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The Cullman Tribune

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Ronald Gene Speegle, Averleigh Grace Ballanger, Bailey Faith White, Bobby Black, Raymond Turner, Zelda Ann "Hidee" Turner, Tracey Lynn Stewart, Elizabeth Michelle Ezell, John Wayman Plunkett

» PAGE 6

WEATHER

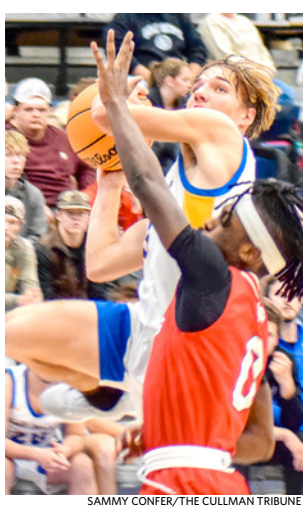
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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 2



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Lady Raiders, Eagles notch county victories

» PAGE 4

Cullman council to update waste and zoning ordinances, approves loan for airport improvements

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday evening, Dec. 8, took on multiple tasks including property annexations, money for airport improvements, updating City ordinances and setting meeting times for 2026.

In old business, the council approved ordinances:

- to annex property owned by Unconquered Homes, LLC located on County Road 490 (20 acres and PIN 27491) as a residential district
- to annex prop- » PAGE 5



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman City Hall

CCSO hosts sponsor dinner ahead of this weekend's rodeo



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual rodeo sponsor dinner on Tuesday night, Dec. 9, 2025, at Cotton Creek Warehouse, ahead of this weekend's Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual rodeo sponsor dinner on Tuesday night at Cotton Creek Warehouse, ahead of this weekend's Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo. According to the CCSO, Tuesday's rodeo dinner drew one of the biggest attendance numbers to date.

According to Sheriff Matt Gentry, the 2024 dinner saw more than 700 attendees. This year's event exceeded that by nearly 100. They also raised over $125,000.

"The rodeo is an important event not just for the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, but for our entire community," Gentry said. "Seeing this year's record number of rodeo sponsors is truly humbling. Their continued support helps provide essential equipment for the sheriff's office year after year, and it also allows us to give back to our communities and our schools. We are truly blessed to have a community that stands behind us so strongly."

The sponsor dinner is an intro-event to the Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo, which is held annually at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center in Vinemont.

Local business owner Alexis Holmes shared that the rodeo is dear to her heart.

"I truly love supporting the sheriff's office in attending this enjoyable event each year," Holmes said. "Supporting my family who is in law enforcement and this rodeo has always been special to me."

Community member and business owner Mandy Leonardi said the common goal among everyone at the rodeo dinner is simple: give back.

"Giving back to our community is something we deeply value — it's a reminder that we're all stronger when we lift each other up," Leonardi said. "Supporting the Special Needs Rodeo is love in action; this is where love, inclusion and joy ride together. We will continue to support this cause for years to come." » PAGE 2

Medicare questions?

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www.VivaHealth.com/Medicare

Bremen woman charged with trafficking fentanyl

» PAGE 2

Outback opens in north Cullman



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The ribbon was cut on the brand-new Outback Steakhouse in north Cullman on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025. » PAGE 4

Judge Greg Nicholas retiring



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

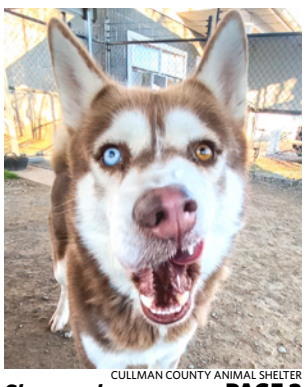
Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Greg Nicholas and courthouse facility dog Brooksie » PAGE 6

Good Hope City Council talks Leonard Road, Love's, Christmas activities

» PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Sherwood and his soulful 'Aroo!'



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Sherwood » PAGE 2



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 10, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 5

• theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $46; Olive St. SW

Dec. 8

• harassing communications; person

• theft of property-1st degree; person; coins, miscellaneous; Tidwell St. SW

Dec. 9

• harassment; person

• theft of property-1st degree; Mitch Smith Chevrolet; '19 Chev. Camaro; $57,000; Cherokee Ave. SW

• domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Hoeppner Ln. NE

ARRESTS

Dec. 8- 9

Cruce, Jeffrey B.; 55

• FTA – driving while suspended (2 counts)

• FTA – insurance violation

Dixon, Kayci T.; 32

• theft of property-4th degree

• FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Dixon, Douglas L.; 35

• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

• FTA – theft of property-4th degree

• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Banks, Timothy R.; 45

• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

• FTA – violation of protection order

• FTA – speeding

• FTA – driving while suspended (2 counts)

• FTA – insurance violation

Young, Bimmy L.; 49

• theft of property-4th degree

Brooks, Cody L.; 31

• GJ – torture/willful abuse of child under 18 (4 counts)

Taylor, Jewel M.; 26

• GJ – torture/willful abuse of child under 18 (4 counts)

Fife, William W.; 47

• theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Hayden man killed in Cullman County crash

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Hayden man was killed in a two-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 6 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. Alabama State Troopers identified the victim as Robert W. Nerovich, 36.

Troopers said Nerovich was fatally injured when the 2011 Ford E-350 he was driving struck a 2026 Freightliner tractor-trailer driven by Tyavian T. Ingram, 26, of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Nerovich was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The crash occurred on Interstate 65, near Alabama Highway 69, approximately 1 mile north 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.

Vinemont Town Council addresses municipal funds and surplus equipment

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Vinemont Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 8, addressing financial updates and municipal equipment during a brief session.

Council members approved two resolutions during the meeting. Resolution No. 2025-12-01 authorized the closure of the Municipal Park Fund account previously held at Merchants Bank/SouthPoint, with all funds to be transferred to Premier Bank of the South.

Resolution No. 2025-12-02 approved the sale or disposal of surplus municipal equipment no longer needed for public use, including a John Deere Gator, a golf cart, an air compressor, two generators and a 2013 Chevy Equinox.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of an upcoming community event:

• Senior Citizens Day will be held Monday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center

The next meeting of the Vinemont Town Council will take place Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Vinemont Town Hall. The work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6. Vinemont Town Hall is located at 36 Patton Dr.

Dinner (from Front)

The Special Needs Rodeo will take place Thursday, Dec. 11, when more than 1,000 special needs children who attend Cullman County-area schools, the Margaret Jean Jones Center and the Cullman County Child Development Center will be treated to a "mini rodeo."

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo is held every December.

The rodeo is dedicated to the memory of former Cullman County Lt. Jimmy Arrington who helped start the event.

According to the CCSO, the rodeo will provide fun, family entertainment, including bareback riding, barrel racing, bull riding and more.

Proceeds from the rodeo help purchase equipment for the CCSO, such as vest carriers, tasers and additional safety equipment. Money from the event also goes to area schools.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office Jimmy Arrington Memorial will take place Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13. Gates open at 5 p.m. both days, with the kids' scramble at 7, and the rodeo performance at 7:30.

Tickets are cash only at the door. Adults are $10; children/students $8; kids 6 and younger get in free. An ATM will be available on-site.

For more information, visit www.cullmansheriff.org/sheriffs-rodeo or www.facebook.com/cullman.sheriff.

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center is located at 17645 U.S. Highway 31.

Sherwood (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Sherwood is a Siberian Husky mix who is about 5 years old with a steady medium energy that makes him a comforting presence from the moment he walks beside you. He's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

He has become a wonderful friend, always attentive, always tuned in to the people around him.

His soulful "Aroo!" is unforgettable, and if you talk back he'll often answer again, which sparks a back-and-forth conversation that feels like a secret language.

Sherwood loves to be groomed and has a remarkable sense of spatial awareness.

He adjusts himself gently around you and carries the calm confidence of a dog who understands people. He also has excellent taste, especially when it comes to high-end cheddar cheese.

With his affectionate nature, Sherwood is the quintessential therapy, companion, reading or hiking dog. He is a precious fellow who has truly stolen hearts at the shelter.

Sherwood's adoption fee is $130, which covers his neuter procedure, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchipping and basic preventive care provided by the shelter.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If Sherwood has already been adopted, the shelter has many other wonderful friends waiting for their forever families, too.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

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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
• Friday, Dec. 12 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
• Sunday, Dec. 14 – 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.
• 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. 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
• 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. 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. 11-23, 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!

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.

Fentanyl (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Bremen woman as been charged with trafficking fentanyl. The Cullman Police Department said Kayla N. Graham, 32, was arrested Friday, Dec. 5.

The CPD said Officer Chad Ashworth initiated a traffic stop near U.S. Highway 31 South and Sheraton Road Southwest, and Officers Daniel Brown and Jake Eiland responded to assist. During the stop, officers allegedly discovered illegal narcotics and drug paraphernalia inside the vehicle.

Both occupants were taken into custody. Graham, the passenger, is charged with trafficking (fentanyl), unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

The driver, Amanda Walker, 44, of Salem, Alabama, is charged with unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kayla N. Graham



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Amanda Walker

"This case reflects the proactive patrol work and attentiveness of Officer Ashworth, Officer Brown and Officer Eiland," the CPD said.

"Their alert actions and teamwork resulted in the removal of dangerous narcotics from our community, reinforcing the Cullman Police Department's ongoing commitment to public safety."

Said Police Chief Joey Duncan, "Stops like this demonstrate the value of proactive policing and the continued effort our officers put forward every day to keep our streets safe."

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PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Raiders, Eagles notch county victories

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BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs Eagles hosted the Good Hope Raiders in a pair of varsity matchups on Tuesday night, and each school came away with a win. In the varsity girls' game, Good Hope broke open a close game in the second quarter, outscoring Cold Springs 20-9 en route to a 62-40 win over the Lady Eagles. In the varsity boys' game, it was a defensive battle through three quarters and Cold Springs held a double-digit lead early into the fourth quarter. Good Hope went on a huge rally to get back in the game, but a pair of free throws were ultimately the difference for the Eagles in their 55-53 win over the Raiders.

Good Hope 62 – Cold Springs 40
(Varsity Girls)

Ella Dickerson drilled a three from the right wing to give Cold Springs an early 3-1 lead. Good Hope matched with a three on the other end by Lucie Adams to give the Lady Raiders the lead. Later in the opening quarter, baskets in the paint by Adams and Ella Gossett, plus a pair of free throws by Ella Davis, put the Lady Raiders ahead 10-5. A basket down low by Hollyn Bruer cut it to 10-7, but Davis put in a basket down low and Gossett drained a deep ball from the left wing to stretch Good Hope's lead to 15-7 late in the first quarter. Bruer then buried a three and a rebound and putback bucket by Kaydance Williams made it a 15-12 game going into the second quarter.

Sophie Konrad scored through a foul and completed the three-point play at the free-throw line to give the Lady Raiders a 18-12 lead early in the second. Dickerson knocked down a three, and Williams dropped in a floater to cut it to 18-17. Davis put in a basket in the paint and Adams drained a pair of threes to put Good Hope ahead 26-19. Bruer then knocked down a basket down low to make it a five-point game, but the Lady Raiders went on to finish the first half strong. Adams hit a pair of free throws and then buried her fourth deep ball of the game from the left corner. Konrad then put in a driving layup to give Good Hope a 35-21 lead at the break.

The Lady Raiders carried that momentum into the third quarter. Davis scored through a foul and knocked down the free throw to complete the three-point play. Then, Konrad scored on a floater and a layup to widen their lead to 42-21. Kotie Calvert stopped the bleeding with a basket down low to cut it to 42-23, but baskets by Davis and Gossett made it 46-23. Four straight points by Dickerson made it a 48-27 game. Adams continued her red-hot shooting from deep, as she drilled her fifth trey from the right corner, then a driving layup by Konrad and a trey by Zoe Gibbs gave Good Hope a 56-28 game going into the final quarter.

Macie Huffstutler scored the first four points of the fourth quarter for Cold Springs and made it a 58-32 contest. Keiarah Fanning and Dickerson scored eight straight points for the Lady Eagles to then cut it to 60-40. Gabriel Richter hit a basket down low to put the finishing touches on a 62-40 win for Good Hope (9-2).

Adams led the way for the Lady Raiders with 20 points. Davis put in 17 points. Konrad ended up with 11 points, and Gossett added nine points. For Cold Springs (5-6), Dickerson finished with 15 points, while Bruer and Huffstutler each added seven points.

Cold Springs 55 – Good Hope 53
(Varsity Boys)

Both teams brought their A-game defensively to start out the boys' varsity matchup. Lindan Hill hit a basket down low to put Cold Springs on the board first. Neither team would get on the scoreboard for a few minutes before two more baskets by Hill made it 6-0. Good Hope got their first bucket with a little over two minutes remaining in the first quarter on a three from the left corner by Tucker Screws. The Eagles, though, answered on the other end as Ethan Day drained a pair of threes to put the Eagles ahead 12-3. Both teams traded baskets to end the quarter, as Cold Springs would take a 14-5 lead into the second period.

Breydon Hallmon and Hill each hit a basket down low to stretch the Eagle's lead to 18-5 early in the second. A basket by Ayden Black made it 20-7 almost midway through the second period, but a trey on the other end by Christian Sims cut it to 20-10. Baskets by Wyatt Barker and Cash Dickerson made it 24-10, but another three by Screws trimmed it to 11 at 24-13. Hill split his free throws, and Cold Springs held onto a 25-13 lead at the half.

Cayden Adamson buried a trey from the left corner to cut it to 25-16 early in the third quarter. Cold Springs, though, went on a little run to stretch their lead out even more as a basket down low by Hallmon, five straight points by Ayden Black, a steal and a layup by Day and a free throw by Hallmon made it a 35-16 game. The Raiders countered with a run of their own. Screws scored in the paint, then Sims drained a trey from the right corner, and Kye McSwain hit a basket down low to make it a 35-23 game late in the third quarter. Day hit a pair of free throws, and Ian Moody hit a basket to make the score 37-25 going into what would be an exciting final quarter.

Hallmon, Day and Dickerson scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter for Cold Springs, pushing their lead to 45-28. A basket by Barker made it 47-31 and Good Hope came roaring back into the game. After Johnson split his free throws, Ayden Young scored five straight points, including a three from the top of the key to cut it to a ten-point game. Owen Armstrong followed suit with five straight points of his own, including a trey from the left corner, and all of a sudden it was now a 47-42 contest. Hill scored on the other end to give the Eagles a 49-42 lead with 1:19 remaining in the game. Adamson buried a three from the left corner to make it a four-point game. Black knocked down a pair from the line to make it a 51-45 game, but Screws hit a huge basket down low and got fouled in the process. His free throw cut it to 51-48. Both teams traded points to keep it at a three-point contest at 53-50. Black hit two more free throws to make it a 55-50 game, and Screws hit a three not too long before the buzzer sounded. Cold Springs (9-1) was able to hold off Good Hope in the end, with the final score being 55-53.

Day led the way for the Eagles with 14 points. Hill wasn't too far behind with 13 points, and Black finished with 11 points. For Good Hope (2-6), Screws finished with 18 points, and Sims added 11 points.

Cold Springs will host Falkville in an area game on Friday, and Good Hope will host Danville Friday night as well.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Ayden Black attempts a shot over a Good Hope defender.

PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman frontcourt fuels 63-48 win over Thompson

Lucas Gray
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bearcats got back in the win column on Monday night, defeating Thompson 63-48 behind a strong performance from their frontcourt. Senior forward Sam Dorough led Cullman with a game-high 22 points, hitting two three-pointers. The Bearcats improved to 11-1 with the win.

After a sloppy start that saw the Bearcats finish the first quarter down 16-11 to the Warriors, Cullman went on a 12-2 run to close out the half with a 28-24 lead. The stretch was fueled by the 6-5 Dorough, whose shooting, length and ability to push his way into the paint proved a tall task for Thompson's defense.

"I think we just settled into the game, stopped throwing it to them. Defensively we played great the whole night in my opinion, and we just settled into the game and figured out their speed. We hadn't seen that speed since we played Ramsay. We figured out their speed, got good shots and wore them down," Cullman head coach Stu Stuedeman said about the team getting back on track before the half.

In the second half, Dorough's frontcourt partner, 6-7 sophomore Brooks Loftin began heating up. He'd score six of his 13 total points in the third quarter, two of which came from a pair of technical free throws.

In the midst of a strong overall team matchup, Loftin and Thompson forward Cameron Pritchett, a four-star defensive end committed to Oregon in football, battled under the basket all night. Loftin's height and Pritchett's willing physicality made for an entertaining and sometimes chippy matchup, as Pritchett scored ten points of his own.

"Yeah (Pritchett)'s a tough athletic dude and he's got game out here, too. He can dribble it, shoot it and Brooks Loftin is every bit as tough. You know, he's a warrior, and when he's locked in and serious about his business he's one of the best basketball players in the state of Alabama and he's only a sophomore. I was really proud of that. It got physical, it got chippy and we did a great job of not responding to that but also not backing down on physicality," Stuedeman said on the matchup.

Cullman guard Gray Hopper had a strong second half, scoring 11 of his total 15 points with a trio of threes to help the Bearcats pull away from Thompson late. Thompson's night was not for naught, however, as in the third quarter, forward Riley Bryant threw down one of the more powerful one-handed poster dunks you'll see in high school basketball.

It was an important bounce-back win for Cullman after the shocking 57-50 loss to 6-4 Hartselle on Friday. On preparing for tonight after the loss, Stuedeman said the team held a two and a half hour film session, spending twice as much time watching their mistakes from the last game than they did practicing on the court.

The Cullman Bearcats return to action on Thursday with a trip to Pike Road, who is currently 7-2 overall.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman forward Brooks Loftin attempts a pass over a Thompson defender.

Outback (from Front)

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The ribbon was cut on the brand-new Outback Steakhouse in north Cullman on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Cullman City Council and the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) joined in to officially welcome the restaurant to town.

CEDA Director Dale Greer said that for years, community members have said they want an Outback.

"The company has a reputation for great food but also for community service and involvement," Greer said. "Outback is a great addition to Cullman."

The Outback team said the restaurant isn't just an exciting addition that brings the taste of the "Down Under."

It also creates new jobs in the community and will join forces with two local nonprofits – Curt's Closet and Cullman Caring for Kids – throughout opening week.

Curt's Closet Founder and Executive Director Ashley Wilson was presented with a check for $5,000, while Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter accepted a check for $2,738.31. Both were the result of a fundraising campaign hosted by Outback.

Wilson said partnerships with local businesses are vital to the work of Curt's Closet.

"Nonprofit work is truly a community effort, and when new and local companies like Outback Steakhouse choose to invest in the kids of Cullman from day one, it shows families that they're not just opening their doors to the public, they're opening opportunities," Wilson said.

"Their decision to donate part of their proceeds was more than a generous gesture; it was a statement that they believe in the children and families we serve.

"Support like this helps us reach more kids and families, meet more needs and continue building a community where everyone has the chance to thrive."

Sutter said Cullman Caring for Kids is honored to be a part of Outback's opening and is looking forward to partnering with the steakhouse in the future.

"When groups like Outback make us part of their openings, it not only gives us a financial boost from them, but it also puts our name and mission out to more people who might not know we exist or what we really do," Sutter said.

"Running a nonprofit is all about relationships and this is one that will help for years to come."

CEDA Retail and Workforce Development Manager Susan Eller said it has been a pleasure to work with the Delaney Property Group, which had a vision to bring a national steakhouse to Cullman.

"They have completed several retail projects in the city of Cullman but also in Cullman County and we thank them for their confidence in this community," Eller said.

"Outback has really transformed this intersection with an updated look that our community can be proud of and we are grateful for the investment they have made here in Cullman.

"We are excited to have Outback as an addition to the great restaurant lineup in Cullman."

Eller said she looked into what makes Outback choose a community and found what she said was great information:

"Outback Steakhouse (the restaurant) looks for vibrant communities with strong local economies, good visibility/traffic, and potential for community engagement, often focusing on areas with families and sports interest, while Outback Stores in Australia (outbackstores.com.au) works with Indigenous communities to improve food access, health, and employment, seeking partners to create sustainable businesses that benefit locals

" Site selection involves analytics, assessing demographics, and ensuring alignment with their brand values of quality and community support, rather than just generic locations."

Outback Steakhouse is located at 727 Second Ave. NW (U.S. Highway 31) in the North Shopping Center in Cullman.

Hours are Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11a.m.-11p.m and Sundays 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Cullman (from Front)

erty owned by Eric and Erin Goodrich located on Loch Avenue Northeast (Lot 15 and PIN 45645) as a residential district

In new business, the council approved the following resolutions:

• to approve the 2026 Cullman City Council Meeting Schedule, at 7 p.m. mostly on Mondays: Jan. 12, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 6, Apr. 20, May 11, (Tuesday) May 26, June 15, June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 10, Aug.31, Sep. 14, Sep. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Dec. 14

• to appropriate additional funds and/or in-kind services to the Cullman County Library up to $15,000

• to approve a loan in the amount of $2.5 million for airport improvements from Peoples Bank of Alabama

• to update job descriptions for the following positions: treasurer, economic development director and marketing and communications coordinator

• to enter into a contract with CivicPlus for website development and hosting, a branded mobile app, a mass notification system, community engagement tools, a Chatbot, social media archiving and hosting the City's municipal code, in the amount not to exceed $69,791.96

The council held first readings, without taking action, of two ordinances:

• to update City Code Chapter 2 Administration: Section 342 Meetings, to change the meeting times of the Planning Commission so the City Council can hold public work sessions. Wording of the proposed update:

o The following section of the City of Cullman's Municipal Code, Chapter 2, "Administration," Section 342, "Meetings" of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows: Sec. 2-342. Meetings. The planning commission shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the city hall unless otherwise provided by the commission or the city council from time to time.

• to update multiple sections of the Solid Waste ordinance, including Section 2 Definitions, Section 23 Proper rubbish placement; fee for additional removal, Section 25 Preparation and collection rules, Section 56 Residential, Section 57 Commercial, and Section 81 Violations. Wording of the proposed update:

o Section 46-2, "Definitions," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-2. - Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning: Garbage means putrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food, including wastes from markets, storage facilities, handling and sale of produce and other food products, and the wrappings and containers thereof; excepting such materials that may be serviced by garbage grinders and handled as household sewage, and excepting sewage and livestock and poultry waste. Garbage and trash containers mean watertight containers which hold not less than sixty-five (65) gallons nor more than ninety-six (96) gallons, with tightfitting lids or tops, not to be fastened in such a manner that the containers may not be easily emptied, and with two handles. Garbage shall be placed in plastic bags and is required in all containers. Landfill means the place designated by the city for dumping and disposing of garbage and trash. Rubbish means nonputrescible solid wastes, consisting of both combustible and noncombustible wastes, except such wastes as are included within the term "garbage."

• (1) The term "combustible rubbish" includes: a) Paper; b) Rags; c) Cartons; d) Wood; e) Furniture; f) Rubber; g) Plastics; h) Yard trimmings; i) Leaves; j) Similar materials; and k) Construction and demolition debris.

• (2) The term "noncombustible rubbish" includes: a) Glass; b) Crockery; c) Metal cans; d) Metal furniture; and e) Like materials which will not burn at ordinary incinerator temperatures, not less than 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit (excluding hazardous waste and ashes). Sanitation department means the city sanitation department and includes all officers and employees engaged in solid waste pickup for the city. Solid wastes means all putrescible and nonputrescible discarded materials, except household sewage and livestock and poultry wastes including, but not limited to: (1) Garbage; (2) Rubbish; (3) Ashes; (4) Street and highway cleanings; (5) Abandoned vehicles; and (6) Such industrial wastes as are not controlled by other departments or agencies. Trash includes garbage and rubbish.

o Section 46-23, "Proper rubbish placement; fee for additional removal," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-23. - Proper rubbish placement; fee for additional removal. Rubbish, which shall include trash (other than garbage), limbs, brush, and leaves, shall be placed within five (5) feet of the curbline or in an accessible place approved by the sanitation division. All such waste shall be placed in an orderly, neat manner adjacent to that portion of the street right-of-way, and as nearly as practicable to the property line of the parcel of property in question where said line intersects the right-of-way line of the public street or roadway, but not in the street, ditches or gutters for removal by the city without additional charge. However, not more than three (3) cubic yards per cycle shall be moved without charge in any one month. Amounts over three cubic yards per cycle will be subject to a fee as provided in the city fee schedule.

o Section 46-25, "Preparation and collection rules," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-25. Preparation and collection rules. a) b) c) d) e) f) g) h) i) All garbage, before deposit in the container as provided in this article, shall be drained free of water and bagged in such manner as to prevent moisture, as nearly as possible, from such garbage from coming in contact with the sides or bottom of the container. It shall be the duty of every person in possession, charge or control of any premises where paper cartons, shipping cases, cardboard, newspapers, or other like combustible material accumulates as wastes for disposal, to bundle and securely tie the bundle, and place such material in a location accessible for collection. Scrap lumber, plaster, roofing, brick, sawdust and other building debris will be picked up by the city through roll-off services for fees established by the city council. Rocks and dirt will not be picked up by the city. Tree limbs shall not exceed six feet in length or seventy-five (75) pounds in weight. Tree stumps shall not exceed two hundred and fifty (250) pounds in weight. Leaves and grass clippings shall be separated from all other material and placed along the curbline or street line, where they can be collected by the sanitation department. Fireplace ashes must be separated and cooled properly before placing for collection. Cat litter must be bagged before placing for collection. Needles, knives, broken glass, or other sharp objects shall be placed in a sealed hard plastic container before placing in a receptacle.

o Section 46-56, "Residential," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-56. Residential. Each householder in the city shall utilize the trash containers supplied by the City to dispose of garbage and trash to be taken up from time to time by the city. Such containers shall be kept on the premises of the householder at a place that will be accessible to the sanitation employees. Such householder(s) shall place in containers all garbage and trash, except as otherwise provided in this article, from the residence and premises connected therewith so that the same may be taken up by the city. All containers should be placed within three (3) feet of the curbline but not in the street.

o Section 46-57, "Commercial," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-57. Commercial. The owner, operator or manager of each store, hotel, boardinghouse or rooming house or any other place of business shall provide garbage and trash containers, except as otherwise provided in this article, arising from the operation of such store, hotel, rooming house or boardinghouse or other place of business, and shall place in such containers that are supplied by the City for the garbage and trash, except as otherwise provided in this article, arising from the premises, so that the same may be taken up and carried away by the city.

o Section 46-81, "Violations; procedure," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following: Sec. 46-81. Violations; procedure. a) Upon discovery of a violation of this section, the designated city official shall cause to be served upon the violator and, if the violator is not the owner or occupant of the property, upon the owner and the occupant, a notice of violation. The notice shall include a description of the violation and an order to remove the violation in not less than seven days from the date of the notice. b) The notice provided for in this section shall be given by either personal delivery, U.S. mail or electronic mail and also by posting a copy of the notice on the container found to be in violation of this article. c) If the container found to be in violation of this article is not removed within one (1) day from the date of the notice of violation and order to remove, the container shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and shall be removed by the designated city official and stored at an appropriate facility. d) The container owner, the property owner, and the property occupant shall be jointly and severally liable for costs of removal and storage of the container. The costs of abatement, including removal and storage costs, shall be enforceable and collectible by the city in the same manner as other nuisance abatement costs. e) The penalties and costs provided in this section shall be in addition to all applicable penalties for violation of this article as provided in section 1-19. f) Containers impounded pursuant to this section may be disposed of by the city in the same manner as provided for confiscated and abandoned property.

• to update Chapter 62 Zoning: Section 165 Reconstruction of damaged buildings or structures. According to the Building Department, this update will encourage the reconstruction of blighted and dilapidated properties in the city. Wording of the ordinance:

o The following section of the City of Cullman Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 62, "Zoning," Section 165, "Reconstruction of damaged buildings or structures.," of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows: Sec. 62-165. - Reconstruction of damaged buildings or structures.

a) Any nonconforming dwelling damaged by fire, wind, flood, or other causes, may be repaired or rebuilt within the footprint and square footage of the nonconforming dwelling. The repairs or reconstruction must be initiated within one hundred and eighty (180) days and completed within three hundred and sixty-five (365) days of such damage. Other nonconforming structures damaged by fire, wind, flood or other causes up to sixty (60) percent of their value prior to the damage, may be repaired or rebuilt within the existing footprint and square footage. If the damage exceeds sixty (60) percent of the value of the structure, the structure must be made to conform to applicable zoning regulations, if repaired or rebuilt.

b) Any accessory structures such as storage buildings, detached garages, and similar buildings which have been damaged by fire, wind, flood, or other causes, must be brought into compliance with the requirements of the zoning district in which they are located.

c) Any single-family dwelling that has been declared a dangerous structure under Section 10-335 of the Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama, by the Building Official may be rebuilt within the same footprint provided that setbacks comply with the International Residential Code.

d) In order to promote economic vitality, community well-being and public safety, any Blighted Property, as determined by the Building Official, that is residential may be demolished and rebuilt within the same footprint provided that setbacks comply with the International Residential Code. Blighted Property is defined as any property and/or structure that exhibits one or more of the following conditions: 1) Structures that are unsafe, uninhabitable, or deteriorated, 2) Abandoned, vacant, or boarded buildings, 3) Repeated criminal activity or nuisance behavior involving said property, 4) Presence of mold, vermin, stagnant water, fire hazards, or other conditions harmful to health or safety, 5) Neglected, run-down and/or unsightly structures, 6) Accumulation of trash, debris, or overgrown vegetation, or 7) Conditions that pose a threat to public health or safety.

e) NOTICE. The Building Department shall notify all Adjacent Property Owners upon application of the Property Owner for approval of a non-conforming use. Adjacent Property Owners are defined as any property contiguous to the subject property, including properties directly across from said subject property. Said notice shall be given by certified mail or hand delivery within seven (7) business days from the submission of the application. The Building Official shall notify the Property Owner and Adjacent Property Owner of decisions regarding applications for non-conforming use. Said notice shall be given by certified mail or hand delivery within seven (7) business days of the decision.

f) APPEAL. The Property Owner shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Building Official. Said appeal shall be made in accordance with Ordinance 2-380, Ordinance 2-381 and Ordinance 62-181 et. seq. Any Adjacent Property Owner shall have the right to appeal any decision of the Building Official decision within fourteen (14) days of said decision and shall be in accordance with Ordinance 2-380, Ordinance 2381, and Ordinance 62-181 et. seq.

The council approved a special event request from Zach Jones of Alabama Justice Watchdogs to hold a protest on Jan. 13, 2026, around the Cullman County Courthouse located at 500 Second Ave. SW

The council heard from Josh Veres of Augusta's regarding the effects of road construction on small businesses. Veres claimed a business loss of over $10,000 per week due to road construction around his business, begun without prior notification, and asked the council to consider a tax abatement to offset his losses.

Realtor and Bolte Crossings resident Mackenzie Screws also spoke to the council about continued flooding problems in the southeast Cullman neighborhood.

According to Council President Kim Hall, City Engineer Erica York would meet with Screws and other attending Bolte Crossings residents after the council meeting.

The council also appointed Jason Willoughby to the Solid Waste Disposal Authority Board for a term that will expire on July 24, 2031.

The Cullman City Council meets next week on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the city hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 11, 2025

Nicholas (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Greg Nicholas is retiring after serving 20 years in the Alabama court system. In the 32nd Judicial Circuit, Nicholas served 19 years. His retirement is effective Jan. 26, 2026.

"I managed a total of 20 years working for the Alabama courts, including my employment as law clerk for Judge Sam Taylor on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals after law school," Nicholas shared.

"I enjoyed serving as mediator before going on the bench, so I may occasionally do mediation to help people involved in a lawsuit find common ground to settle their case."

Nicholas said it's also possible he may be called back on a limited basis as a judge in this circuit or another judicial circuit when the judges have a conflict or due to other circumstances, but he's looking forward to getting back to charity work and spending more time with family.

"I was also previously involved with various charitable organizations in our community that I needed to step back from while on the bench due to time constraints and possible conflicts of interest, so I expect to have more time now to become involved again with some of those organizations," he said.

"I am looking forward to having more time to spend with family and friends and for travel."

Nicholas shared a few memories that have stuck with him throughout this career.

"There are so many cases that come to mind but one that left an indelible mark happened very early in my career when I was serving as a district court judge in a dependency case," he said.

"When there is an allegation that a child has been abused or neglected the law authorizes a social worker with the Department of Human Resources to take a child into protective custody to safeguard the child but requires that a court hearing be held within 72 hours to determine if the child is in need of care or supervision.

"If a judge determines that a child is in danger as a result of abuse or neglect by a parent or custodian, other family resources are examined for possible temporary placement or, if there are none, then placement with a foster family can be ordered temporarily so that services can be provided to a parent in an effort to reunify the family as soon as that can safely be accomplished.

"So, one morning on a dependency docket, a mother and her 12-year-old son appeared in court for me to make a determination whether the child had been abused or neglected and, if so, what action was needed to protect the child. The petition filed in the case alleged that the mother frequently left her child at home alone while she was out until one or two o'clock in the morning, that the child was missing school frequently and that he was going for long periods without being fed and there was insufficient food in the home.

"The 12-year-old confirmed to me that the allegations were true and also testified that he witnessed his mother smoking marijuana when she came home late at night so she could 'calm down' and that she would take a hit of crystal meth each morning 'to get going.'"

Nicholas said it was obvious the child was painfully aware of his mother's drug addiction.

"He looked up at me, with tears streaming down his face, and asked, 'Why does my momma love drugs more than me? Why doesn't she just stop using drugs so I can live with her?' he recalled. "I didn't have a great answer for that little boy. Children love their parents and desperately want to be with them, even under the most appalling circumstances.

"That case illustrates the devastating consequences of drug addiction in our society and just how powerful drugs must be to sever the bonds of parental love.

"There shouldn't be any force on Earth more powerful than a parent's love for their children, but clearly there was in that case, and so many others like it. Drug addiction causes so many problems in our society, and children are too often just collateral damage. Parental drug addiction robs children of the types of memories they should have and creates a hellish existence for way too many children living in our community."

Nicholas said that case helped shape his views and led to a greater focus on drug rehabilitation to help address the root problem.

"It also led to creation of a local program where circuit and district judges visit every high school in Cullman County to candidly talk with teens about the real-world problems drugs often cause and other legal issues commonly faced by teens and young adults," he said.

Judge Nicholas' replacement will be named by Governor Kay Ivey, and he or she will serve until the next election is held.

Many community leaders expressed admiration for Nicholas upon hearing of his retirement.

Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan said Nicholas has served the community with fairness, integrity and steady leadership.

"His commitment to justice set a standard we will feel for years to come," Duncan said. "I'm grateful for his service and wish him the very best in retirement."

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said Nicholas has served the people of Cullman County with integrity, humility and a deep commitment to justice for nearly two decades.

"His steady leadership on the bench and his unwavering fairness have made our community stronger and our justice system better," Gentry said. "Judge Nicholas never sought the spotlight — he simply worked every day to do what was right, treating every person who appeared before him with respect.

"As sheriff, I've seen firsthand the impact of his dedication, and I'm grateful for the partnership and professionalism he has shown to law enforcement throughout his career.

"We celebrate his remarkable service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement."

Cullman County District Judges Chad Floyd and Rusty Turner and Circuit Judge Emily Johnston also share kind words.

"Judge Nicholas will be deeply missed for many reasons," Floyd said.

"He is not only a genuine pleasure to work with, but also an exceptional jurist who has consistently sought to administer justice fairly and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Alabama.

"On a personal note, I will greatly miss the benefit of his insight concerning complex legal issues. Ninety-five percent of me wishes him and (his wife) Rita the very best in his retirement; the remaining 5% hopes he might reconsider and continue working with us for another decade."

"It has been my pleasure to serve with Greg for the last 14 years on the bench and before that as a practicing lawyer," Turner said.

"He is always the consummate gentleman and his dedication to the legal system has been consistent in the way he engages with the people that appear before him.

"I've also had the opportunity to work with Judge Nicholas for the last 11 years as he and I, along with Judge Floyd, Judge Johnston and former Judge Martha Williams speak to every ninth-grade class in the Cullman County school system each year.

"Greg would share his experiences with the ninth graders to help them make better decisions so as to keep them from running afoul of the law. I will miss working with him, but he has earned a well-deserved retirement and I wish him the best."

"Judge Nicholas is wise, patient and, thorough in his research, always staying impartial and ruling with common sense to find the best result while following the law," Johnston said.

"His leadership and commitment to public service is evidenced by his decision to stay on the bench, delaying his retirement last year so that Cullman County would have consistency in the Circuit Court. What an incredible example of service above self. It has been an honor to work alongside him, and he will be greatly missed."

In a social media post, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said, "Judge Nicholas has served this judicial circuit with honor and distinction. He has always embodied what a judge should be - prompt, courteous, curious and prepared. He will be missed."

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 9-10

Ronald Gene Speegle, 83
Ronald Gene Speegle, age 83 of Falkville, Alabama, passed away December 7, 2025. He was born July 7, 1942, in Cullman, Alabama. Ronald is preceded in death by his parents Curtis Albert and Mavous Arlene Speegle. He is survived by his wife of 64 years Stella Faye Speegle; children Rodney Jason (Heather) Speegle and Rhonda DeNean Speegle (Lamar) Goolsby; grandchildren Justin Talmadge Floyd, Logan Austin Speegle, and Lauren Grace Speegle; great grandchild Kinleigh Jade Floyd, and sisters Kathy Speegle Moore and Bonita Speegle Greer. Ronald was a man of wide-ranging talent and quiet intelligence. For many years, he served as president of the Cullman Amateur Radio Club call sign N4UAI. Ronald was an entrepreneur in many fields. He founded Indian Creek Motocross, Cullman Jeweler, and was a chicken farmer for several years. Ronald loved operating heavy equipment and keeping busy. He served four years in the United States Air Force, stationed in Madrid, Spain, and remained a lifetime member of the NRA. Ronald worked for Sperry Corporation designing cameras for Skylab, the first American space station; and later for Chrysler producing radios for K-cars. Ronald even contributed to the development of the 911 system as it is known today working for Intergraph. He was always ahead of the curve, known for having the most cutting edge technology. He was a lover of sports cars and motorcycles, at one point owning a 1969 Shelby GT500 Mustang. Above all, Ronald was a proud father. He was thoughtful, strategic, unique and loved in his own way. Ronald was certainly a one of a kind and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A celebration of life funeral service will be held Friday December 12, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home chapel with burial to follow at Ebenezer Cemetery in Vinemont, Alabama. The family will receive friends for a visitation from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Thursday December 11, 2025. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Averleigh Grace Ballanger
We were honored to enjoy Averleigh Grace Ballanger for seven days in our arms. Then, having reached perfection, she was recalled to heaven to await our arrival. Averleigh joins multiple family members in eternity, including: grandparents: Dennis Ballenger and Jerry Lynn Coggins; great-grandpa, Henry Derl Basinger; great-grandma, Diane Miller; and an uncle, Dakota Lamons. She is survived by her mother, Savannah Aderholt; father, Christopher Ballenger; sister, Alexis Ballenger; grandparents: Darlene (Carthel) Morgan, Marie (Wesley) Long, Randy Boatright and Shauna (Tarita) Aderholt; Great Grandparent, Darlene (Carthel) Morgan; Great Great Grandmother; Frances Basinger; uncles: Payton (Emily) Coggins, Tyler Coggins, Nicky Ballenger, Anthony (Amanda) Ballenger; Aunts: Hailey (Albert) Rangel and Nicky Aderholt; and a host of cousins, other family members and friends. The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., prior to the celebration of Averleigh's life that will begin at 5 p.m. with Rev. GT Robertson officiating. The celebration will be held at Hillside Baptist Church, 23654 U.S. Highway 31, Falkville, AL 35622. Moss Service Funeral Home is directing.

Bailey Faith White, 22
Funeral service for Bailey Faith White, 22, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Good Hope Cemetery, Rev. Wayne Barnette and Rev. Troy Puckett officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday evening from 4:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. and again on Saturday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Bailey entered her heavenly home Monday, December 8th, 2025, at UAB Hospital. She was born September 10, 2003. She loved her children and family. Bailey loved riding horses, loved to dance and sing, loved makeup and hair and she loved her eye lashes. She enjoyed gardening and was just a sweet, sweet girl. She was preceded in death by her grandfathers, Marcell Earlon Hancock, Frank ' Buddy' White, Orville Farley, and her baby Harris. Survivors include her mother and father, Clarissa and Rodney White; fiancé and father of her children, Ehen Harris; children, Preslee and Fisher Harris; grandmothers, Jewel Farley, Margie White; her biological mother and father, Jessica Armstrong, Joseph Goodwin; step-mother, Traci Goodwin; brothers, Dalton Hancock (Abbie), Dylan McBrayer (Amanda), Daniel Skinner; sisters, Amber Pace (Brian), Courtney Glasco (Michael), Amber Lotero (Jorge), Terra Skinner; nieces, nephews, family and friends. Pallbearers will be Bailey Cofer, Mason McCurry, Daniel Skinner, Camden Glasco, Dakota White, Cody White, Gage McCurry, Kaden Glasco. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Bobby Black, 76
Funeral service for Bobby Black, age 76 of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Keith Whitley officiating; burial at Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Black passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025, at his residence. He was born April 7, 1949, to Glendale Black and Geneva Black. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Vickie Black; daughter, Ashley Black; brother, Larry Black; brother-in-law, Ronald Rodgers; and nephew, Cody Lindsey. Survivors include his daughter, Amy Jarrett (Austin); his four grand furbabies, Bob, Willy, Sadie, and Marley; brother, Billy Black (Angie); sisters-in-law, Connie Black, Connie Lindsey (Gary), Jean & Mark Creel, Linda & Gerald Allen; brother-in-law Wayne Rodgers (Teresa); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family & friends.

Raymond Turner, 68
Raymond Lynn Turner, age 68 of Vinemont, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025. He was born August 5, 1957, to David Turner and Airey Morgan Vance Turner. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, David Leon Turner and Hal Vance; sisters, Melissa Turner Weaver and Katherine Hacis. Survivors include his niece, Darrena Butler; nephew, Eric Williams (Margaret); niece, Brandy Turner; nephew David Turner; great nieces & nephews, Tylyr Butler (Brittany), Kyle Butler (Cassidy & Adalyn), Brianna Davis (Austin & Lola), Sarah Williams, Sofie Williams, Noah Williams, Orianna Godbee, Lexi Sproul, Duncan Headrick, Dalton Benson; his lifelong friend and caregiver, Ernie Freeman.

Zelda Ann "Hidee" Turner, 76
Funeral Service for Zelda Ann "Hidee" Turner, age 76 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; Visitation will be from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Turner passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Huntsville Hospital surrounded by family and friends. She was born December 2, 1949, to Getulio "Jack" Nodini and Ruby Sharp Nodini. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, J. D. Turner; grandson, Dakota Parker; brother, Glenn "Robby" Robinson. Survivors include her son, Kevin Parker (Shannon); daughter, Marie Brazier (Doug); grandchildren, Scott Busby, Anna Busby, Matthew Brazier, Shane Summersell, Hannah Summersell; great grandchildren, Trenton Hall, Addison Busby, Bristol Lewis, Christian Marshall, Kinzey Summersell; sister, Ann Butler; brother, John Furlotte and a host of nieces & nephews.

Tracey Lynn Stewart, 53
Funeral services for Tracey Lynn Stewart, 53, of Cullman will be 1 p.m. Friday, December 12th at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Duck River Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Ms. Stewart was born April 8, 1972, in Birmingham, Alabama to Joe and Joan Stewart. She passed away December 8, 2025, in Huntsville, Alabama. Tracey spent 30 years with LabCorp, where she was known for her reliability, professionalism, and the kindness she extended to coworkers.. Ms. Stewart is survived by her father, Joe Stewart; son, Tyler Stewart; grandson, Jaylen Stewart; sister, Regina Butler; great aunt, Faye Harris; nieces and nephews, Kennedy Butler, Daniel Butler, Makai Butler; and a host of cousins, aunts, and uncles. Ms. Stewart was preceded in death by her mother, Joan Stewart; and her grandparents, Ervie and Inez Burns, and Frankie and Lola Stewart. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Stewart family.

Elizabeth Michelle Ezell, 31
Funeral services for Elizabeth Michelle Ezell, 31, of Hanceville will be 12 p.m. Thursday, December 11th at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Johnson Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Ms. Ezell was born February 14, 1994, in Birmingham, Alabama to David Frink and Mary Ezell. She passed away December 9, 2025, in Birmingham, Alabama. Ms. Ezell is survived by her mother, Mary Ezell; siblings, Tim Ezell, Michael Ezell, James Ezell, Tracy Smith, John Frink; nephews, Bailey Ezell, Christian Ezell; and her niece, Willow Ezell. Ms. Ezell was preceded in death by her father, David Frink; grandparents, Effie Traweek, James Traweek; and her fiancé James Chess. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ezell family.

John Wayman Plunkett, 55
John Wayman Plunkett, 55, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on December 9, 2025. Mr. Plunkett was born in Hollywood, Florida, on February 10, 1970, to the late J.T. Plunkett and Martha Marie Harris Plunkett. John is preceded in death by his father. Those surviving Mr. Plunkett include his wife of twelve years, Amy Phillips Plunkett; mother, Martha Marie Harris Plunkett; children, Brandon Plunkett, Christopher Phillips, J.T. Plunkett, Janet Plunkett (Patrick), Sheila Plunkett (Jason); brothers, Jimmy Plunkett (Judy), Jeff Plunkett (Brandi); sister, Joan Plunkett; grandchildren, Kloe, Emmett, Rowan, Ezra, Vada, and baby Gina (arriving soon); as well as a host of nieces and nephews. John was a welder by trade, but his true passion was working on cars. He enjoyed drag racing alongside his brother and he also liked to ride horses. John also raised and traded chickens. Mr. Plunkett was a loving husband and a wonderful father. He loved his family and absolutely adored his grandbabies who all called him Pawpaw. John was a good man, and he will be missed by many. Funeral services for Mr. Plunkett will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Antioch Baptist Church at 2 p.m., with Brandon Mason officiating. Friends are invited to join the family prior to services for a time of visitation, beginning at 12 p.m. and concluding as the service begins. Mr. Plunkett will be laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery where Jr. Dale Phillips, Kenneth Phillips, Dylan Phillips, Randy French, Josh Brown, Chris Stevenson, Jonathan Powell, and Bo Plunkett will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Plunkett family.

Moss Service Funeral Home
1901 Second Avenue Northwest
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Good Hope (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council on Monday, Dec. 8, revisited earlier agreements regarding a subdivision off Leonard Road.

The council noted it previously promised nearby residents that Leonard Road would remain closed to subdivision traffic. Requests have been made to reopen the access, but the decision was made to have it remain closed to subdivision traffic to prevent congestion and possible safety issues.

The long-term possibility of aligning Leonard Road with a nearby traffic light was discussed, though the project would require purchasing land and extensive site work.

There have been renewed discussions with Love's Travel Stop representatives regarding a potential traffic signal at Stewart Road and County Road 222. The project had come to a halt due to permitting constraints, but Love's has stated it is interested in revisiting the plan.

Other updates included minor bridge repairs near Municipal Park, progress on Medical Drive improvements funded through a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and ongoing discussions about future residential development.

The City is finalizing preparations for Good Hope Christmas in the Park, set for this Saturday, Dec. 13. The theme is "Country/Cowboy Christmas." Residents are encouraged to wear Western attire. The parade begins at 2 p.m. at the high school and will end at Municipal Park. All food and activities, including crafts, wagon rides, a petting zoo, s'mores and photos with Santa, will be offered free of charge.

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LEGALS

1 Page(s)

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
BENNIE DALE STRONG * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
DECEASED. * CASE NO: PC2025-324

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Phyllis Marshall Simmons, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Bennie Dale Strong, Deceased, on the 11 day of July, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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

Phyllis Marshall Simmons
Personal Representative of the Estate of
Bennie Dale Strong, deceased

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3342

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
FRANKIE DALE KILGO, * CASE NO.: PC2025-389
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to WESLEY DALE KILGO, as Personal Representative of the Estate of FRANKIE DALE KILGO, deceased, on the 4th day of December, 2025, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

WESLEY DALE KILGO
Personal Representative

Wesley Dale Kilgo
Personal Representative
700 Edmondson Road NE
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the forgoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE this 9th day of December, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA, EX REL JOHN R. COOPER, DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Plaintiffs,
v.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF E. HOMER DAVIS; DOLLY R. DAVIS; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L., VINTSON; CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE; BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER; ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID: 23-01-11-0-001-017.003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA;
Defendants.
CASE NO PC 2025-308

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION, AMENDED PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION and AMENDED PETITION TO CONDEMN REAL PROPERTY AND FOR AN ORDER OF CONDEMNATION

TO: ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF E. HOMER DAVIS, DOLLY R. DAVIS, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ARTHUR WAYNE VINTSON, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MATTIE L. VINTSON, CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, HANCEVILLE FIRE & RESCUE, BARRY WILLINGHAM, CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER, OR ANY UNKNOWN PARTY OR PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL IS: 23-01-11-1-001-017-003 ON HIGHWAY 91 IN CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation, Amended Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation and Amended Petition to Condemn Real Property and for an Order of Condemnation filed by the State of Alabama Ex Rel John R. Cooper, Director of the of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Plaintiff, through Attorney, John E. Rollins. A hearing is re-scheduled on this matter for the **7th day of January, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear at which time they or any other parties interested in said cause may appear and contest the same if they think proper. Please note that an answer may be filed by each defendant within 30 days from the date of the last publication notice.

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

Done this the 24th day of November, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on March 21, 2002 by Phillip Ashley, a single man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in MTG Book 1238, Page 285, and modified on November 14, 2003 by Phillip Ashley, a single man, to EvaBank, which said Modification of Mortgage is recorded in MTG Book 1723, Page 328 and modified on January 5, 2016 by Phillip Ashley and wife Stephanie Ashley , to EvaBank which said Modification of Mortgage is recorded on in MTG Book 1778, Page 258 all recorded in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on December 19, 2025:

The E ½ of that portion of the E ½ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 17, T9S, R2W, lying and being South of the Goldridge Road; being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 17, T9S, R2W, thence North along the said section line to the South margin of the Goldridge Road; thence West along the South margin of the said Goldridge Road for a distance of 350 feet; thence South parallel with the East boundary of the land herein described to a point 330 feet due West of the P.O.B.; thence East to the P.O.B.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

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 part of the foreclosure process.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave.
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
HELEN MUSTANTE CARY,
Deceased. CASE NUMBER: 2025-430

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary have been granted to PAUL MARSHALL CARY, as the Executor on this 9th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, and 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.

Sara Doty
SARA DOTY,
Attorney for The Estate of Helen Mustante Cary

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune :

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

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO.: PC 2025-410
EMMA L. HATHCOAT, *
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JoAnn Persall and Constance D. Hunkeapillar, as Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of Emma L. Hathcoat deceased, on the 8th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

JoAnn Persall and
Constance D. Hunkeapillar
Co-Personal Representatives

C. Blake West
Attorney for Petitioners
412 4th Ave SW Ste 2270
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
ROBERT MATTHEW LEWIS, * CASE NO. PC2025-272
An Alleged Incapacitated Person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
EMERGENCY PETITION For PROTECTIVE SERVICES and/or PLACEMENT and APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN (and a CONSERVATOR if NECESSARY), AMENDED PETITION for PROTECTIVE SERVICES and/or PLACEMENT and APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR GUARDIAN (and a CONSERVATOR if NECESSARY), NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE OF SERVICE

TO: GWENNA DILBECK AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Please take notice that an *Emergency Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary), Amended Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary)* has been filed by Susan Cupps, Cullman County Department of Human Resources through Attorney Diane. L. Dunning. A hearing on said *Emergency Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary), Amended Petition for Protective Services and/or Placement and Appointment of a Successor Guardian (and a Conservator if Necessary)* has been **rescheduled for the 21st day of January 2026, at 10:30 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

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

Cullman County Courthouse
Judge Of Probate Office
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 2nd day of December, 2025.

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

Dianne L. Dunning
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources

Falkville hosts 27th annual Christmas in the Park

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Town of Falkville hosted its 27th annual Christmas in the Park event on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at Jack McCaig Park.

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The Town of Falkville hosted its 27th annual Christmas in the Park event on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, at Jack McCaig Park.

Town of Falkville Marketing Coordinator Danielle Hayes said it was wonderful seeing everyone who came out to celebrate the season.

"David Carroll, as always, did a fantastic job emceeing," Hayes said. "The mayor (Ken Winkles) did a great job presenting the awards, and a big shout-out to Payton Burgess for reading the Christmas tree history. Thank you as well to the band and to the Community Pride ladies for all the hot chocolate, goodies and for keeping this 27-year tradition alive."

The Falkville Community Pride group, in coordination with the Town of Falkville, hosts the event each year.

"Christmas in the Park is important to our community because even though we're a small town, it brings all of us together and fills our town with Christmas spirit," Hayes said. "The park was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, and our big tree lighting was a wonderful moment for everyone. From writing Santa letters and making ornaments to visiting with our amazing Santa Wayne and his wife, it's a tradition that brings joy to all ages.

"The mayor continues to grow this event each year, and we are grateful for his hard work, along with the dedication of the utility crews and the entire Town staff. Most importantly, Christmas in the Park reminds us of the true reason for the season — Jesus — and it brings our community together in unity, celebration and love."

Hayes said residents are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful town and community.

"It really comes together to celebrate tradition and keeps our little town as special as it is," Hayes said.

"We are so fortunate to live in a place filled with so much heart and togetherness. I can't thank our town enough for giving us a community we're proud to be part of. My hope is that we continue to grow bigger and better while still holding onto the traditions that make us who we are.I just want everyone to know how much I love the town of Falkville, and how grateful I am to be a part of it."

Winkles said the Town plans to add more trees and new decorations next year.



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