

The Cullman Tribune

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SENATOR
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PD. POL. ADV. GUDGER FOR SENATE
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CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA EXTENSION

– ROOTED IN SERVICE –

Dr. Kira Sims and the mission of Cullman County Extension

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The gift of warmth: Mary Carter Store encourages community donations on Small Business Saturday Nov. 29

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Mary Carter Store is inviting the community to take part in its Winter Warmth Drive during Small Business Saturday on Nov. 29, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The effort is part of the store's partnership with the United Way of Cullman County, with all donations benefiting local families in need of cold-weather essentials.

Customers who bring in two like-new winter items, such as coats, jackets, sweaters, scarves, gloves, hats or blankets, will receive $5 off their purchase as a thank-you for participating.

All donated items will stay within Cullman County to support residents facing the challenges of colder temperatures.

Store Manager Jeff Young shared the inspiration behind the Winter Warmth Drive and why the effort holds meaning for his team.

"We know how quickly needs arise when the weather turns cold, and we wanted to do something that truly matters," shared Young.

"For us, this drive isn't just a project, it's a way to honor the com- » PAGE 8

Shop with a Cop coming Dec. 13



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

With carts loaded with clothing and toys, Cullman Police Sgt. Chris Thomason and Officer Daniel Bingham help their young friends shop for new shoes at Walmart at the 2019 Shop with a Copy event.

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department will host its 12th annual Shop with a Cop event on Saturday, Dec. 13.

CPD Community Relations Officer Adam Clark said the group will meet at Chick-fil-A that morning before heading over to Walmart to shop.

"We spend approximately $500-$700 (per child) based on how much money we raise and the amount of children we have," Clark said.

"After we're done shopping, we take them back to Chick-fil-A and have lunch with the kids."

Clark shared that Brooks' Place selects the majority of the kids in the program, and others come from officers' recommendations.

"We are full already this year, which is exciting," he said. "Right now I have about 12 children on the list, and if I raise additional funds, we will sponsor more. Parents are not allowed to attend, except for special circumstances."

The Cullman Police Department raises anywhere from $9,000-$12,000 for each Shop with a Cop event.

"This year, so far, I've raised about $8,500, with hopefully more coming in," Clark said. "We are so grateful to do this event in the community each year. We think we are pouring into these kids — but their excitement pours into us as law enforcement officers that much more. Shop with a Cop is one of our favorite traditions, and allows us to have a positive experience with these children."

For more information, or to donate, contact or visit the Cullman Police Department at 256-734-1434, 601 Second Ave. NE, Cullman.

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Falkville's 3rd annual Christmas Parade set for Dec. 8



TOWN OF FALKVILLE

Stetson Summerford and Lucy Sparkman are seen in Falkville's inaugural Christmas parade on Dec. 12, 2023. This year's parade will take place Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. » PAGE 4

31st annual Alabama Beekeepers Symposium Feb. 7 in Hanceville

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Falkville's 27th annual Christmas in the Park happening Dec. 7

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Eagle Awareness Weekends celebrate 40th anniversary in January



BILLY POPE

Attendees at the Eagle Awareness Weekends will be on the lookout for bald eagle nests. » PAGE 2



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 29, 2025

Eagle Awareness Weekends celebrate 40th anniversary in January

David Rainer
ADCNR

Soaring bald eagles will be spotted during the Eagle Awareness Weekends at Lake

An overflow crowd is expected to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Eagle Awareness Weekends at Lake Guntersville State Park in January, and no one will be more excited about this achievement than Linda Reynolds and Renee Raney.

Reynolds was the first naturalist at Lake Guntersville State Park and a trailblazer who, with the help of volunteers, organized the first Eagle Awareness Weekend in 1985. That inaugural event was a life-changing experience for Raney, who attended as a college student from Jacksonville State University.

The Eagle Awareness Weekends are set for Jan. 23-25, 2026, and Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026, at Lake Guntersville. Visit www.alapark.com/EagleAwarenessWeekends and click on the link to reserve a spot for a package holder, which includes lodging, several meals, all of the presentations and all of the guided tours during the event. Space is limited. Check back online in December for the availability of day passes.

Raney, Alabama State Parks' chief naturalist, said she came to an Eagle Awareness Weekend when she was 18; it was one of the first conservation education programs she engaged with as a university student.

"It was part of the reason I chose a career in environmental education and conservation," Raney said. "I have literally been involved in Eagle Awareness for 40 years, either as an ornithology tour guide, a presenter or, now, as a coordinator. It's really exciting for me to see this 40th year of existence. Alabama has had a great success story with this endangered species. Not only did Alabama State Parks care, but basically the entire country cared to send representatives and guests to Lake Guntersville State Park to support this program."

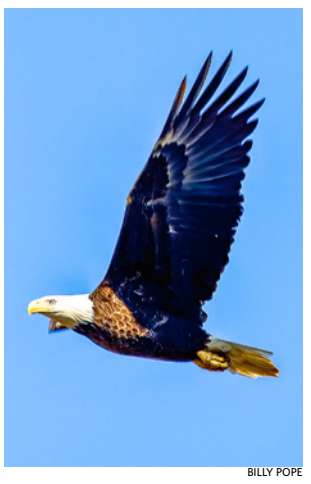
Alabama State Parks Director Matthew Capps provided praise for the State Parks staff, the naturalist team and volunteers who have made it possible for Eagle Awareness Weekends to continue to thrive into their 40th year.

"It's a great achievement that our Eagle Awareness Weekends will reach a milestone like this and celebrate our national bird, the bald eagle," Capps said. "Alabama State Parks thanks all those who contributed to making these weekends such a success."

The history of eagles in Alabama, especially bald eagles, is truly a remarkable recovery story. Conflicts with humans in the late 1800s and early 1900s left the eagle population decimated. The Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 provided civil penalties for those who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part (including feathers), nest, or egg thereof."

Another setback for the eagles occurred with the introduction of DDT insecticide, which caused damage to eagle nesting success. DDT was finally banned in 1972, but by that time, the eagle population had plummeted to about 1,000 birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed bald eagles as endangered in 1967.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division created its Nongame Wildlife Program in 1982, and it became a part of a multi-state effort in the Bald Eagle Restoration Program in 1984. Mercedes Maddox, WFF Nongame Biologist, who is one of the presenters during the Eagle Awareness Weekends, said Alabama used a technique called hacking to help the population rebound. Hacking is where the biologists force an immature bird to take its first flight in a desired area. Eaglets from Florida and Alaska were released at specific locations with depleted populations. The goal was for the eagles to imprint on those areas and return when they became sexually mature.



BILLY POPE

Soaring bald eagles will be spotted during the Eagle Awareness Weekends at Lake

The first eagle to take flight from one of the hacking towers occurred in 1985 at Lake Guntersville. The first documented nest success occurred in 1991, and the efforts have been so successful that Alabama has eagles in all 67 counties in the state.

Raney said enthusiasm for Eagle Awareness Weekends has never waned, attracting people from all over the world.

"This year is just as exciting as ever with the energy of Eagle Awareness Weekends stronger than ever," she said. "Under the guidance of our first Park Naturalist, Linda Reynolds, the series originally spanned the entire month of January. Since then, the park has transformed the program into two concentrated weekends, packed with engaging programs, thrilling eagle sightings and unforgettable experiences. This focused format lets us deliver all the magic of the event in a more immersive, high-energy way, proving that even after four decades, the wonder of our eagles continues to captivate and inspire, now carried forward by our incredible interpretive team: Park Naturalist Anna Crow, District Naturalist Eric Cline and myself."

Before Eagle Awareness Weekends started, Reynolds was a housewife rearing four kids, but she and her late husband, Richard, always found time to enjoy and explore the outdoors, especially around Lake Guntersville. Becoming the naturalist at the State Park was the result of an encounter with a snake.

"My husband and I volunteered a lot in the park," Reynolds said.

"They had hired a girl, and I took her on a hike because I knew the park. We were on a narrow trail with a little drop-off down to a creek, and the other side of the trail had a little cliff. Well, there was a snake on the trail, and she climbed the cliff. It took me 20 minutes to talk her back down."

The new hire decided to take another direction in her career, and Reynolds was offered the job in 1985.

Reynolds and her husband had been taking people to see migratory eagles at an overlook accessible by a paved road. The eagles were roosting on a shoreline opposite the road, and those sighting trips became increasingly popular. Those sightings occurred in the winter when Lake Guntersville State Park had its lowest occupancy of the year and needed something to spur visits.

"I advertised in Atlanta and all the big cities around," she said. "We had a one-day event with a field trip, and 500 people showed up."

On that first field trip, 89 eagles were documented.

"That's a lot of eagles," Reynolds said.

The Eagle Awareness Weekends started with spartan conditions with no dedicated funding. The event depended on volunteers. Presenters with live birds of prey came from Auburn University, the Wildlife Center in Atlanta and Montgomery Zoo.

"It was a success from the very beginning," Reynolds said. "And we filled the lodge every weekend. People love eagles."

The upcoming Eagle Awareness Weekends will include live bird demonstrations by Raptor Ridge Wildlife Education, Wings to SOAR, Alabama Wildlife Center and Auburn University Raptor Center. Numerous field trips are included in the package. On Saturday, January 31, State Parks will present the Eagle Awards to a group of people who have served Alabama State Parks in exemplary fashion.

"Eagle Awareness Weekends are extremely special because it's not just a gathering of scientific minds; it's a gathering of friends and family and a tribe of like-minded people, some who have been to every Eagle Awareness Weekend for the past 40 years and some newcomers," Raney said. "Whether you're an established attendee or a new visitor, you're going to step into an atmosphere of comfort and coziness. You're going to see some of the most extraordinary nature images imaginable with wild eagles, wild birds of prey, migrating waterfowl and the presenters who bring their passions and talents to the program. You will meet live bald eagles up close, and you will see live bald eagles, even nesting bald eagles, during these weekends.

"As a university student, I was very fortunate to be invited to participate in the first Eagle Awareness Weekend, where one of my mentors, Linda Reynolds, stood on that stage and talked about how important the species is to Alabama and to the planet Earth. It has been an honor to work beside her and numerous others to see this program be successful for four decades."

Raney said the pre-dawn Early Bird Coffee feature of the weekends is truly special as well.

"Before sunrise, standing on the edge of a chilly mountain lake, you can behold 75 participants looking up at the gray sky, watching for these eagles to come off of their roosts and make a magnificent flight past us, heading out into the park to forage," she said.

"Last year, we saw between 20 and 30 eagles at each of our morning watches. It makes getting up early worth it, and cold fingers are forgotten.

"Eagle Awareness Weekends are truly special because they offer more than just an event; they're an experience. From the thrill of live bird demonstrations to captivating programs led by expert speakers, every moment is an invitation to marvel. Guided eagle safaris transform the sky into a theater of awe-inspiring sightings, while the landscapes of Lake Guntersville come alive with the call of wild creatures and the silent grace of birds of prey. It's a chance to reconnect with nature, create unforgettable memories, make forever friends and witness the power and spirit of America's most iconic bird."

For more information about Lake Guntersville State Park or any of the 20 other Alabama State Parks, visit www.alapark.com.

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Park (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The Town of Falkville and Community Pride will host their 27th annual Christmas in the Park event on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m.

Town of Falkville Marketing Coordinator Brooke Jones said they invite everyone to gather for one of the most cherished events of the year.

"This magical evening is hosted by Community Pride, a dedicated group of local women who pour their hearts into celebrating and supporting the Falkville community," Jones said.

"The ladies of Community Pride will once again be serving up delicious, sweet snacks and hot chocolate for all to enjoy."

Jones shared that each year, the Town selects two deserving organizations or residents to receive the "Make a Difference Award," recognizing those who have positively impacted Falkville through their dedication and service.

"Activities will start ahead of the main event, with Santa arriving at 3 p.m. for photos," Jones said.

"Children will also have the chance to write letters to Santa, create their own Christmas ornaments and enjoy a special reading about the history of the Christmas tree."

The park will feature a lit and inviting Christmas tree and the sparkling Tinsel Trail as the sun sets at Jack McCaig Park, Jones shared.

"Entertainment for the evening includes Christmas carols performed by David Halbrooks and festive music from the Falkville High School Band," Jones said.

"This celebration truly makes Falkville feel like a scene from a Hallmark movie. Seeing families together, children playing, neighbors talking and everyone taking a break from the busyness of life to support the community is what makes this event so special.

"Come out, make memories and help us celebrate the magic of the season in Falkville."

Jack McCaig Park is located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and West Second Street in Falkville.

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Obituary Announcements: Nov. 27-28

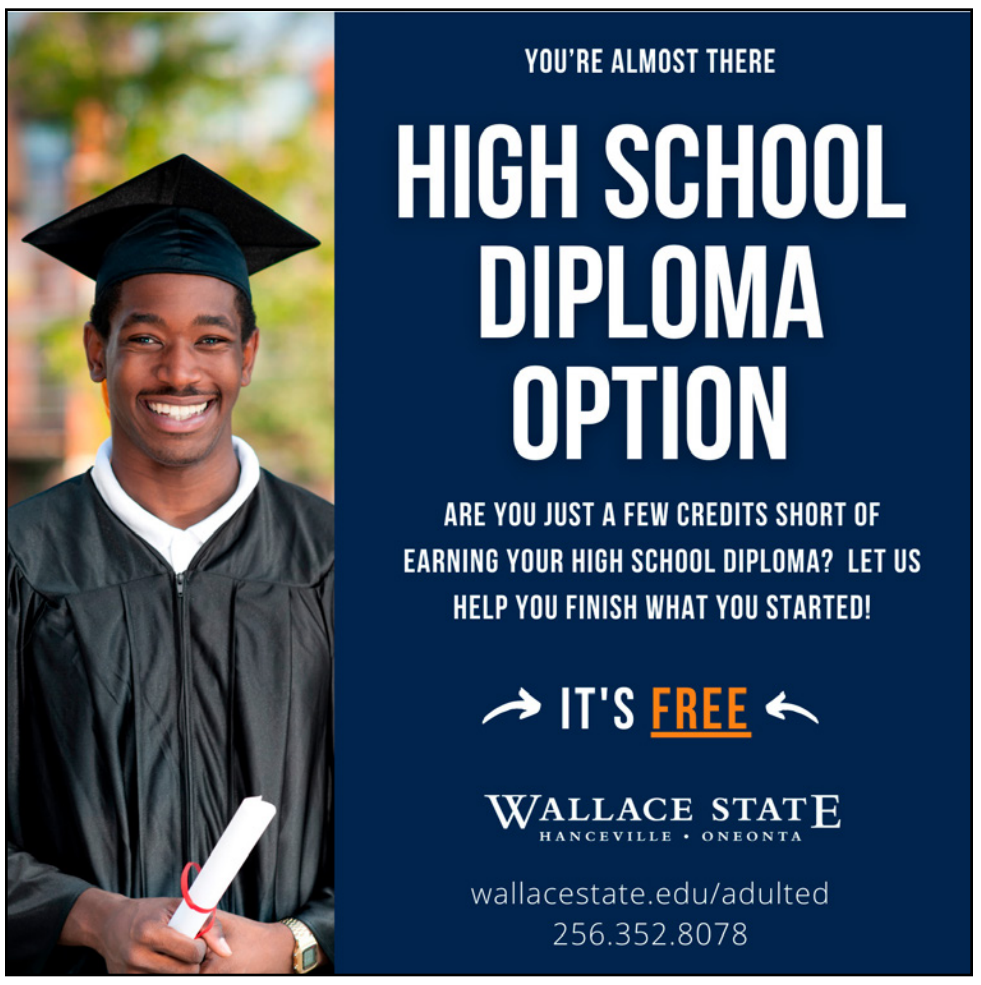
Vince Edward Lord, 54
A visitation for Vince Edward Lord, 54, of Hanceville will be Sunday, Nov. 30, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Lord was born Jan. 9, 1971, in Florida. He passed away Nov. 28, 2025, at his residence in Hanceville, Alabama. A proud Auburn fan, he rarely missed a game and loved watching them play. He could also be found with a fishing pole in hand, enjoying the peace and quiet of the water. Mr. Lord is survived by his children, Dakota Lord (Megan), Tyler Lord (Madisyn), Katey Parker (Alex); grandchildren, Oaklan Lord, Jett Lord, Branch Lord, Annie Lord, Jordan Parker, Kynlie Parker; siblings, Daniel Lord, and Lorie Mims. Mr. Lord was preceded in death by his siblings, Rodney Lord, and Tammy Blackwell. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lord family.

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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.

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.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Sunday, Nov. 30 – 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 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 at 11.

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.

Cullman County Public Library – Main Branch
• The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman.
• Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. Tanya Shearer will read a story she had published in the Christmas edition of "Chicken Soup for the Soul." After the story, patrons will be invited to make ornaments.
• Monday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. Cookies with Santa
• Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Claus will lead storytime

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, 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
• 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
Through 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

7th Annual Christmas at the Grotto
Nov. 29-30, 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. 29-30, 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!

Town of West Point Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 5. Event starts at 5:30 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:30 at West Point Town Hall. The West Point High School Jazz Band will perform, as will Santa and Mrs. Claus. Letters to Santa. Free cookies, candy and hot chocolate.

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 7-10 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center. Plates are donation only. All proceeds assist Santa with Christmas. Pancakes, bacon/sausage. Dine-in plates include a drink.

Cullman VFW and Auxiliary Post 2214 Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Cullman VFW. Join Santa for breakfast. Get a picture with Santa. Kids get a present from Santa. Craft. Free and open to public. RSVP with age/gender of each child attending by Dec. 2 at Gina.Adams78@gmail.com.

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.

Baileyton Senior Center Community Christmas
Saturday, Dec. 6, from 5:30-8 p.m. Everyone welcome! Hot dogs, chips, popcorn, sno-cones and drinks. Free picture with Santa! Each child will receive a candy bag and a gift.

Baldwin Heights Baptist Church Warm Clothing Giveaway
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. The church is located at 2489 U.S. Highway 278 West in the Baldwin community, which is about 2 miles from Cullman.

Town of South Vinemont Christmas in the Park
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4-6 p.m. at Vinemont Walking Trail/Art Park. Santa Claus, cookies and hot chocolate.

Curt's Closet Christmas Open House
Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4-6 p.m. at Curt's Closet. Enjoy a cozy cup of cocoa, fresh cookies and a picture with Santa while soaking in the holiday spirit. This is also a special opportunity to step behind the scenes at Curt's Closet...We can't wait to celebrate with our friends, neighbors and community members while sharing the heart of Curt's Closet this Christmas season.

NARFE December Meeting
The December meeting of the Cullman Chapter of NARFE, for all active and retired federal employees and spouses, is Monday, Dec. 8, at Freddie Day Catering. The program will be a game of dirty Santa. Suggested gift price $15. Dutch lunch at 11 a.m. prior to program at noon.

Christmas on the Corner Family Meal
Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6-7:30 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church. Free, family-style Christmas meal and celebration hosted at St. John's in partnership with The Link of Cullman County. The St. John's team is preparing a lush Christmas meal of roasted pork loin, roasted potatoes, green beans and rolls with PLENTY of desserts and treats! Please join us for Christmas caroling, treats, a Christmas reading and a visit from Old Saint Nick himself! Toys will be provided for all children age 12 and younger. Seating is limited and you MUST RSVP. Stop by The Link or call 256-775-0028 to reserve your spot. We can't wait to ring in the Christmas season with you!

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."

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Christmas Singing
Sunday, Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. with The Kellys from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. 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.

Vinemont Community Lunch for Seniors
Monday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. 55 and older. Come join us! We will be having a pie/cake contest; bring your best holiday pie/cake for a chance to win a $25 Walmart gift card. Hope to see you all there, and Happy Holidays.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Senior Christmas Party
Tuesday, Dec. 16. Doors open at 9 a.m. Event starts at 10 at the Cullman OmniPlex. We're inviting all Cullman County seniors (ages 55+) to come celebrate the season with music, door prizes, food, laughter and holiday cheer. This year's celebration will be brighter, jollier and more joyful than ever – you won't want to miss it! | Reserve your spot by Dec. 4, by calling 256-734-1241.





AARP Alabama

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AARP salutes those who have served and still serve. We support our veterans and their families with information on career support, caregiving resources, community connections and more.

To learn more, visit aarp.org/veterans.

/Alabama.AARP @alaarp

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 29, 2025

– ROOTED IN SERVICE –

Dr. Kira Sims and the mission of Cullman County Extension

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

From tending a small home garden to earning a Ph.D. and leading agricultural education efforts across Cullman County, Dr. Kira Sims' journey in horticulture has come full circle. Today, as director of the Cullman County Extension Office, she channels that lifelong passion into helping others grow, both in their fields and in their communities.

While her "formal" education began in her high school Future Farmers of America (FFA) program, her passion was rooted in family. She gained hands-on experience working in her uncle's plant nursery and learned the basics of gardening alongside her grandmother, planting her first garden while still in high school.

It was here, even before she knew it, that her future in Extension work was quietly taking root in her life.

"My grandfather was a researcher for Auburn in horticulture and he worked up here at the Cullman experiment station a lot," Sims recalled.

"My grandfather passed when I was little, but when I applied for my current job, my grandmother was thrilled I'd be working in the same county and with some of the same people he did."

She added, "I still meet people who knew him. It is neat to have that connection."

That mix of family influence, early hands-on work and classroom exposure propelled her toward Auburn University, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture.

"My father worked at Auburn and my uncle knew a lot of the professors in horticulture because of his business and his time as a student in the Agronomy department," she shared.

"That decision was the only one that made sense. Continuing to graduate school for a master's degree was mostly because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I knew what I didn't want to do: mowing grass for the rest of my life. I had an internship with Alabama Extension after graduating, and that started to steer my course into Extension."

But Sims wasn't done yet. With plans to one day return to Auburn as a professor and a Ph.D. student position opening up, she decided to take the next step in her academic journey — only to realize the classroom wasn't where she was meant to stay.

"As a graduate student, I taught a few classes and realized that's also not what I wanted to do the rest of my career," she said.

"I love teaching, but I wanted something that gave me the freedom to teach what and when I wanted. Extension fits that desire."

She went on to complete her Ph.D. at North Carolina State University, studying under Extension specialist Dr. Katie Jennings, who became one of her most influential mentors.

"Dr. Jennings is the reason I came back into Extension," Sims shared.

"She worked to serve the growers in North Carolina. She sought funding, networked, presented — all to better vegetable growers — and she loved it."

It was during her time in North Carolina that Sims' experience as an Extension agent truly took hold. The daily work of answering questions, serving her community, and learning how the system functioned from the ground up gave her a deep appreciation for the role — one she continues to carry into her work in Cullman today.

Today, as Cullman County Extension director, Sims leads a program that is as diverse as the people it serves. No two days look the same.

"Some days I'm in my office writing articles or creating flyers, taking phone calls or helping walk-in clients. Other days I'm teaching a class, helping with a community event or going to 4-H Summer Camp," she explained. "This job gives me the opportunity to teach, to network and to serve. When I think back on other jobs or roles I've enjoyed, those three things were always present."

That variety and the type of role she plays also bring great responsibility. A part of Alabama Extension's mission is all about "taking the university to the people," something Sims fully believes in. "It's not just about growing gardens; it's about ensuring families and farmers alike have access to trustworthy, research-backed knowledge. There is a lot of misinformation out there, primarily on the internet," she said. "Extension is that connection between solid information and the people who need it. I am certain we have saved lives when we tell people how to properly preserve their produce, and most certainly have saved people money when we advise them on their soil reports, plant problems and financial matters in the home. The researchers do a great job, something I have been a part of before, but what they do doesn't matter if we aren't here to help apply that knowledge."

But according to Sims, the Extension's strength lies in hands-on learning. Whether teaching Master Gardeners or working with 4-H students, she makes sure people don't just hear about the work, they experience it for themselves.

"Most people are visual learners. If they can see it, hear it, do it, they get it," she said.

"I can tell someone how to prune all day long, but until they get out there and cut on that rose bush themselves, they don't fully understand. Youth are the same way — they need to grow the sweet potatoes and watermelons to realize the reward of harvesting the fruits of their labor."

Through those kinds of lessons, Sims has seen students grow in confidence and skill year after year, especially through programs like the 4-H Outdoor Adventure Club. After two years together, Sims was amazed at how much the students had grown.



CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA EXTENSION

Dr. Kira Sims (center) and members of her Cullman County Alabama Extension team

"They could start a fire on their own, unload and load our kayak trailer with little instruction, could take the lead on hikes and worked as a team to set up the tents," Sims shared.

"I was so proud of them and how much their skills had advanced. It makes me excited to start the club over next year, bring on new members and watch them grow, then let the old members help teach."

While horticulture and agriculture remain core pillars of the Extension, Sims emphasized that the mission stretches much further. "Extension has something for everyone," she said.

"We're known for our farm and garden information and our work with 4-H, but we also have resources in health and nutrition, personal finance, food preservation, family and child development, business and community development.

"Our information is true, backed by science and it's free. We are the experts, and we are here to serve Alabama."

But beyond the technical expertise, Sims hopes her students and the Cullman community see something deeper.

"I hope the people I work with see kindness and a servant's heart," she said.

"But I also hope they see reality and practicality. Everything doesn't need to be sugar coated; in life, we have to make hard decisions and we have to do hard things. When they have to act in those hard moments, I hope they choose to do so out of humility and think of others first."

Now several years into her leadership role, Sims sees a bright future for Cullman County Extension.

"As I settled into my role, which one can only say after being in Extension for at least three years, I look forward to strengthening the partnerships we currently have and seeking new ones that have been on my radar," she said.

"I have a fantastic staff, and I want to offer them opportunities to develop and grow — both within themselves and their programs."

For Sims, the path that began in a small garden with her grandmother has fully bloomed.

What started as a personal passion for plants has grown into a lifelong calling to serve others through education, outreach and community connection.

"Extension allows me to do all the things I love — teach, serve and build relationships," she said. "And every day, I get to see the impact it makes right here in Cullman County."

Parade (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The Town of Falkville will host its third annual Christmas Parade on Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

Parade Event Planner and volunteer Robert Summerford said it will begin at South Park and travel through the downtown area and on U.S. Highway 31.

"I call it the old part of Falkville and it will cross Highway 31 by Falkville Nursing Home, by the school, crossing 31 again, venturing by the Main Street businesses, the Methodist and Baptist churches and back to South Park," Summerford said.

"The best viewing points are along Highway 55 from Culver Road to 31 and also at the park."

Summerford said this year he's expecting a beautiful display of the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus Christ.

"I felt that the theme, 'Reason for the Season' was laid heavily on my heart this year to show, display and remind our town and the people around us of the true reason we celebrate this special holiday," he said.

"I love our town and I love being a part in spreading love and joy for everyone to see."

To register to be in the parade, it's $35 per float; cars, trucks, jeeps and golf carts are $10.

"Tractors, horses, bands, and law enforcement/public safety entities are free unless they do a float to compete in the float contest," Summerford said.

"Also, Falkville sports teams are free as well.

The float contest has a first-, second- and third-place winner. The winners will receive $150, $100 and $75, respectively.

There will be a "Judge's Choice," winner in the cars, golf carts, tractors and Jeeps division, which pays $50.

"We encourage everyone to decorate – the more lights and decorations the better," Summerford said.

"The parade was a dream of mine because our small town had never had one before. I wanted to be able to have an event like this, bringing people in our community and surrounding areas to enjoy a beautiful display of Christmas.

"Our town is like one big family; I love events that bring us all together. I have always loved parades because of all of the decor and talents you witness, and seeing all the people watching on the streets is so heartwarming.

"The smiles on the faces of those watching, especially the children, is the most important part to me.

"If we can brighten one person's life through this event it is a success in my mind."

The parade lineup begins at 6:30 p.m. and the parade starts at 7.

Register or grab more information at www.falkville.org/event-applications/page/christmas-parade-registration.





FAITH

The Bridge: Bridging the gap for young adult ministry

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com


TYLER WIX
The Bridge worship service

The Bridge is a ministry outreach program designed for young adults aged 18-35. It was established by a team from Northbrook Baptist Church, including Tyler Wix, Aubry Lovell, Savannah and Garrett Mahaffey, and Lilliana and Jon McClendon.

Savannah Mahaffey said the goal of this organization is "to bridge the gap for young adults in our community to stay connected to the local church."

Lovell shared her own personal experience. "When I came back to Alabama I felt really out of place. I felt a little too old for the college crowd, but wasn't a part of the young married group either," she said.

"We all want a space to find community and feel connected so that's why we created (The Bridge)."

The Bridge officially kicked off its ministry at Wallace State Community College on Aug. 31, 2025. Participants enjoyed a time of worship, dinner and fellowship with fellow believers.

The Bridge's vision as an organization is to foster a generation of people who are deeply connected to the church and can rely on support as they navigate the unknowns.

Said McClendon, "We feel The Bridge is crucial for people our age as this is a very transient time in life.

"We value that people stay rooted in community, their faith and the local church."

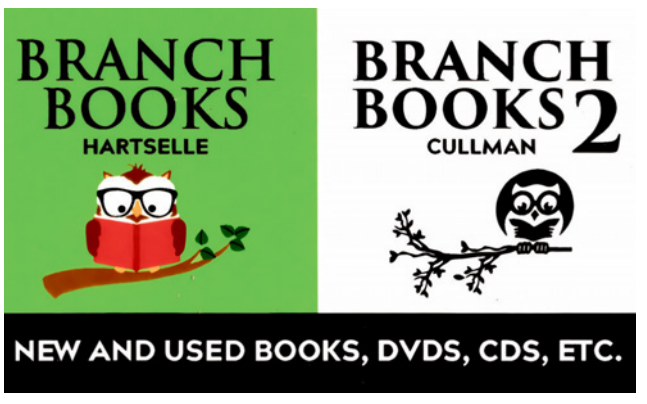
Regardless of your phase of life, The Bridge seeks to support the local community. Its vision statement is: "Through intentional community and age-specific discipleship, we will raise up leaders — college students, postgrads and young professionals — who mentor their peers, strengthen spiritual roots and walk with others through every season. "

The Bridge hosts events the first and third Sundays of every month from 6-8 p.m. at Cymbidium Studios, 214 Fourth St. SW, Cullman. Attendees can expect food and fellowship at each event. Connect with The Bridge by following @thebridgecullman on Instagram.



WE NOW HAVE APPLES!
Steele Orchard
Mon-Fri 9-5 | Sat 9-4
1695 County Rd 1141
Cullman, AL 35057
256-734-5249













31st annual Alabama Beekeepers Symposium Feb. 7 in Hanceville

Jack Rowe and Allyson Shabel

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The 31st Annual Alabama Beekeepers Symposium will take place Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at the Wallace State Community College School of Nursing and Center for Science in Hanceville. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and will be located at the building's center doors. The symposium begins at 8:30 and ends at 4:30 p.m.

The cost to attend is $45, and online registration is required by Feb. 1, after which registration fee increases to $55. Lunch and refreshments are included in the registration cost.

Prior to the symposium, the Cullman County Extension office will host a Welsh Honey Judging Workshop Friday, Feb. 6, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

There is an additional registration fee to participate in this workshop. This year, there will also be a Welsh Honey Show as part of the symposium.

More information on registering for the workshop and show will be forthcoming.

Keynote speakers for the event include Cameron Jack — an assistant professor of honeybee toxicology with the University of Florida — and Jon Zawislak, an assistant professor of apiculture at the University of Arkansas.

The symposium will include a day-long beginner beekeeping workshop and three other educational tracks to choose from.

Main Track
- Management Practices for Survival
- Oxalic Acid Applications and Timing
- Seasonal Efficacy of Varroa Treatments

Management Skills Track
- Troubleshooting a Failing Hive
- Queen Health and Rearing
- Crop Pesticides vs. Honeybees
- New and Innovative Products in Beekeeping

DIY Track
- Beekeeping as a Business
- Value-Added Products in Beekeeping
- Food Handling and Honey Labeling

Journeyman Track
- Bee Wrangling for Mathew McConaughey
- Integrated Pest Management for Newbees
- Products from the Hive

Beginner Beekeeping Track
- Honeybee Biology
- Setting Up an Apiary
- Colony Inspections
- Feeding Bees
- Managing Pests and Diseases
- Managing Varroa

A variety of vendors will be on-site for people to purchase supplies, equipment and other apiculture-related goods. Many of the equipment vendors will take preorders, which can be picked up at the event to save shipping costs.

- West Alabama Bee Company — www.westalabamabeecompany.com
- Foxhound Bee Company — www.foxhoundbeecompany.com
- Millie Bee Farm (Bottle Supplier) — milliebeefarm@gmail.com
- Rossman Apiaries — www.gabees.com
- Pigeon Mountain Trading Company — www.pigeonmountaintrading.com

For more information on the 31st Annual Alabama Beekeepers Symposium, contact Jack Rowe at wjr0001@auburn.edu or 251-589-5572.

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LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
RICKY WAYNE LEE, * CASE NO. PC2025-397
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL (SELF-PROVED WILL)

TO: GREGORY J. LEE, F. ELIZABETH LEE, MACKENZIE LEE, AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF RICKY WAYNE LEE, DECEASED.

Petition for Probate of Will (Self-Proved Will), filed the 24th day of October, 2025, made Court record the 27th day of October, 2025, by Steven C. Smith, Attorney for Petitioner Ricky Lee Durden, has been scheduled for the **8th day of January, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.**, before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 20th day of November, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorney for Petitioner:
Steven C. Smith
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
FRED M. HALE, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-300**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to CLARA M. LEVERICH as Personal Representative of the Estate of FRED M. HALE deceased, on the 12th day of November, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

CLARA M. LEVERICH
Personal Representative

Atty for Petitioner:
Amanda Schafner with Schafner Law
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Irondale, Alabama 35210

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

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 *
SUSAN CHRISTENSEN, * CASE NO.:PC2025-124
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Successor Letters of Administration having been granted to AMANDA SCHOPPE, as Successor Administrator of the Estate of SUSAN CHRISTENSEN deceased, on the 26th day of November, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Successor Administrator
Amanda Schoppe

Atty for Success Administrator
Shelbie G. Hankey
409 Second Ave SW
Cullman Al. 35055
256-736-8744

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

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of publication.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
William R. Tankersley,) Case No. PC 2025- 288
Deceased)

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Larry Bagwell as Personal Representative of the Estate of William R. Tankersley, deceased, on the 26th day of November, 20 25, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Personal Representative
Larry Bagwell

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.

Judge of Probate Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS

Project: 24109.00 – Holly Pond WWTP Upgrades
CWSRF Project No.: CS010848-03
Owner: Town of Holly Pond, Alabama
Engineer: InSite Engineering, LLC.
All qualified bidders are invited to submit a Bid under sealed envelope to the Town of Holly Pond, Alabama for the construction and replacement of a proposed surface aerators, sludge lift station and pumps, storage tank, storage tanks, piping, valves, and all other necessary appurtenances in Holly Pond, Alabama 35083. Owner will receive Bids at the Town of Holly Pond, Guy Hunt Library & Museum Conference Room, located at 60 Lions Park Road, Holly Pond, Alabama 35083 until 2:00 P.M. local standard time on the 18th of December, 2025 at which time and place the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids not received by the indicated time will not be opened.
Bid Documents can be obtained by the General Contractors and Bidders at www.insiteengineering.org. Others may view the Bid Documents at the office of the Engineer or online at www.insiteengineering.org.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BRUCE ROLAND SURRETT SR., * **CASE NO.: PC2025-092**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR SPOUSE TO RECEIVE REAL PROPERTY

TO: TONYA NEAL, BRUCE SURRETT, JASON SURRETT, BOBBY SURRETT, BRIAN SURRETT, HUNTER SURRETT, AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a hearing on the *Petition for Spouse to Receive Real Property,* filed by Elaine Surrett, Petitioner, by and through her attorney of record, Perry D. Knight, is set for a hearing on the **13th day of January, 2026, at 11:00 am**. Before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Done this the 20th day of November, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Perry D. Knight- Attorney for Petitioner

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2025- 432

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF VIRGINIA KATHERINE BUCHANAN, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Jason Brian Pair on the 26th day of November, 2025, 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.

Jason Brian Pair
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 12, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of the ordinance set forth in full below will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - ____
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:
SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Cullman Christian School, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:
PPIN: 11877. Parcel No. : 17-05-22-4-001-001.000. Property Address: 1803 Beech Avenue SE.

Legal Description: Lot #2 of the Re-subdivision of Golden Rod Broilers Property, as shown and known on the recorded plat filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama on March 8, 1990, in Plat Record B-98AA.
This conveyance is subject to the following:
1. Rights of way for Beech Avenue SE and Sheraton Road SE.
2. All matters as set out and shown by the plat of Lots 1 & 2 of the Resubdivision of Golden Road Broilers Property as recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 98A, including the right of way for L & N Railroad along the West line and all other rights of way.
3. That certain Memorandum of Lease between Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. and Cullman County ARC as recorded Miscellaneous Book 285, Page 573.
within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as M-1 Manufacturing District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from M-1 Manufacturing District to B-3 Business District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.
SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 12th day of January, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.
SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.
SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.
SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.
SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 12th day of January, 2026.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Are you grateful or hateful?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



There is an old story of a person who used to complain because he had no shoes, until he saw someone who had no feet. There is little doubt that we all can find things to complain about, if we so choose. The other side of that story is that we all could also find something for which to give thanks if we look around a little more or perhaps a little harder. There is always someone who is in worse condition than we find ourselves in. I believe this is often a matter of which we had rather be: thankful or hateful. Thanksgiving – genuine thanksgiving – is a matter of the heart. It is an attitude, or spirit, that is learned. Isn't being hateful or ungrateful much the same thing?

In Luke's gospel (18:9-14), he recorded a story – a parable – told by Jesus about two men who were quite opposite. One was a Pharisee and the other a Publican (tax collector). Both men had gone to the temple to pray. Both men indeed prayed, but their prayers were quite different from each other. One gave thanks to God, while the other only asked God for something. Which one of them would you think was pleasing to God? Jesus said, "One of them went back home justified rather than the other one."

At first, we might think the Pharisee was the one who prayed correctly, because he was the one who gave thanks. Actually, if we look a little closer, we might see that everything he gave thanks for was self-centered. He thanked God that he was not like other men. He even named them. They were extortioners, unjust, adulterers and a tax collector, who happened to be praying right beside him. He didn't give thanks for what he was, but for what he wasn't. He actually bragged on himself at the expense of others. Perhaps even congratulated God for doing such a good job on him. He went on to remind God – and inform his prayer partner – of some of the good things he did. That included fasting twice each week and giving tithes of all he possessed. The Publican, on the other hand, did not give thanks at all. He would not even look up toward Heaven. He only asked for something, but he did only ask for only one thing. He asked for God's mercy.

Which of those two men would you suppose was actually thankful? Is it possible that we could pray a prayer of thanksgiving, yet not really be thankful? Is it possible that we might not verbally give thanks, and even ask God for something, yet be thankful? Am I being fair to say that of those two men, one was hateful and one was thankful?

I do believe we should give thanks. I believe we should pray prayers of thanksgiving. I believe we should be sincere in our thanksgiving and certainly not use them as a tool of hatred toward others.

This little rhyme may sum it up best. "Too many a discontented mourner, is spending his life on grumble corner – sad and sour, whom I long to entreat, to find himself a house, on thanksgiving street." Some of us may need to move – to relocate to thanksgiving street. Most of us have far too much for which to give thanks to spend our days passing out complaints. May our prayer of petition be, "God help me to be more thankful and less hateful." My prayer for you is that you have a wonderful holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-728-5514 (office).

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Nov. 29, 1945

From the files of Nov. 29, 1945

Notes Of A Cullman High Senior . . .

The Rev. C. C. Helmly was guest speaker on Monday at assembly. He made a very interesting talk about Thanksgiving and why we should be thankful. We always like to have Rev. Helmly because he always has an interesting message.

All but sixteen seniors are sporting beautiful solid style rings. You should have seen how seniors watched through the windows on Monday because they knew that Mrs. King and our treasurer had gone to the post office for the rings. Yes, 'twas quite amusing because the teachers just couldn't hold them down. Now, about the sixteen who didn't get theirs—they were disappointed because the sixteen black onyx rings didn't come. But, it's rumored that they will be here by Monday of this coming week.

C. H. S. has over $35,000.00 now on the Bond Drive—$20,000 over our quota! Our Community Chest fund is soaring, too.

Thanksgiving Day at school was a very quiet day for those attending. Some of the student body spent their day at home or elsewhere while the majority attended the Cullman vs Jasper football game at Jasper. Black and Gold was again defeated by a score of 20–6. This was the last football game for the season. Now, the basketball will be on.

The S. T. A. R. held its annual formal in the gym on Friday night. Everybody seemed to have a very good time.

—Dignified.

To and Fro

By EAGLE EYE

After serving in the Army since 1937, Master Sergeant Clifford Fleming of Cullman has recently re-enlisted at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and volunteered for duty in Europe with the Army Air Force. During World War II this Cullman soldier served with the AAF in the Pacific theater. He wears the Air Medal, Bronze Star medal, Good Conduct, American Defense and Victory Medal.

Mysteries, current novels, books on travel and children's books have been donated during the last few days to the Cullman Library by Mrs. Geo. Ponder, Jr., Mrs. Elizabeth Schaefer, Mrs. Fred Lange and Violet Patjens. A field worker for the Alabama Library Service Division, Miss Shirley Brother, was here Wednesday to assist the local librarian, Mrs. Chas. Boschung, with her work.

Five men from Local Board I were accepted for military service at the pre-induction examination on November 19. They were Walter Lee Hall, James Oneal Rusk, Jack Jerome Cornett, Willie Hullion Ponder and Walter Lee Taylor.

One doesn't have to use his imagination to guess what the animal sitting in Emil Loegler's market is. It looks exactly like a graceful swan, including long neck and wing formations. However, it is really a Cullman County yam grown by Paul Gasser. Paul gave the queer potato to Dr. E. D. McAdory who, in turn, put it on display at the White Star.

Instead of acting like an octogenarian, W. A. Nuss had as much fun as a teen-ager on last Sunday when he celebrated the 80th anniversary of his birth with a big family dinner party. The John Nuss family, the Charles Kleins, the Tom and Arthur Martys, the Ed and Henry Heitmuellers, the Julius Keims, the Scott Sizemores, the Will Henkes, the G. H. Koehlers, the Bruno Bahrs, Henry Thornton and Fred Hoffmeyer joined "Uncle Bill" for the celebration.

One of the new books to make its appearance at the Cullman Library is "She Came To The Valley". This novel, written by Miss Cleo Dawson, one of the 1945 Institute of International Understanding speakers, was presented to the book bank by Dr. J. G. Daves, president of the local Rotary Club.

Next week has been proclaimed "Official Victory Week" in the eighth and final bond drive by the State governors and each county is trying to reach its quota by December 8th.

Returning to Washington, D. C., Saturday were Doris Williams, who has a government position in the Capital, and Paul Wobrock of Buffalo, N. Y., and Ft. Belvoir, Va., after a weeks visit with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Williams here.



POET'S CORNER

Gossip | By: Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 1850-1919

I would love to hear from you if you enjoy Poet's Corner. randyhale62@yahoo.com

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." - Proverbs 26:22

Did you hear or did you know?
Can you believe it's so?
You didn't hear this from me,
so please don't repeat.

Juicy little tidbits about others
we share in confidence.
If it turns out to be in error,
then please don't take offense.

I heard it from my neighbor,
who heard it from a friend.
I know that it is possible,
so I'll believe it then.

We never stop and think that
this might not be true.
And as long as it doesn't hurt me,
I do not think of you.

The damnable, damaging gossip
trail that causes needless pain.
If even it is so, what advantage
to its claim?

A sin embraced of itself
as harmful as can be,
is really costly in its thrust
of hurting others deep.

Refrain from the temptation
to repeat a lurid tale,
and if you know it's so,
be careful just as well.

Give the benefit of the doubt.
Put yourself in others' place.
Know the pain of idle talk
and of gossip's bitter plate.

At the end of your days,
thankful you will ever be,
you never harmed a soul
repeating what may or
might not be.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

NOV. 29

D C A L Y C I N E F B A S I F I X E D
E O R A C E M O S E K U L L B A S A L
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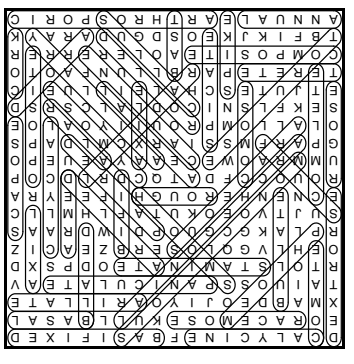
Aerial
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Bast
Bifid
Bladed
Bullate
Callus
Calyceal
Calycine
Cauline
Comate
Comose
Complete
Composite
Cork
Cymose
Dextrorse
Monoclinous
Opposite
Paired
Paniculate
Phloem
Racemose
Radical
Rolled
Rough
Rugose
Scapose
Scurf
Smooth
Spicate
Spike
Staminate
Terete
Torulose

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

NOV. 29

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

ANSWERS:



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

Donations (from Front)

munity that has supported the Mary Carter Store for generations and give back in a meaningful, practical way."

Young added that the partnership with United Way was a natural extension of the store's long-standing commitment to serving Cullman.

"We felt this partnership was a natural fit. The United Way has served the Cullman community proudly for years, and we've seen the impact they make for local families," Young said.

"The Mary Carter Store has always been about taking care of our neighbors since it was started by my father, Raymond Young, in 1964. The United Way of Cullman County has proven time and time again that they share the same heart and commitment."

The response so far has exceeded expectations, according to Business Development Lead Melissa Jones.

"The response has been truly overwhelming," she said.

"In the store, customers have been rounding up their change at the register, and we've already filled two boxes of warm items.

"But our county is large, and we know many families still need help; two boxes aren't enough."

Jones shared that momentum for the drive continues to grow as local businesses joined in, "The fund was started with our initial contribution at the Mary Carter Store, and it grew quickly once local businesses began matching our Chamber's Window Art prize that we also donated," she explained.

"Our neighbors, Hawksnest, matched immediately. Southern Accents followed with their donation of their Window Display prize, and that momentum set the tone for the whole drive."

Mary Carter Store is now working to establish additional drop-box locations throughout the county to make donating easier.

Additionally, monetary donations can also be made in-store or through a QR code displayed at the register.

"By rolling this into Small Business Saturday, a day that already brings our community together, we're able to invite even more neighbors to be part of something meaningful," she added.

For the families who will receive the donations, Young hopes the items carry more than just physical warmth.

"We hope they feel the heart behind every donation," he said. "We want them to know they're not alone, and that their community is standing with them, not just in words, but in action.

"If this drive brings even a little warmth or peace of mind, then we've done what we set out to do.

"And more than anything, we hope they feel proud of this community. Cullman cares deeply, and this effort is just one more reflection of that."

Donations can be dropped off at the Mary Carter Store during Small Business Saturday or anytime throughout the season.

All monetary funds raised during the Winter Warmth Drive will support utility assistance, propane and electric heaters to support those in need.

To stay up-to-date on all drop-off locations, follow the United Way of Cullman County on their official Facebook page.

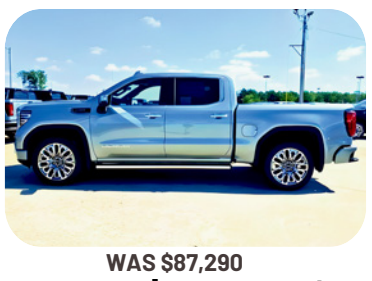
For more information on Saturday's event, contact the Mary Carter Store at 256-734-7908 or fb@marycarter.com. Mary Carter Store is located at 104 Fourth St. SE, Cullman.



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SAVE $12,000

2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali
STK# 58963
- 6.6L Duramax Turbo Diesel V8 Engine
- 12 Way Power Front Seats with Lumbar Adjuster
- Gooseneck/5th Wheel Prep Package
- X31 Off-Road Package
- 20" Machined Aluminum Wheels



WAS $91,755
NOW $80,755
SAVE $11,000

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- Park Assist
- Spray-On Bedliner



WAS $70,060
NOW $55,560
SAVE $15,000

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- 18" Gloss Black Aluminum Wheels
- Electronic Stability Control



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- Remote Entry/Remote Start
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2025 Buick Envision Sports Touring
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- 30" Diagonal LCD Display
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