

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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SENATOR
GARLAN GUDGER

PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
314 2ND AVE. SE, CULLMAN 35055

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OBITUARIES

Joe Lynn Whitworth, Steven John Tabor, Morris Keith Rakestraw, Marcella Davis

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WEATHER

75 59

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

MOSTLY SUNNY

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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

No. 6 Addison rolls past Berry 39-6 to advance

» PAGE 4

CPD: 2 arrested for exploiting elderly





CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kevonta Doneterrece Price and Tiffany Carter

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department said two people have been arrested in connection with what it called an organized scam operation targeting elderly individuals in the Cullman area.

"Suspects have been approaching elderly victims, convincing them to get into a vehicle, and transporting them to various Walmart locations. Once there, the suspects use the » PAGE 7

Designer Bag Bingo brings in $55K



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are Amber Heptinstall, Morgan Bradford, Cathi Bradford, Dallas Alexander, Amy Whaley and Tami Rawls at the United Way of Cullman County's Designer Bag Bingo event on Nov. 13, 2025.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — United Way of Cullman County raised over $55,000 at its annual Designer Bag Bingo event at Cotton Creek Warehouse on Thursday, Nov. 13.

United Way Executive Director Stephanie Childers said there were 610 bingo players and around 80 volunteers at the event.

"What a night. Our Designer Bag Bingo was the biggest one yet, and Cullman absolutely showed out," Childers said.

"The room was packed, the energy was high and they were fighting hard for that grand prize valued at over $5,000."

She said the United Way was overwhelmed with gratitude for the outpouring of support from the community.

"I can't say enough about the incredible people who made this happen," Childers said.

"Our volunteers, table hosts and Board of Directors showed up in a big way to keep things running smoothly and make the night unforgettable. It truly takes a village, and we are so grateful for ours."

Childers thanked presenting sponsor AmFirst, top community sponsor Publix, the UPS store for sponsoring all of the printed items and Pepsi for being the drink sponsor.

"Events like this remind me just how special this community is," she said.

"Thank you, Cullman, for supporting United Way and the work we do every single day. This was our best bingo yet — and it's all because of you."

Michael Golden
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GOLDEN TOUCH
THE ONYX COLLECTION
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216 2nd Ave. SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Honey Baked Ham opens in southwest Cullman

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Chick-fil-A Cullman North to open Nov. 20

» PAGE 6

20-0! WSCC completes perfect season, claims inaugural ACCC Flag Football Championship



WALLACE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

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7th annual Christmas at the Grotto opens Nov. 20



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The seventh annual Christmas at the Grotto will open to the public on Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Ave Maria Grotto. » PAGE 2



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 17, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Nov. 13

- theft of property; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1609
- domestic violence; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1570
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; CR 463
- interference with domestic violence emergency call; criminal mischief; domestic violence; CR 1400
- theft of property; Ratliff St. NE

Nov. 14

- criminal mischief; CR 1237
- violation of protection order; CR 1754
- theft of property; CR 1127
- theft of property; Hwy. 69N
- domestic violence; CR 565
- obstructing governmental operations; attempt to elude law enforcement officer; US. 31

Nov. 15

- domestic violence; CR 310
- assault; harassment; CR 1114
- theft of property; CR 984
- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; receiving stolen property; Hwy. 69N

Nov. 16

- domestic violence; CR 1082
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N
- trespassing; criminal littering; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 597
- domestic violence; CR 437

ARRESTS

Nov. 13-16

Baker, Franky R.; 50
- FTA – robbery-business-other weapon

Banks, Timothy R.; 45
- theft of lost property-3rd degree - $500-less than $1500
- FTA – financial exploitation of the elderly-2nd degree
- FTA – fraudulent use of credit/debit card (11 counts)
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, $500-less than $1500

Brown, Jerame A.; 34
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – burglary-residence-no force
- VIOLATION OF RELEAES – violation of a domestic violence protection order

Burton, Sarah A.; 43
- possession of a stolen vehicle
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Byrams, William M.; 19
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Coberley, Jennifer S.; 42
- obstruction-governmental operations

Denton, Candace L.; 27
- assault-child abuse-simple family (3 counts)

Durham, Jesse E.; 44
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – sell/distribute methamphetamine

Floyd, Keith T.; 61
- FTA – passing forged instrument

Fogg, Ashton R.; 18
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Hale, Draven K.; 27
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – possessing forged instrument (5 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – theft-miscellaneous
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – robbery-residence-gun
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

Hall, Electria J.; 34
- drug trafficking

Harbin, Jason L.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Helms, Zachery D.; 31
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – possession of dangerous drugs

Hollis, Jonathan E.; 48
- attempting to elude a police officer

Jacobs, Larry C.; 50
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (6 counts)
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500 (2 counts)

Murphey, Aaron D.; 29
- FTA – criminal mischief-damaged property
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Newton, Joshua L.; 44
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Oliver, Ear'Lando D.; 29
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Senn, Scottie D.; 47
- public intoxication

Shader, Raechel N.; 40
- PROBATION VIOLATION – promote prison contraband
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Smith, Justin M.; 40
- assault-child abuse-simple family (2 counts)

Smith, Lindsey B.; 36
- assault-child abuse-simple family (2 counts)

Tanner, Britton N.; 48
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Taylor, Marlon F.; 40
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – promote prison contraband (other)
- FTA – improper lane usage

Tucker, Daniel R.; 47
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Ware, Amira N.; 35
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Westmoreland, Terena N.; 41
- FTA – no tag-utility trailer
- FTA – fail stop sign
- FTA – resident license – freshwater fishing

Wiley, Emmanuel K.; 27
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Yerby, Mark L.; 43
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Young, Alisha M.; 39
- possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Nov. 11
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Cleveland Ave. SW

Nov. 12
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Nesmith Park Apartments; McNabb Rd. NW

Nov. 14
- theft by deception; person; cash; $16,800
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

Nov. 15
- attempted theft of property-3rd degree; person; Olive St. SW
- harassment; person; Cullman Shopping Center
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '18 Chev. Camaro; $500

Nov. 16
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '15 Nissan Rogue; $500; 2nd Ave. SW

ARRESTS

Nov. 14-16

Wilson, Donald L.; 75
- retail theft of property-3rd degree

Harbin, Jason L.; 45
- FTA – driving without license
- FTA – insurance violation

Baker, Frank R.; 50
- FTA – violation of protection order
- FTA – public intoxication (6 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Helring, Michael A.; 36
- public intoxication

Malone, Jeremy R.; 29
- GJ – identity theft

McKenzie, James T.; 58
- violation of domestic violence protection order

Carter, Tiffany; 40
- financial exploitation of elderly-2nd degree
- attempted theft of property-3rd degree

Price, Kevonta D.; 30
- financial exploitation of elderly-2nd degree
- attempted theft of property-3rd degree

Murphey, Aaron D.; 29
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree

Loggins, Jeffery K.; 36
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – driving while suspended

Kelley, Jack L.; 24
- DUI

Latham, Dylan W.; 27
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – expired tag

Sturgeon, Christopher M.; 37
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving without license

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Good Hope City Council talks community center updates

Anabelle Howze
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GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council at its Nov. 13 meeting heard updates on several ongoing projects, including the construction of the new community center and storm shelter. Officials said concrete work is progressing in stages, with roofing sections being poured, tested and moved systematically along the structure. Brick selection has been finalized and the building is expected to be completed by early spring. Once finished, the facility will serve as a storm shelter for up to 300 people and will include a kitchenette for senior programs.

Other discussions focused on maintenance and recreation updates, including improvements at the city park and preparations for the upcoming ball seasons.

A question was raised about future walking trails in the hill area near the interstate.

Officials said the space is being cleared for improved public use and safety, with plans to add trails around the park once the grading work is complete.

The council received an update on the ongoing renovation of the former Jack's restaurant, which is being converted into a new local establishment.

The owner expects progress to pick up after recent delays, with hopes to open in early 2026.

Discussion also centered on signage at city hall and the municipal park.

Officials agreed that the older Pepsi sign near the entrance has outlived its purpose, and the City plans to replace it with a new digital sign at the park instead. Kubota representatives intend to add a separate sign near their property, which the City had no objections to.

Later in the meeting, members reviewed portions of a development agreement with David Hooper (Hoop D Digital, LLC.) connected to a proposed entertainment venue.

Several adjustments were discussed, like clarifying job estimates, specifying that the agreement applies only to hard-liquor tax revenue and eliminating sections that would allow contract benefits to transfer automatically to a future owner or tenant.

Additional revisions will be made to ensure the agreement's terms reflect the City's intent.

The council adjourned after reviewing remaining concerns submitted by absent members and agreeing to continue refining the document.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Community Thanksgiving Meal**

Wednesday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Good Hope High School lunchroom. Dine in or carry out (five max). Call ahead for delivery in the Good Hope city limits: 256-739-3757.

- **Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park**

Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Route: Good Hope High School to Municipal Park. Admission: Free. Christmas in the Park will follow immediately after the parade. This year's theme is "Country Christmas."

Grotto (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The seventh annual Christmas at the Grotto will open to the public on Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Ave Maria Grotto.

Ave Maria Grotto Director Roger Steele said when they launched Christmas at the Grotto seven years ago, the goal was to give visitors a chance to experience the world-famous art of Brother Joseph Zoettl in a special way during the Christmas season.

"It has become one of our most popular annual events and continues to grow each year," said Steele, who explained the event started quite small. "We added color lights after year two, and then many accent pieces," Steele said. "This year on Dec.13-14, we will have Johnny's Bar-B-Q, Santa, horse-drawn wagon rides available for $5, and also live music will all be present at the Grotto."

He said they are working on additional entries and exits and ways to make the experience smoother.

"Christmas at the Grotto is such an aesthetic experience," Steele said. "It touches people in ways they are not used to. We want visitors to really enjoy their time while they are here."

This year, attendees will be also able to enjoy an all-in-one experience at Christmas at the Grotto, Cullman Christkindlmarkt and the 23rd annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park. Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism; Cullman County Parks and Recreation; and the Ave Maria Grotto have joined forces to offer a free shuttle service attendees can use to move among these amazing Christmas destinations. Dates and times will be the same and shuttles will connect all three events. The free shuttle service will be available from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

"Working together with the Christkindlmarkt and Winter Wonderland makes it easier for guests to visit all three attractions and see the full range of what Cullman offers during the holidays. We are so excited for this partnership and everything the City of Cullman is doing."

The Grotto will also host an art show for the public that will be used as a fundraising agent for preservation and creation of trees at the Grotto. It is stationed underneath the gift shop. Event organizer Allison Bohorfoush said the Grotto will host the art show until Jan. 1.

"The artists involved will receive a percentage and the Grotto will receive a percentage from the sale at the show," Bohorfoush said. "All of the artists are from Alabama."

Christmas at the Grotto

- Nov. 20-23, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 4-7, Dec. 11-23 | 11 a.m.- 9 p.m., Thursday-Saturday and noon-8 p.m., Sundays; lights on at 5 p.m.
- Admission: Adults $12 | Seniors $10 | Military/first responders $9 | Teens (13–17) $10 | Kids (5–12) $9 | Kids 4 and younger FREE | Wagon rides (Dec 13 and 14 only) $5.
- Don't miss the Grotto's BIG weekend Dec. 13 and 14! Live music, food trucks, horse-drawn wagon rides and Santa!

The Ave Maria Grotto is located at 1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE in Cullman. Get more information at www.avemariagrotto.com.



Storm shelter tax credit available for Alabama homeowners

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Alabama homeowners may be eligible for a state income tax credit to help offset the cost of building or installing a storm shelter at their primary residence.

The Storm Shelter Tax Credit is administered jointly by the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR). The program allows a credit of up to $3,000 or 50 percent of the total cost of the shelter, whichever is less.

The credit was established through Act 2021-540. To qualify, the storm shelter must be constructed, acquired or installed during the same calendar year the credit is claimed, and it must serve as the taxpayer's primary residence.

According to AEMA, eligible shelters must meet design criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including FEMA P-320 (March 2021), FEMA P-361 (April 2021), and ICC 500 (2020).

The statewide cap for all approved credits is $2 million per year, and credits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

To apply, homeowners must submit a certification request through the AEMA portal at www.ema.alabama.gov. Once approved, AEMA issues a certificate that allows the taxpayer to claim the credit through ADOR's My Alabama Taxes portal using Schedule OC when filing their annual state income tax return.

Installation costs covered by other programs, grants or insurance reimbursements are not eligible for the credit.

For additional information or to begin an application, visit www.ema.alabama.gov or contact AEMA at 205-280-2200.

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256-352-2221

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 Cullman County Museum. 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.

Grief Support: Lost a Loved One Recently? Thinking about the coming holidays?
Come to a six-session support group once a week through Nov. 16, Sundays at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church located at 615 Third Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055. For more information contact Reverend Warren Ruland at 256-962-2521.

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.

Shirley Burden Public Library – Hanceville
• Families are invited to join us for fun at the library! Library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5p.m., closed from noon-1 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly event details.
• Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m. Storytime with Melissa Porter
• Wednesday, Nov. 26: Open. No storytime
• Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. "Let it Shine Puppets" presents a song and dance Christmas presentation
• Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. Agriplex-the sweet smells of Christmas, an evergreen program
• Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. Christmas Dinner everyone to bring a food dish
• Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Santa & author Dorenda Doyle "The kid and the dog" take your picture with Mrs. Santa
• Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 10 a.m. New Year's theme storytime

North Alabama Agriplex Programs
• www.agriplex.org
• Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m., Living Landscapes — Natural Parenting Class- Farmhouse Midwifery. Join us as we learn a holistic approach to parenting. We will cover baby wearing, making your own baby food, cloth diapering, natural remedies for common illnesses, the importance of sunlight and bare feet and more. Max $15 per family.
• Thursday, Dec. 4, 9-11 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Elementary - Winter Wonderland Terrarium. In this hands-on workshop, you'll combine creativity and nature to construct your own enchanting miniature landscape with fun seasonal elements. $15 fee/max $30 per family.
• Thursday, Dec. 4, noon-2 p.m., Heritage Homeschool Secondary - Keepsake Resin Ornaments. In this hands-on class, you'll learn how to create personalized ornaments that preserve something special to you! Bring a treasure, all other supplies provided. $20 per person.
• Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m., Living Landscapes - Wreath- Make and Take. Make your own reusable grapevine wreath using Cullman County grapevine. Decorate your base with native greenery and nature's bounty for a stunning holiday garland. $35 per person.
• Friday, Dec. 12, 10-11 a.m., Little Farmers - The Hat. Jan Brett is a renowned author/illustrator whose books have been loved by many for decades. Each month, we will center our storytime, stations, craft and snack around a different Jan Brett book. $8 per child, max $16 per family.
• Saturday, Dec. 13, 9-10:30 a.m., Farm Kids Club - Cozy Craft & Cookie Decorating. Settle in, craft up something cozy, then try your hand at Christmas cookie decorating. Take home treats and a few new skills. $20 per person.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
Nov. 20-Dec. 23 | Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. | Sundays, noon- 8 p.m. | Open seven days a week beginning Dec. 11 | Admission: Free | www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com

2nd Annual Run Run Rudolph Fun Run/Walk
Thursday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park. https://tinyurl.com/RRRtickets. This is the one and only night to run or walk thru our Winter Wonderland Christmas lights! Ugly Christmas sweater/Christmas costume contest. We will have hot chocolate and shirts for sale at the finish line! Fun for all ages! Stroller friendly! Leashed dog friendly!

7th Annual Christmas at the Grotto
Nov. 20-23, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 4-7, Dec. 11-23 | 11 a.m.- 9 p.m., Thursday-Saturday and noon-8 p.m., Sundays; lights on at 5 p.m. | Ave Maria Grotto | Admission: Adults $12 | Seniors $10 | Military/first responders $9 | Teens (13–17) $10 | Kids (5–12) $9 | Kids 4 and younger FREE | Wagon rides (Dec 13 and 14 only) $5. Don't miss the Grotto's BIG weekend Dec 13 and 14! Live music, food trucks, horse-drawn wagon rides and Santa!

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
Nov. 20-23, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 3-7, Dec. 10-23, Dec. 26-28 (Christmas lights only), 5-9 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park. Admission is $10 per car and $20 per bus. Enjoy a drive-through Christmas light display. Santa will be here, and there will be horse and carriage rides on select nights and we will have our magical Christmas Train rides!

Hanceville Civitans 9th Annual Tinsel Trail & Tree Lighting
Friday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. at Veterans Park. Free. Join the community for a magical evening kicking off the holiday season! Enjoy free cookies and hot chocolate, take pictures with Santa, stroll through the beautiful Tinsel Trail and watch as we light up the town tree! Bring your family and friends — it's a night full of holiday cheer you won't want to miss!

Cullman Christkindlmarkt Parade and Tree Lighting
Friday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Downtown Cullman, Warehouse District and Depot Park. Free. Join us for a magical evening in downtown Cullman at our annual Christkindlmarkt Parade and Tree Lighting! Watch as local marching bands, community organizations and festive floats fill the streets with holiday cheer. Then follow the parade into Christkindlmarkt where ABC 33/40's James Spann and a special musical guest will lead our spectacular tree lighting ceremony. Experience the wonder as we illuminate the night with both a show-stopping drone show that will light up the sky with Christmas magic!

Arley Women's Club Annual Fall Bake Sale
• Friday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Bank First - 6461 County Road 41, Arley; Traditions Bank - 19 Helicon Rd., Arley; Bank of Walker County - Curry Highway
• Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m.-noon; Traditions Bank - 19 Helicon Road, Arley
• Let the fabulous bakers of AWC help with your holiday preparations. This event is sponsored by the Arley Women's Club, Inc, a 501 c(3) nonprofit organization. 100% of all funds raised will stay in the community.

Small Business Christmas Market
Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. $3 entry and free parking available. The first 60 shoppers in line will receive a free gift. For more information, contact Shayla Waldner at 256-595-8133 or Shayladenney2018@gmail.com. Get more details at Facebook/Small Business Christmas/Easter Market.

36th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon. Route: Michele Street and U.S. Highway 31 South to Park Street, ending at Veterans Park. Admission: Free. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the holiday spirit as floats, bands and community groups fill the streets with Christmas cheer! Presented by the Hanceville Civitan Club.

Good Hope Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park
Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Route: Good Hope High School to Municipal Park. Admission: Free. Christmas in the Park will follow immediately after the parade. This year's theme is "Country Christmas."



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PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

No. 6 Addison rolls past Berry 39-6 to advance

Todd Walker
Contributor

ADDISON, Ala. – Addison hosted the Berry Wildcats on an absolutely perfect night for football in the second round of the 1A state playoffs. Addison won going away on the scoreboard 39-6, but the game was much closer than the score would indicate.

Berry actually moved the ball quite well, but the Bulldog defense came away with four turnovers when they needed them, which turned out to be the difference in the game. Berry could also not get out of their own way with penalties as they were whistled for ten penalties on the night for almost 100 yards in lost yardage.

Addison kicked off to open the game and the Bulldogs gave up one first down and forced the Wildcats to punt.

Addison took over at their own 25-yard line and 7 plays and 75 yards later, Addison QB Elijah Roberts ran it in from 14 yards out for the Bulldogs first touchdown of the night.

The extra point was no good and with 6:50 to go in the first quarter, Addison led 6-0.

Berry is known to be a run it and run again team but tonight they took to the air more than expected. Berry drove over 60 yards down to the Bulldog 36-yard line and that is when Addison DB Connor Lane picked off a Berry pass at the one-yard line.

Addison couldn't do anything with the turnover and punted it back to the Wildcats.

The Wildcats then went 43 yards for the tying touchdown as Jayden Smith hit Max Westbrook on a fourth and 17 play for the 38-yard touchdown catch. The catch was actually over two Bulldog defenders.

The two-point was no good and the score was tied at 6 with 7:56 to go in the second quarter.

Addison had an answer, and the answer was Mr. Roberts. Addison ran six plays and Roberts was the prime contributor in five of them. Roberts took it in from 21 yards out for his second touchdown of the night. The two-point was no good and Addison led 12-6 at the 4:45 mark of the second quarter.

This is how the first half would end.

The second half started with an exchange of possessions and then Addison took over at the Wildcat forty-yard line. Facing a third and 10, Roberts hit Trennon Burns on a tunnel screen, and Burns took it the distance, 40 yards, for the touchdown. The two-point was no good and with 4:22 to go in the third quarter, Addison stretched the lead to 18-6.

This is how the score would hold up until the 10:52 mark of the fourth quarter, when Roberts took a QB draw and ran it straight up the gut for 80 yards and his third rushing touchdown of the night.

Roberts was untouched. Again the two-point was no good and Addison extended the lead to 24-6.

The Bulldog defense stiffened as on Berry's next possession and with the Wildcats badly in need of a spark, Addison's Scout Flynn picked off a Wildcat pass on first down and returned it 24 yards down to the Wildcat 38.

Eight plays later, Addison's Joey Wilson bulldozed his way in from the 4-yard line for the score. Roberts then hit Flynn for the two-point conversion, finally, and Addison had this one all wrapped up as they led 32-6 with 5:20 to go in the fourth quarter.

Berry's next possession was a repeat of the last, as Flynn picked off another pass and returned it 55 yards down to the Berry thirty-yard line. Three plays later, Roberts ran in his fourth touchdown of the night from 13 yards out. Lane kicked the extra point and Addison led 39-6.

This is how the game would end as Addison dominated the Wildcats and will now prepare to travel to Marion County next week.

Unofficial stats

Addison ran 31 running plays for 245 yards. Addison ran 13 passing plays for 99 yards. Addison ran a total of 44 plays for 344 total yards. Berry ran 31 running plays for 162 yards. Berry ran 29 passing plays for 154 yards. Berry ran 60 total plays for 316 total yards.

Addison's Roberts had 7 completions in 13 attempts for 99 yards and a touchdown.

Addison was led in rushing by Roberts who had 16 carries for 192 yards and 4 touchdowns. Judah Wilkins had 3 carries for 26 yards. Joey Wilson had 1 carry for 4 yards and a touchdown. Seth Hammack had 11 carries for 23 yards.

Addison had Burns with 4 catches for 62 yards and a touchdown. Wilkins had 2 catches for 13 yards. Flynn had 1 catch for 24 yards.

On defense, Addison was led by Skylar Cleghorn with 8 tackles and a sack. Wilkins had 7 tackles. Lane had 7 tackles and an interception. Casen Hill had 5 tackles. Burns had 5 tackles and a sack.

Wilson had 5 tackles and a fumble recovery. Brye Dollar had 3 tackles. Flynn had 3 tackles and 2 interceptions. Silas Frazier had 3 tackles.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

No. 4 Fairview advances with 28-13 win at Jacksonville

Nick Griffin
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JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — After edging out Arab in the opening round last week, the Fairview Aggies traveled to Jacksonville for a round two battle with the Eagles Friday night.

Fairview went into the locker room holding a 7-0 lead at the break, but the Aggie offense found its rhythm in the second half, putting another 21 points on the board to secure a 28-13 win and a spot in round three.

The Aggies got off to a shaky start on offense, losing a fumble on their first offensive play of the night and giving the Eagles great field position. Fairview caught a break when Jacksonville fumbled the ball away a few plays later and the Aggies went back to work on offense. Facing fourth and inches later in the first, Fairview running back Jake Harper took a handoff up the middle and broke free for a 40-yard gain and a big first down.

A couple of plays later, Harper carried it into the end zone from 10 yards out to give the Aggies an early lead. Kolt Redding split the uprights with the extra point to make it 7-0 with four minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Fairview was forced to punt the ball to the Eagles in the final minute of the first and Jacksonville put together a nice drive early in the second. The Eagles kept the chains moving and drove all the way down to the 1-yard line, but the Aggie defense stepped up after that, forcing Jacksonville to go backwards on the next two plays and forcing a 25-yard field goal attempt.

Fairview blocked the kick to stay in front 7-0 with 7:22 to play in the first half. The Aggies punted a few plays later and a big return gave the Eagles excellent field position, but they fumbled the ball once again and Fairview regained possession on its own 20. A 35-yard gain on a pass from Redding to Jace Stevens got the Aggies close enough to attempt a field goal in the final seconds of the half but the kick was no good and Fairview went into the locker room leading 7-0 at the break.

Jacksonville got the ball to start the third quarter, and the Eagles put together a methodical scoring drive, punching it into the end zone to tie the game at 7 midway through the third.

The Aggies and Eagles exchanged punts to close out the third quarter and Fairview's offense was on the field at the start of the fourth.

Harper picked up 24 yards on an option play to move the chains and Stevens converted third and 4 on a jet sweep a few plays later. Jacksonville's defense forced a short field goal attempt later in the drive but a roughing the kicker penalty gave Fairview a first down at the 4-yard line.

Harper took the handoff on the next play and punched it into the end zone to give the Aggies a 14-7 lead with eight minutes remaining. The Eagles decided to air it out on the ensuing possession, but Stevens picked off a pass to give the ball back to Fairview's offense with great field position.

Not long after that, Harper ran in his third touchdown of the night to make it a 21-7 game with just five minutes on the clock.

Jacksonville didn't go away quietly. The Eagles went down the field in a hurry and found the end zone to make it a 21-13 game. The extra point attempt was blocked, and the Aggies maintained an 8-point lead with just under three minutes to play.

Fairview recovered the ensuing onside kick and facing a third down at midfield, Redding found Stevens in the flat and he took it 50 yards to the house for another Aggie touchdown, extending the lead to 28-13 with 2:25 remaining.

Jacksonville got the ball back one more time but another interception by Stevens sealed the deal for Fairview, capping a 28-13 win and punching the Aggies' ticket to round three.

Fairview (12-0) will face Scottsboro (8-4) next week.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

No. 10 Good Hope topples No. 3 West Morgan 31-7 to advance

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TRINITY, Ala. — After toppling Cherokee County in the opening round last week, the Good Hope Raiders hit the road for another heavy weight matchup at unbeaten West Morgan Friday night. The Rebels struck first, taking a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter but the Raiders dominated after that, outscoring West Morgan 31-0 the rest of the way to earn a huge, 31-7 win and advance to round three.

Blake Cordes recovered the opening kickoff for Good Hope, and they started their opening series in excellent field position at the 42-yard line. A nine-yard run by Mason Drake put them at the 33, then an eight-yard pass from Parker Johnson to Carter Rutherford gave the Raiders a first down at the 25.

They didn't do much after that, though, and an intentional grounding penalty on third down forced them to punt. It got blocked, and West Morgan didn't waste any time finding the end zone, as they scored on a 40-yard touchdown pass on their fourth play of the series to take an early 7-0 lead.

The Raiders collected a pair of first downs on back-to-back plays on its next series, but later on in the drive, they failed to convert on fourth down. Good Hope's defense, though, forced a turnover-on-downs of their own.

The Raiders pulled out a trick play to start out their next drive, as Johnson handed the ball off to Web Buchanan. Buchanan then proceeded to hit Johnson for a 29-yard gain and a first down at the 29. Later on in the drive, Drake kept things alive for Good Hope by picking up the first down on fourth down. A penalty quickly put them behind the sticks, but an eight-yard run by Drake put them at the 16. Two plays later, Johnson kept it himself and his eight-yard run gave the Raiders a first down at the eight. Johnson took it in on the next play to tie the game up at seven only six seconds into the second quarter.

Back-to-back runs by the Rebels quickly put the ball at the 31, but Good Hope's defense stood tall once again, as Kane Anderson picked off a West Morgan pass at the 32. Johnson's 14-yard scamper gave the Raiders a first down at the 46, but a huge loss on third down forced them to punt.

A quick three-and-out by West Morgan gave the ball back to Good Hope. A pair of huge completions from Johnson to Rutherford (11 and 33 yards) quickly put the Raiders at the 32, as they looked to break the tie on this series. Johnson and Drake got the final 32 yards on the drive, and Drake finished things off with a one-yard score to give Good Hope a 14-7 lead late in the first half.

West Morgan's conversion on fourth down kept their series alive, but a penalty put them behind the sticks, and they were forced to turn the ball over on downs. The Raiders would take a 14-7 lead into the locker room.

Good Hope got the ball to start out the second half. They were faced off with a fourth-and-one, but an offsides penalty forced them to punt. After getting a first down on their opening series, the Rebels quickly got behind the sticks, and they failed to convert on fourth down. A penalty put the Raiders behind the sticks, but a big run by Johnson on third down helped keep their drive alive. Johnson collected another first down two plays later, then three plays later, Ayden Young made an unbelievable catch on third down, as his 31-yard reception put Good Hope at the nine.

They would end up settling for a field goal, and Titus Montgomery's 25-yard field goal stretched the Raider lead to 17-7 with less than a minute to go in the third quarter.Good Hope's defense forced another West Morgan punt on its next series. After getting a first down, a penalty on second down forced them to punt two plays later.

The Raider defense made another big play on third down, as Rutherford intercepted a Rebel pass and took it 40 yards to the house to widen their lead to 24-7 with a little over six minutes to go in the contest. A couple of solid runs by West Morgan, followed by a Good Hope penalty, put them at the 17, but the Raider defense stood tall once again, as Rutherford made a huge tackle on fourth down to give the ball back to Good Hope.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUN

The Good Hope Raiders knocked off West Morgan 31-7 Friday night to advance to the third round of the state playoffs.

A punt gave the ball back to the Rebels, but Tucker Keef picked off a West Morgan pass at the 20, and two plays later, Johnson broke free down the left sideline for a 77-yard score to make it 31-7. Anderson recovered the kickoff, and a few kneel downs by Johnson helped the Raiders seal their huge 31-7 win over no. 3-ranked West Morgan. Good Hope clinches a spot in the third round for the first time since 2021.

Johnson finished 9/15 for 108 yards and ended up with 178 rushing yards and a pair of scores for Good Hope (10-2). Drake added 72 yards on the ground and a touchdown. Rutherford (touchdown), Anderson, and Keef all finished with an interception in the game for the Raiders. Cordes and Anderson each recovered the ball on the kickoff.

Good Hope will return home to take on no. 5 Plainview next Friday night in the third round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Meek falls to No. 1 Wadley 52-8

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ARLEY, Ala. — Meek toppled Woodville on the road in the opening round last week but the Tigers had their hands full when they returned home to host top-ranked Wadley in round two Friday night.

The Bulldogs built a 32-0 lead in the first half and continued pulling away in the second half on their way to a 52-8 win, ending Meek's season in the second round.

The Bulldogs got off to a fast start in this one, scoring on their first possession of the night to take an early, 8-0 lead.

Wadley recovered on onside kick on the ensuing kickoff and cashed in with another touchdown to make it 16-0.

The Bulldogs tacked on one more touchdown before the end of the first to extend their lead to 24-0 going into the second.

Wadley scored again to make it a 32-0 game midway through the second quarter and that was the score when we hit halftime.

The Bulldogs tacked on 20 more points in the third quarter to take a 52-0 lead into the fourth.

Aiden Benson got the Tigers on the board later in the fourth with a 2-yard touchdown run.

Hunter Wyatt punched in the two-point conversion to trim the lead to 52-8 with four minutes on the clock but they couldn't chip away any more than that and Meek's season came to an end with a 52-8 loss to Wadley.

Meek finishes the season 8-4 after advancing to the playoffs for the fifth consecutive season.

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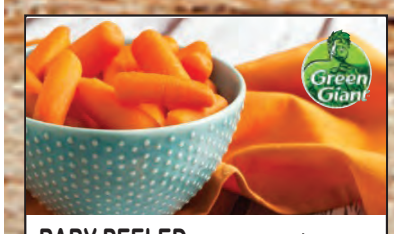
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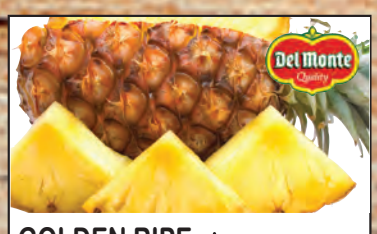
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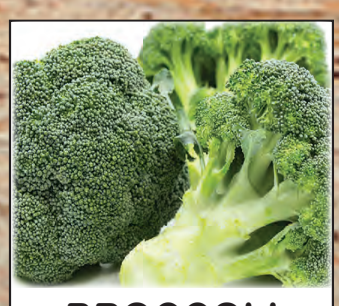
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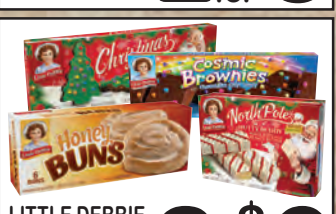
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30 Oz.
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Championship (from Front)

Wallace State Sports Information



WALLACE STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

A dream that began less than a year ago became reality on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, as Wallace State flag football captured the inaugural ACCC Flag Football Championship with a commanding 27-6 win over Shelton State at Rip Hewes Stadium. The top-seeded Lions closed out their first-ever season with a flawless 20-0 record.

DOTHAN, Ala. — A dream that began less than a year ago became reality on Sunday, Nov. 16, as Wallace State flag football captured the inaugural ACCC Flag Football Championship with a commanding 27–6 win over Shelton State at Rip Hewes Stadium. The top-seeded Lions closed out their first-ever season with a flawless 20-0 record, showcasing the same balance, chemistry and grit that defined their historic run.

Head coach Daniel Howard reflected on the significance of the milestone moment for his young program.

"This championship was a culmination of a lot of dreams that started when we formed the team. Those dreams continued to grow when we recruited our players.

"They came together as a team focused on a mission. Today's win is a testament to my players' willingness to do what it takes to earn the championship."

The Lions set the tone early with a bold fourth-down conversion late in the first quarter. Facing pressure, quarterback Emma Kile connected with Mariah Ragland on a 36-yard strike down the sideline, putting Wallace on top 7–0.

Early in the second quarter, Kile extended the lead to 14–0 with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Ma'Kyla Williams.

Shelton State momentarily seized momentum with a 16-yard touchdown pass to close the gap to 14–6, but Wallace State answered with championship poise.

Just before halftime, Kile found tournament MVP Taylor Kindred in the corner of the end zone for a five-yard score, giving the Lions a 20–6 advantage at the break.

Wallace State's defense controlled the second half, setting the stage for the knockout blow early in the fourth quarter. On the second play of the quarter, Kile dumped a short pass to Telecia Ransom, who sliced through the Buccaneers' defense for an 18-yard touchdown to push the lead to 27–6.

From there, the Lions dominated the clock and the field, finishing with 330 yards of total offense while limiting Shelton State to just 87 yards.

Kile was outstanding once again, completing 30 of 45 passes for 315 yards and three touchdowns. Ragland led all receivers with nine catches for 114 yards and a score, while Kindred added seven receptions for 30 yards and a touchdown.

Ransom totaled five catches for 53 yards and a touchdown, and Maggie Patterson contributed four receptions for 77 yards.

Defensively, Williams delivered a championship-level performance with three sacks, and Jayla Rudolph recorded a key interception.

Kindred was named Tournament MVP after a stellar two-game weekend in which she finished with 18 catches for 121 yards, two touchdowns and a game-saving interception in the semifinal win over Snead State.

With the victory, Wallace State not only secures the first ACCC flag football title but establishes itself as the premier program in the conference — perfect, poised and already historic.







ALEA: Stay alert as deer movement increases statewide

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is reminding motorists to use extra caution on Alabama's roadways this time of year, as deer activity and vehicle-versus-wildlife crashes increase significantly during the fall and early winter months.

According to crash data from ALEA's Highway Patrol Division, Troopers investigated 1,652 vehicle-versus-wildlife crashes statewide in 2024. The majority of these occurred in the fall and winter months, when deer movement is most active.

During the official fall and winter months of 2024, ALEA Troopers responded to 1,243 such crashes, compared to 409 crashes during the official spring and summer months. The numbers show a clear upward trend beginning in the fall, peaking during the winter rut season.

Month:	Crashes (2024)
Jan.	328
Feb.	185
March	96
April	60
May	45
June	53
July	62
August	93
Sept.	98
Oct.	167
Nov.	177
Dec.	288

"While these numbers only represent crashes investigated by our Troopers and not those handled by local law enforcement, the data clearly shows an increase in collisions during the fall through winter months," said ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor. "We urge everyone traveling Alabama's roadways to stay alert, particularly in rural and wooded areas where deer are most active."



DAVID RAINER/ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ALEA offers the following safety tips:

- Be especially cautious during dawn and dusk: Deer are most active at these times.
- Use high beams when possible: Bright lights can help spot animals earlier but remember to dim them for oncoming traffic.
- Avoid swerving: If a collision appears unavoidable, brake firmly and stay in your lane. Swerving can lead to more severe crashes or rollovers.
- Watch for multiple deer: They often travel in groups — if you see one, expect more nearby.
- Always wear your seat belt: It remains the single most effective way to reduce injury in a crash.

ALEA encourages motorists to remain alert, reduce distractions and report any roadway hazards or collisions to law enforcement by dialing 911 or *HP (*47).

Chick-fil-A (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's new Chick-fil-A restaurant will open Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, at 6 a.m. The restaurant will be led by Owner-Operator Randy Earnest, marking his second Chick-fil-A in the community.

Located at 5411 Alabama Highway 157, Chick-fil-A Cullman North will serve guests Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m.-10 p.m., offering dine-in, drive-thru, carry-out, delivery and Mobile Thru.

"After nearly two decades in this community, opening Chick-fil-A Cullman North is an incredible opportunity to deepen the impact we've already made," said Earnest.

"Cullman is where my kids have grown up, where I've watched young team members grow into leaders, and where I've built lasting relationships with guests. I'm excited to continue serving the guests who make this community so special."

For Earnest, the opening of Chick-fil-A Cullman North is a continuation of his long-standing commitment to the people of Cullman.

During his tenure, he's created a culture centered on growth and leadership, mentoring numerous team members — including seven who have gone on to become Chick-fil-A local owner-operators themselves.

His vision to change lives is at the heart of his leadership, guiding how he develops his team and serves his community.

With the new location, Earnest looks forward to creating even more opportunities for growth and connection, building on the legacy of care and service his team has established in Cullman.

Earnest is committed to giving back to the Cullman community by:

- Participating in the Chick-fil-A Shared Table program, which redirects surplus food to local nonprofits, helping create over 42 million meals nationwide to date
- Celebrating the opening with a $25,000 donation from Chick-fil-A, Inc. to support local hunger relief efforts of Food Bank of North Alabama, a Feeding America partner food bank, in honor of the new restaurant
- Creating approximately 100 jobs in the Cullman community and offering meaningful opportunities for team members to thrive, both personally and professionally

To learn more about careers at Chick-fil-A Cullman North, visit www.chick-fil-a.com/locations/al/cullman-north.

For the latest news and updates on Chick-fil-A Cullman North, visit the restaurant's Facebook page and follow on Instagram.

To celebrate the restaurant opening, Earnest and team are calling on the community to show their spots on opening day!

Whether it's a full cow suit or a simple cow-spotted accessory, Guests of all ages are invited to join the fun.

Anyone who visits the restaurant on opening day dressed in cow attire can redeem one free entrée* or kid's meal inside the restaurant or in the drive-thru.

*Guests who dress in cow attire on opening day can redeem the offer of one free entrée inside the restaurant or in the drive-thru. Breakfast offer options are a Chick-fil-A® Chicken Biscuit, Egg White Grill or 4-ct Chick-fil-A Chick-n-Minis®. Lunch/dinner offer options are Chick-fil-A® Chicken Sandwich, Spicy Chicken Sandwich, 8-ct Chick-fil-A® Nuggets, 8-ct Grilled Nuggets or 5-ct Nugget Kid's Meal. The offer is limited to one per person in cow attire, per day, while supplies last. No purchase is necessary. See the restaurant for more details.

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Honey Baked Ham (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Honey Baked Ham is officially open in Cullman. It's located at 1738 Second Ave. SW (U.S. Highway 31) next to Farmers Home Furniture. The store, owned by industry veteran Andy Gahagen, marks his sixth Honey Baked Ham location in 20 years.

Gahagen said Cullman has been on the company's radar for several years, and he and his wife were drawn to the community while considering purchasing a home on Smith Lake.

That connection helped make Cullman the brand's newest home.

Opening day on Nov. 17 brought a strong response, despite ongoing construction.

The store served customers and is preparing for a busy Thanksgiving week. Because the interior space is not yet completed, customers are currently being served from an outdoor kiosk located between Honey Baked Ham and Farmers Home Furniture.

Gahagen said customers can order online by going to www.honeybaked.com/storepickup, choosing items and prepaying before picking up their orders at the kiosk. Walk-up purchases are also available.

The menu will expand once the full indoor store opens around Dec. 1. In addition to the store's signature ham and turkey, Honey Baked Ham will sell sandwiches, soups, salads, deli items, ribs, chicken salad, broccoli salad and more. Full-service catering and business gifting options will also be available, with several local businesses already placing holiday orders.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Honey Baked Ham opened Monday, Nov. 17, 2025. Because the interior space is not yet completed, customers are currently being served from an outdoor kiosk located between Honey Baked Ham and Farmers Home Furniture.

The Cullman location currently employs six to seven staff members, with plans to hire about 10 additional workers for the Christmas season.

Gahagen said customers can expect the same quality products that Honey Baked Ham has offered since 1954 as the store settles into the community.

The new 2,500-square-foot location will be able to seat 16 guests inside and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

Honey Baked Ham is bringing back its Thanksgiving Gold Pickup Days. For more information, visit www.honeybaked.com/coupons.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
There will be a public hearing before the Cullman County Commission, Cullman County
Commission Office, Cullman County Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama, December 16, 2025, at
4:00 p.m. to receive comment on closing a portion of County Road 121, more particularly
described as the following:
The entirety of County Road 121.
Which abutting property owners wish to vacate and abandon.

Cullman County Commission
Jeff Clemons, Chairman

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by CLIFTON D. FOWLER and wife, MARTHA MICHELLE FOWLER, to Traditions Bank, as follows: mortgage securing the property described below, said Mortgage dated August 8, 2022, and recorded on August 12, 2022, in Mortgage Book 2024 Page 541 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, as modified by that Modification of Mortgage dated January 27, 2024, and recorded on February 8, 2024 in Mortgage Book 2074 Page 285 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, the undersigned Traditions Bank, as mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, on the 3rd day of December, 2025, between the legal hours of sale, the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A part of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 5 West, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said quarter-quarter; thence West along the North quarter line 600 feet to the P.O.B.; thence South along Shirley Stein's property line to North Right of Way of a county road; thence Southwesterly along North Right of Way of said county road 200 feet to a point; thence North to the North quarter line to a point that is 200 feet West of P.O.B; thence East along the North quarter line back to the P.O.B. Lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama. Otherwise known as 702 County Road 842, Cullman, AL 35057, Cullman County.

Also

One (1) Brown/White 1986 Mays Enterprises FD-10 Mobile Home bearing serial number MAL3554; whether now owned or hereafter acquired, including all attachments, accessions, accessories, fittings, increases, tools, parts, repairs, supplies, additions, replacements of and substitutions for all or any part of the foregoing property, and proceeds thereof, wherever located. Any and all insurance refunds relating to the foregoing property.

Property Address: 702 County Road 842, Cullman, AL 35057

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

PUBLICATION DATES: November 11, November 18 and November 25, 2025

NEWSPAPER: The Cullman Tribune

TRADITIONS BANK
Mortgagee Steven C. Smith
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
steve@smithandsmithllp.com

Arrests (from Front)

victims' personal information to fraudulently open AT&T accounts and obtain new iPhones—leaving the victims responsible for substantial bills that later arrive by mail.

In many cases, the suspects have abandoned the victims at Walmart with no means of returning home," the department posted on social media.

On Nov. 15, CPD patrol officers and Investigator Nick Watkins located the suspects at the Walmart on Olive Street Southwest as they were allegedly attempting to exploit another elderly woman.

Kevonta Doneterrece Price and Tiffany Carter, both of Covington, Georgia, were taken into custody and charged with second-degree financial exploitation of the elderly and third-degree attempted theft of property.

The CPD said additional charges are expected as the investigation continues.

The department urged the community to speak with elderly family members, friends and neighbors about common scams designed to target vulnerable individuals.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a similar scheme, please contact the Cullman Police Department at 256-734-1434.

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COLUMN

Winning the 4th quarter



Joe Hobby
Tribune Contributor

I left the doctor's office, got into my car and began screaming obscenities at the top of my lungs. I have had enough. When I visited this doctor to get a second opinion on my thyroid cancer, his opinion was to do more surgery. And my opinion is I do not like his opinion.

It's hard not to feel like I've been jerked around. My radiation therapy has already been postponed three times. And now after a CAT scan, I hear the suggested course of action is more surgery, and a biopsy for a lymph node he doesn't like.

I'm frustrated and angry even though I know everything he's saying makes sense. It's the cancer. I'm mad at cancer and depressed after this consultation.

And what's worse, I'm headed straight from the doctor's appointment to give a motivational speech to a group participating in an event called the State Masters Games - kind of a seniors Olympics.

"I don't think I can do it," I told my wife.

"After what the doctor just told us, I think they'll understand," she replied.

But as we arrived at the venue, I changed my mind. Regardless of how I felt, I had a message to deliver. I needed to do my job even if I didn't feel like it.

Once I took the stage and began talking, something unexpected happened. I realized that I wasn't talking to the group, I was talking to myself. Here are some excerpts:

"...I'm really excited about speaking to you this afternoon because everyone in this room is living. I know what you're thinking. Well, no duh! But hear me out. Everybody in this room knows somebody our age who's alive, but not living. And there's a world of difference in the two."

"...In a way, getting is old is a gift. Sure, things don't work as well as they used to - but in return, we have more stories and wisdom that people half our age don't have. Plus, we can say anything we want without any consequences. People will just shake their heads and say, 'Bless your heart.'"

"...People our age are experts at going to the doctor and describing it in vivid detail to everybody else. If talking about doctor visits was an Olympic sport, everybody in here would be a gold medalist."

"... I still go to the gym - but my reasons have changed. Years ago, I worked out to get ripped muscles. Now I work out so I can open a pickle jar without any help."

"... Clint Eastwood is 95 years old and he's still making movies. When someone asked him why he was still working, he came up with the best answer I've ever heard. 'Every day when I wake up, I don't let the old man in. My secret's been the same since 1959, staying busy.

"I never let the old man into the house. You have to stay alive, active, happy, strong and capable. It's in us. It's in our intelligence, attitude and mentality - we are young, regardless of our age. We must learn to fight to not let the old man in.'"

"...Let me put this to you another way. In terms of football, all of us are in the fourth quarter. Some of us are early in the quarter and some of us are closer to the two-minute warning, but make no mistake, we are in the fourth quarter.

"When I went to Alabama in the early 70s at the end of the third-quarter, every player and coach held up four fingers, and the crowd chanted, 'The fourth quarter's ours.' That's because the outcome almost always depends on what happens in the fourth quarter.

"Maybe it's time to extend that beyond football. Maybe everyone our age should start each day holding up four fingers, reminding ourselves it's time to win the fourth quarter of our lives.

"It's time to say what has been unsaid to someone who matters to you. It's time to give of yourself to others. It's time to forgive someone you haven't forgiven.

"To make amends to someone you've hurt. Start today, because unlike a football game, we don't know how much time is left on the clock."

"... I've always loved Jimmy Buffett, and one of my favorite songs of his is called, 'Growing Older But Not Up.' The chorus has become a creed I try to live by: 'I'm growing older but not up, my metabolic rate is pleasantly stuck. Let the winds of time blow over my head. I'd rather die while I'm living than live while I'm dead.'"

"...That's great advice for everyone in this room. Grow older, but not up. Live, don't just exist. Win the fourth quarter. And whatever you do, don't let the old man in."

Once I stepped back from the microphone, and the applause began, something changed. I walked off the stage, sat down and realized I felt lighter. The doctor's words from a couple of hours earlier had lost some of their sting.

"I'll fight this thing and beat it," I thought.

I guess sometimes you have to give yourself a little pep talk.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: www.mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 15-17

Joe Lynn Whitworth, 83

Joe Lynn Whitworth, 83, a long-time resident of Holly Pond, Alabama, passed away on November 14, 2025. Mr. Whitworth was born in Blount County, Alabama, on March 22, 1942, to the late Jesse and Imogene Whitworth. Mr. Whitworth is preceded in death by his parents and several siblings. Those left to cherish Joe's memory include his beloved wife of sixty-three years, Carol Whitworth; daughters, Donna Shikles (Rodney), Denise Sivley (Tim), Danett Taylor (Russell); brother, Johnny Whitworth (Sherry); eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends. Friends are invited to join the Whitworth family on Monday, November 17, 2025, for a time of visitation, beginning at 11 a.m. and concluding at 1 p.m. Funeral services will follow visitation, beginning at 1 p.m., where Russell Taylor will officiate. Both visitation and funeral services will be held in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow services in Liberty Hill Cemetery where Justin Shikles, Cody Sivley, Dylan Whisenant, Chris Mahan, Bailey Watts, and Matt Lee will serve as pallbearers with Tim Sivley and Rodney Shikles serving as honorary pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Whitworth family.

Steven John Tabor, 71

Steven John Tabor, born on August 16, 1954, in Texas, passed away on November 14, 2025, at the age of 71. A resident of Cullman, Alabama, Steven was known for his beloved, generous, and kind-hearted nature. He was deeply loved by many friends and enjoyed a life filled with ballroom dancing, dress designing, and baking for others. These hobbies reflected his passion for creativity and his joy in sharing with others. Steven is survived by his mother, Rosa Lee Tabor, his brother, Jay (Cynthia) Tabor, his nephew, Wes Tabor, and his niece, Candace Tabor. He also leaves behind his great nephews, Calvin and Elliot Tabor. Steven was preceded in death by his father, John Wesley Tabor. His presence will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Morris Keith Rakestraw, 85

Funeral Service for Morris Keith Rakestraw, age 85 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at Fairview First Baptist Church with Dr. David Chambers and Pastor Etsel Riddle officiating; burial at First Baptist Church of Fairview. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at Fairview First Baptist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Rakestraw passed away on Friday, November 14, 2025, at his residence. He was born, February 20, 1940, to Raymond and Gertrude Rakestraw. Morris was a devoted Christian, husband, and father. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, gardening, and telling funny stories from his life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents and also his sister, Cheryl Rakestraw. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Donna Rakestraw; sons, Derek (Tracie) Rakestraw and Daren (Vanessa) Rakestraw; daughter, Marisa (Chris Durst) Mitchell; grandchildren, Whitney (Ben) Halbrooks, Landon (Naomi) Rakestraw, Nicki (Zach) Tauton, Lucas Rakestraw, Alden Rakestraw, Alex Rakestraw, Weston Rakestraw, Lila Mitchell and Bennett Mitchell; great grandchildren, Remi, Rylee, Ruthie and Jett Halbrooks and Matthew Tauton; sister, Dianne (Kinnie) Bailey; brother, Edward (Patricia) Rakestraw; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Special thanks to his neighbors, friends, and church family.

Marcella Davis, 84

Marcella was born November 4, 1941, and went to be with The Lord on November 16, 2025, at the age of 84. Born in Jasper, Alabama to Marvin and Delatha Grace. She is survived by her husband Rev. Trueman Davis married June 27, 1959 – for 66 years. Also survived by daughter, Darlene Rickard and husband Darrin; daughter, Debra Dulz and husband Rodney Dulz; son, Geffrey Davis; grandchildren, Cody Rickard, Greg Dulz, Marissa Dulz, Sara Davis Jones, Noah Davis; great grandchildren, Olivia Dulz, Isaac Dulz, Oliver Jones, Graham Jones. Preceded in death by her parents, Marvin & Delatha Grace; brother, Leon Jackson Grace; grandparents, Titus & Nancy Grace, Ezra & Estelle Allred. Brother Wayne Wisener and Brother Larry Brown officiating. Music by Pam Couch, Amanda Corley and Sandy Sides. Visitation will be Tuesday from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Services will be Wednesday November 19th at Hopewell Baptist Church, Hanceville, Alabama. She will lay-in-state from 12 p.m. and celebration service at 1 p.m. Hanceville Funeral Home Directing, Hanceville, Alabama. Burial in Hopewell Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Cody Rickard, Greg Dulz, Darrin Rickard, Rodney Dulz, Jerrel Davis, and Joel Davis.

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

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

Flourish of Cullman hosts Friendsgiving

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are 2025 Ms. Super Senior Cullman County Mazzie Twilley, Flourish of Cullman Founder & CEO Melissa Dew, 2025 Ms. Senior Cullman County Sheri Rasco and Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant Director Gidget Gregory at Flourish of Cullman's Friendsgiving event on Nov. 13, 2025.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit Flourish of Cullman's Board of Directors and team members hosted a Friendsgiving dinner at Traditions Bank recently. The event focused on showing appreciation and serving parents of individuals with disabilities.

Flourish of Cullman Founder & CEO Melissa Dew, explained, "We help individuals with differing abilities to live, work and play as independently as possible in the Cullman area. We help them get jobs, we do social events, and help them to understand their place in our community."

The nonprofit was created to ensure these individuals have the assistance needed to live their best lives after they are no longer eligible to attend public schools. Flourish social events typically center around these individuals to allow them to experience independence in adult decision-making processes and a multitude of other scenarios. Friendsgiving, Dew stated, was to allow the parents to come and meet the people that their children are around and to get to know them, as well as to be served.

"The Board of Directors provide the food for the night," she said. "It's also a way for them to meet the consumers that we work with a little bit better about what it is we do."

When asked if individuals are able to volunteer, Dew said, "Oh yes ma'am. When we do socials we are always looking for volunteers and with other general things around our office also."

If you would like to volunteer with Flourish of Cullman, call 256-735-4186 or email melissadew@flourishofcullman.com.

Learn more about Flourish of Cullman at www.flourishofcullman.com.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Harmony 5th graders collect more than 1K pairs of socks for Curt's Closet

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com



CASSIE SWANN

Students drop off collected socks at Curt's Closet.

LOGAN, Ala. — Harmony School's fifth-grade Pirates and Pixies clubs successfully completed their first major service project. Students worked hard and collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks, exceeding their original goal of 500 for "Socktober," a schoolwide fundraiser to collect socks for families in need and give students experience in community outreach.

Organizer and parent volunteer Cassie Swann said the students were thrilled to learn they had exceeded their target, proudly reminding her that they knew they could accomplish it. She credited the school and community's incredible support for the project, as well as for helping the students surpass their goal.

Swann said the impact of the clubs has already been felt across the school. Parents have reached out to thank her for launching a program that not only encourages community service, but also provides students with an opportunity to take on leadership roles. One parent told her they could already see a difference in their child's confidence and sense of responsibility.

The lesson deepened when the students delivered their donations to local nonprofit Curt's Closet. After hearing founder Ashley Wilson share her story, Swann said, many of the students realized for the first time the deeper meaning behind their work.

"Up until that point, they thought they were just collecting socks," she said. "Once we delivered them, I knew they realized it was for something much greater, and that will stick with them."

The Pirates and Pixies clubs were created to build leadership, character and community-mindedness among fifth-graders.

Their next project, Christmas Love, will allow students to shop for gifts for a child in need from Curt's Closet and an elderly resident in a local nursing home. Swann said the list of requested items moved her to tears due to its simplicity, and she hopes students recognize the impact these small acts of kindness can have.

Community support for the clubs has remained strong, with donations pouring in from parents, former teachers and even individuals with no direct ties to Harmony School, including one contribution of more than 200 pairs of socks. Swann said she is grateful for the encouragement and hopeful that the clubs will help shape students into future leaders committed to serving others. The groups meet monthly and invite guest speakers to teach life skills and discuss leadership topics, which the students absolutely love.

As a next step, the fifth-graders plan to record a video this week describing their Socktober project and challenge Captivate Learning Center to complete a community project of its own. Swann hopes that one school inspiring another will create a chain reaction of service.

"I hope that something that started as small as socks can turn into something so much bigger and help so many others," she said.

Church at the Well holds annual chili cook-off

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Pastor Mike Rester, his wife Chare Rester, and others motivate participants of the pumpkin pie eating contest at Church at the Well's annual chili cook-off on Nov. 16, 2025.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Church at The Well hosted its annual chili cook-off, a tradition going on 10 years, on Nov. 16. This year's event was organized by Family Life Pastors Jeffrey and Ashley Starnes, as well as Pastor Mike Rester and his wife Chare Rester.

The night began with roughly half an hour of chili tasting. There were a multitude of options made by members of the church, but only three winners would be selected. The categories for the chili cook-off were different, classic and unique.

Winner of the different category, with a white chicken chili, was Ashley Starnes.

The classic category, which had the most entries, was won by Kimberly Wilson.

The third, and hardest category, was the unique category. This had only three entries and Pastor Mike Rester cooked up the best of them.

After chili was served, the evening consisted of festive games. The first, and most competitive, was the pie eating contest.

There were three teams of four people and each person had to eat an enormous slice of pie.

The first team to finish won. The night wrapped up with a game of bingo, followed by a cake walk. The winners of the last two games got to select from homemade cakes and goodies.

Church at the Well has services on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 708 Ninth St. SW in Cullman.

Its Christmas celebration will take place Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Keep an eye on the church's Facebook page for more at www.facebook.com/churchatthewellcullman.

