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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 154

WORKING FOR YOU!



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Danny Ray Crumbley, Sarah Ann Nichols Pugh, Doris Dean McMurry, Christina Nicole Chambers, Herbert Harold Britton, Julian Adam Hamilton, Wanda Renea Mitchell, Eric Maynard Segars
» PAGE 6

WEATHER
57 41
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3

Games
» PAGE 7



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Meek grinds out a 56-53 overtime win over rival Addison

» PAGE 4

CCBOE holds final meeting of 2025

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE) held its final meeting of the year on Thursday, Dec. 18, approving a full slate of items.

Board members approved the Nov. 13 meeting minutes and approved school-related requests, including supplemental pay for athletic and extracurricular duties, after-school enrichment programs, tutoring services funded through grants and committee appointments for the 2025–2026 » PAGE 8



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A large crowd attended the final Cullman County Board of Education meeting of the year on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025.

From 1 veteran family to 350 local children

Cullman Elks, VFW launch Toys of Joy to support local families



JESSICA ATCHLEY

Left to right are Toys of Joy Committee Members Meagan Lee, Patrick James, Jennifer Henry, Jessica Atchley, Robert Malone and Jennifer Malone.

Gauge Day/Jessica Atchley
Contributors

CULLMAN, Ala. — A new holiday outreach program launched this year by Cullman Elks Lodge #1609 and the Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars is helping ensure local children are not left without Christmas gifts due to late-year hardship.

The initiative, called Toys of Joy, grew out of a smaller volunteer effort that began several years ago to sponsor Christmas for local veteran families. Led by Elks member Jessica Atchley, the effort expanded as the number of volunteers grew and more families were seeking help after traditional holiday assistance deadlines had passed.

This year, the Lodge formally kicked off Toys of Joy, a program designed specifically to serve Cullman County families facing sudden challenges such as job loss, medical emergencies, sudden custody changes or other unexpected circumstances. while remaining fully focused on local impact by ensuring every dollar raised stays in the county and every toy reaches a local child in need.

The hope behind the initiative is simple: that no child falls through the cracks or misses the joy of receiving a gift to call their own.

"There is something truly special about serving locally," said Atchley, now serving as the project lead for Toys of Joy. "When your donors are your neighbors and every child you help lives right here at home, the impact feels deeply personal."

According to Atchley, the community response to the program's first year exceeded expectations. Local businesses, churches, civic organizations and individual donors stepped » PAGE 8

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY
Your agents. Your neighbors. Your friends. For three generations.



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

City of Cullman supports Cullman City Schools capital improvement plan



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

The City of Cullman presented Cullman City Schools with a $600,000 check to support the system's Safety and Growth Capital Plan on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.

» PAGE 6

Bentley, Hartline named CCBOE Teachers of the Year

» PAGE 8

Cullman City Schools announces 2025–2026 Teachers of the Year

» PAGE 8

ALEA launches '12 Days of Safety' campaign

» PAGE 4

Alabama DHR launches chipped EBT cards for SNAP and TANF benefits

» PAGE 5



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 19

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 19, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 15

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1224
- harassing communications; CR 1816
- assault; CR 19
- possession of controlled substance; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1224
- obstructing police interference with domestic violence emergency call; CR 1606
- theft of property; CR 782
- theft of property; CR 1668
- possession of dangerous drugs with intent to distribute; Beech Ave. SE
- theft of property; CR 1118

Dec. 16

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Hwy. 69S
- theft of property; CR 1720
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65SB MM 295
- assault; criminal mischief; CR 109
- harassing communications; trespassing; CR 387
- harassment; CR 656

Dec. 17

- possession of dangerous drugs; 4th St. SW
- possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute; CR 735
- theft of property; CR 427
- theft of property; Hwy. 67
- possession of dangerous drugs; Beech Ave. SE

ARRESTS

Dec. 15-17

Albright, Derek A.; 43
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Baker, Megan N.; 38
- DUIA

Chambers, Michael A.; 43
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs

Dempsey, Damon B.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – drug trafficking

Evans, Miranda M.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Gilley, Christopher J.; 34
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – fraudulent use credit/debit card
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possessing stolen property
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – theft-shoplifting
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – damaged property-criminal mischief
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – drug trafficking
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Gillilan, Gabriel R.; 38
- sex offender reporting and registration requirements
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Harris, Dequinda M.; 45
- DUI (alcohol)

Hook, Kodi J.; 30
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Jacobs, Richard A.; 46
- sex offense-failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residential restrictions

Jones, Johnathan C.; 41
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- FTA – retail theft-3rd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Link, Adam C.; 34
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Morgan, Dana D.; 54
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Naramore, Charles B.; 54
- GJ – sexual abuse-1st degree

Parker, Bryan A.; 35
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Perkins, Zachary H.; 24
- permitting dogs to run at large

Prater, Aaron G.; 29
- interference with a domestic violence emergency call

Pugh, Gregory K.; 59
- GJ – sexual abuse-2nd degree or subsequent offense

Radilla, Sarah C.; 42
- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Raybon, Kristi A.; 38
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Rowland, Jonathan E.; 39
- damaged property-criminal mischief

Springer, Larry K.; 48
- theft of property-1st degree

Stanley, Arlene E.; 57
- GJ – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500

Teague, Tanya M.; 55
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, $500-less than $1500

Thomas, Belinda S.; 52
- drug trafficking
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Weathersby, Lee J.; 42
- possession of dangerous drugs

Westbrook, Leah D.; 34
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – theft-miscellaneous (3 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – forgery-checks (2 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – forgery-counterfeiting (2 counts)
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – burglary-residence-no force

Wise, Justin D.; 41
- drug trafficking
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- attempting to elude a police/law enforcement officer-serious injury or death/speed exceeds 20 mph over limit
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of dangerous drugs
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – driving without license
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of dangerous drugs
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of drug paraphernalia
- VIOLATION OF RELEASE ORDER – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Witcher, Hayden L.; 23
- FTA – driving while license suspended

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 15
- theft of property; Dollar General; general merchandise; CR 715

Dec. 16
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '22 Chev. Blazer; $10,000; Cullman Shopping Center

Dec. 17
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $151; Hwy. 157

Dec. 18
- theft of property-3rd degree; Golden Corral; cash; Cherokee Ave. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $20; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

Dec. 17

Calloway, Shannon J.; 38
- aggravated criminal surveillance (2 counts)

Welch, Tiffany D.; 34
- theft of property-4th degree

Quick, Tyler C.; 29
- FTA – expired tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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 THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

JOYCE ELIZABETH MOORE, DECEASED CASE NO PC 2025-422

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF JOYCE ELIZABETH MOORE, DECEASED

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Schella M Cross on the 11th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable 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

Schella M Cross, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C Smith
Smith and Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P O Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone (256) 734-4721
Fax (256) 734-4774
e-mail steve@smithandsmithllp com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ROBERT DALE BLACK, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2025-463

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ROBERT DALE BLACK, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Amy Leanne Jarrett on the 17th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable 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.

Amy Leanne Jarrett, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith and Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
WANDA DENISE TUCKER, * **CASE NO PC 2025-404**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to Sarah Elizabeth Tucker. Personal Representative, on the 10th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

To The Editor and 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

Kalif R Green, Esq
Kalif R Green, Attorney at Law, LLC
107 Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077
(256) 735-6040
kalifrgreen@gmail com

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

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:
VIN#1GYRK63N15R121448 2005 Black Cadi Escalade
If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
PEGGY SWANN ANDERS, * **CASE NO.: PC2025-140**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Robert Kyle Anders, as Personal Representative of the Estate of PEGGY SWANN ANDERS, deceased, on the 18th 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.

Robert Kyle Anders
Personal Representative

Charles L. Anderson, Esq.
Anderson, Williams & Farrow, LLC
7515 Halcyon Pointe Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

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.

DONE this 18th day of December, 2025.

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

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by James Beckman, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns dated February 19, 2015; said mortgage being recorded on March 9, 2015 in Deed Book 1755, Page 483 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. by assignment recorded in Deed Book 339, Page 901 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on January 29, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Land Situated in the Town of Hanceville in the County of Cullman in the State of AL. The east half of lots No. 20 and 21 in Comb's Third Addition to the Town of Hanceville, Alabama, as shown by plat thereof recorded in the Office of the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama. Said east half of lots 20 and 21 being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northeast corner of said lot 21 and go South along East line of lot 21 and lot 20 a distance of 200 feet to Southeast corner of lot 20; Then go West along South line of lot 20 a distance of 100 feet; Thence go at right angles North 200 feet to South edge of Estelle Street; Thence go East a distance of 100 feet along the South edge of Estelle Street to the point of beginning.

Said property is commonly known as **1003 Stadium St Se, Hanceville, AL 35077**.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

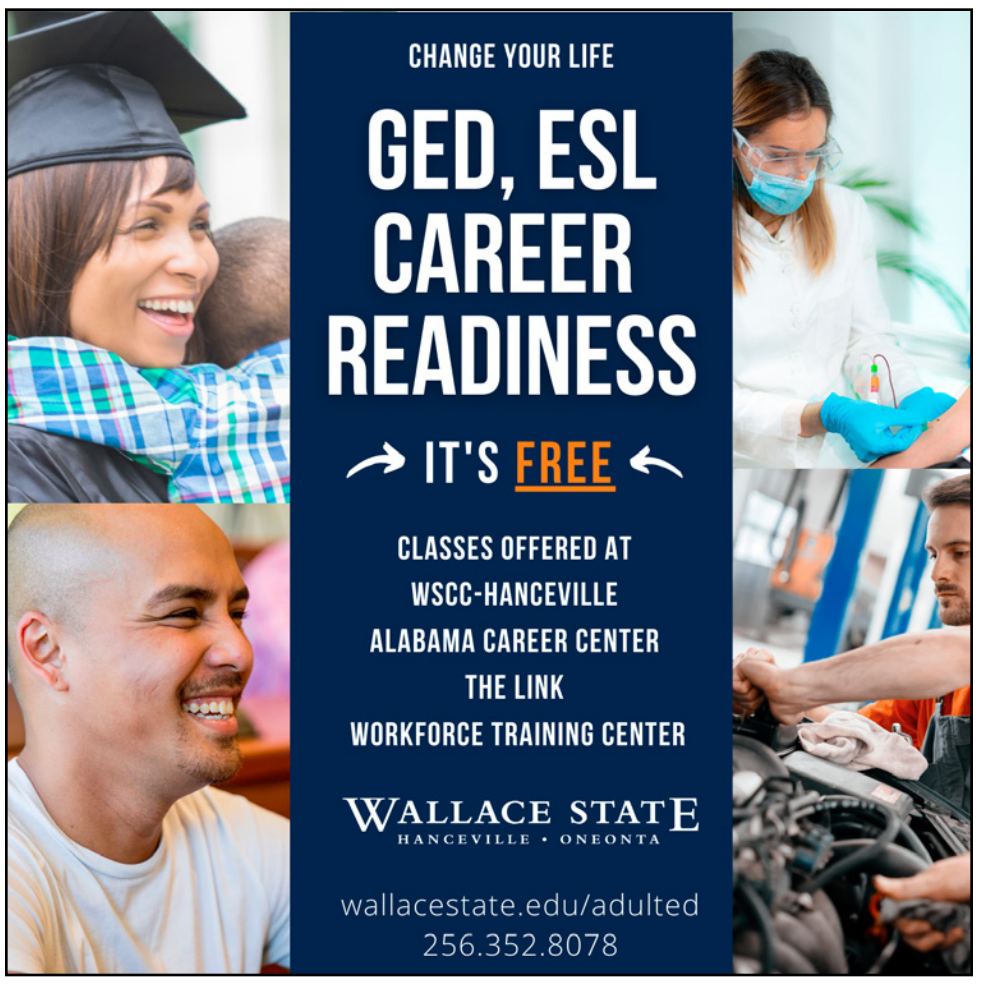
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

December 10, 2025

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
505 20th Street N, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
Telephone: (205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 22-02545AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

22-02545AL



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SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

NOTICE FROM CULLMAN CARING FOR KIDS
The new "Spirit of Christmas" book is available for a $20 donation to Cullman Caring for Kids. This is the newest "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book with a story by local writer Tanya Shearer. They make great Christmas gifts! Your donation will also help provide meals for those in need in our community. Contact Cullman Caring for Kids at 256-739-1111 or Tanya Shearer for delivery.

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. 20 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Dec. 21 – 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

The Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

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. 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.

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. 20-23 | 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

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
Dec. 20-23, 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!

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501 Fourth St. SW in Cullman.

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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:
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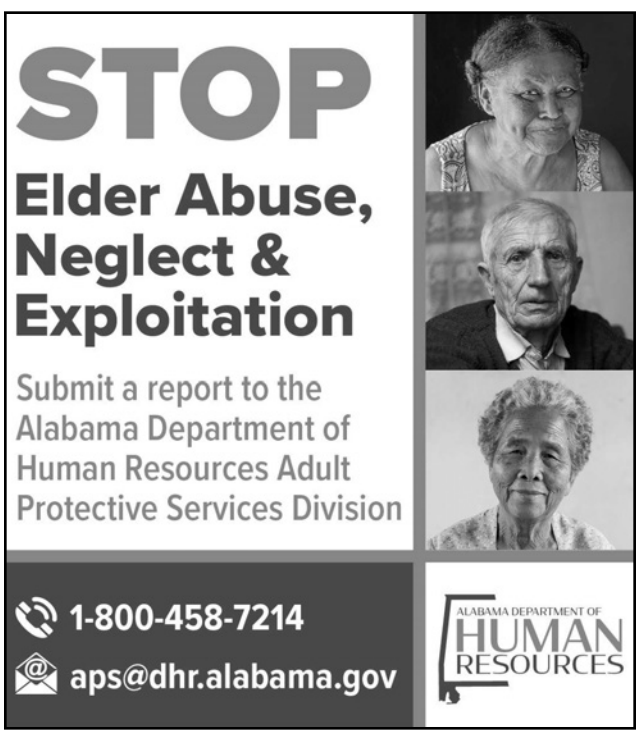
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PREP BASKETBALL

Meek grinds out a 56-53 overtime win over rival Addison

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

ARLEY, Ala. — Meek High School's basketball arena was packed wall-to-wall on Thursday night, as hundreds gathered in spite of a tornado watch to see a clash of 1A giants and area rivals in Meek (8-1) and Addison (6-3). The matchup didn't disappoint. The teams traded haymakers in a gritty back and forth battle that went into overtime. In the end, the Tigers' defense helped seal a 56-53 Meek win highlighted by a 22 point, five rebound, three assist and two steal game from senior guard Colman Bonner.

"It's always going to be tough to play them, it's been back and forth with us and Addison for the last couple of years. Coach Lane's going to do a really good job with that group. Coach Lane knows what we're going to do... and we sort of know what they're going to do. They're really athletic, both teams have really great kids and it just happened to fall our way tonight," Meek head coach Bryan Woods said after the game.

In a game that saw numerous shifts of momentum, the first quarter was characterized by just that. A 10-0 stretch by Addison had them up 12-4, but then a big three from the Tigers' Brady Baxter spurred a run of their own. It would go well into the 2nd quarter, with Meek going on a 13-2 run behind three buckets from Colman and the do-it-all guard Evan McCay, who finished the game with 15 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

"Preparing for a rivalry game like this is very different. It's difficult because you're trying to tweak things, but also preaching 'don't change, just play your game' and that can be a mind game. I think it got to us early and that's why we came out a little flat," Woods said.

It would take even longer for both teams to even out. Rounding out the first half, Addison countered with a 9-3 stretch behind a couple deep balls from guard Joey Wilson to put the Bulldogs up 26-23 at the break.

The third quarter saw a much more balanced game, as the long score streaks were replaced with back and forth body blows by each team. Despite that, Meek found themselves down 33-25 midway through the third quarter. Momentum shifted the Tigers' way with a highlight-reel sequence where Bonner, who was mid-air driving for a layup, found a wide open Baxter for an easy score.

It culminated with a McCay three to tie the game back up at 41 with a few seconds to go in the third and momentum on their side. While the fans were still standing and cheering, Addison's Elijah Roberts went down for an acrobatic layup that would result in an and-one attempt, which he'd hit, quieting the crowd. Again, Meek found themselves down at the end of the third, 44-41.

In the final period, Meek saw a slow crawl into the lead, with a McCay three and a Briley Bowling layup putting them ahead 50-47 with under a minute and a half to go. Then, Addison's Roberts made the shot to extend the game from beyond the arc, sending the teams into overtime tied at 50.

Bringing the game full circle, Meek closed on a run. Addison's only basket in overtime came on a layup from Roberts, who finished the game with 12 points, two rebounds, five assists and four steals. Of Meek's six overtime points, a couple came from huge free throw attempts from forward Parker Ferguson, who had to exit the game early with an ankle injury.

He returned, finished with four points, eight rebounds, an assist and a block, and Woods said he fought through the injury so well that he didn't think they'd have pulled out the win without him.

Meek returns to action on Friday vs Carbon Hill.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Meek's Colman Bonner fights through defense from Addison's Elijah Roberts.

ALEA launches '12 Days of Safety' campaign

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — As families across Alabama prepare for holiday travel, celebrations and ringing in the New Year, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) is preparing to kick off its annual "12 Days of Safety" campaign — a festive, interactive public-safety initiative designed to keep everyone safe from the first day of winter through New Year's Day.

The campaign begins Sunday, Dec. 21, and runs through Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, highlighting one safety theme each day.

Through daily social media posts, photos, videos and reminders, ALEA will combine holiday cheer with life-saving messages aimed at reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities during one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

"This time of year should be about making memories, not responding to tragedies that could have been prevented," said ALEA Secretary of Law Enforcement Hal Taylor.

"Our 12 Days of Safety campaign is meant to be engaging and lighthearted, but the message is serious — simple, smart decisions save lives.

"We want everyone to arrive safely and start the new year surrounded by the people they love."

Each day of the campaign focuses on a timely safety topic aligned with how Alabamians typically travel, shop and celebrate during the holidays:

1. Day 1 – Dec. 21: Know Before You Go! Winter officially begins; drivers are encouraged to check forecasts, vehicle readiness and road conditions before heading out

2. Day 2 – Dec. 22: Merry and Bright — but Alert! Staying visible and aware in busy parking lots, shopping areas and crosswalks

3. Day 3 – Dec. 23: Take It Easy on the Eggnog: Tips on planning ahead, choosing sober rides and avoiding impaired driving

4. Day 4 – Dec. 24: Don't Be a Grinch Behind the Wheel: Patience, courtesy and sharing the road as holiday travel peaks

5. Day 5 – Dec. 25: Buckle Up, Buttercup! Seat belts save lives — every seat, every trip, every time

6. Day 6 – Dec. 26: Don't Drive in a "Holidaze": Recognizing fatigue and preventing drowsy driving after long days and late nights

7. Day 7 – Dec. 27: No After-Holiday Deals Behind the Wheel: A reminder to put phones down and avoid distracted driving amid holiday errands and New Year's Eve travel

8. Day 8 – Dec. 28: Precious Cargo: Ensuring children are properly secured in age- and weight-appropriate car seats

9. Day 9 – Dec. 29: Finding the Right Seat for Safety: Booster seat reminders for children who have outgrown car seats but still need protection

10. Day 10 – Dec. 30: Give the Gift of Safety: Teen driver reminders, including Alabama's Graduated Driver License (GDL) Law

11. Day 11 – Dec. 31: Some Accessories Don't Go with Your Party Dress: New Year's Eve impaired-driving prevention and safe-celebration tips

12. Day 12 – Jan. 1: Oh, Deer! Extra caution on rural roads, especially at night, due to increased wildlife activity

"ALEA Troopers see firsthand how quickly a moment of celebration can turn into a lifetime of loss," said Colonel Jonathan Archer, director of ALEA's Department of Public Safety (DPS). "Every reminder we share during this campaign is driven by one goal – zero lives lost. If these messages cause even one person to slow down, buckle up or make a safer choice, then this effort has made a real difference."

ALEA encourages the public to follow along and participate throughout the campaign by:

- Sharing daily safety posts with friends and family
- Participating in interactive polls, quizzes and reminders
- Posting photos using campaign hashtags such as #12DaysOfSafety and #ALEAProtects

While the campaign emphasizes education and prevention, ALEA will also maintain a strong enforcement presence throughout the holiday travel period.

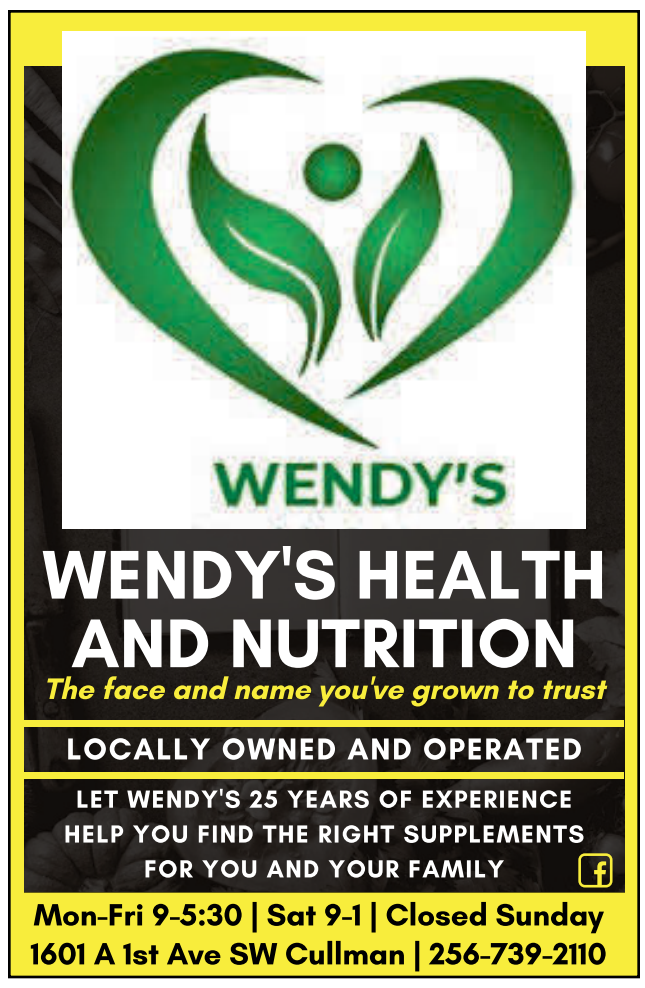
All available ALEA Troopers will be actively patrolling roadways statewide from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2, focusing on deterring dangerous driving behaviors such as impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving and seat belt violations.

In the Montgomery area and surrounding communities, ALEA's State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Montgomery Area Crime Suppression (MACS) unit will continue targeted enforcement efforts, including traffic stops and proactive patrols in high-crime areas.

As the countdown to the new year begins, ALEA reminds all Alabamians that safety is the best gift you can give — to yourself, your passengers and everyone sharing the road.

For daily updates, safety tips and campaign content, follow ALEA on social media @ALEAProtects throughout the 12 Days of Safety.







Alabama DHR launches chipped EBT cards for SNAP and TANF benefits

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Human Resources recently announced the first round of Alabama EBT cardholders are now receiving new, chip-enabled EBT cards. Alabama DHR said the new cards will greatly increase card security, adding more protection against the theft of EBT benefits.

Alabama DHR is currently conducting a pilot program to test these chip-enabled EBT cards in Autauga, Bullock, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Russell, Shelby and Tallapoosa counties. The pilot program should last approximately 30-45 days.

Following a successful pilot program, chip-enabled EBT cards will be mailed to ALL cardholders residing in the remaining Alabama counties.

Both SNAP and TANF program benefits will automatically be transferred to the new chipped EBT card.

- All personal information has been moved to the back side of the card.
- An expiration date and 3-digit card security code have been added to increase security.
- o The expiration date is only for the card and not related to benefits.
- Benefits will remain the same, and you can still use your EBT card in the same places.

"This change has been in the works for a long time and to see it finally come to fruition is incredibly rewarding knowing our EBT clients' benefits will be better protected," said Commissioner Nancy Buckner.

"A special thanks to the Alabama Grocers Association and Petroleum & Convenience Marketers of Alabama for helping us spread the word to grocery and convenience stores to upgrade their point-of-sale systems and accept chipped cards. They were instrumental in making this transition quick and seamless."

EBT cardholders will need to activate their new card when it arrives in the mail. To activate the chipped card, cardholders will now be prompted by EBT Customer Service to enter their card number, DOB, zip code, 3-digit security code and the expiration date. New cards must be activated within 180 days after it is issued. After activating your new EBT card, we ask for cardholders to destroy the old card immediately.

All EBT cardholders are encouraged to use their new, chipped EBT card by inserting the chipped card into the point-of-sale (POS) device when making a purchase, rather than swiping it. Should the chipped end of the card fail to work, the card can be swiped through the device to make a purchase.

Please keep in mind these details of the new chip-enabled cards:

- Will not work at the retailer POS device if the retailer has not made the appropriate updates to the POS system.
- Will have a magnetic stripe as a "fallback", but the retailers must ensure that their POS system will allow chipped EBT cards to "fallback" to magnetic stripe until EBT chip cards are fully supported on the POS system.

Retailers should contact their POS provider today to ensure their system will allow EBT chip cards to "fallback" to magnetic stripe transactions.

Alabama DHR also recommends all EBT clients to continue locking their card through the ConnectEBT app.

For EBT cardholders needing assistance with the new chip-enabled EBT card, please call EBT Customer Service at 1-800-997-8888.

For retailers needing assistance with upgrading their POS system, please visit USDA's SNAP EBT Modernization website at www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization/chip-resources.

ALGOP to open 2026 candidate qualifying Jan. 5

Staff Reports
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Alabama Republican Party will open candidate qualifying for the 2026 election cycle on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, marking the formal start of a campaign season that will determine control of Alabama's top state and federal offices.

Qualifying will begin at 8:30 a.m. and remain open through Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at 5 p.m.

ALGOP Chairman John Wahl said the upcoming election cycle will be critical to Alabama's future, as Republicans look to maintain their strong statewide presence while preparing for competitive primaries.

"The 2026 election will play a major role in shaping the direction of our state," Wahl said. "This qualifying period is the first step for candidates who want to be part of that future and who are willing to step forward and lead."

Republicans currently hold a supermajority in the Alabama Legislature and every statewide constitutional office. Wahl said maintaining that level of leadership is essential to continued progress.

"I want to see Alabama lead the nation in conservative policy. As one of the most conservative states in the country, we should be setting the standard on tax reform, economic growth, defending individual liberty and protecting our children from a socialist agenda," he said. "That mission begins by not only preserving but expanding our Republican supermajority with candidates who will fight unapologetically for freedom, faith and conservative principles."

Offices on the ballot in the 2026 election

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Auditor
- Treasurer
- Commissioner of Agriculture and Industry
- Public Service Commissioner
- Court of Appeals (Civil and Criminal)
- Member of the State Board of Education
- Circuit Court Judge
- District Court Judge
- Alabama State Senate
- Alabama House of Representatives

Candidates may complete qualifying online at www.algop.org/2026-candidate-qualifying or in person at Alabama Republican Party Headquarters, 3505 Lorna Road, Hoover, AL 35216.

County-level offices, including county commissioners, sheriffs and coroners, do not qualify through ALGOP headquarters. Candidates seeking those positions must qualify with their local county Republican Party organization. Contact information for county GOP chairmen is available at www.algop.org/our-party/find-local-gop.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to complete all required filings before qualifying with the party. Those include filing a Statement of Economic Interest with the Alabama Ethics Commission (available online at https://seiform.alabama.gov) and forming a Principal Campaign Committee with the Alabama Secretary of State's Office (available online at https://fcpa.alabamavotes.gov). Party officials warn that failure to complete these steps in a timely manner could result in disqualification.

Key dates for the 2026 election cycle

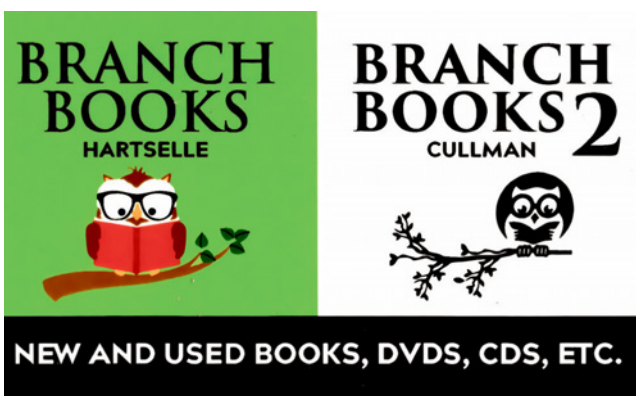
- ALGOP Primary Election: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
- ALGOP Primary Runoff Election: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

Candidates or members of the public seeking additional information may contact the Alabama Republican Party at 205-212-5900.

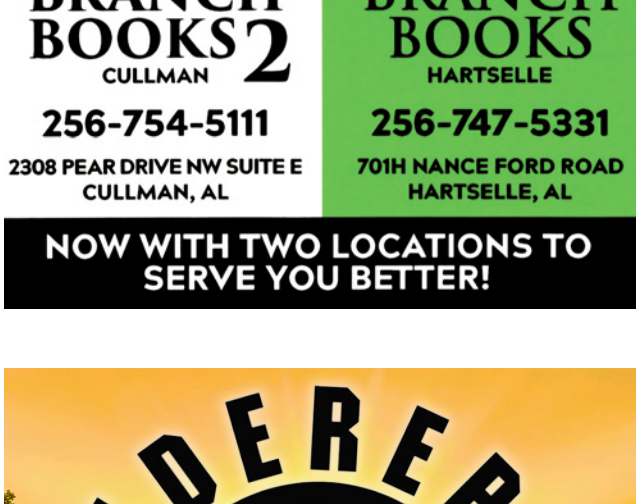
















Plan (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Earlier this week, leaders with the City of Cullman met with officials from Cullman City Schools to celebrate the continued commitment to the district's long-term capital improvement plan.

The City presented the school system a $600,000 check to support the Safety and Growth Capital Plan. This is the fifth of 10 installments from the City fulfilling a $6 million total as part of a 10-year commitment to the multimillion dollar capital improvement plan.

"As school system leaders, we have worked very hard on our partnership with Cullman City officials," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "This check presentation reaffirmed their commitment to our Safety and Growth Plan, emphasizing the shared goal of strengthening local schools as a cornerstone of the community's continued success."

According to Cullman City Schools, the system is hard at work on a renovation and expansion at Cullman Middle School, along with construction at the new Cullman Intermediate School, among other long-term projects, "which will position Cullman City Schools to maintain its place as one of the top school systems in the state of Alabama."

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Obituary Announcements: Dec. 18-19

Danny Ray Crumbley, 69
Danny Ray Crumbley, age 69 of Cullman, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born April 4, 1956, to William J. Crumbley and Tansie Powell Crumbley. A visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Sarah Ann Nichols Pugh, 82
Funeral services for Sarah Ann Nichols Pugh, 82 of Hanceville will be 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service at Fairview West Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon-2 p.m. at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Mrs. Pugh was born Sept. 27, 1943, in Hanceville, Alabama to the late Gilbert and Georgia Nichols. She passed away on Dec. 16, 2025, in Cullman, Alabama. Ann Pugh, of Hanceville, passed away surrounded by the love of her family, leaving behind a legacy of devotion, generosity, and faith. She was truly one of a kind in many ways, and her presence will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Sarah was a devoted stay-at-home mother who poured her heart into caring for her family. Her home was a place of warmth, love, and incredible cooking. She loved to cook for others, and sharing meals was one of the many ways she showed her generous spirit. No one ever left her table hungry, and few ever left without feeling loved. Strong willed and determined, Ann faced life with grit and grace. She was a fun-loving grandmother who delighted in spending time with her grandchildren, creating memories filled with laughter, joy, and unconditional love. Her family was her pride, her purpose, and her greatest blessing. Her church family meant the world to her, and her ladies group at church was her number one priority. She cherished that fellowship deeply, drawing strength, encouragement, and joy from her faith and the bonds she shared with those women. Her commitment to her church and her service to others reflected the depth of her character and her love for the Lord. Sarah's generous heart, strong spirit, and loving nature touched countless lives. She leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever and a legacy of faith, family, and kindness that will continue through generations. She will be remembered always as a loving wife, devoted mother, fun grandmother, faithful friend, and a woman whose love knew no bounds. Mrs. Pugh is survived by her husband, Charles Pugh; children, Angela Doss (Brian), Joshua Pugh (Misty); grandchildren, Megan Henry, Nathan Doss (Kaitlyn), Dylan Pugh, Zachary Pugh, Jace Pugh, Natalie Pugh; great grandchildren, Landyn Henry, Alyssa Henry, and one great grandson on the way, Brantley; sister-in-law, Geraldine Powell (Jack); brother-in-law, Daryl Pugh (Darlene); and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and cousins. Mrs. Pugh was preceded in death by her parents, Gilbert and Georgia Nichols; sisters, Betty Baker, Cherry Nichols; brother, Charles Nichols; and infant brother Nichols. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pugh family.

Doris Dean McMurry, 91
Doris Dean McMurry, 91, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away on Thursday morning, Dec. 18, 2025. Ms. McMurry was born in Blount Springs, Alabama, on June 25, 1934, to the late Fate Arthur and Mary Lou Hill Whitehead. Doris is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Benjamin Franklin McMurry; and brothers, Milton Whitehead and Billy Whitehead. Those surviving Ms. McMurry include her daughter, Dorris L. McMurry; brothers, Lowell Whitehead, Roger Whitehead; grandchildren, Sacha Stroud (Shawn), Kyle Banks, Jacqueline Mugge (Jacob); great-grandchildren, Keira, Kendal, Brandon, and Theodore; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family. Ms. McMurry will lie-in-state on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. until funeral services begin at 2 p.m., in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow services in Edison Chapel Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the McMurry family.

Christina Nicole Chambers, 38
A visitation will be held at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., with a rosary to follow at 7 p.m., on Sunday, December 21. 2025. Prior to the funeral service Monday, a Celebration of Life will be held 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The funeral service will be held on Monday, December 22, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church in Cullman, Alabama at 11 a.m. Christina Nicole Chambers—a loving mother, daughter, aunt, sister and friend—passed away on December 16, 2025, at her home in Hoover, Alabama, at the age of 38. Born and raised in Cullman, Alabama, Christina was best known throughout the South as an esteemed television sportscaster whose talents took her from Columbus, Georgia, to Atlanta, then to Montgomery, Alabama, and ultimately back home to Birmingham, where she joined the sports staff at WBRC-TV (Fox 6) in 2015. Christina got her first big break in television as a college intern for WVTM-TV (NBC 13) in Birmingham, when station management sent her solo to Tampa, Florida, to cover her beloved Auburn Tigers in the 2010 Outback Bowl. A former standout athlete at Cullman High School, Christina loved covering high school sports—telling memorable stories about student-athletes and delivering unforgettable live reports from Friday night football games across the state. Coaches, players and fans remember that Christina always had a smile on her face as her passion for sports shone through. Christina was always running—figuratively and literally. She competed as an NCAA Division I sprinter at UAB before transitioning to distance running after college, finishing four of the World Marathon Majors (Boston, London, Chicago and New York) and competing in many other 10Ks, fun runs, and races across the state. Christina loved the Birmingham running community and getting up before dawn most days to hit the pavement with her group. Running was Christina's true joy—a time to clear her mind, connect with her body, and reflect. In 2021, Christina left television sports and joined Thompson High School in Alabaster, Alabama, as a film and television teacher and advisor to the school's student news network. The Alabama Scholastic Press Association awarded Christina "Advisor of the Year" in 2024. Her students called her a role model and an inspiration. Earlier this year, Christina joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama in Corporate Communications. Christina's devout Catholic faith was the center of her life. She attended Mass every Sunday and celebrated holidays at church, worshipping at both Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Hoover and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Cullman. Christina loved visiting the Vatican and walked through all of Rome's Holy Doors this year during the Year of the Jubilee. Though she has left this world, Christina leaves behind a lasting legacy: her son, Constantine, who carries her love, strength, and light forward every day. Being Constantine's mother was Christina's greatest pride. She loved him fiercely, protected him endlessly, and taught him to live a faith-based life. Though her family grieves her passing, they rejoice in the promise Christina believed so deeply: to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Her faith was unshakable; her hope unwavering; and her life a living testimony to God's grace. Christina is survived by her son, Constantine; her parents, Tim and Mary Chambers; her siblings and their spouses, Maria Clark (Jason), Timmy Chambers (Odessa), Anthony Chambers (Laina), and Christopher Chambers (Christal); her niece, Audrie; her nephew, Wyatt; a host of extended family; and too many dear friends to count. In lieu of sending flowers, please consider donating to Constantine's education fund: gofundme.com and search for "Christina Chambers. https://gofund.me/bbbf9bbeb. In addition to Go Fund Me, donations to benefit Constantine Rimes can be made at any Traditions Bank location.

Herbert Harold Britton, 83
Herbert Harold Britton died on Dec. 17, 2025, after complications that arose from a heart attack. He was 83 years old at the time of his passing. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Henry Britton, Jr. and Sarah Veatrice Hobson Britton. He is survived by his wife, Betty Joan Speegle Britton, his three daughters, Tracey Britton Silliman (Sherwood), Pamela Britton Smith (widow of Lee) and Sheri Britton Jones (Deric), five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Harold was born in Birmingham, Alabama in July 1942, where he fell in love and married his bride of 64 years. A family man and veteran of the United States Air Force, he ultimately retired as the founding business owner of a pest control company. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman who kept everybody laughing. With his honesty, generosity, and humor, he filled the hearts of his loved ones with joy. Those who knew Harold saw him as the ultimate jokester and are certain that Heaven is a happier place with him in it. A special thank you to the staff at Princeton Baptist Hospital who fought the good fight when his heart failed him. The family will always remember the love and dedication of those professionals in Harold's final moments. Graveside service at Valley Springs Cemetery in Good Hope, Alabama on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Arrangements by Cullman Funeral Home.

Julian Adam Hamilton, 45
Graveside Service for Julian Adam Hamilton, age 45 of Cullman, will be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at the Sacred Heart Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Hamilton passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at Cullman Regional. He was born, July 1, 1980, to Ronald Hamilton and Candace Hamilton. He was preceded in death by his parents; grandfather, Fred Al-Greene; grandmother, Bonnyloo Al-Greene; Grandfather, Po Hamilton; grandmother, Lillie Mae Hamilton. Survivors include his family and friends.

Wanda Renea Mitchell, 63
Wanda Renea Mitchell, age 63 of Baileyton passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at Cullman Regional. She was born Jan. 16, 1962, to William "Jack" Clarence Hendrix and Betty Reynolds Snell Hendrix. A Celebration of Life will be at First Baptist Church of Holly Pond at 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025. Visitation will be held at the church from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. prior to the service. She was preceded in death by her parents; mother-in-law, Lillian Opal Mitchell; father-in-law, Charlie Ball Mitchell and sister-in-law, Patricia Simpson. Survivors include her husband, Kelly Mitchell; daughter, Morgan Mitchell (Reid Hollis); son, Will Mitchell (Jordan) and her siblings, Jacqueline(Chris) Yancy, Stephen Hendrix, Paul (Tonia) Hendrix, Joe (Kim) Hendrix, Shirley (James) Chapman, Robin (Stephen) Lindsey.

Eric Maynard Segars, 58
Funeral service for Eric Maynard Segars, 58, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Antioch Baptist Cemetery, Pastor Tim Barbee and Pastor Jim Butts officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday from noon-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Eric passed from this life Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025. He was born April 22,1968, to George Thomas and Joyce Ann Maynard Segars. He went to Fairview High School and graduated in 1986. He went straight into Wallace to get his degree in the machine shop. Afterward he went to PEMCO Aeroplex in 1989 where he worked for 25 plus years as a precision machinist. During that time he was involved in union matters where he served as Union Steward. He loved serving his community as a volunteer firefighter and rapid responder. He grew up attending Antioch Baptist Church where he still served on the cemetery committee. Eric was a member of Temple Baptist Church, Fairview. He was preceded in death by his father, George Segars. Those left to cherish his memory are his mother, Joyce Maynard Segars; wife, Gwen Segars; son, Levi (Lora) Segars; daughters, Hattie (Daniel) Huffman, Katherine (Cody) Clark; grandson, Carter Garrett and one grandchild on the way (Lora and Levi); family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

All I want for Christmas is:

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



'Tis the season to be jolly. 'Tis also the season when we hear the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" For some, that may be the reason they are so jolly during this season. As we grow older, what we want for Christmas changes. In fact, what we want may become less and less important to us. We may even come to the point of not wanting anything at all, or at least nothing for ourselves. The ladies in my life, my wife and daughter, have been asking me what I want. I really am having a hard time answering. I have everything I need and most everything I want. Honestly, that has not always been the case.

I remember some things I wanted when I was a child. I got some of them and I didn't get others. Some years I even got some things I didn't ask for, or necessarily want, but I had enough education by that time to muster up a smile and say, "Thank you." One Christmas, I so desperately wanted a Big Bruiser tow truck. It was a battery-powered toy tow truck that you could actually hook to a wrecked toy car and tow it away. If my memory serves me right (sometimes it serves me left these days... because it has left me), you could pop off the bent fender and replace it with a new one. I was heartbroken when Santa didn't deliver my Big Bruiser. You could say my feelings were bruised. Another popular song from my youth comes to mind. It said, "You can't always get what you want." Ironically, a few years later I was working in my older brother's paint-and-body shop...changing out real fenders. That song went on to say, "But if you try sometimes, you might just find, that you get what you need."

So, what do I want for Christmas? Like another song says, "All I want for Christmas is you." I indeed do want another Christmas (and as many more as possible) with the loves of my life. That begins with my wife, daughter and son-in-law, and the greatest grandson in the world. Since I still have my two front teeth, I don't need those for Christmas. I would love to have a hippopotamus for Christmas, but I'm afraid the water in my little creek behind the house is not deep enough for that. I also think there may a problem with some zoning laws and perhaps with the neighbors. A more practical gift might be one of those cute little miniature donkeys. On an even more practical level, I would like a pack of peanuts and a 6-ounce Coke...and maybe a Chocolate Moon Pie and an R.O.C.

There is an old song that says, "Christmas is for children." That may beg the question of what age are these children. Some may be old enough to have children of their own, and maybe even grandchildren, if they are so blessed. I'm afraid we may have made Christmas for children, but actually, Christmas should be mainly about one particular child that was born 2,000 years ago.

What I really want is really huge. It is of biblical proportions. When Christ was born, angels appeared to shepherds to announce his arrival. According to the Gospel of Luke, "Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace, goodwill toward man." That's what I want for Christmas too... Glory to God, peace on Earth, and goodwill toward others.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Dec. 20, 1951

From the files of Dec. 20, 1951

To and Fro

Moving back to Cullman Friday will be Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Rainey and son Roger. They have been at home in Nashville, Tenn. but will return here since Mr. Rainey has been made manager of the Pure Oil Company for North Alabama.

Boy Blue wouldn't have been safe at all in a hay stack down on August Dahlke's farm one night last week. Some pranksters came along and set said hay stack on fire and what a fire it made. However, a passerby reported the fire and it was extinguished before it spread to other stacks. Also the culprits were caught and fined.

The rush of the holiday season has everybody a bit baffled. However, one Tribune subscriber wrote a card this week asking for a change of address "from Rt. 4, Cullman to 2705 35th Ave. No. Birmingham, 7, Ala." but failed to sign the card so the Tribune staff is doubly baffled.

During the period Dec. 24 through the 27 the Cullman Library will be closed. It will be open as usual Dec. 28 and 29 and then will be closed again Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

Not only did C. H. Hesterley of Rt. 8, Cullman find many twin ears in his hybrid corn this year but he had at least one "deca-ear"—ten little ears all growing together in one shuck. It is on display at the Tribune.

Each year the Ralph Saunders send original Christmas cards and this year is no exception. Pictured along with the traditional shepherds watching the star are Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Saunders and their three attractive children reading the Christmas story from the Bible. Rev. Saunders, former First Christian Church minister here, is now a minister in Greencastle, Ind.

This week's census report shows that 33,864 bales of cotton were ginned in Cullman County from the 1951 crop prior to Dec. 1st as compared to 21,351 bales for the 1950 crop.

"I've spent the first 75 years of my life working and I plan to spend the next 75 traveling," commented a former resident of Cullman who was back in Cullman last week for the first time since he left here in December 1880. The old man, a Mr. Kenline, told Allen Hyatt, Cullman High principal, that he always visits churches and schools when he travels and since he was here on a week day he stayed at school most of the time. He, being a retired Kentucky farmer, was especially interested in the agriculture classes of J. D. Hardeman at Cullman High.

Duck River News

Pfc. Carl Henry Horsley of the Marines is spending a 20 day furlough at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Horsley.

Billy Ray Horsley and Ellis Stewart left for the Navy last Thursday.

Pauline Johnson spent a few days in Birmingham, with her sister, Gloria Jean Parker.

Miss Faye Doggett attended church at Duck River, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shugart and Sandra Faye and Wayne of Birmingham were the Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Horsley.

Barbara Barnett and Helen June Waldrop visited Wanda Horsley, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hosey Johnson visited Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Story Saturday night.

Christmas program is well underway and will be at the Duck River Church Monday night, Dec. 24th. Everyone is invited.



POET'S CORNER

Expressions | By: Randy C. Hale

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

Cheeks full of joy, and excitement.
Worth all the sneaking around,
long hours of making special
a Christmas morning.

Your aging heart leaps,
as if you were a child again,
seeing the exuberance, the
spring in their step.

The expression is for you,
a payment for setting the stage
for dreams that come true.
A time they won't forget.

One day when your miles away,
they may be doing the same.
Looking for that bright expression—
on Christmas day.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 20

C A N D Y C A N E F A M I L Y R A
T B M E N P H R L W P L M E S T H
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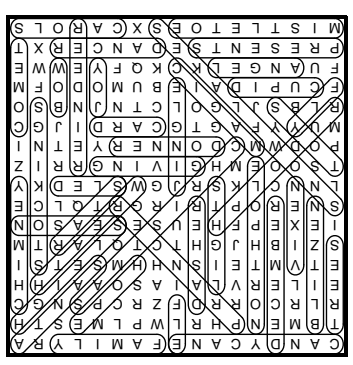
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Candy Cane
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Christmas
Comet
Cupid
Dancer
Dasher
December
Donner
Elf
Family
Fly
Giving
Hope
Jingle
Joy
Lights
Magic
Mistletoe
North Pole
Prancer
Presents
Reindeer
Rudolph
Santa
Season
Sled
Sleigh
Snowflakes
Star
Stockings
Toys
Trees
Vixen
Wreath

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

DEC. 20

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ANSWERS:



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

Toys of Joy (from Front)

forward to sponsor families and provide financial support, resulting in more than 20 drop-off locations and over 20 unique sponsors countywide.

That generosity allowed volunteers to assemble and distribute more than 350 personalized gift bundles to children throughout Cullman County, each tailored to reflect the child's interests and needs.

Following the success of its inaugural year, Toys of Joy is here to stay and will become an annual initiative for Cullman Elks Lodge #1609 and the Cullman VFW. Planning is already underway for next year, with organizers focused on serving more families, building stronger community partnerships and keeping every donation local to directly benefit Cullman County families.

"If even one child wakes up believing in magic again, every moment of work is worth it," Atchley said. "Cullman proved once again that when we serve together, joy multiplies."

For more information on Toys of Joy, email toysofjoy1609@gmail.com. For information on the Cullman VFW, call 256-739-6611 or email commandervfwpost2214@outlook.com.

CCBOE (from Front)

Sick Leave Bank.

Approval was given to provide stipends to staff members who hosted FAFSA parent meetings after hours. The payments are funded through a College and Career Readiness grant.

Out-of-state field trips for cheer teams from Vinemont High School, Fairview High School and West Point High School were approved, with all groups traveling to Orlando, Florida, for national cheer competition. No general fund money will be used for the trips.

The board approved October 2025 financial statements and October bills and payroll totaling more than $18 million.

There was a change order for the West Point High School multipurpose facility, reducing the project contract by more than $152,000 and bringing the adjusted total to approximately $1.35 million. Maintenance department bids, including a systemwide HVAC filter and service contract, were also approved.

The board adopted a new policy on vape awareness, education and prevention, developed by the Alabama State Department of Education to address student use of vaping and alternative nicotine products.

Superintendent reports included upcoming calendar reminders, noting the end of the first semester on Dec. 19. Students will return on Jan. 6, with report cards going home Jan. 9.

County schools and the central office will be closed Jan. 19.

The next regular CCBOE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15, with a work session beginning at 3:30 p.m.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association meeting notes: Dec. 17, 2025

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

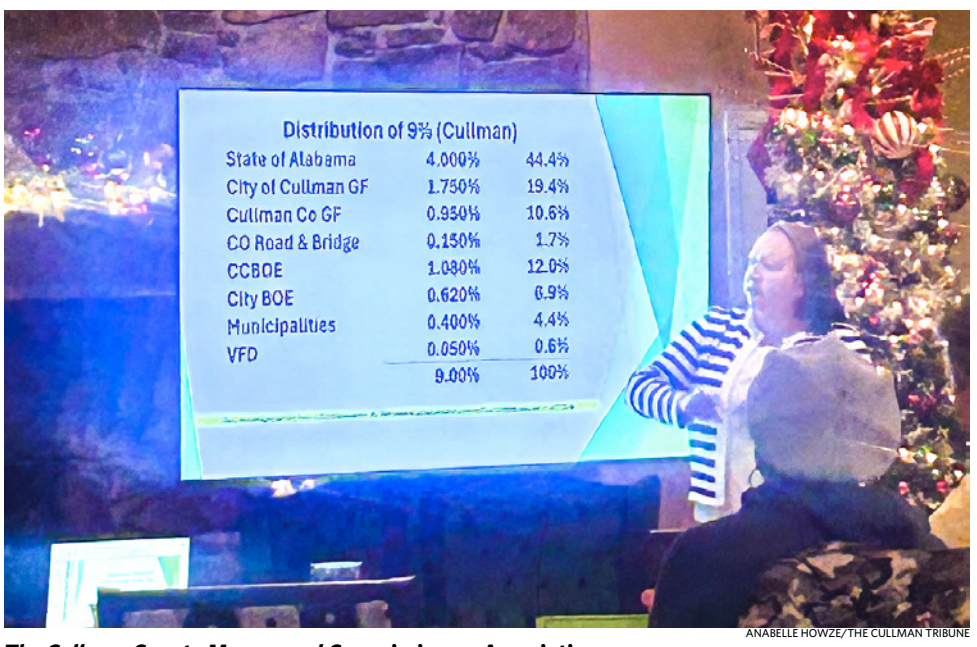
CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association met Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Terri Pines to review how sales, use and lodging tax revenue is collected and distributed among municipalities, school systems and county services.

Officials explained that multiple state laws govern tax distribution, with funds allocated to cities, the county, school systems, fire departments and the county hospital board. Monthly distributions vary based on collections and population.

The discussion included the Simplified Sellers Use Tax, which applies to many online purchases shipped into Alabama. Officials said the program allows counties and municipalities to collect revenue from out-of-state retailers that previously paid little or no local tax. While the rate is lower than traditional local sales taxes, officials said it increases compliance and captures revenue that would otherwise go uncollected.

Concerns were raised about fairness to brick-and-mortar businesses, which pay full sales and property taxes, compared with online retailers operating outside county boundaries. Officials said state law and court rulings limit changes to the simplified tax structure.

Revenue officials reported that more than $72 million was collected and distributed during the 2023–2024 fiscal year, with about $89.5 million collected so far in the 2024–2025 fiscal year.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association met Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at Terri Pines.

CCBOE Teachers of the Year (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools on Wednesday, Dec. 17, surprised the Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year for the district.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Lauren Bentley, Hanceville Primary School

Lauren Bentley has been teaching Kindergarten at Hanceville for 23 years. Bentley, a committed teacher, is passionate about delivering lessons to students. She holds multiple certifications as well as leadership positions at her school.

SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mary Lauren Hartline, Holly Pond High School

Mary Lauren Hartline teaches English Language Arts and is also an A+ consultant and curriculum instructor. Hartline, a military veteran, has a range of successful achievements, including the highest ACT ELA scores in Cullman County for the last two years.

Each school in the district nominates a Teacher of the Year.

An elementary and secondary district winner are chosen from those candidates.

Both Bentley and Hartline will be recognized at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce State of Schools luncheon this spring, and will also compete for the Alabama Teacher of the Year.





CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Lauren Bentley and Mary Lauren Hartline

City Teachers of the Year (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools on Friday announced its five Teachers of the Year for the 2025–2026 school year.

"These outstanding educators represent the very best of the profession and exemplify the dedication, skill, and passion that define teaching excellence in Cullman City Schools," the district said.

"As school-level Teachers of the Year, these educators are now eligible for consideration as Cullman City Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year and may advance as one of the 16 finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year. In recognition of this distinguished accomplishment, each honoree will receive a $1,000 award from the Cullman City Board of Education."

"Being selected Teacher of the Year is huge for our educators. This honor derives from the nomination of peers, parents, and stakeholders," Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said. "When you are the Teacher of the Year in one of the top school systems in Alabama, that speaks volumes about your level of dedication and commitment to this wonderful profession."

2025–2026 CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Cullman City Primary School – Caroline Tidmore
Caroline Tidmore is a dedicated educator and a true leader at Cullman City Primary School. With 10 years of classroom experience — one year in first grade and nine years in kindergarten — she leads her pod with encouragement, positivity and an unwavering commitment to providing the best possible kindergarten experience for every child.

East Elementary School – Lacy Cameron
Lacy Cameron has devoted her entire 21-year teaching career to East Elementary, where she teaches fifth grade. She has taught every subject and, in recent years, has focused exclusively on math — an area in which fifth-grade students have consistently ranked among the top performers on the state summative assessment. Cameron earned National Board Certification in Elementary Literacy in 2015 and was recertified last year.

West Elementary School – Kristy White
Kristy White is one of the most seasoned educators at West Elementary School. She approaches each school year with the enthusiasm and energy of a first-year teacher and is well known for challenging students to develop a lifelong love of reading and literature.

Cullman Middle School – Morgan Johnston
Morgan Johnston has been named the 2025–2026 Cullman Middle School Teacher of the Year, recognizing her distinguished career and outstanding service to the school community. Now in her 17th year in education, Johnston has taught grades 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, bringing exceptional versatility and experience to her students.

Cullman High School – Michelle Greenlee
Michelle Greenlee has been honored as Cullman High School's Teacher of the Year for her exceptional work as a chemistry and physics teacher, as well as a cross country and track coach. Known for her unwavering dedication, Mrs. Greenlee brings science to life in ways that inspire curiosity, confidence and achievement in every learner.

"Cullman City Schools congratulates these five exceptional educators and thanks them for their continued commitment to excellence and student success."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Left to right are Cullman City School Board President Jill Bradberry with teachers Kristy White, Michelle Greenlee, Lacy Cameron, Caroline Tidmore, Morgan Johnston and Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff.