIFTY (150) WORKING DAYS.

A CASHIER'S CHECK (DRAWN ON AN ALABAMA BANK) OR BID BOND FOR 5% OF THE AMOUNT BID (MAXIMUM OF $10,000.00) AND MADE PAYABLE TO THE CITY OF CULLMAN MUST ACCOMPANY EACH BID AS EVIDENCE OF GOOD FAITH.

IT IS NOT REQUIRED THAT A CONTRACTOR BE LICENSED IN ORDER TO SUBMIT A BID; HOWEVER, PRIOR TO AWARD OF A CONTRACT, PROPER PROOF OF ALL APPLICABLE LICENSURES MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTOR. PROOF OF INSURANCE COVERAGES OF THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS AS SET FORTH IN THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED OF THE CONTRACTOR, AND ANY AND ALL SUBCONTRACTORS, PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK. THE CONTRACTOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERFORM WORK AMOUNTING TO AT LEAST 30% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT COST WITH HIS OWN ORGANIZATION.

CONTRACTOR PREQUALIFICATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO BID ON THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER, THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT WILL NOT BE MADE TO ANY BIDDER WHO, AT THE TIME OF THE AWARD, IS CONSIDERED BY THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ALDOT) TO BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BIDDING, NOR TO ANY BIDDER WHO IS AN AFFILIATE OF OR HAS A CORPORATE OFFICER, DIRECTOR, OR PRINCIPAL OWNER WHO IS A CORPORATE OFFICER, DIRECTOR, OR OWNER OF, ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS PRESENTLY DISQUALIFIED BY ALDOT. FURTHER DETAILS AND DEFINITIONS REGARDING THIS PROVISION ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION, BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON COMPLETE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE OWNER. BID DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING PLANS AND PROPOSALS) ARE AVAILABLE AT ST. JOHN & ASSOCIATES, INC. (508 FIRST AVENUE SE, CULLMAN, AL 35055), UPON NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT OF $200.00. CHECKS SHALL BE MADE PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN & ASSOCIATES, INC. BID DOCUMENTS WILL BE MAILED ONLY UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT. DIGITAL COPIES OF THE BID DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT WWW.SJAONLINE.COM FOR A FEE OF $50.00. THESE DOCUMENTS MAY BE DOWNLOADED BY SELECTING THIS PROJECT FROM THE 'PLANROOM' LINK. FOR ASSISTANCE AND FREE REGISTRATION, CONTACT QuestCDN AT (952) 233-1632 OR INFO@QUESTCDN.COM. NO BID DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED LATER THAN 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED OPENING OF BIDS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT. THE PROPOSED WORK SHALL BE PERFORMED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CARRYING OUT THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ACT AND OTHER ACTS AMENDATORY, SUPPLEMENTARY, OR RELATIVE THERETO. THIS PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO THE CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS. MBE/DBE PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED; HOWEVER, NO SPECIFIC MBE/DBE GOALS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PROJECT.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES FOR THIS PROJECT HAVE BEEN PRE-DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND ARE SET FORTH IN THE ADVERTISED SPECIFICATIONS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, 78 STAT. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000D TO 2000D-4 AND TITLE 49, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SUBTITLE A, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, PART 21, NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY-ASSISTED PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUCH ACT, ALL BIDDERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT IT WILL BE AFFIRMATIVELY ENSURED THAT IN ANY CONTRACT ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THIS ADVERTISEMENT, MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WILL BE AFFORDED FULL OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT BIDS IN RESPONSE TO THIS INVITATION AND WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN CONSIDERATION FOR AN AWARD.

THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND TO DISREGARD ANY MINOR IRREGULARITIES IS RESERVED BY THE OWNER.

HONORABLE WOODY JACOBS, M

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

My Favorite Athlete is on the D.L.

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I have been a sports fan most of my life. I'm not sure where this came from, because when I was growing up hardly anyone else in my family cared anything about sports. My mother used to say to me, "You are just foolish about that ole ball." She never distinguished which kind of ball she meant because I loved them all.

I only played organized sports for a couple of years early on, mainly because as soon as I was big enough to work, I had an organized job after school. I have managed to squeeze in playing a good bit of tennis, racquetball and pickleball. I have also always enjoyed watching sports. At a young age I picked out my favorite teams and players. Early on, I loved Joe Namath, Bart Starr, Hank Aaron, Willie Mayes, Muhammad Ali and Oscar Robertson, just to name a few.

In more recent years, I've had several favorites as well, but my most favorite athlete of them all is a young man named Drew. He also happens to be my favorite grandson. Good thing he's my only grandchild! Many of you readers of my columns have watched him through the years as he has grown up. He has played several sports, both in the backyard as well as on organized teams, for quite some time now. He has played on rec league teams and school-sponsored teams from preschool all the way through high school. He has played T-ball, baseball, basketball, soccer and most recently, football.

Drew's favorite sport, and without doubt his best, is soccer. I knew very little about soccer, because I had not even watched it much until he started playing. When he first began, he wasn't much bigger than the ball! He and all his teammates would huddle around the ball, so much so they couldn't kick it any distance without hitting one another with the ball. They ran together like a pack. They rarely scored, but they had fun and Drew loved it. Eventually, they learned to spread out on the field, play their own position and even score goals.

Later on, Drew made his high school soccer team and became a starter. He loved it so much that he even played in the off season on a travel team. Then this year, his senior year, his high school football team only had one place kicker. Do you know that soccer players make good football kickers? His soccer coach asked him to try out for the football team as a kicker and he made the team. His first year on a high school football team is his last year in high school.

Then, a couple of weeks ago, as he was running down the field in soccer practice, something popped in his right leg and he went down. Doctors confirmed what we feared. His ACL was completely torn and he will need surgery to repair it. He will miss the rest of the football season, travel team soccer and probably the upcoming school soccer season as well. Bummer!

My heart breaks for my little buddy, who is now taller than me. Even on crutches, he is no doubt faster than his old granddad! I am sad for him, but at the same time I am very proud of him and all that he has accomplished. Whether he is on the field playing, or standing on the sideline on crutches, he is still my favorite player out there. He has matured into quite a young man and we can't wait to see what else he will accomplish in his life.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Nov. 7, 1935

From the files of Nov. 7, 1935

St. Bernard Football
By Robert J. Lawler, Special Correspondent

Cullman football fans are promised a treat this Saturday afternoon when Coach Charlie Richards' tricky St. Bernard football team lines up for the opening whistle against the Howard freshmen.

Home talent predominates on the squad with the offensive built around that rarest of things, a deceptive back, in this case Clyde White, rangy signal-caller. All but two of the starting squad will be from Cullman county.

Despite the hot weather the spirit and zest of his charges brings a deep-weather smile of contentment to the face of the tall coach. The Saints' line makes up in speed and hard charges what they lack in bulk, producing results eminently pleasing to their coach. The backfield fondles the "prolate elliptical spheroid" like a mother does her child, in many plays as many as five men handling the ball.

Using a single and double wing-back formation, which is patterned after the famed plays of Bernie Bierman of Minnesota, the tough Howard crew will find plenty to worry them during the sixty minutes of play, though Richards refused to be quoted as to his chances of winning. Boutte and White will do most of the passing while White and Thom, first-string center, who will be pulled out of the line in case of necessity, are scheduled to take care of the kicking end.

Richards has scheduled most of the later games for Cullman in order that this town may enjoy a well-drilled team. The climax of the season is set for November 24 with a game against the Spring Hill Frosh, who have one of the best teams in the history of the school. "We will run them off the field" claimed Richards, a former star with Spring Hill. "I would rather beat them than Notre Dame." After seeing his team in action, I am inclined to believe him.

Etha News
Cullman R. 2, Nov. 4.—Rev. L. L. Veal and Rev. D. H. Phillips attended a meeting at Oden Ridge Sunday.

Mrs. W. L. Williams and Mrs. Milford Williams spent Thursday in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Panter were Saturday night and Sunday guests of Mrs. T. B. Veal.

The box supper at County Line Friday night was attended by a large crowd.

T. B. Veal motored to Birmingham Thursday to join a group of friends and spend the week end deer hunting at the Chataw club near Montgomery.

Mrs. Clyde Johnston and Mrs. Curtis Kelley spent Thursday in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Bromon Holloway of Centerdale, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Williams.

Mrs. Brown Keller, Leethie Dye, Bertie Needham and Mrs. Jim Needham spent Thursday in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner South of Birmingham, spent Sunday at this place.

Mrs. Luby Veal spent Sunday as the guest of Mrs. D. H. Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosco Holloway spent Sunday as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Veal.

Mt. View News
Cullman R. 2, Nov. 4.—The school is progressing nicely. Everyone seems interested in keeping up a good attendance.

We are very sorry that little Leland Holland cannot be back in school on account of illness.

Sunday school and preaching services at Pleasant Grove was well attended Sunday.

Miss Mildred Scott, one of Mt. View teachers, spent the week end at Joppa with her mother.

Mrs. Mollie Shikles was a business visitor to Cullman Saturday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cook spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Screws of Joppa.

The weiner roast given by Mr. and Mrs. Asa Loyd was enjoyed by a large crowd of young people. It was given in honor of Mrs. Loyd's sister, Miss Ora Sinyard. Among those who attended were: Geneva Burnett, Gordon Cole, Jerome Burnett, Gladys Walker, Red Golden, Wynelle Walker, Ken England, Dorothy Morris, Major Oden, Clara Kelley, Opal Kelley, Johnnie Lindsey, Woodrow Jones, Mildred Woodard, Ruby Powe, Ted Linton, Neal Lindsey, Mildred Scott, Ila Mae Cook and Hazel Loyd.

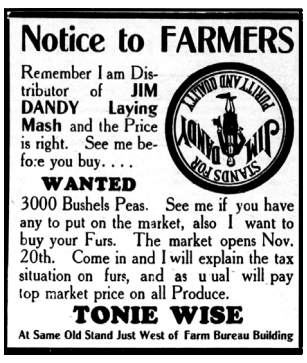
Mrs. Gurley Henderson and children are visiting relatives in Birmingham.

Miss Mildred Scott attended the singing at Hulaco Sunday.

The birthday dinner given by Mrs. Burnett for her son, Jerome, last Sunday was enjoyed by a group of young folks.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. John Woodard and Grandma Shikles are not improving so much lately.

Several people from this place attended the singing and B. Y. P. U. at Gold Ridge Sunday night.



POET'S CORNER

Marigolds
Randy C. Hale



I love to sit among my marigolds,
enjoying their beauty and bitter scent.
Repelling pestful insects, they
attract the pollinators of life.
The monarch butterflies and bees
love them as much as I.

They are the last from my garden
to bloom before winter, bringing joy
until the first hard frost, often enjoying
them until November, joining their
colors with autumn's turning leaves.

In Europe they were first called
"Mary's Gold" by peasants that
had no coins to honor the Madonna
but placed these treasured blooms
upon the altar.

The ancient Aztecs believed them
to aid the dead by leading them back
to their families with their earthly
fragrance and beacons of colors of
bright yellows, fluorescent oranges
and reds.

I believe the blessed dead are
in the Lord's keeping, having left
their love and work behind, but
it is they who wait upon our arrival
to them.

I do not look for my departed here
yet feel the distance bridged
with my memories as I watch the
butterflies and the bees drawing life
from Mary's gold.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
NOV. 7

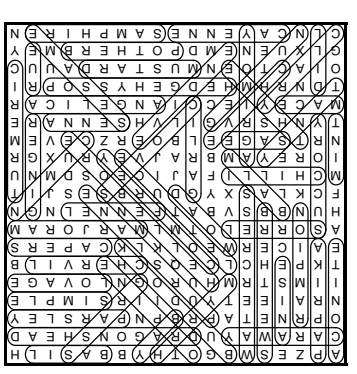
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Capers
Caraway
Cayenne
Chervil
Chilli
Chive
Clary
Cloves
Comfrey
Cumin
Dill
Dragon's head
Endive
Fennel
Garlic
Ginger
Grass
Hedge
hyssop
Hellebore
Lettuce
Lovage
Mace
Marjoram
Mint
Mustard
Myrrh
Nutmeg
Orpine
Paprika
Parsley
Pot herb
Purslane
Rampion
Rue
Sage
Samphire
Senna
Sesame
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Sorrel
Succory
Sweet herb
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
NOV. 7

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		6	3	7	4			
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ANSWERS:



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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Winter weather brings reminder of outdoor pet safety, Beau's Law requirements

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

As colder temperatures make their way into north Alabama, pet owners are encouraged to take precautions to ensure animals kept outdoors have adequate shelter, warmth and protection from winter weather. With Alabama's new Beau's Law now in effect, providing proper care for outdoor dogs is not only a matter of responsible pet ownership but also a legal requirement.

Beau's Law, which took effect Oct. 1, 2026, establishes statewide standards for dogs kept outdoors, including requirements for shelter, food, water and tethering. The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, was inspired by a dog named Beau who gained statewide attention after being found chained outside during a snowstorm without adequate protection from the elements.

Under the law, outdoor dogs must have access to shelter that protects them from rain, wind, snow and extreme temperatures. Shelters must be constructed from durable materials and include a solid floor, walls, a roof and an appropriate entrance that allows the animal to enter and exit freely.

The structure must also be large enough for the dog to stand, turn around, lie down naturally and extend its limbs comfortably. Adequate ventilation, shade and protection from accumulated moisture are also required.

While a basic doghouse may provide some protection, pet owners should take additional steps to prepare outdoor shelters for freezing temperatures.

Elevating a doghouse off the ground can help prevent moisture from entering and reduce heat loss through the floor. Positioning the entrance away from prevailing winds and installing a weather-resistant flap can provide additional protection from cold drafts.

Insulation can also help retain warmth, particularly when installed in the walls, roof and floor of the shelter. Any insulation should be securely enclosed to prevent animals from chewing or ingesting the material.

Bedding is another important consideration. Clean, dry straw is often recommended for outdoor shelters because it provides insulation and is less likely to retain moisture than blankets or towels. Fabric bedding can become damp, freeze and actually make an animal colder when exposed to winter conditions.

Pet owners should inspect bedding regularly and replace it whenever it becomes wet or soiled.

Fresh drinking water is equally important during the winter months. Water bowls can freeze when temperatures drop below freezing, leaving outdoor animals without access to drinking water. Owners should check water supplies frequently and consider using outdoor-rated heated water bowls when appropriate.

Beau's Law also establishes requirements for outdoor enclosures and tethering. Dogs confined outdoors must have adequate space to move freely within a secure, fully fenced enclosure and continuous access to appropriate food, water and shelter.



HEATHER TUBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

As colder temperatures make their way into north Alabama, pet owners are encouraged to take precautions to ensure animals kept outdoors have adequate shelter, warmth and protection from winter weather.

The law generally prohibits tethering dogs directly to stationary objects, such as trees or poles, without an approved trolley system. Tethers must be appropriately sized, attached to a properly fitted collar or harness and positioned to prevent tangling or injury. Certain working dogs and temporary activities are exempt from specific provisions of the law.

Although proper shelter can reduce exposure to the elements, it does not eliminate the dangers associated with prolonged cold weather.

Puppies, senior dogs, small breeds, short-haired animals and pets with existing health conditions are especially vulnerable to hypothermia and other cold-related complications. Even dogs with thick coats can be at risk during extended periods of freezing temperatures, particularly when exposed to wind or moisture.

Warning signs of cold-related distress may include persistent shivering, weakness, lethargy, difficulty walking and unusual behavior. Animals exhibiting these symptoms should be moved into a warm, dry environment and evaluated by a veterinarian.

During freezing temperatures, bringing pets indoors remains the safest option. A heated garage, enclosed utility room or other appropriately heated space can provide additional protection when animals cannot remain inside the main living area. Any such space should be properly ventilated and free of hazards.

Residents who notice animals left outdoors without adequate shelter, food or water are encouraged to contact their local animal control agency or law enforcement.

Violations of Beau's Law can result in misdemeanor charges, with penalties increasing for repeat offenses. The legislation also allows authorized law enforcement officers to intervene when an animal's life is believed to be in danger.

As winter approaches, pet owners are encouraged to inspect existing outdoor shelters, repair damaged structures, replace worn bedding and make arrangements to bring animals indoors during periods of extreme cold.

A few simple preparations can make a significant difference in keeping pets safe, healthy and comfortable throughout the winter months.

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Simple steps to protect your home, vehicle and family

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – As temperatures begin to drop and winter approaches, Cullman County residents are encouraged to take a few simple precautions to prepare for whatever Mother Nature may have in store.

While Alabama may not experience the harsh winters seen in northern states, freezing temperatures, icy roads and occasional winter storms can still create dangerous conditions. From frozen pipes to unexpected power outages, a little preparation now can help prevent costly repairs and stressful situations later.

Protecting your home from the cold

One of the most common winter weather concerns for homeowners is frozen pipes. When water freezes inside a pipe, it expands, potentially causing the pipe to burst and leaving homeowners with expensive water damage.

To help prevent frozen pipes, residents should insulate exposed plumbing, particularly in crawl spaces, attics, garages and along exterior walls. During especially cold weather, opening cabinet doors beneath sinks can allow warmer air to circulate around plumbing.

Allowing a small trickle of water to run from faucets served by vulnerable pipes may also help prevent freezing. Residents should know where their home's main water shutoff valve is located in case a pipe bursts.

Other important home preparations include checking weather stripping around doors and windows, cleaning gutters, inspecting roofs for damage and ensuring heating systems are functioning properly.

Space heaters should always be placed on a flat, stable surface at least 3 feet away from furniture, curtains, bedding and other flammable materials. They should be plugged directly into wall outlets, never extension cords or power strips, and turned off before leaving a room or going to sleep.

Residents should also test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and replace batteries when necessary.

Preparing for power outages

Winter storms can bring down trees and power lines, leaving homes without electricity for hours or even days. Having an emergency supply kit readily available can make an unexpected outage much easier to manage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends keeping enough supplies to sustain each household member for at least 72 hours.

Some essential items to have on hand include:

- Drinking water, with at least one gallon per person per day
- Nonperishable foods and a manual can opener
- Flashlights, lanterns and extra batteries
- Fully charged portable phone chargers
- Blankets, warm clothing and extra socks
- Prescription medications and a first-aid kit
- Baby supplies, pet food and other household necessities
- A battery-powered or hand-crank weather radio
- Hygiene products, including wipes and hand sanitizer
- Cash in small denominations

Residents who rely on electrically powered medical equipment should make arrangements for a backup power source or an alternate safe location before severe weather arrives.

During an outage, refrigerators and freezers should remain closed as much as possible. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a refrigerator generally keeps food safe for approximately four hours without power, while a full freezer can maintain a safe temperature for approximately 48 hours if left unopened. A half-full freezer typically maintains its temperature for about 24 hours.

Generators should never be operated inside homes, garages, basements or enclosed porches. Portable generators must be kept outdoors at least 20 feet away from doors, windows and vents to reduce the risk of deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

Charcoal grills, camp stoves and outdoor propane heaters should also never be used indoors for heating or cooking.

Don't forget about your vehicle

Winter preparedness extends beyond the home. Even a short trip can become dangerous when roads are icy or temperatures drop unexpectedly.

Before winter weather arrives, drivers should inspect their tires, check tire pressure, test their batteries and ensure windshield wipers and defrosters are working properly.

Keeping a vehicle's gas tank at least half full is also a good precaution during winter weather, particularly when travel delays or emergency road closures are possible.

An emergency kit stored in the trunk or back seat can be invaluable if a driver becomes stranded.

Recommended supplies include blankets, gloves, hats, bottled water, shelf-stable snacks, a flashlight, jumper cables or a portable jump starter, a phone charger and a basic first-aid kit. A small shovel, ice scraper and traction material such as sand or kitty litter can also be useful.

Drivers should check weather forecasts and road conditions before traveling and avoid unnecessary trips when icy conditions are expected.

Bridges, overpasses and shaded roadways can freeze before other surfaces, even when roads appear clear. Motorists should reduce their speed, increase following distances and avoid sudden braking or steering movements.

If stranded in winter weather, drivers should remain with their vehicles when it is safe to do so and contact emergency services if needed. Anyone running a vehicle's engine for warmth should first ensure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow or other obstructions to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.

Remember pets and outdoor animals

Cold weather can be dangerous for animals, particularly those that spend extended periods outdoors.



HEATHER TUBBS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

As temperatures begin to drop and winter approaches, Cullman County residents are encouraged to take a few simple precautions to prepare for whatever Mother Nature may have in store.

Pet owners should provide a warm, dry shelter protected from wind and precipitation. Outdoor shelters should be appropriately sized, elevated from wet ground when possible and filled with dry straw for insulation.

Blankets and towels may seem like a comfortable option, but they can absorb moisture and freeze, making straw a better choice for many outdoor animal shelters.

Water bowls should be checked frequently to ensure they have not frozen, and pets should have access to fresh drinking water.

Whenever possible, pets should be brought indoors during freezing temperatures, particularly overnight. Young, elderly, short-haired and medically vulnerable animals may be especially susceptible to cold-related illness.

Check on neighbors and loved ones

Winter preparedness is also an opportunity to look out for others in the community.

Older adults, individuals with disabilities and residents living alone may need additional assistance preparing their homes or obtaining emergency supplies.

Checking on neighbors before and during severe weather can help ensure everyone has adequate heating, food, water and necessary medications.

Residents should also make a family emergency plan that includes important phone numbers, an alternate meeting location and a way to communicate if cell service becomes unreliable.

Stay informed before storms arrive

Because winter weather in Alabama can develop quickly and conditions can vary significantly across short distances, residents should monitor reliable weather forecasts and local emergency announcements.

The National Weather Service in Huntsville provides forecasts, watches and warnings for Cullman County and surrounding areas. Residents can also follow the Cullman County Emergency Management Agency for local preparedness information and emergency updates.

Those interested in receiving weather alerts should enable Wireless Emergency Alerts on their phones and consider keeping a NOAA Weather Radio available as a backup.

Although Cullman County may see more chilly rain than snow most winters, it only takes one significant cold snap or ice storm to disrupt everyday routines.

Taking a little time now to insulate pipes, stock emergency supplies, prepare vehicles and check on loved ones can make a major difference when temperatures fall.

When it comes to winter weather, being prepared is always better than being caught off guard.

Cullman graduate Paul Callan helps redesign schools he once attended

Special to The Tribune
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Architect Paul Callan is helping redesign some of the same school buildings where he once attended classes, including the space where he studied drafting at Cullman High School.

Callan, a 1989 Cullman High graduate, is a senior project manager at Hoover-based Lathan McKee Architects. His work with Cullman City Schools includes renovations at Cullman Middle School, the new Cullman Intermediate School at the former West Elementary campus and the STEM and Career Tech Center at Cullman High.

Callan attended East Elementary and Cullman Middle School before graduating from Cullman High and earning an architecture degree from Auburn University.

His return to the district began when Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff and the school board selected his firm to work on the Cullman Middle School renovation.

"It was a school I had attended many years before, and it was virtually unchanged from the classrooms where I was taught, the locker-lined hallways I had roamed and the gymnasium where I had played," Callan said.

A campus tour brought back memories but also revealed the need to update the facilities. The project replaced outdated spaces and added classrooms and other amenities while working within the existing campus.

Callan said his experience on other architectural projects helped prepare him for the work, but the connection to his hometown made the middle school project different.

"Having been fortunate to be a part of the design and construction of several large, high-profile projects over the years, I have felt first-hand the pride of helping deliver a long-awaited new building to a client," he said.

The ceremonies marking progress at Cullman Middle School carried particular meaning for him.

"I'm not sure any ground-breaking or ribbon-cutting ceremony, however, was any more enjoyable than those attended on that campus, in my own hometown," Callan said.

His subsequent projects with the district included an opportunity to redesign the building where he took drafting classes as a high school student preparing for a career in architecture.

Callan said the designs do not repeat a single historic or architectural feature across the district. Instead, each project aims to fit into its existing campus. His familiarity with the schools and their role in the community informs those decisions, he said.

"I feel like I have a truly vested interest," Callan said. "Ironically, I am now renovating and making new again the same spaces where I, too, once was taught."

He said he hopes the updated classrooms might eventually help another student follow a similar path.

"It seems possible there is perhaps another Cullman youngster at a desk in one of those new classrooms that may have a similar opportunity to also pay it forward in 35 years," Callan said. "I'd like to think so."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Architect Paul Callan is helping redesign some of the same school buildings where he once attended classes.

Lights of Love (from Front)

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – There is a certain kind of quiet that settles over a room at Christmastime when people gather to remember.

It is the hush before the first carol. The soft rustle of a program in someone's hands. The glow of a single candle passed from one neighbor to the next. And somewhere in that stillness, a name is spoken, a face comes to mind, and for a moment, someone dearly missed feels close once again.

For 35 years, that moment has had a home in Cullman.

The Cullman Regional Foundation will hold its 35th annual Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. in Christ Hall at St. John's Church, 512 Second Ave. SE. The program is free and open to everyone.

"Families and friends of loved ones come together during a special season to remember loved ones," said Maria Stanford, executive director of the Cullman Regional Foundation. "We pray together, sing together, and it provides a time to reflect on memories."

The ceremony carries the name of the man who started it.

Dr. Herman C. Ensor was recruited to what was then Cullman Hospital in 1975, where he started the area's first obstetrics and gynecology practice. Two years later, he helped establish the Cullman Regional Foundation. He went on to serve as president of the Cullman Regional medical staff and chairman of the board of directors, and he is fondly remembered by those who knew him as a caring and dedicated physician.

In 1991, Ensor created the Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony to honor and remember those lost during the year. Stanford said that in the early years, Ensor himself would read aloud the names of the loved ones being remembered.

In 2010, the Foundation's board renamed the event in honor of his many contributions.

The ceremony lasts about 45 minutes and opens with a devotional shared by the Cullman Regional Hospice chaplain, followed by special remarks from the foundation president. Then the music begins.



COURTESY OF CULLMAN REGIONAL FOUNDATION

Music fills the room as a loved one's name appears on screen during a past Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Ceremony.

Members of the Daystar and Desperation Worship Team will provide special Christmas music as the names of those being honored and remembered appear, one by one, in a slideshow. Each slide lingers for about five seconds, and in a typical year, more than 400 people are featured.

The evening closes the way it always has: by candlelight.

Each gift places a light on the Christmas tree that sits atop Cullman Regional, where it shines over the city throughout the holiday season, a quiet tribute to someone special glowing above the place where so many families have spent their hardest and most hopeful days.

This year's ceremony is dedicated to Cullman Regional Hospice patients who passed away this past year, and in honor of Dr. Donald Marecle, a prominent surgeon who recently retired after more than 40 years of practicing general surgery and endoscopy at Cullman Regional.

A gift of $20, $40, $60 or more places a light on the tree in honor or in memory of a loved one. Gifts are tax-deductible, and gift amounts are kept confidential. Acknowledgement cards are sent to those being honored and to the families of those being remembered.

Lights may be dedicated throughout the holiday season, but gifts must be received by Friday, Dec. 4, to be included in the Dec. 8 program. Donations can be made online at www.cullmanregional.com/foundation/events/lights-love-donate or by check made payable to the Cullman Regional Foundation, P.O. Box 1108, Cullman, AL 35056-1108.

Proceeds will help purchase medical equipment at Cullman Regional. This year's goal is $15,000. Last year, the program raised more than $16,600.

"All gifts matter to us, and we are grateful to the community who has supported this program for the past 35 years," Stanford said. "The Cullman Regional Foundation Board of Trustees would like to extend an invitation to the community to join us for a special evening."

Flourish (from Front)

Chasady Woods
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CULLMAN, Ala. – In October, local nonprofit Flourish of Cullman launched its online series "Rights in Real Life." Founder and CEO Melissa Dew told the Tribune the series prompts readers to step into the shoes of those with differing disabilities.

Each story ends with, "What would you do?" The question, while simple, has a deeper meaning for Flourish and represents why the nonprofit exists.

Dew said asking the question, "What would you do?" helps those with differing abilities have a voice, make choices and be included in everyday life.

"As part of our Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation process, we received a recommendation to provide education on individual rights. That helped spark the idea for a series that makes those rights relatable through everyday situations and invites the community into the conversation," she explained. "Words like 'dignity,' 'independence' and 'inclusion' matter, but stories help us see what those words look like in practice. Sometimes something as simple as assuming someone would not enjoy an outing means they never get the opportunity to decide for themselves. We want readers to pause, consider whose voice is missing and think about how they might respond."

As far as the transparency these stories provide, Dew said it comes from opening up conversations about situations that can be uncomfortable, or easily overlooked, "even when everyone involved has good intentions."

This also helps the community better understand Flourish and what the organization does.

"Supporting someone means listening to what they want, respecting their choices and helping them access opportunities," Dew said.

She also said that, while the stories are fictional, they reflect realistic situations. "That allows us to explore meaningful issues while protecting individual privacy. My hope is that readers feel comfortable sharing their perspectives and learning from one another."

Ultimately, Flourish aims for the question "What would you do?" to stay with people beyond the post. "Whether we are an employer, neighbor, family member or friend, our everyday decisions can help someone feel heard, valued and included."

Visit www.facebook.com/flourishofcullmaninc to read the "Rights in Real Life" series.

Dew spoke about a story in the series: "We Didn't Think You'd Want to Go."

Ask, invite and give people time

Dew noted that the message behind that story is that assumptions, even if they come from a kind heart, can leave someone out. Rather than assuming and deciding someone wouldn't enjoy an activity or couldn't participate - just ask.

"Without asking them, we take away their opportunity to choose. My biggest advice is to ask, invite and give people time. How we extend an invitation matters. Asking someone in front of a group may make them feel pressured to say yes or uncomfortable asking questions. A private conversation can give them space to understand the plans and make an informed decision."

She provided an example: "If coworkers are going out to dinner after work, someone may want to know who is going, how much it will cost, how they will get home or whether someone they feel comfortable with will be there. They may be interested but unsure how to ask those questions."

If you would like to include someone you could say, "A few of us are having dinner on Friday. Would you like to come? We can talk through the details, and you don't have to decide right now."

An important step in the series is starting conversations. This story helps readers to recognize that when someone needs more time starts with paying attention without making assumptions.

"They might pause, look toward a trusted person, repeat a question, say, 'I don't know' or seem uncertain. Those responses do not automatically mean they are uninterested. You can ask, 'Would you like more information or some time to think about it?' Then give them a real opportunity to respond. Avoid filling every silence or answering for them."

If you would like to be inclusive for those with differing abilities, Dew advised that it can help to offer the details in writing or pictures and agree on a time to check back privately.

"For someone who uses gestures, signs or a communication device, make room for their usual way of communicating. A trusted support person can help if the individual wants that assistance," she said.

For activities outside work such as a birthday party, community event or a weekend outing, Dew pointed out that an invitation is only the beginning.

"Transportation, cost, unfamiliar surroundings or uncertainty about what will happen may affect someone's decision. Asking, 'What would help you feel comfortable joining us?' can open that conversation."

Keep inviting and engaging with the individual, even if they say "no" the first time.

"Respect their decision about that activity and ask again when another opportunity comes up," Dew stated.

She noted that someone may pass on dinner, but may prefer to attend a ballgame, go bowling or visit a community festival. The "no" may not mean they don't want to go to a public outing, but they may be waiting for just the right activity to feel interested and comfortable participating.

Dew reiterated, "Saying no to one invitation does not mean they never want to be included. Continuing everyday conversations also helps you learn about their interests and build a connection.

"At Flourish of Cullman, we want people with differing abilities to have opportunities to live, work and enjoy their communities with their own goals and choices guiding the way. That includes the right to accept an invitation, decline it, ask questions or take time to decide - and still feel welcome next time."

Visit flourishofcullman.com for more information and to learn more about the nonprofit.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

CHANGING RESTAURANT LANDSCAPE

Recent closures raise questions about impact on workers

Liz Tankersley
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CULLMAN, Ala. – Over the past several months, Cullman has seen a growing number of familiar restaurants close their doors, leaving vacant storefronts, disappointed customers and questions about the future of the city's dining industry. However, beyond the loss of favorite gathering places, the closures have brought attention to another concern: the employees whose livelihoods depend on these businesses.

Since August, at least six Cullman restaurants have announced or completed closures, including KFC's south Cullman location, Puckett's Restaurant, Wissota Chophouse, Lucy's on 3rd, Augusta's Sports Grill and Shrimp Basket.

While the circumstances surrounding each closure differ, the concentration of shutdowns within a relatively short period has raised questions about the challenges facing local restaurants and what happens to their employees when operations come to an end.

A series of closures

One of the first major closures came in August, when the KFC restaurant in South Cullman Shopping Center served its final customers Aug. 16. The closure marked the end of the Kohl and Weir family's 58-year history operating KFC franchises.

Owner Kent Weir cited slowing business, changing consumer preferences and increased competition as contributing factors. The KFC on Alabama Highway 157 remains open under separate ownership.

"This has been an extremely difficult decision," Weir told The Cullman Tribune in August, noting the growing number of businesses competing for customers in the area.

Less than a month later, Puckett's Restaurant announced it would close its Cullman location Sept. 18, ending nearly four years of operation.

Parent company A. Marshall Hospitality attributed the decision, which also affected its Hendersonville, Tennessee, location, to economic pressures and a shift toward strengthening its established restaurants. The company stated that it was working with affected employees to provide alternative opportunities and transition assistance.

In its September announcement, A. Marshall Hospitality CEO Claire Crowell expressed appreciation for the communities and employees who supported the restaurants.

"We want to thank the Hendersonville and Cullman communities, particularly our incredible staff and guests, for their support over the last few years," Crowell said.

Just days later, Wissota Chophouse announced that Sept. 26 would be its final day of business. The restaurant, located inside Cobblestone Hotel & Suites, had operated for approximately two and a half years.

Although a specific reason for the closure was not disclosed, the restaurant indicated that a new dining concept could eventually occupy the space. Details about the future operation and whether existing employees would have opportunities to return were not announced.

In its farewell announcement, Wissota acknowledged its employees, stating, "We are incredibly grateful for everything our team has contributed and for the role they have played in making this place what it has been."

Lucy's on 3rd, formerly known as Carlton's Italian Restaurant, also announced its closure in September. In a heartfelt farewell to customers and employees, the owners thanked the community for its support and acknowledged the difficulty of ending the business.

In the announcement, the owners reflected on the relationships formed throughout the restaurant's operation and expressed gratitude for the employees who helped make it possible.

"To our employees, past and present, thank you for the hours, the hard work, the laughs, the crazy days, and everything you gave to Lucy's. We could not have done it without you," the restaurant's farewell message stated.

October brought another loss when Augusta's Sports Grill closed after approximately 11 years of serving Cullman customers, with its final day reported as Oct. 24.

In its farewell announcement, Augusta's thanked its customers, friends and employees for more than a decade of support, describing the restaurant as a place where friendships were made, families gathered and memories were created.

Most recently, Shrimp Basket closed its Cullman location Nov. 1 as part of a larger restructuring by parent company Artistry Restaurants.

The company closed six restaurants across Alabama and Florida, affecting approximately 100 employees across the locations.

The company said it plans to concentrate its resources on its remaining beach and coastal restaurants.

Artistry Restaurants CEO Bryan Lockwood described the decision as difficult, explaining that the company believed returning its focus to coastal markets would better position the brand for long-term success.

"While never an easy decision, it is our responsibility to the team and our guests to ensure the continued strength of the Shrimp Basket brand," Lockwood said in a statement.

Beyond the empty buildings

For customers, a restaurant closing may mean finding a new favorite lunch spot or saying goodbye to a place filled with memories. For employees, however, the consequences can be considerably more immediate.

Restaurant workers often rely on consistent schedules, hourly wages and tips to meet everyday expenses. An unexpected closure can leave employees facing an abrupt loss of income while searching for new employment.

For longtime Shrimp Basket employee Ashley Humphries, the closure came without warning, just days before she would have celebrated seven years with the restaurant.

Humphries said employees were called to a mandatory meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 2, without being told what the meeting would entail. Upon arriving, she said she discovered that food and bar products had been removed overnight.

"When we walked in, the bar was completely empty. All of the products from the bar and the back of the restaurant had been removed overnight, and that was the moment I knew it was over," Humphries said.

According to Humphries, employees were then given paperwork stating that the restaurant had permanently closed, effective the previous day.

"We deserved the opportunity to prepare for what was coming," she said.

In a statement provided to The Cullman Tribune, Shrimp Basket confirmed that all 15 employees at its Cullman location were notified of the closure Monday, Nov. 2, one day after the restaurant's final day of operation.

The company also clarified that while most food products had been removed, much of the restaurant's equipment, tables and chairs remained in place.

Shrimp Basket attributed the closure to continued financial underperformance, explaining that the Cullman location and other affected restaurants had been struggling when the company acquired them.

"Unfortunately, despite the investment in training, menu updates, operations and marketing that was made over the last six years to help all of the locations succeed, we did not see a turnaround and had to make the difficult decision to close the inland locations and focus on the beach and coastal locations," the company stated.

While Humphries acknowledged that business had been slow, she said the permanent closure still came as a surprise.

"I can't say that I knew we were going to close, but I did know business had been slow. Even with that, I never expected the restaurant to close permanently, especially without any notice," she said.

Regarding assistance for displaced workers, Shrimp Basket stated that all affected employees were offered opportunities to transfer to other locations and received informational packets identifying local resources.

Humphries confirmed that employees were provided information about local career centers, unemployment assistance and food banks. However, she said the transfer opportunities involved applying for positions at beach locations, with no guarantee of employment.

"No severance was offered. We were given the opportunity to apply for positions at beach locations and were told we would be heavily considered, but employment was not guaranteed," Humphries said.

The company also reported that three of the four general managers across the affected locations accepted transfers. According to Shrimp Basket, the Cullman general manager declined an offer to relocate.

For Humphries, the loss extends beyond her paycheck. After nearly seven years, she said her coworkers and regular customers had become like family.

"I'm grieving the loss of that just as much as I'm worried about what comes next. I have a family to take care of, and suddenly losing your job with no warning is a lot to process," she said.

Although she acknowledged that restaurant operators sometimes face difficult business decisions, Humphries said she wished employees had been given more time to prepare.

"A little communication could have made a huge difference," she said.

The circumstances surrounding Shrimp Basket's closure highlight the challenges employees can face when businesses shut down unexpectedly.

The amount of advance notice provided to employees at Cullman's other recently closed restaurants has not been independently established in every case. Public closure announcements also do not necessarily indicate when workers were first informed.

The distinction is important, particularly when employees may be balancing rent, utilities, transportation costs and other financial obligations that do not disappear when a restaurant closes.

Even a short interruption in employment can create financial difficulties for workers who depend on regular paychecks.

Why are restaurants closing?

The recent closures do not appear to have one single explanation.

Some operators have specifically cited economic pressures, while others have pointed to increased competition, changing customer habits or decisions to restructure their businesses.

Cullman's continued commercial development has brought additional dining choices to the area, creating opportunities for consumers while increasing competition among restaurant operators.

At the same time, restaurants face expenses associated with food, labor, utilities, insurance and maintaining their facilities. Changes in customer spending can make those costs increasingly difficult to manage.



HUEPHOTOGRAPHY/PIXABAY

However, without financial information from individual businesses, it would be difficult to attribute the entire series of closures to any one factor.

The closures also do not necessarily indicate that Cullman's restaurant industry as a whole is declining. New dining concepts continue to express interest in the community, including Beignets & Brew, which has announced plans for a Cullman location.

What comes next?

For former employees, the immediate concern is often finding another source of income.

While some workers may be able to secure positions at other restaurants, others could face challenges finding comparable hours, wages or schedules.

Alabama's unemployment compensation program may provide temporary assistance to eligible workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Eligibility depends on individual circumstances and state requirements.

As Cullman's dining landscape continues to change, the recent closures highlight the importance of considering not only the businesses leaving the community, but also the people who helped keep their doors open.

Behind every restaurant sign taken down is a workforce of cooks, servers, dishwashers, hosts and managers whose contributions helped shape the experiences customers remember.

And while the community may eventually welcome new restaurants into those vacant spaces, the workers affected by the closures must navigate what comes next long before those doors reopen.

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

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Obituary Announcements: Nov. 5-6

Jacqueline Etta Brown, 73

Graveside service for Jacqueline Etta Brown, 73, of Hanceville will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at Valley Springs Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday evening at Cullman Funeral Home, U.S. Highway 278 E, Cullman, AL from 6-8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Brown passed away Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, at CRMC. She was born May 8, 1953, to Marvin E. and Mary L. Guthery Heatherly. She loved her family, husband, her kids and all kids and they loved her. She loved celebrating holidays, cooking for everyone, and everyone spending time together. She was a simple country girl. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jimmy Heatherly; grandchild, Hunter Holcomb. Those left to cherish her memory are her husband, Charles "Charlie" Brown; sons, Kelley (Lavonda) Davis, Jimmy "Pete" (Tina) Davis, Jarrett (Shanda) Brown; grandkids, Zachary (Michelle) Brown, Harley Holcomb, Gaven Brown, Jonah Davis; great-grandkids, Ember Holcomb, Kainleigh Holcomb, Everleigh Brown, Kayden Orgeron, Kinslee Orgeron; brother, Mickey Heatherly, Vicky Wilbourn; nephews, Patrick (April) Heatherly, Raymond Heatherly, J.C. (Janie) Raynor, Chase Wilbourn; host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Peggy Ann Clark, 92

Funeral services for Peggy Ann Clark, 92, of Hanceville will be 3 p.m. Friday Nov. 6, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Mountain Grove Congregational cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1-3 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Clark was born Aug. 1, 1934, in Arkansas. She passed away Nov. 4, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Mrs. Clark is survived by her children, Larry Clark (Karen), and William Clark; grandchildren, Kristal Goelz (Brett), Tabitha Burrell (Shawn), John Sharp (Carla), Christian Sharp (Karen); and a host of great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Mrs. Clark was preceded in death by her husband, William Henry Clark. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Clark family.

Barbara Joan Maner, 93

Barbara Joan Maner, 93, of Cullman, Alabama, was born in Alabama on Jan. 30, 1933, and passed away on Oct. 31, 2026. Throughout her life, Barbara carried herself with steady strength and quiet dignity, offering others the kind of care that is shown through patience, consistency, and a generous spirit. Mrs. Maner was a school teacher having taught at Good Hope Elementary, Fairview, Vinemont, and West Point Schools, a role that reflected her strong work ethic and the thoughtful wisdom she shared with those around her. She also enjoyed music, a lasting source of comfort and joy in her life. She played the organ and piano at Good Hope Baptist Church for many years. She also taught many children piano as well, sharing her love for music with others. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents and by her beloved husband, Roy Maner. She is survived by her step daughter, Melody Johnson (Ed); her step son, Tim Maner (Delores); her maternal brother, George Meadows; her 1st cousin, Harold Doss Jr.; her 1st cousin, Gregg Doss; her 1st cousin, Frank Hinkle; and a hmost of extended family.

Robert C. Self, 82

Robert C. Self passed on Oct.30, 2026, at the age of 82. Born Jan. 5, 1944, Robert was a resident of Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be held at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Nov. 7, 2026, from 10-11 a.m., followed by the Celebration of Life Funeral Service at the same location on Nov. 7, 2026, at 11 a.m. A Graveside Committal Service will take place at Cullman City Cemetery, Ninth St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Nov. 7, 2026.

Ronald 'Ronnie' M. Cornett, 84

Ronald "Ronnie" M. Cornett, age 84, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Nov. 4, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing Home. Funeral service will be Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church with interment in Ebenezer Cemetery, Dr. Delbert Freeman officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ronnie was born on Feb. 4, 1942, to James and Vola Cornett. He was the youngest of six children and is survived by his sister, Dot Cornett Waters. He was preceded in death by his siblings: Hardie Cornett, Elouise Huffstutler, Jack Cornett, and Faye Glover. He married Nancy Wilhite Sullins Cornett, and they shared 37 wonderful years together. Ronnie leaves behind his beloved children, Ronda Oliver (Mike), Robin Nail, Scott Cornett, Rochelle Hopper (Andrew), Rodney Sullins (Ramona) and Jeffrey Sullins (Angela) .Ronnie was blessed with 14 grandchildren: Mirya Bulot, Chaise Oliver, Jonathan Muccitelli, Joshua Muccitelli, Kaitlin Picou, Cynthia Nail, Kenzy Nail, Grant Hopper, Brandon Hopper, Luke Hopper, Jonathan Gamboa, Alyssa Tharp, Celton Sullins, and Jayden Sullins. His family continued to grow with the addition of 15 great-grandchildren: Ethan Bulot, Abigail Bulot, Berkely Oliver, Cast Oliver, Collins Oliver, Leo Muccitelli, Ella Picou, Leelyn Picou, Haven Picou, Emerson Whitesides, Haivynn Gamboa, Ellianna Gamboa, Vencent Gamboa, Kameron Gamboa, and Catalaya Gamboa. Ronnie graduated from West Point High School with the Class of 1960. He later attended Samford University, where he studied Biblical Theology. His faith was the foundation of his life, and he faithfully shared the Gospel as a preacher for more than 15 years, serving seven different Baptist churches: Anon, White Oak, Salem, Mt. Nebo, Mt .Carmel, Antioch, and Mt. Hebron. One of Ronnie's greatest joys was earning the beloved nickname "The Candy Man." In 1970, he purchased a North Alabama candy route from Chester Freeman and spent the next 10 years bringing a variety of sweet treats to communities throughout North Alabama. Following his time in the candy business, Ronnie began a career at Caterpillar, where he worked until his retirement in 2004. Retirement gave Ronnie more time to enjoy the things he loved most. He spent his days baling hay, caring for his cherished cattle, and refurbishing tractors. One of his greatest pleasures was sharing his love of farm life with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, creating memories that they will cherish for years to come. Above all, Ronnie's life was centered around his faith and his desire to share the Gospel with others. As a founding member of New Freedom Baptist Church, he remained dedicated to serving the Lord and continued teaching Sunday school until his health no longer allowed. Ronnie will be remembered for his unwavering faith, his love of family, his passion for farm life, and the many lives he touched throughout his years. His legacy lives on through the family he loved, the faith he shared, and the memories he leaves behind. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Jamie Marie Smith, 47

With heavy hearts and cherished memories, we announce the passing of Jamie Marie Smith, age 47, of Athens, Alabama, who entered the gates of Heaven on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Born on Sept. 6, 1979, in Greenville, South Carolina, Jamie was the beloved daughter of Steven Hall and Denise Liebe. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, proud grandmother, cherished daughter, sister, and friend whose greatest joy in life was her family. As a homemaker, Jamie poured her heart into creating a home filled with love, comfort, and unwavering support for those she held dear. Family was the center of Jamie's world. She lived by the words she so often shared with those she loved: "All that matters is Family, no matter what the world thinks. You're winning if you're a hero to your kids." This simple but powerful belief guided her life and reflected the selfless love she gave so freely. Her legacy is not measured by possessions or accomplishments, but by the lives she touched, the children she nurtured, and the family bonds she strengthened. Jamie had a beautiful gift for making others feel loved and valued. Her warm smile, caring heart, and steadfast devotion to her family will be remembered by all who were blessed to know her. Though her earthly journey has come to an end, the lessons she taught through her love, kindness, and dedication will continue to live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind. Jamie was preceded in death by her father, Steven Hall. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Chris Smith; her beloved children, Megan (Robert) Bradley, Haley (Scott) Carpenter, and Andrew (Riata) York; and her treasured grandchildren, Cheyenne Bradley, Hermione Bradley, Hazel Carpenter, Adeline Bradley, and Claire Carpenter. She is also survived by her loving mother, Denise Liebe; sisters, Jennifer Hall (Morton Hale) and Jessica (Austin) Wessler; brothers, Eric Blake and Jonathan (Savannah) Blake; along with numerous extended family members and friends who will forever cherish her memory. While the pain of her loss is profound, her family finds comfort in knowing that Jamie's love remains woven into every cherished memory and family gathering. Her life was a testament to unconditional love, and her spirit will continue to inspire those who knew her. The family will hold a memorial service at a later date and time. Decatur Brown Service Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smith family. "All that matters is Family, no matter what the world thinks. You're winning if you're a hero to your kids." - Jamie Marie Smith

Virgil Lee Crowell, 66

Virgil Lee Crowell, age 66 of Falkville, passed away on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026 at His Cullman Regional. He was born Wednesday, April 6, 1960, to George Crowell and Anna Crowell. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Berta Crowell. Survivors include his daughters, Brandy (Chris) Lee and April (Jonathan) Leverett; grandchildren, Valerie (Bradley) Burden, Nicholas Lee, Wyatt Lee, Austin Leverett, Jordan Leverett, Ava Leverett, and Adalynn Leverett. A memorial will be held at a later date.

Bobby Ray Cochran, Sr., 83

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Bobby Ray Cochran, Sr. who departed this life and went to be with our Lord and Savior on Nov. 3, 2026. Bobby was a proud Masonic member and had a lifelong career at General Motors until his retirement. Bobby enjoyed spending his time with family and his friends. Mr. Cochran is preceded in death by his wife, Frances Cochran; mother, Roberta Cochran; his father, Clyde Cochran; and his brother, Steve Cochran. He is survived by his daughter, Tammie Barber; son, Bobby Cochran, Jr.; granddaughter, Cassandra Turner; grandson, Dustin Barber; great-grandchildren, Christian, Brenden, and Aiden Turner; one great-great-grandchild, Kolton Turner; as well as his special friend and caregiver, Ginger Thomas. Bobby is also survived by his brothers, Buddy and Donald Cochran, and his sisters, Judy Thompson and Pam Scott. Services will be held at Holly Pond Funeral home on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026, with viewing for all family and friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m., followed by burial at Pilgrims Rest Cemetery where Christian Turner, Brenden Turner, Aiden Turner, Dustin Barber, Donald Cochran, and Stan Cochran will serve as pallbearers. Obituary lovingly written by the Cochran family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Cochran family.

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CHASADY WOODS/ THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The City of Cullman Planning Commission is seen at its monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026.

Planning Commission tables new 7 Brew site plan

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The City of Cullman Planning Commission in August approved a short-form subdivision request for Murphy Oil USA. Back in May, the proposed site plan was approved, with contingencies from the city engineer relating to the Alabama Department of Transportation traffic and safety plan. At the Commission's meeting on Monday, Nov. 2, an additional proposal for the site plan was discussed that would add a 7 Brew Coffee to the project at 800 Second Ave. NW.

Two representatives from Brew Culture, LLC, 7 Brew Coffee's corporate entity, addressed the Commission in an attempt to allay concerns about safety at the proposed new location.

Commissioners said the area sees high traffic for numerous reasons, particularly, according to Commissioner Cheryl Harrison, because of nearby schools. She said the new location would add on to existing traffic congestion from school drop-off and pick-up times.

Chairman Michael Sullins noted that while the project's previous ALDOT contingencies were resolved, further resolution may be needed due to community safety concerns.

Ultimately, the item was tabled until the Commission's meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026.

The Commission did approve a site plan for an expansion at 1206 Sixth St. SW, located within Industrial Park 2.

The local industrial development is home to Backstage Productions, which focuses on professional audio, video, lighting, rigging and staging to events, and will be adding a loading dock.

Two proposed annexations were given favorable recommendations:

- On U.S. Highway 278 E, Two Brothers LLC requested property be annexed into the corporate city of Cullman. The request letter read that the purpose is to facilitate the future development of the 5.7-acre site into a service station.
- On Alabama Highway 157 NE, 39 acres just east of Northbrook Baptist Church are currently under contract for retail. The property owner, Billy Jackson, addressed the Commission and requested the property be annexed.

The City of Cullman Planning Commission will meet next on Tuesday, Dec 1, at Cullman City Hall at 5:30 p.m.



Cocoa, Cookies and Claus (from Front)

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Tribune is inviting the community to celebrate the holiday season with a little Christmas cheer at its upcoming "Cocoa, Cookies and Claus" event on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The free event will take place at The Cullman Tribune office, located at 219 Second Ave. SE in Cullman, and will offer families an opportunity to enjoy a festive afternoon with The Tribune crew.

Guests can stop by for hot chocolate and cookies while visiting with Santa Claus. Families will also have the opportunity to receive a free photo with Santa, taken by a Tribune photographer, or capture their own special holiday memories.

As a way of giving back to the community that supports the newspaper throughout the year, The Tribune is offering the event as a small token of appreciation.

"This is our Christmas gift to the community."

Whether stopping in for a quick photo with Santa or staying to enjoy a cup of cocoa and some holiday treats, everyone is invited to join in the festivities.

The Cullman Tribune looks forward to welcoming families, friends and neighbors for an afternoon of Christmas fun.

Event details

- What: Cocoa, Cookies and Claus
- When: Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Where: The Cullman Tribune, 219 Second Ave. SE, Cullman
- Admission: Free and open to the community

