

The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 148

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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Vinemont man facing child pornography charges

Lauren Estes
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VINEMONT, Ala. — A Vinemont man is facing multiple child pornography charges. Omar Blas Hernandez, 32, was arrested Dec. 2, by Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies on warrants stemming from an alleged incident that reportedly occurred in October.

According to court records, Hernandez is charged with production of child sexual abuse material (13A-012-197), possession of child sexual abuse materials (13-012-192 (B)) and » PAGE 3



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Omar Blas Hernandez

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80 YEARS
80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.

'Together, we make a difference'

Brandin' Iron reflects on another successful veterans dinner



ELIZABETH DYE/ELIZABETH DAWN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Brandin' Iron's 10th annual Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner served more than 800 people on Nov. 24, 2025.

Lauren Estes
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WEST POINT, Ala. — The Brandin' Iron Steakhouse in West Point has been hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner honoring local veterans for a decade. This year, the event took place Nov. 24.

Brandin' Iron Manager Josh Speakman said it was a communitywide effort, and he extended his deepest gratitude to everyone who supported and contributed to it.

"To everyone who helped — your generosity, kindness and unwavering support made this event a tremendous success and demonstrated the true spirit of compassion and patriotism that defines our community," he said. "Thanks to your donations and participation, we were able to provide a traditional, home-cooked meal to over 800 'in-house' veterans and guests."

Speakman said it's privilege to have hosted the event for the last 10 years and witness firsthand the show of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served our country.

"Your support not only fuels our efforts to honor and assist our veterans, but also reminds us all of the power of community coming together for a noble cause," he said. "I want to thank my staff at The Brandin' Iron Steakhouse, the great team from VFW and all the sponsors that make up our home team network for the tireless efforts preparing for this event. I also want to thank Brian and Misty Stricklin for allowing us to use the restaurant to host such an event and the West Point School for allowing us to use their kitchen facility to prepare and store the food. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support and for standing with us to honor our heroes. Together, we make a difference."

Speakman also wanted to thank Elizabeth Dye, owner of Elizabeth Dawn Photography, for volunteering her skills each year to capture the event.

Cullman woman charged with financial exploitation of an elderly person



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ALEA reports 7 traffic fatalities during Thanksgiving 2025 enforcement period » PAGE 8

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Hanceville library hosting multiple events » PAGE 8

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 5, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 1

- harassment; Arkadelphia Rd. NE
- burglary; CR 655
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 1678
- theft of property; CR 438

Dec. 2

- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; CR 1396
- harassment; CR 1073
- theft of property; CR 649
- theft of property; CR 1114
- theft of property; CR 1859

Dec. 3

- discharging firearm into unoccupied vehicle; Kentucky Ave. SE
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Robin Ln. NE
- theft of property; Short Rd.

ARRESTS

Dec. 1-3

Coleman, Jennifer K.; 45

- FTA – escape
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – drug trafficking

Cooley, Lana M.; 37

- FTA – driving while license suspended

Denney, Jefferey A.; 37

- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-child abuse-simple-family
- PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle

Dill, James A.; 40

- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Glasscock, Michael J.; 57

- DUI (alcohol)

Hernandez, Omar B.; 32

- production of pornography with minors
- possession of child pornography
- aggravated criminal surveillance

Little, Danny A.; 46

- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – criminal mischief-damaged property
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – attempting to elude police officer
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE – public intoxication

Moctezuma, Camila M.; 28

- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Mooney, Clint R.; 46

- FTA – assault-2nd degree

Parrott, Haley J.; 27

- DUI (alcohol)

Woodall, Eric L.; 43

- FTA – attempting to elude a police/law enforcement officer-serious injury or death/speed exceeds 20 mph
- FTA – DUI (alcohol)

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dec. 3

- criminal mischief-1st degree; NAFCO; damaged property; $4,000; CR 222

Dec. 4

- harassment; person
- harassing communications; person
- harassing communications; person

ARRESTS

Dec. 4

Freeman, Shane A.; 34

- FTA – no tag-trailer
- FTA – switched tag
- FTA – improper lights-trailer
- FTA – insurance violation

Smith, Jeffery W.; 37

- FTA – driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA – fail to signal
- FTA – public intoxication

Jones, Christopher B.; 29

- FTA – receiving stolen property-4th degree

Cobb, Kevin D.; 49

- violation of protection order (2 counts)

Thomas, Jennifer A.; 42

- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

White, Thomas F.; 27

- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Woman (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A local woman has been indicted on charges of first-degree financial exploitation of an elderly person, illegal possession of a credit or debit card, second-degree theft of property and first-degree attempted theft of property.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said that, after an extended investigation and grand jury indictment, Verna Hammons Jackson, 58, of Cullman, was arrested Dec. 5, near Main Avenue Southwest and Katherine Street.

"CPD Investigator Shannon Cheatwood and Officer Kyle Foshee conducted an outstanding investigation, dedicating extensive hours and effort to ensure this case was brought forward successfully," Duncan said. "The Cullman Police Department would also like to extend its appreciation to the Cullman County District Attorney's Office for their assistance and strong partnership throughout this investigation."

Local residents may remember Jackson ran for Cullman mayor back in 2012 and made headlines because she appeared on an episode of "The Jerry Springer Show" a decade earlier.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Crash (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Hanceville man was killed in a single-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3. Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Jeffrey A. Frederick, 71.

Troopers said Frederick was fatally injured when the 2007 GMC Sierra pickup he was driving left the roadway, struck a ditch and overturned. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The crash occurred on County Road 38 near Alabama Highway 91, approximately 10 miles south of Dodge City, in Cullman County.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

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- Must have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or GED. College degrees and Agriculture experience are highly valuable.
- Full time with salary to be negotiable based on experience.

Send resume to: Kathy Holmes, kholmes@ cullmanswcd.com
Deadline for applications is January 15, 2026

Stations (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Across the county during winter months, warming stations are available for community members.

In the city, the designated warming shelter is the Donald E. Green Active Adult Center 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW.

Here are some dos and don'ts for the shelter, according to the City of Cullman and City Council President Kim Hall.

- The warming shelter may be opened when the temperature is forecasted to be 28°F or below.

- Residents planning to stay overnight at the warming shelter will have to check in by 9 p.m.; if no one is onsite by 9 p.m., the shelter will close for the night.

- If the center is closed for the night due to the lack of need, a police officer will ensure that there is signage on the front door of the center that displays dispatch's number where a person in need can call to request law enforcement to return and unlock the center and remain on-site.

- Guests will need to provide sleeping bags, pillows, sheets, etc. No pets/animals, firearms/weapons, cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, e-cigarettes or alcohol will be allowed. This is for public warming only.

- Emergency situations: The shelter can also be opened during emergency situations requested by the police chief and/or fire chief pending approval by the mayor.

- Dispatch will have the key and the officer that opens the shelter will sign for the key and return the key to dispatch when the warming shelter operation is completed.

Staffing guidelines:

- The warming shelter will be staffed by a police officer for security.

- Volunteers from local organizations and community groups may also assist in staffing the shelter.

"We are dedicated to keeping our citizens safe and warm," Hall added.

Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Specialist Brent McDonald said while the Cullman County EMA does not directly operate individual warming shelters, it remains actively involved in supporting them.

"We want to ensure our community has what it needs during periods of extreme cold," McDonald said.

"We work closely with VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters), local churches, volunteer groups and community organizations to help coordinate shelter activations as needs arise.

"Throughout these events, we stay in constant communication with our partners to provide ongoing support."

McDonald said that currently, Garden City First Baptist Church has stepped forward to offer a warm and safe place for anyone in need during dangerously cold weather.

"Their commitment, combined with the dedication of church staff and volunteers from across the area — truly reflects the compassion and strength of our community," he said. "Those interested in utilizing the warming station can follow our social media pages for openings and closings. Although each shelter is independently operated, the EMA assists by sharing verified shelter openings and updates through our social media channels and local media partners. This helps ensure the public receives timely, accurate information when it matters most."

McDonald shared that most shelters ask guests to bring their own bedding and any personal items they may need.

"Some locations may also request that guests bring food if meals are not provided," McDonald said.

"These guidelines allow shelter volunteers to focus on offering a safe, warm environment for those seeking refuge from the cold.

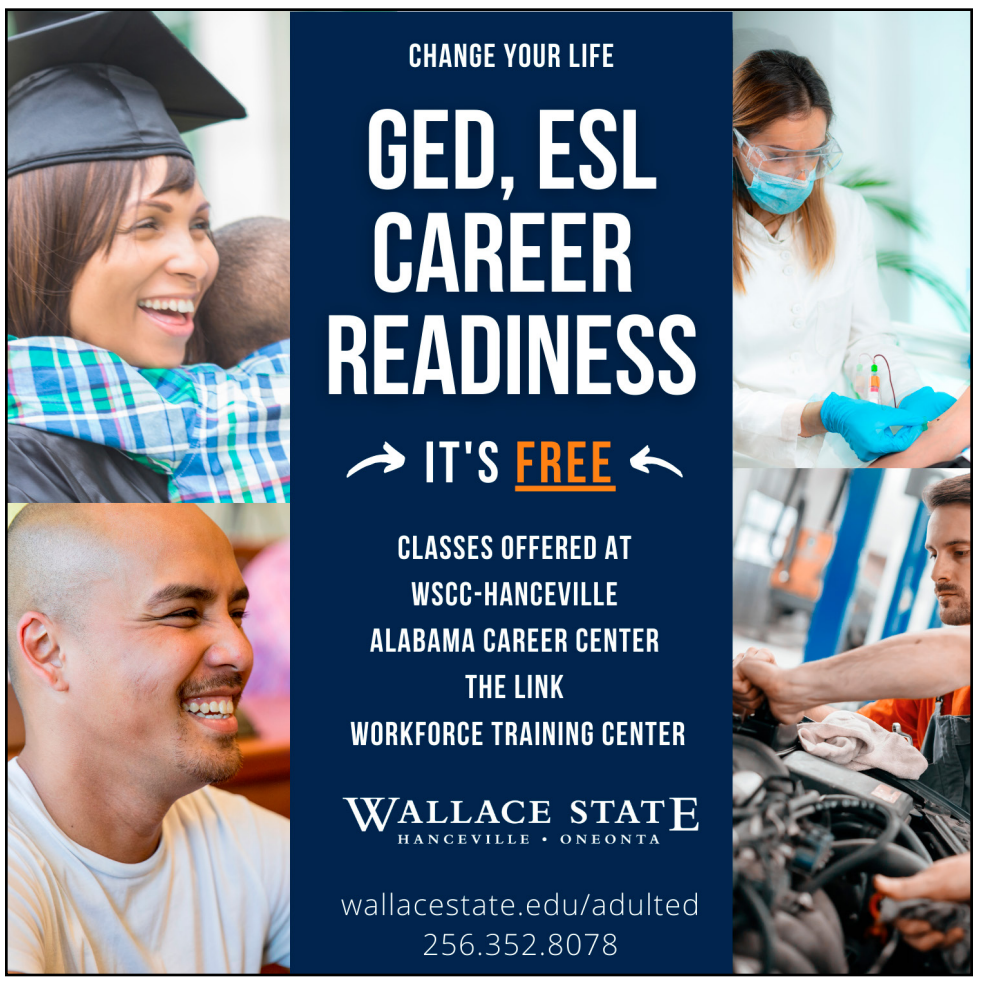
"The safety and well-being of our residents remain a top priority. During extreme cold, we are committed to staying engaged, supporting our shelter partners and helping make sure every person in Cullman County has access to warmth, safety and care."

McDonald said if a local church or organization feels called to serve by hosting a warming station within Cullman County, the EMA would be honored to assist.

"Please reach out to us for guidance, resources or answers to any questions — we are here to help and to work alongside you to keep our community safe and warm," McDonald said.

McDonald can be reached at the EMA office at 256-736-5426.

Find the Cullman County EMA online at www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyEMA.





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
• Saturday, Dec. 6 – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Kids Loving Kids Christmas Giveaway
• Sunday, Dec. 7 – 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. 2 p.m. prayer service

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.
• 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.
• Saturday, Dec. 6, at noon. Cullman County Christmas Parade. Come see our float – new this year!
• 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 bring a food dish. New Hanceville Mayor Paul Campbell will join us!
• Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Claus and author Dorenda Doyle ("The Kid and the Dog"). Take your picture with Mrs. Claus. Dorenda Doyle is an literacy advocate and writes an award-winning children's book series. She is an energetic, entertaining and enthusiastic author who goes the extra mile. Dorenda brings books to life through her engaging and interactive presentations. She has 30-plus years as an educator and curriculum writer. She motivates children to love to read and write!
• Wednesday, Dec. 24. The library will be closed. The staff wishes you all a Merry, Peaceful Christmas.
• Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Thursday, Jan. 1. The library will be closed.
• Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 20 and Feb. 3, 17, from 11 a.m.-noon New! Want to learn Spanish? This language has become the second language in America. Add this very easy language to your skills. Ms. Alejandra Pena has been teaching Spanish for over 16 years. She can teach to all ages. If you want to brush up on this language before college, sign up for the class, too. Call 256-352-0685 to sign up. This is a free class.

North Alabama Agriplex Programs
• www.agriplex.org
• 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
Dec. 6-7, 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. 12-13 only) $5. Don't miss the Grotto's BIG weekend Dec. 12-13! Live music, food trucks, horse-drawn wagon rides and Santa!

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
Dec. 6-7, 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!

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.

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!

Pancakes with Santa at Winston County Rescue
Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8-10 a.m. at the Winston County Rescue, 236 County Road 77, Arley. Bring the whole family out for a morning of holiday cheer, delicious pancakes and photos with Santa! $5 donation per plate — all proceeds support our EMS operations. Enjoy a hot breakfast, meet our crews and let the kids share their Christmas wishes with Santa himself. We can't wait to see you there!

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.

Man (from Front)

aggravated criminal surveillance (13A-011-32.1).

Hernandez allegedly "recorded sexual intercourse of a minor child" and "electronically recorded two other people in a private location without their consent, for sexual gratification."

He is being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $50,000 bond.



AARP Alabama

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Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication
Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: office@cullmantribune.com

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OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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PREP BASKETBALL

Addison defeats Cullman Christian 64-38

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — The Addison Bulldogs, with less than a week of practice since the end of their football season, hosted the Cullman Christian Lions at Stephenson Gym on Pam Wilkins Court. Addison came away with a solid 68-36 victory to boost their record to 2-1.

The game was marred by an injury to Lions' star Cooper Williams in the fourth quarter.

The severity of the injury is unknown, and our hopes and prayers go out to young Mr. Williams.

The Bulldogs opened the game on a 7-0 run and it would only get better from there. Addison played a stifling defense and the young Lions had trouble with the pressure.

The Bulldogs' depth played a major role as well, playing 10-12 players total, even when the game was close. Addison won the first quarter by the score of 24-7.

Addison was led by Joey "the Hobbit" Wilson who had five points and two steals. Elijah Roberts chipped in four points and three rebounds while Connor Lane, Canaan Speegle and Judah Wilkins each had three points.

The Lions were led by their do-it-all junior Cooper Williams with four points and three rebounds. Andrew Green chipped in three points of his own.

The second period had the young Lions regaining their footing and playing the Bulldogs more evenly. Addison still won the period 14-11 to take a 38-18 lead into half.

Scout Flynn led the 'Dawgs with four points and four rebounds while Roberts had a big period with three points, six boards and two steals.

Cullman Christian's Williams scored seven of the Lions 11 points while Green had the other four points.

The Lions came out inspired to start the second half and eventually won the third period 15-14. Neither team could go on a run as it was a back-and-forth period with the Bulldogs lead cut to 52-33 headed into the fourth. Williams led the Lions with nine points and three rebounds.

Andrew Coffee drilled a big three-pointer for Cullman Christian. Addison was led by Roberts once again with six points. Bulldog Kyeler Hill grabbed three rebounds in the period.

Early in the fourth quarter, Lions star player Williams suffered his injury and it told on the scoreboard as Addison won the period 16-3 to come away with a resounding 68-36 win.

Roberts, Flynn and Hill each scored four points for the Bulldogs. Judah Wilkins ripped down five rebounds while Roberts and Hill snagged three each.

Williams scored the only three points for the Lions in the period and after the injury the Lions did not score.

The main difference in the game was the Bulldogs domination on the glass, as they grabbed 51 total rebounds, over twice as much as the Lions' 24. The loss dropped the Lions' record to 0-6.

The Cullman Christian Lions dominated one area of the game, however, as they had the cutest mascot, a baby lion. Whether it was official or not is unclear, but the mascot "Simba the Lion" costume was donned by a toddler for the night.

Addison will return to action on Friday night at 7:30, with a trip to Danville High to take on the Hawks.

Unofficial stats

Addison was led in scoring and rebounding by Roberts with 17 points and 12 rebounds. He also recorded four assists and four steals. Flynn had 10 points, eight rebounds, two assists, three steals and a block. Wilson had 10 points, two rebounds, two assists and five steals. Silas Frazier had eight points and three rebounds. Connor Lane had five points and three boards.

Kiah Lake had four points, six rebounds, two steals and a block. Hill had four points and seven boards. Major Snoddy had four points and three boards. Wilkins had three points and six boards. Speegle had three points and two steals.

Cullman Christian was led by Williams, who scored a game-high 24 points with nine rebounds before his injury. Green had nine points, while Coffee had three points and five rebounds.

Caleb Holman had four rebounds. Griffin Kilpatrick and Ethan Griffin had two boards a piece.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison forward Elijah Roberts floats a shot over Cullman Christian defenders.

Kicking his goals one at a time

Lisa Sollie
University of West Alabama

LIVINGTON, Ala. — Whether he's flying around a motocross track or drilling field goals for the University of West Alabama, Elijah Guyton approaches every challenge with the same mindset: make a plan, then make it happen.

A management major at UWA, Guyton didn't begin his football journey as a kicker. He started playing the sport in seventh grade, but it wasn't until his junior year of high school that a coach mentioned the team needed someone to handle the kicking duties. Guyton volunteered, figuring "Why not me?"

What started as a spontaneous decision quickly became a serious path. After performing well for someone who had never kicked before, he began attending camps and one-on-one training sessions the following year. Scholarship offers followed, and he chose UWA for its close-knit campus community and the chance to be "more than just a number."

A high honor student, Guyton arrived ahead of the game. Because he took dual enrollment classes and then a full load each semester, he shaved off a full semester and is set to walk in commencement exercises on Friday, Dec. 12.

Although football brought him to UWA, Guyton knew a business degree could take him in countless directions.

Still eligible to play next season after redshirting his freshman year, he plans to begin work on an MBA this spring while continuing to contribute on the field in the fall.

That decision, he said, is part of a larger plan he set in motion long before college.

"I had a goal when I came to college to not have any student loan debt to pay off," Guyton said.

By using his scholarship funds to cover graduate coursework, living in the dorms, and walking to class, he is well on his way to achieving that target—another example of the deliberate approach that shapes both his academic and athletic life.

A diligent student, he noted that if he happens to miss a class, at least one professor typically checks on him.

"I like that my professors know me and notice if I'm not there for some reason. It's not like me to miss, so they don't hesitate to reach out," Guyton said. "That personal connection," he added is a big part of why UWA feels like home."

Named an AFCA All-American last year, he recently hit a career-long 51-yard field goal against Northeastern State. He hopes to attend some kicking camps next year that can get him in front of NFL scouts and pro evaluators.

"A lot of kids dream about making it to the college level to play football, and I've made it—so why not push the limit and go the next step while I'm at UWA? If it doesn't work out, I'll have two degrees to fall back on." He figures the odds are in his favor either way.



JOE CHANCE

Fairview native, West Alabama kicker Elijah Guyton attempts a kick.

Mortensen named UAB head football coach

Andy Poole
UAB Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — UAB Director of Athletics Mark Ingram has named Alex Mortensen the eighth head coach in UAB Football history. Mortensen has served as the Blazers' offensive coordinator since 2022 and led the Blazers as interim head coach for the second half of the 2025 season.

"I love Birmingham, UAB and this team, and I look forward to building a successful program that represents our university and fans well," Mortensen said. "I want to thank the administration for the opportunity and for committing to providing additional institutional support to increase our competitiveness. I am grateful for the confidence being placed in me, and we will make the most of it."

The UAB offense has averaged 415.6 yards per game under Mortensen as offensive coordinator, and he led the Blazers to a historic, upset win over No. 22 ranked Memphis in his first game as interim head coach. Prior to joining UAB, Mortensen spent nine years on staff at the University of Alabama under Coach Nick Saban.

"Coach Mortensen is a true rising star in college football who has been immersed in winning at the highest levels, and I am excited to see what he will accomplish leading our program," Ingram said. "His vision for UAB Football is clear: to succeed in the American and bring winning football back to Birmingham. Coach Mortensen already has one of the biggest, most exciting wins in program history under his belt, and his road win to finish the season provides important momentum."

Mortensen started his coaching career in 2012 at New Mexico Highlands as the quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator. While there, quarterback Emmanuel Lewis ranked second nationally in Division II for total offense and passing yards per game. Mortensen was then a part of three national championships at the University of Alabama during a stretch in which the program amassed a record of 115-12.

During his first season as offensive coordinator at UAB, the Blazers set a single season school record for yards per game, and Mortensen was named a Broyles Award nominee among the nation's top assistant coaches.

While working under Saban, Mortensen mentored under many of the industry's top offensive minds, including Lane Kiffin, Brian Daboll, Mike Locksley, Steve Sarkisian and Bill O'Brien.

"Today marks an important step forward for UAB Football and for our university," said UAB President Ray Watts.

"Coach Mortensen brings leadership, energy and experience that will help us elevate UAB Athletics on the national stage.

"He has outstanding character, embodies the resilient, fighting spirit of UAB and our fans, and is respected by players."

"I want to thank Mark Ingram, the search committee and respected advisors for their dedication to this process, as well as the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and our colleagues in the UA System Office for their continued support of UAB Athletics."

Of the hire, UAB Athletics Foundation Chair Hatton Smith said, "This search was thorough and purposeful, and we are thrilled to have Alex Mortensen lead UAB Football.

"He has demonstrated spectacular leadership and was able to win under difficult circumstances, beating a ranked Memphis team and securing our first road win in three years. With his experience and UAB leadership's commitment to increasing resources for Athletics, Coach Mortensen is poised for success. I look forward to seeing Blazer Nation get behind Alex and the team to support a positive, winning culture."

While appropriate members of the UA System Board of Trustees have been notified of the proposed terms and conditions of this proposed agreement, the financial terms remain subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Mortensen played quarterback at the University of Arkansas where he earned a communications degree, and he earned a master's degree in Sport Management from the University of Alabama.

2026 UAB Football season tickets on sale now

Season tickets for the 2026 UAB Football season are on sale now. Season ticket packages feature all six home games and provide the most cost-effective way to attend games at Protective Stadium. Explore pricing, benefits, and tailgating opportunities here, or contact the UAB Athletics Ticket Office at (205) 975-UAB1. Fans can also request more information by clicking here.

Fuel the future

Now is the time to strengthen the competitive foundation for UAB Football. Donor support is critical to providing the resources needed to build and sustain competitive excellence in today's collegiate landscape.

Whether through the Competitive Excellence Fund which helps recruit and retain student-athletes, or sport specific operational support, help position UAB Football by contributing today.

Follow the Blazers

To keep up with UAB Football, follow @UAB_FB on Instagram and X.



UAB ATHLETICS

Alex Mortensen, recently named UAB football's eighth head coach.

Local officers complete SWAT training

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cullman Police Department officers and Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies recently completed SWAT Level 3 Hostage Rescue training.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Police Department officers and Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies recently completed SWAT Level 3 Hostage Rescue training.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said this type of training further enhances the ability to respond to the most complex and high-risk situations.

"This advanced certification reflects the department's ongoing commitment to preparedness, professionalism and the safety of the Cullman community," Duncan said.

He continued, "Collaborative training efforts like this ensure seamless coordination when critical incidents arise and reinforce the shared goal of protecting the citizens of Cullman and Cullman County.

"Both agencies continue to invest in specialized training to provide the highest level of service to the community."

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said the collaboration between the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and the Cullman Police Department is essential to keeping the community safe.

"When we work together, we combine strengths, share resources and respond faster and smarter," Gentry said.

"Our goal has always been to build a team of deputies who are better trained, better prepared and fully equipped to meet the challenges of modern law enforcement. Investing in our people — through training, professionalism and accountability — is how we ensure that the citizens of Cullman County receive the highest level of service and protection."

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

IN THE 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

Notice of sale under self-storage lien
Tenant: Jennifer Medley, last known address: 602 Lookout Dr Lot: 8 Arab, AL 35016
Storage Facility: 4 Way Mini Storage, 14045 AL HWY 69 North Baileyton, AL 35019. Unit # A-08
Contents: Household goods and personal property believed to be furniture and boxes
Sale Date: 12/22/25 – 12/26/25
Sale Location: Storageauctions.com
Terms: Public online auction
This property is being sold to satisfy the operator's lien for unpaid rent and related charges pursuant to Alabama code 8-15-34. The sale will not occur sooner than 15 days after first notice.

Notice of sale under self-storage lien
Tenant: Alexis Lindsey, last known address: 52 B county road 1579 Cullman, AL 35058
Storage Facility: 4 Way Mini Storage, 14045 AL HWY 69 N Baileyton, AL 35019. Unit # A-06
Contents: Household goods and personal property believed to be furniture and boxes
Sale Date: 12/22/25 –12/26/25
Sale Location: Storageauctions.com
Terms: Public online auction
This property is being sold to satisfy the operator's lien for unpaid rent and related charges pursuant to Alabama code 8-15-34. The sale will not occur sooner than 15 days after first notice.

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, 2025, 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

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, *
CULLMAN COUNTY. *

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **BBJ Property, LLC, an Alabama limited liability company,** to **First National Bank**, dated August 19, 2024, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2094, Page 327; and the undersigned **First National 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 at Cullman County, Alabama, on December 30, 2025, during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A tract of land containing 1.08 acres, more or less, lying in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ and the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of NE ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama state plane west zone coordinate of N:1494143.53, E:2141672.34; thence North 89°11'29" West along the northerly boundary of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ for 125.46 feet to a set capped rebar: thence South 17°42'12" East, passing a set capped reference rebar at 276.61 feet, for a total distance of 281.63 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence along the centerline of said ditch the following bearings and distances: North 41°34'24" East for 53.77 feet, North 42°41'47" East for 72.52 feet, North 42°07'46" East for 20.18 feet, North 47°43'25" East for 132.74 feet, North 65°00'56" East for 24.37 feet, North 68°06'03" East for 20.88 feet, North 60°53'25" East for 39.87 feet, North 34°04'02" East 17.90 feet, North 22°06'43" East for 13.89 feet to the intersection of said ditch and the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼; thence North 89°10'49" West along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, passing a set capped reference rebar at 2.09 feet, for a total distance of 248.31 feet back to the point of beginning. All capped rebars are ½" rebars stamped "Wilhite PLS 21785" unless noted otherwise.
ALSO AND SUBJECT TO an ingress/egress easement being 30 feet in width and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11 having an Alabama state plane west zone coordinate value of N:1494143.53, E:2141672.34; thence South 89°10'49" East along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ for 248.31 feet to the intersection of said northerly boundary and the centerline of an existing ditch, said point being the point of beginning; thence continue South 89°10'49" East along the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ for 293.80 feet to the intersection of said northerly boundary and the westerly right of way margin of County Road 222; thence South 44°10'39" West along the westerly right of way margin of said road for 41.26 feet; thence North 89°10'49" West, parallel with the northerly boundary of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, for 283.96 feet to the centerline of an existing ditch; thence North 60°53'25" East along the centerline of said ditch for 4.19 feet; thence North 34°04'02" E along the centerline of said ditch for 17.90 feet; thence North 22°06'43" East along the centerline of said ditch for 13.89 feet back to the point of beginning.

Subject to the following:

1. Underground easement conveyed to Cullman Electric Cooperative recorded in Deed Book 725, Page 99 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
2. Ingress-egress easement shown as existing gravel drive on the survey plat prepared by Ricky Wilhite, AL Lic. No. 21785, dated June 2, 2022, which is recorded as Exhibit A to warranty deed recorded in Deed Book 729, Page 601 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
3. Easement and Joint Use Agreement recorded in Deed Book 729, Page 660 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Property Address: 4480 County Road 222, Cullman, AL 35057

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
By: Nancy F. McClellan, Attorney for First National Bank
401 Second Avenue, SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-4040

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
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

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 4-5

Howard James Charles Anderson, 93

Howard James Charles Anderson was born on October 12, 1932, in Cullman County, Alabama, and passed away on November 28, 2025, at the age of 93. Mr. Anderson accepted Christ as his Savior at the age of 29, and was a member of Westwood Baptist Church, Nashville, TN for more than 60 years. He served the Church as a Sunday School Teacher, a Royal Ambassador Leader, and a Deacon. In recent years, even though his eyesight was failing him, he enjoyed listening to his Bible reader. When I recently asked how many times through the years he had read or listened to his Bible entirely, he wouldn't make a guess, but he finished the conversation by saying, "Not enough." The last time he attended church was two weeks before his passing; he was always so appreciative of going to church. As soon as he would get settled back at home after attending church, he would begin talking about "next Sunday." Recently, we talked about Heaven and what it would be like, and my dad simply said, "I think it will be beautiful, and I will be able to see it all." He trained as a Printer after serving in the US Army during the Korean War as a mechanic in Germany. Mr. Anderson enjoyed activities ranging from Golf to making his much-loved Tennessee Toffee Candy at Christmas, to playing competitive, yet friendly games with his grandchildren. A creative dream realized was when he signed up for stained glass art classes, where he shared many creations with family and friends. His grandchildren have many stain-glass Christmas tree ornaments they received yearly, as well as night lights and kaleidoscope airplanes that provided lots of time looking at beautiful colors as children, and now, a treasure to hold on to from their grandpa. As we've looked through many family photographs, memories that have warmed our hearts, also provided memories that have put smiles on our faces and even roar with laughter. We miss him greatly already, but we are so thankful for the love he gave us and the wonderful memories that will comfort us. Do you have a good memory to share? Tell us! We love a good "Daddy/Grandpa story!" Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus Oscar and Minnie Malinda Woods Anderson, and his siblings, Franklin Herrald Anderson, Florrace Vernell Anderson Hunt, Dorothy Virginia Anderson Grimmett, and Mary Elizabeth Anderson Perdue. He is survived by his second wife, Nina Sue Partin Shields Anderson, and his daughter, Gwendolyn Denise Anderson Burns. Howard is also survived by two special daughters, Billie Sue Shields and Joni (Chris) Shields Campbell. He leaves behind grandchildren, S. Hunter Burns, Hillary Burns, Emily Burns, and Mallory Burns, as well as great-grandchildren, Braelin Burns and Lincoln Burns. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him. A visitation will be held on December 6, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, located at 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, Alabama. Following the visitation, a Celebration of Life Funeral Service will take place at the same location at 11 a.m. The graveside committal service will be held at New Prospect Baptist Cemetery, 5625 Co Rd 38, Cullman, Alabama. The family wish to extend a very special thank you to Rev. Tommy Graves for officiating Mr. Anderson's home going service. Fond memories for the Anderson family and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Yvonne Anderson Sterling, 90

Funeral Service for Yvonne Anderson Sterling, will be at 12 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Steve Stringer officiating; burial at Bethlehem West. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Yvonne Anderson Sterling of Cullman, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, an accomplished student, devoted Christian, award-winning teacher, and successful Cullman businesswoman, died Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at the age of 90. Yvonne, a child of the depression, was frugal (yet charitable), loving, friendly, happy, stubborn, habitual, and caring. She systematically donated to her alma maters, Montevallo University and University of Alabama. She gave of her time and resources to her church and community. She attended church three times every week, most notably teaching Sunday School and Bible School. Yvonne never met a stranger and loved a good conversation. She took joy in working in her yard and garden, generously sharing her plants and vegetables with others. Yvonne was a good soul and a delightful, much-loved person! Yvonne is survived by her brother Wannie Anderson of Hazel Green, sister-in-law Joan Anderson of Homewood, grandson Josh Sterling (Tammie) of Cullman, granddaughter McKenzie Edge of Cullman, and five great-grandchildren LeAnn Wildman, Emma Lane Sterling, Skylan Edge, Mali Dye, and Jettson-Lee Lancaster. She was preceded in death by her husband Willie Sterling, son Jimmie Sterling, three brothers and a sister.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

'Twas the day after Thanksgiving

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



'Twas the day after Thanksgiving, when all through the store – shoppers came early, for bargains galore – Some arrived early, to wait in long lines – Some pushed and some shoved, just to save a few dimes – They call it Black Friday, but by the time we're all through – we may be covered with bruises, and be black and blue – If I could give some advice, which I believe you might value – order online, and they'll deliver it, too.

I've done it before. I've said I would never do it again, but I have. Oops, I did it again this year.

Our daughter called and asked if we wanted to go have breakfast out. I'm usually all in favor of breakfast out...breakfast in...breakfast over...well, you get the point. I knew it was Black Friday, but I was gullible...and hungry. I thought, "We'll all go have a nice breakfast and be back home in plenty of time for the 11:00 kickoff."

We didn't go early enough to be the first ones in line. At one particular shoe store in town, if you are in the first 100 through the door, you get a discount.

They pass out scratch-off cards that reveal how much you will save.

What it does not reveal is how much you will spend! I know, you're probably thinking, "Yeah, right, probably everyone gets $2 off on a $200 pair of tennis shoes."

Actually, a few years back, I won $100 off on any $300 pair of shoes. I gave it to my daughter.

After all, she was the one who talked me into going down there in the first place, so it seemed like the right thing to do...to her, it seemed like the right thing to do.

Now, I'm old enough to remember the days when that amount of money bought you several pairs of shoes. Nowadays, it usually won't buy one pair; but hey, I'm not complaining...not much. I'm thankful to have shoes.

Do you know that shoe stores don't take trade-ins? Car dealers will take your old worn-out vehicles as a trade-in on a new car.

You know, now that I think about how little they gave me for my last worn-out car, scratch-off discount cards might be a better idea!

Anyway, Black Friday is an important day for retailers. It is the official beginning of the Christmas shopping season. The unofficial beginning starts around July 5. We run all the holidays together so much now that I'm singing "The Star-Spangled Silent Night!" In mid-July, we see something online and think, "Wouldn't Sally Jane love to get that for Christmas." The problem with buying things that early is we forget where we hid them.

Anyway, Black Friday is usually the largest retail day of the year. For some merchants it is the day when they begin to turn a profit for the fiscal year.

When that is the case, it is the day when they cease to operate "in the red" and begin to operate "in the black." Hence, "Black" Friday. For shoppers, it may be "Blue Friday" because when it's all over, we have "saved" so much money, that it has left us feeling blue!

It has been suggested that we change the name from Black Friday to Good Friday. That's not a good idea, because we already have a Good Friday.

Good Friday comes the Friday before Easter, but had it not been for the event that we celebrate on Easter, Good Friday would have indeed been Bad Friday. Actually, there are no bad Fridays, so just TGIF on the sixth day each week!

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HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Dec. 6, 1951

FROM THE FILES OF DEC. 6, 1951

North Vinemont News

Mr. and Mrs. Adell Maner and Barbara and Mrs. Perry Maner enjoyed dinner Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Purvis Wilhite and boys. The two families have dinner together on the first Sunday in December every year.

Mrs. Nancy Jane Grizzard and her son, Aubry of Gadsden visited Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Olson and children, Friday afternoon.

Pvt. Harold Drake and his friend, Frank DeLuca, whose home is in New York, spent the week-end here with Harold's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnie Drake. They are stationed at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Parker of Leedsdale visited Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Wilhite, Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Fergurson and children are visiting relatives in Rogersville this week.

Doris Norris of Enon spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Verlon Duke.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob South spent Thursday with Mrs. Marvin Blackmon.

West Cullman News

Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Maddox are parents of a baby boy, born Nov. 20th.

Mr. and Mrs. Trente Adair are visiting relatives here this week. They live in Cresview, Fla., where Mr. Adair is stationed with the Navy.

Mrs. Doris Maddox Adair is also visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Maddox of Prospect and sister, Mrs. Louise Brown of Beech Grove.

John Maddox is out of the hospital.

Mrs. Gladys Boatright has had to go back to Jefferson Hillman Hospital for another operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Maddox have returned to Birmingham to their jobs after visiting here.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Maddox this week were Billy Hugh Brown, Geraldine Brown, Elouise Brown, Beatrice Brown, Mary Louise Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brown all of Beech Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Tanner Smith are parents of a baby girl which they have named Dianne Eloise. They are now making their home in Georgia.

To and Fro

Arriving on Saturday morning, Dec. 1st at the Cullman Hospital was Robert Arnold Schaefer, Jr. Almost as excited about him as his parents is his maternal grandfather, Paul Howard, and why not since Dec. 1st is Grandfather Howard's birthday too.

There have been several grass fires this week but all were extinguished before any damage was done. There were a couple Saturday, one near the Bama Cafe and another near WKUL Radio Station, and one Wednesday near Dr. Frank Stitt's residence.

In special elections on the University of Alabama campus recently Robert A. Moore of Cullman was elected secretary-treasurer of the College of Engineering. He is the only son of County Superintendent of Education and Mrs. R. E. Moore.

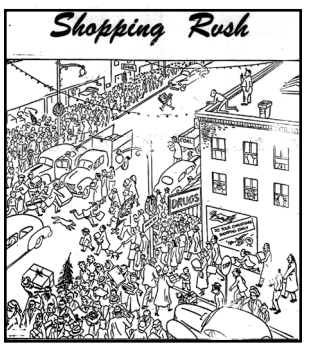
Now a registered nurse is Virginia Lee Mitchell, daughter of the A. G. Mitchells and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto O. Richter. She is a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy and St. Vincent School of Nursing and recently passed the state board of examiners with an 89.3 average.

When the men left for military service last Friday morning members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary were on hand to serve coffee and give each a gift and cigarettes.

After spending a ten day furlough here Pfc. Kenneth Glasscock has returned to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Going with him for a visit were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Glasscock. They report having a wonderful time in Fort Smith and visiting in Oklahoma.

The City's parking meter inspector, Herman Woodmonia in the Cullman Hospital this week.

Home from Fort Riley, Kansas for a leave is John W. Craven before reporting to Seattle, Wash. for a new assignment with the Army. Craven was among the rescue squad in the great Kansas flood last July and while on duty suffered an injury to his leg. He is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Craven of Rt. 8, Cullman.



POET'S CORNER

Let it Go | By: Rita Aiken Moritz

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

Some people with a problem
Are quite a sight to see.
I'm filled with real amazement
And some perplexity.
When faced with a dilemma,
They say they just don't know.
But when God tries to take that thing,
They simply won't let go.

They lay it at the altar
Of God in prayer, and then
When they get up to walk away,
They pick it up again.
They pray in desperation
When they've done all they can.
Then they want the Lord to work
According to their plan.

I admit that I'm confused.
It makes no sense to me
That we hold on to worry
When God would set us free.
We can't choose God's agenda
For we don't know His plan.
And don't you think that some things
Are best not left to man?

Trust Him to know the answers
And do what He thinks best.
You just do what you can do,
And leave Him with the rest.
Precious, troubled child of God,
I think you need to know:
To let this be God's problem,
You'll have to let it go.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 6

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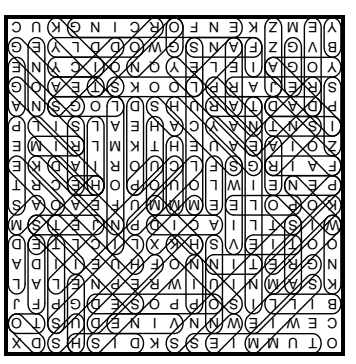
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

DEC. 6

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6	8	3	2	7	4	1	9	5

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 6, 2025

Hanceville library hosting multiple events

Lauren Estes
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville has a host of community events scheduled in December, January and into February.

Library Manager Teresa Rivera said the library invites all families to join in on the fun and learn.

Events include:

- 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 bring a food dish. New Hanceville Mayor Paul Campbell will join us!
- Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 10 a.m. Mrs. Claus and author Dorenda Doyle ("The Kid and the Dog"). Take your picture with Mrs. Claus. Dorenda Doyle is an literacy advocate and writes an award-winning children's book series. She is an energetic, entertaining and enthusiastic author who goes the extra mile. Dorenda brings books to life through her engaging and interactive presentations. She has 30-plus years as an educator and curriculum writer. She motivates children to love to read and write!
- Tuesdays, Jan. 6, 20, and Feb. 3, 17, from 11 a.m.-noon New! Want to learn Spanish? This language has become the second language in America. Add this very easy language to your skills. Ms. Alejandra Pena has been teaching Spanish for over 16 years. She can teach to all ages. If you want to brush up on this language before college, sign up for the class, too. Call 256-352-0685 to sign up. This is a free class.

The library is located at 201 Commercial St. in Hanceville. It's open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5p.m., closed from noon-1 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get more info at Facebook/Hanceville Public Library or 256-352-0685.



ALEA reports 7 traffic fatalities during Thanksgiving 2025 enforcement period

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) has wrapped up its seven-day Thanksgiving 2025 holiday enforcement period, from Tuesday, Nov. 25, through Monday, Dec. 1, during which ALEA Troopers investigated seven traffic deaths.

Designed to ensure the safety of all motorists during one of the busiest travel periods of the season, the critical enforcement initiative included a heavier Highway Patrol presence statewide, with all available Troopers – including those from some of ALEA's specialized units – actively patrolling Alabama roadways to reduce traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities, as well as to deter deadly driving behaviors.

ALEA Secretary of Law Enforcement Hal Taylor said, "Tragically, the loved ones of seven individuals will never forget this extended Thanksgiving weekend. We at ALEA offer our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. Notifying the family after a fatal traffic crash is one of our Troopers' most challenging and heartbreaking responsibilities, particularly during this time of year, when most Alabamians are gathering with those they cherish. Moments like this serve as a sobering reminder of why our work matters and why it is so important that we, as a law enforcement agency, continue doing everything within our power to save lives on Alabama's roadways."

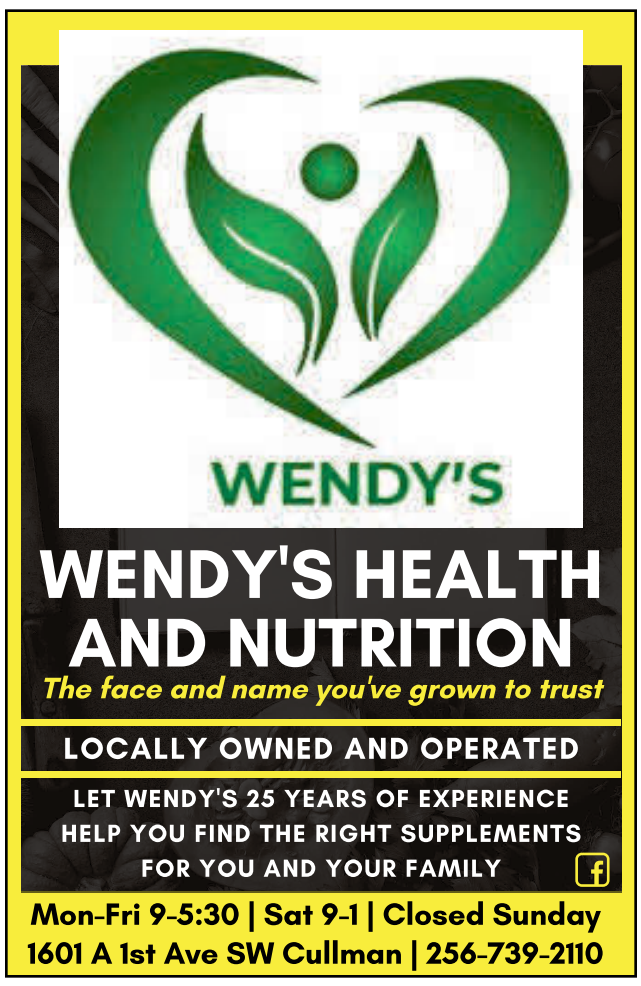
The deadly crashes occurred in Chambers, Houston, Jefferson, Limestone, Lowndes, Sumter and Talladega counties. One pedestrian was among the seven individuals who were killed during the travel period, along with two passengers and four drivers. Only one of the six individuals traveling in vehicles equipped with seat belts was using one at the time of their crash.

In all, Troopers investigated 697 traffic crashes during the official travel period. They also issued 2,552 citations and 1,452 warnings; and they made 20 DUI arrests. Top contributing factors in the seven fatal crashes include speeding, driving too fast for conditions and DUI.

Colonel Jonathan Archer, director of ALEA's Department of Public Safety (DPS), emphasized that traffic safety is important year-round, but as the holiday season quickly approaches, and with possible air-travel disruptions, motorists are urged to join ALEA's efforts to make Alabama roadways safe.

"A Trooper's mission is to ensure Alabama roadways are safe for all; however, our mission is maximized when we have the support of the motoring public," he said. "Buckle up, don't speed or drive distracted, and realize that we have a zero tolerance for driving impaired. It is a reckless decision that can not only change your life, but the lives of other innocent people."

ALEA will kick off its annual "12 Days of Safety" campaign Sunday, Dec. 21. Follow the Agency on social media channels @ALEAProtects and stay tuned for upcoming messages and how you can get involved.





Honoring our loved ones - 9th annual Tree of Remembrance ceremony set for Dec. 9

Gauge Day
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Moss Service Funeral Home will host its ninth annual Tree of Remembrance ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. The event's intent is to give community members an opportunity to gather, remember and honor loved ones who have passed.

The ceremony will feature music by national recording artist Brent Vernon. According to his official website, brentvernon.com, "Brent Vernon is an inspirational singer, songwriter and ventriloquist based in Hobe Sound, Florida. Brent's music blends hope-filled melodies with deep spiritual truth, resonating with audiences in churches, schools and many other venues. In every concert, Brent brings a unique mix of song and story, underscoring timeless messages of hope and redemption."

Following the musical portion of the service, attendees will take part in a community ornament placing and memorial presentation. An assortment of refreshments catered by Stone Bridge Farms will be available afterward, courtesy of Moss Service Funeral Home.

"Christmas is a time of hope, love and sharing," said Moss Service Funeral Home Manager Mike Pepple. "The gift of this service is our way of showing our love to the community and sharing our hope in Jesus Christ, the hope of Christmas."

He added that creating a space for remembrance during the holiday season fills an important emotional need for many.

"A specific place to celebrate a life that has been lived is important because the life was lived in the community; it is fitting to celebrate them through a community service," Pepple shared. "No one lives to themselves, and hence no one dies without being noticed by others."

Families are invited to bring an ornament of any type to place on the Tree of Remembrance in honor of their loved one. There is no limit to the number of ornaments per family, and participants are asked to mark ornaments for easy identification.

"Families have returned year after year to remember and celebrate lives that have been lived," he shared. "We hope people who attend will take away peace, hope, love and the security of belonging to a caring community."

RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Those planning to attend may call 256-734-1821 to help the staff prepare. There is no limit to the number of family members who may participate.

For more information, contact Mike or Cathy at 256-734-1821 or email mike.pepple@dignitymemorial.com or cathy.robbins@dignitymemorial.com.

Moss Service Funeral Home is located at 1901 Second Ave. NW in Cullman.

