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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –
Addison headlines all-state football selections with four players, 1A Coach of the Year
» PAGE 4

2025 in Cullman County: Challenge, change and community

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — From unprecedented challenges to public trust to historic investments in education and infrastructure, 2025 reshaped Cullman County in lasting ways.

The year was not defined by a single head- » PAGE 6



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette holds a press conference at the site of the planned STEM Academy/Career Center on U.S. Highway 31 on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025.

Christkindlmarkt wraps up season



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Tuesday, Dec. 23, is the final day for the 2025 Cullman Christkindlmarkt – and what a beautiful season it's been!

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City and County offices announce Christmas holiday closures and sanitation changes

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Cullman man charged with trafficking fentanyl



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Thomas Sawyer » PAGE 3

JR Bowling announces candidacy for Alabama Senate District 4



CONTRIBUTED

JR Bowling » PAGE 2

Youth present 'A Christmas Yarn'

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Birdie Box to host 2-Man Best Ball Christmas Tournament Dec. 27

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 22

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 22, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 18

- domestic violence; CR 109
- theft of property; Sportsman Lake Rd.
- theft of property; CR 108
- theft of property; CR 805
- possession of controlled substance; CR 109

Dec. 19

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; I65SB MM 299
- trespassing; CR 8
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1141
- domestic violence-menacing; CR 109
- giving false identity to avoid arrest; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 1435

Dec. 20

- domestic violence; CR 1177
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S
- domestic violence; Magnolia Ave. NW

Dec. 21

- assault; CR 568
- stalking; CR 1756
- domestic violence-criminal stalking; CR 1088

ARRESTS

Dec. 18 – Dec. 21

Aaron, Matthew E.; 43
- criminal trespass

Ballard, Michael C.; 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Castillo, Alberto G.; 23
- DUI (alcohol)

Fanning, Ricky D.; 34
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Freeman, Katheryn E.; 63
- permitting dogs to run at large

Gable, Holly J.; 51
- assault-aggravated assault non-family-other weapon
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hanners, Bobby L.; 36
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal mischief-2nd degree
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Hook, Kodi J.; 30
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Hudson, Jr., Charles S.; 25
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Jensen, Megan A.; 36
- FTA – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Kilgore, Steven R.; 58
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Lynn, Alexis T.; 27
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of drug paraphernalia

Maddox, Jr., James D.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – speeding-no workers-construction zone

Massey, Corina L.; 25
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs
- using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution

Myrick, Brandi M.; 49
- FTA – public intoxication
- public intoxication

Parris, Ethan B.; 33
- theft-shoplifting
- theft-shoplifting, less than $500

Purcell, Jeanne B.; 60
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Purcell, Stephen R.; 59
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- possession of amphetamine
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Riggs, Timoth R.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Sanford, Christopher L.; 41
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- receiving stolen property
- FTA – DUI (controlled substances)
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts)

Schallhorn, Rebecca J.; 24
- assault-harassment

Stanford, Dawson K.; 23
- FTA – assault-domestic violence-3rd degree – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Thomas, Belinda S.; 52
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Townsel, William R.; 41
- theft-miscellaneous, $500-less than $1500

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 18
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; theft of property-2nd degree; person; miscellaneous; Pine Hill Dr.

Dec. 19
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged property; $50; Heritage Cir. SE
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $19; Hwy. 157
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $60; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $41; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $15; Hwy. 157

Dec. 20
- criminal trespass; person; Drippings Springs Rd.
- theft of property-1st degree; person; coins; $13,600; Tidwell St. SW
- harassing communications; person

Dec. 21
- burglary-3rd degree; person; Brunner St. NW

ARRESTS

Dec. 19 – Dec. 21

Johnson, Bryon R.; 44
- theft of property-4th degree

Birdwell, Jeffery L.; 44
- organized retail theft
- retail theft of property-3rd degree (4 counts)

Taylor, Anna G.; 21
- DUI

Jones, Johnathan C.; 41
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Johnston, Jeremiah L.; 24
- GJ – sexual abuse of child under 12

Horn, Tamara J.; 57
- DUI

Sawyer, Jr., Thomas K.; 44
- trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- resisting arrest
- obstructing governmental operations

Sanford, Christopher L.; 41
- FTA – violation of protection order
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – driving without license

Polson, Marissa B.; 30
- public intoxication

Huffman, Rachel R.; 47
- burglary-3rd degree

Adkins, Samuel P.; 20
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reproted.

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

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Closures (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City and County government offices and municipal departments have announced closures and service adjustments for the Christmas holiday.

Many offices will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, with some extending closures into the following Friday.

Residents should also note temporary sanitation schedule changes that will affect garbage collection routes across the county.

Officials encourage residents to plan ahead for office closures, payment deadlines and service delays. Online services will remain available for certain departments during the holiday period.

Below is a breakdown of confirmed closures and service impacts that have been publicly announced.

CITY OF CULLMAN

City of Cullman offices will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 24–25, for the Christmas holiday.

Sanitation services will operate on a modified schedule. Routes will run as normal on Christmas Eve. No garbage collection will occur on Christmas Day, and Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, Dec. 26.

CULLMAN COUNTY SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Cullman County Sanitation offices will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Garbage collection will not run on Christmas Day. Sanitation routes will resume with a one-day delay following the holiday. Customers whose regular pickup day falls on Thursday, Dec. 25, should expect collection on Friday, Dec. 26.

CULLMAN COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER

Offices of the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner will be closed Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 24–26.

While offices will be closed, online services for property tax payments and select tag and title transactions will remain available during the closure period. Offices are expected to reopen Monday, Dec. 29.

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

According to the County's published holiday schedule, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are recognized County holidays. Individual departments may extend closures beyond those dates based on operational needs.

TOWN OF DODGE CITY

Town of Dodge City facilities and services, excluding public safety, will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25–26.

Town officials noted that payment and service guidance is available for residents during the closure period.

Bowling (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

DANVILLE, Ala. — Republican JR Bowling has announced his candidacy for Alabama Senate District 4. The seat is currently held by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman.

Below is Bowling's announcement:

JR Bowling, a lifelong North Alabama resident leading with Christian values, patriotism and determination has announced his candidacy for Alabama State Senate District 4. Without volumes of rhetoric, Bowling is launching a grassroots campaign that focuses on accountability, infrastructure, and restoring trust in state government that prioritizes his voice for political influence.

Formally kicking off his campaign just twelve days before Christmas, Bowling drew a "standing-room only" crowd at a local restaurant with entertainment and speakers. Supporters not only pledged their votes but concurred with the quest for having their voices heard in the political arena. The energy and camaraderie exhibited was said to be "Infectious" in transforming a sense of power to the people.

"People are tired of being ignored," Bowling said. "This campaign is about putting communities first and making sure the state government works for the people it serves, not the other way around."

As a vocal opponent of SB 322, Bowling has argued that the legislation places unnecessary burdens on local governments and undermines local control.

He says his campaign is about ensuring decisions affecting North Alabama are made with community input and transparency.

Also emphasized is that he represents a commitment to practical solutions and responsible leadership rooted in the values of Senate District 4.

"Together, we can build a government that listens, responds, and delivers real results for North Alabama families," quotes Bowling.

As a husband, father, volunteer firefighter, business manager, etc., this candidate's roots speak volumes.

Bowling's stated priorities include:

- Fixing deteriorating roads and strengthening critical infrastructure

- Defending emergency services and backing first responders

- Driving job creation, industry growth and protecting small businesses

- Supporting veterans and amending legislation such as HB 445 to help reopen businesses affected by prior closures

- Imposing transparency and accountability in Montgomery

Today, let the principle of popular sovereignty resonate, such as the concept expressed when Benjamin Franklin wrote:

"In free governments, the rulers are the servants and the people their superiors and sovereigns."

Vote in May for JR Bowling, as this candidate's momentum is growing, and the challenge has been accepted.

For more information go to: www.jr4district4.com.

Key dates

- Primary Election: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

- Primary Runoff Election: Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- General Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

Tournament (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Birdie-Box is set to host a 2-Man Best Ball Christmas Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 27, beginning at 1 p.m. Each team member's entry includes a meal provided by Birdie-Box's in-house kitchen, and participants are encouraged to embrace the holiday spirit by wearing their ugliest Christmas sweaters.

The tournament will follow a two-man best ball format, meaning both golfers on each team will play every hole, with the best score between the two counting toward the team's scorecard. Teams will compete on the iconic Spyglass Hill course in California, played virtually using Birdie-Box's advanced golf simulators.

The simulators project the course onto a large screen while tracking ball speed, flight and direction through high-tech sensors, creating a realistic and immersive golf experience for the players.

Entry fees are $120 for non-members and $100 for members.

Twenty percent of all entry fees will be paid out to the winning team, while the second-place team will receive Birdie-Box T-shirts.

Beyond the prizes and competition, Birdie-Box manager Elisabeth Black said the event is about bringing people together during the holiday season.

"We hope people are able to come and enjoy time with family or friends this holiday season through friendly competition," she said.

For more information, contact Birdie-Box at 256-747-5660 or support@birdie-box.com.

Birdie-Box is located at 1929 Second Ave. SW, Cullman.

Fentanyl (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was arrested Saturday, Dec. 20, charged with trafficking in fentanyl. Thomas Sawyer, 44, is also charged with unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, obstructing governmental operations and resisting arrest.

According to the Cullman Police Department, officers assigned to Patrol Shift 1B conducted proactive enforcement in response to community drug-related complaints.

"Through their investigation, officers developed probable cause to obtain a search warrant for a local residence," said a statement from the CPD.

"The Cullman Police Tactical Unit was activated to safely execute the search warrant."

The department shared, "This enforcement action reflects our continued commitment to public safety and addressing drug-related activity within our community.

"This case remains under investigation.

"All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law."

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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
• Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Classes cancelled; Merry Christmas!
• Friday, Dec. 26 – 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. 28 – 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.cullman-christkindlmarkt.com

7th Annual Christmas at the Grotto
Dec. 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. 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.

Cullman Area Chamber Foundation Mardi Gras Parade & Gumbo Cook-Off
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. in the Art District (Fourth Street Southwest and Cotton Creek area). This family friendly event will feature a colorful Mardi Gras parade, followed by a gumbo cook-off showcasing teams competing for best gumbo and community pride. Attendees can enjoy delicious gumbo tastings, festive décor, live music and the vibrant energy of Mardi Gras right here in Cullman! Grab your beads, bring your friends and family and join us in the Art District.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Fairview muscles past West Point 39-29 to win Cullman County middle school girls basketball tournament

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — After defeating Vinemont and Cold Springs to advance to the final matchup, Fairview's middle school girls team took down West Point 39-29 to capture their fifth straight Cullman County middle school tournament championship.

Leading the Lady Aggies and the game in scoring was guard Tori Cryer, who finished the game with 14 points, three rebounds, two assists and a steal.

On the boards, forward Alianna Wunderlich was a driving factor in the Aggies out-rebounding West Point 34-20, grabbing eight of her own.

Wunderlich also scored four points and had two steals and an assist.

"Physicality's been our emphasis for sure. We're a big team, but sometimes we don't box out, don't work the post, in practice yesterday that was our thing like, let's work at everything we do, every single second we need to be working, and as long as we don't get out-worked we'll win the battle then the war," Aggies head coach Jesse Randolph said.

West Point fought hard, rallying at the end of the first quarter to take a 10-9 lead behind two big three pointers from Stormey Clayton and Braylee Echols.

In the second quarter, however, the Lady Aggies were firing on all cylinders, playing stellar defense behind Wunderlich, who coach Randolph singled out as the player that feeds their aggressive mindset.

On offense, the pick and roll duo of Cryer and Bobbi Randolph got rolling and the Aggies outscored West Point by six to take a 20-15 lead into halftime.

Opening the second half, Fairview came out hot, scoring seven straight points before the Lady Warriors would settle in.

Layups by West Point's Kenzley Williams, Krimson Mumford and Aubree Hembree got the team within 10 at the end of the third, but still trailed 31-21.

A slow fourth quarter saw the teams match each other in the box score, with eight points a piece. Fairview's physicality and a couple nice jumpers from Cryer and Randolph sealed the victory.

Randolph finished the game with eight points, five boards and a steal.

Leading West Point in scoring was forward Krimson Mumford, who finished with seven points, two rebounds, two steals and an assist.

"We played them tight, cut down our turnovers, we had a pretty good game. Two seventh graders, Tatum (Wright) and Tori Cryer, they stepped up. Bobbi Randolph had some big rebounds, we played a good game, I'm proud," coach Randolph said.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview Middle's girls basketball team after winning Cullman County middle school girls tournament.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

West Point defeats Good Hope 54-41 to win Cullman County 8th grade boys basketball tournament

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — West Point's 8th grade boys team won the Cullman County middle school boys tournament over Good Hope on Saturday, 54-41. The win was fueled by a stellar performance by the Warriors' Colt Ashley, who scored a game-high 20 points and added nine rebounds and a pair of assists.

Opening the game, Good Hope forward Aiden McGill scored the first three Raiders' baskets, pushing them out to an early 6-3 lead.

Then, the first of Ashley's buckets pulled the Warriors in front. Closing out the first quarter was a buzzer beating three from Warriors' guard Trey Thompson to put them up 11-10.

Thompson would go on to finish the game with 11 points and an assist.

The second quarter saw the teams play even, with Warriors' forward Karson Currington coming off the bench and going back and forth from three with Good Hope's Elijah Bailey. Currington scored all eight of his points in the second quarter. Like the Warriors in the first, Good Hope would hit a big three pointer to close out the second quarter, but they still trailed 23-21 going into halftime.

The much-needed deep ball came from the Raiders' Aiden Fite, who put up a gritty 11 point, five assist and three steal performance before leaving the game late after suffering an injury on a screen.

"Good Hope played us hard, they came out punching and we didn't handle it well early but I thought we played a lot better in the second.

"We matched their physicality, which we didn't do very well in the first, but that's what we've been built on all year," Warriors' head coach Tyler White said.

The Warriors opened the second half on an 8-2 run, and slowly started to pull away from the Raiders. Fite and Ashley exchanged buckets, but West Point went into the final period with a 38-29 lead.

In the fourth, while fighting for a ball, Ashley took an elbow to the face and with blood dripping from his face, he left the game.

He'd come back in not much later, though, and help the team hold off the Raiders who'd gotten back within six points late in the game. Thompson went on to nail a pair of shots from beyond the arc and Ashley, with a bloody nose stuffed with tissue, capped off the win with an acrobatic layup.

"That kid is a man. He is one of the toughest kids you'll ever meet, that's two games this tournament he's gotten his nose busted and he's off the court for 30 seconds, he plugs it up and he's fighting me on the bench to get back into the game.

"He's as tough as they come, sometimes he's in the shadow of our really good guard group but without him this team is not what they are.

"He's an unbelievable kid and an unbelievable ball player," White said on Ashley's performance.



LUCAS GRAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's 8th grade boys after winning the Cullman County tournament.

PREP FOOTBALL

Addison headlines all-state football selections with four players, 1A Coach of the Year

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama Sports Writer Association released their All-State football teams this weekend, and 17 local players plus a coach were honored.

ADDISON (1A)

- 1A Coach of the Year – Mark Hastings
- First-team All-1A – DB Conner Lane & ATH Elijah Roberts
- Second-team All-1A – OL Brye Dollar
- Honorable mention – WR Judah Wilkins

From the coach: "We used Connor Lane on opponents best receiver or on their sideline. So we made it very difficult on him, but he continued to rise to the moment. Three of his 10 picks came in the playoffs. Elijah Roberts is well deserving of every awards he gets. He was a playmaker everywhere we put him. He was already an outstanding runner but he grew tremendously as a passer with 23 TD. He is a great leader and the type of player that makes everyone around him better. Brye Dollar is a 3 year starter, he was one of the anchors on the offensive line. He was a consistent leader throughout the season and was a big reason for our offense to be productive. Judah Wilkins was our most consistent receiver. His skill set allowed us to use him in several different ways. He was also an excellent blocker," Bulldogs head coach Mark Hastings said. On his own achievement, he added "It's an honor with all the great coaches there are in our class. I have to give the credit to all our coaches and players. They all did a great job learning and executing a new system."

COLD SPRINGS (2A)

- Second-team All-2A – ATH Ayden Black
- Honorable mention – OL Trey Bailey

From the coach: "I'm extremely proud of Ayden, he worked extremely hard to handle everything we threw at him. He stood out in the locker room as a leader, too. He's a great kid. Again with Trey, he's a team leader. He was a four year starter for us and a kid that worked really hard in the weight room and is well deserving of being recognized as one of the best lineman in 2A," said head coach Brendan Voce.

FAIRVIEW (5A)

- First-team All-5A – RB Jake Harper & ATH Kolt Redding
- Second-team All-5A – OL Andrew Latham

From the coach: "I am so proud of these guys and what they have accomplished. Not only what these guys did this year but what they have done in their careers. They have not only represented our program but our school and community at such a high level. They will be the first to tell you that their success comes directly from the guys around them," Aggies head coach George Redding said.

GOOD HOPE (4A)

- Second-team All-4A – WR Carter Rutherford, OL Tristan Grund, LB Cody Stevens & ATH Mason Drake
- Honorable mention – DL Ross Clark

HANCEVILLE (3A)

- Honorable mention – WR Drake Bentley

From the coach: "Drake is a great athlete and even better kid. His offensive performance this year was great and his impact as a leader has helped lay the foundation of our program. I'm super proud and excited that he earned these honors and look forward to seeing what his athletic and academic future holds," Hanceville head coach Levi Estes said.

HOLLY POND (3A)

- Second-team All-3A – WR Boston Gibbs

From the coach: "Boston accounted for 31 touchdowns, which was incredible, and the major reason Holly Pond was able to score over 30 points a game in consecutive seasons for the first time in school history," Broncos head coach Will McDaniel said.

MEEK (1A)

- Second-team All-1A – OL Aiden Benson

From the coach: "We are incredibly proud of Aiden and all the hard work he has put into the Meek Football program. Aiden has dedicated six years to the program and has always put the team before hisself. I am so happy he received the recognition he deserves for that sacrifice," said head coach Daniel Evans.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison ATH Elijah Roberts, who was named to ASWA's first-team All-1A.

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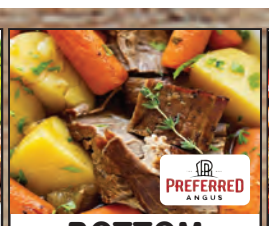
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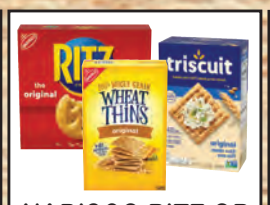
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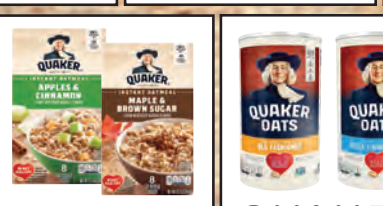
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TRIMBLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Members of the Trimble Volunteer Fire Department perform equipment maintenance.

– LOCAL HEROES –

'It's not an obligation; it's love'

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

This feature originally ran in the November 2025-January 2026 issue of Community Matters, the quarterly magazine produced by The Cullman Tribune.

For members of the Trimble Volunteer Fire Department, service is a calling born out of love for their town, their families and for one another. Assistant Fire Chief Bruce Whitlock, Secretary Crystal Eubanks, Lt. Jonathan Eubanks and Firefighter Charles Freeman are among the heroes who keep the department strong.

Not everyone sets out to become a firefighter. Crystal Eubanks said she never expected it to happen. "I'd been in dental for nine years and had no interest in firefighting or EMS. Jonathan dragged me to a meeting, and on a whim, I joined. The first medical call we ran changed everything. I fell in love with it. Currently, I'm a full-time EMT. This department changed my life."

For Jonathan Eubanks, service runs deeper. "I was getting out of the military, and I needed something to fill that hole," he said. "I've always wanted to serve my community."

Whitlock has carried the love of serving others for decades. "I've worked EMS for 25 years, and even when I let my license go, I never let go of serving. There's always a way to help."

"Around here, everyone helps each other. This gives us more tools to do it," added Freeman.

No day in the department is ever the same, and things can change in an instant.

"Some days, it's quiet, you're at your regular job, living your life," Crystal Eubanks explained. "Then suddenly, it's back-to-back calls. One minute it's a lift assist, then a tree in the road, then a structure fire. We've always joked that calls come in threes." Calls can range from hay fires to car wrecks, from stubbed toes to cardiac arrests. "When that tone drops, you don't know what's waiting. But you know you've got work to do."

Training is rigorous, requiring 160 hours to qualify for entry into a burning structure. The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including hazardous materials, ventilation techniques and engine operation.

"Some people come in with no training at all. Maybe they help clean the station or maintain equipment. Others go all the way, becoming professional firefighters, divers or paramedics. We'll train you. All we need is your heart," said Jonathan Eubanks.

The fire department is a close-knit group, considering each other family.

"We eat dinner together before every meeting, and we bring our kids, we laugh, we argue. It's more than just a fire department," shared Crystal Eubanks.

That sense of family carries over to the calls they'll never forget. For her, it was saving a gunshot victim. For Whitlock, it was carrying a heart attack patient through the snow during the blizzard of 1993. For Freeman, it was feeding the community for a week after the 2011 tornadoes.

"When it's a neighbor or a kid you've watched grow up, that's when you realize why we do this," shared Jonathan Eubanks.

Like many rural departments, Trimble struggles with staffing and funding. Some calls go unanswered because there aren't enough staff members to handle them. Any form of assistance is greatly appreciated. Even small supplies, such as Band-Aids, fuel and gauze, can strain the department's budget. Grants and community support keep them going, but the need is constant.

"You don't have to run into a burning building," Jonathan Eubanks said. "Wash trucks, help with fundraising or run lift assists. Even the smallest job makes a difference."

To these local heroes, being a part of the Trimble Volunteer Fire Department means more than just being a firefighter.

"It's family helping family. It's not an obligation; it's love. We're neighbors helping neighbors," said Whitlock.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"A Christmas Yarn" ensemble

'A Christmas Yarn' (from Front)

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Heirlooms Fine and Performing Arts presented "A Christmas Yarn" on Friday, Dec. 19, at St. John's Church, marking their final performance of the season.

The production was performed by the Heirlooms Players, a homeschool theater class made up primarily of first-time performers. The nine-student cast spent eight weeks preparing for the show, rehearsing weekly.

The students selected "A Christmas Yarn" after researching potential shows as part of their theater curriculum. The show, which shared similarities with "A Christmas Carol," featured many performers already familiar with the Christmas classic through their studies, and its blend of kid-friendly humor and focus on the story of Jesus made it a favorite among the group.

The performance marked Heirlooms' seventh show of the year, ending a busy season for the artists. Community support throughout the year has helped the program continue to grow and introduce new students to theater.

Looking to the new year, Artistic Director Paige Clabo will direct "Matilda the Musical" with Cullman Community Theatre this spring, presented through Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism. Additional summer programming includes youth theater camps featuring "Shrek Kids" and "Into the Woods Jr."

Families interested in getting involved with Heirlooms Fine and Performing Arts can find more information, including upcoming classes and performances, at www.heirloomsfineandperformingarts.com.





2025 (from Front)

line but by a sequence of moments that demanded reflection, required accountability and revealed how a community responds when tested. Some of those moments unsettled long-held assumptions. Others reaffirmed the values and institutions residents continue to rely on.

Crime and accountability

Early in the year, Cullman County confronted a crisis few communities ever face.

A grand jury investigation into the Hanceville Police Department resulted in arrests, the dismissal of dozens of criminal cases and a recommendation that the department be abolished entirely.

The implications reached far beyond city limits, affecting the court system, surrounding law enforcement agencies and the public's confidence in institutions meant to protect them.

The events forced difficult but necessary questions. How oversight failed. How warning signs were missed. And how trust, once broken, must be rebuilt deliberately rather than assumed.

The scandal did not exist in isolation. It became a defining test of accountability for the entire county.

The defining story of 2025 centered on the collapse of the Hanceville Police Department.

A Cullman County grand jury indicted multiple officers, recommended abolishing the department and triggered the dismissal of dozens of criminal cases tied to compromised evidence.

The scandal forced city, county and state officials to confront failures in oversight and accountability and left a permanent mark on how public safety is viewed and governed in Cullman County.

Related coverage

- Grand jury calls for abolition of Hanceville PD; 6 arrested - By Lauren Estes and Nick Griffin
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/19/grand-jury-calls-for-abolition-of-hanceville-pd-6-arrested
- DA: 58 cases dismissed due to Hanceville PD illegal actions - By Lauren Estes and W.C. Mann
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/05/07/da-58-cases-dismissed-due-to-hanceville-pds-illegal-actions
- Hanceville Council votes to suspend police department - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/03/10/hanceville-council-votes-to-suspend-police-department

Government, budgets and infrastructure

Even as those consequences unfolded, local government continued the work of managing growth and planning for the future.

City and County leaders approved the largest budgets in local history, balancing expansion with rising responsibility for infrastructure, public safety and employee compensation.

Investments in roads, utilities and emergency preparedness underscored a reality made clear throughout the year. Growth requires constant reinvestment and careful stewardship.

Local governments approved historic budgets in 2025 as Cullman continued to grow. City leaders passed a $194 million budget while the county adopted a $58 million plan emphasizing roads, public safety and employee compensation.

The Cullman Power Board announced major system upgrades designed to improve reliability, while the Cullman County EMA coordinated response and recovery efforts following severe weather events.

Related coverage

- Cullman City Council passes $194M budget for 2026 - By W.C. Mann
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/10/02/cullman-city-council-passes-194m-budget-for-2026
- Cullman County Commission adopts $58M FY2026 budget - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/09/29/cullman-county-commission-adopts-58m-fy2026-budget
- Cullman Power Board announces major system upgrades - By Noah Galilee
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/03/18/cullman-power-board-announces-system-upgrades
- Cullman County EMA conducts damage assessments after severe weather - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/05/21/cullman-county-ema-conducts-damage-assessments

Education and the future

Education emerged as one of the county's most consistent stabilizing forces throughout the year.

Cullman County Schools secured the largest grant in system history, an $18 million investment to build a STEM academy and career center aimed at workforce readiness.

Both city and county school systems also posted their highest scores ever on the Alabama State Report Card, reinforcing education as one of Cullman County's strongest foundations.

Related coverage

- Cullman County Schools awarded largest grant in system history - By Nick Griffin
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/08/12/cullman-county-schools-awarded-largest-grant-in-system-history-for-new-stem-academy-career-center
- State report card shows highest grades in Cullman school history - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/11/15/state-report-card-county-city-school-systems-report-highest-grades-in-system-histories

Economy, community and resilience

Community life continued alongside these challenges and milestones.

Cullman celebrated record-breaking attendance at Oktoberfest even as it prepared for the departure of Rock the South, a festival long tied to the county's identity.

At the same time, federal funding disruptions temporarily halted SNAP benefits, prompting local nonprofits to step in and support families in need.

Related coverage

- Cullman Oktoberfest breaks records with 74,000 visitors - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/10/08/cullman-oktoberfest-breaks-records-with-74k-visitors
- Rock the South set to leave Cullman, Decatur to take the stage - By Noah Galilee
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/10/01/rock-the-south-set-to-leave-cullman-decatur-to-take-the-stage
- November SNAP benefits suspended - By Tribune staff
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/10/27/november-snap-benefits-suspended
- Cullman Caring for Kids assures support amid SNAP suspension - By Noah Galilee
www.cullmantribune.com/2025/10/31/cullman-caring-for-kids-assures-community-support-amid-snap-suspension

Taken together, these moments tell the story of a county tested but not stalled, challenged but not diminished. They reflect a community learning in real time how to balance accountability with ambition and tradition with transition.

The stories helped form the foundation of 2025 in Cullman County and set the context for the reflection that follows in 2026.

LEGALS

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH AL CODE § 8-15-46): The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage 769 County Road 1435 Cullman, AL 35058 to satisfy a lien on January 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com : Unit 1237 Ella Scott, Unit 1112 Devan Roaden, Unit 1232 Scotty Barber, Unit 1128 Jake Butler, Unit 1096 Christina Karrer, Unit 1149 Lacy Husted Unit 1163 Jeremy Wright.

PURSUANT TO ALABAMA CODE 32-13-1, EARLS BODY SHOP INC. WILL OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES ON SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE VOLLOWING VEHICLES:

DATE 02/03/2026
TIME 7:00: AM
LOCATION: 2251 DECATUR AVE NW
CULLMAN AL 35058

2005	FORD	MUSTANG	1ZVFT80N155204003
2009	TOYOTA	CAMRY	4T1BE46K89U909910
2003	FORD	RANGER	1FTYR44U13TA50082
2010	HONDA	CIVIC	2HGFA1F53AH556866
2013	HYUNDAI	SONATALTD	5NPEC4AC6DH723003

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT

201 2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

256.775.7203
www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday January 6, 2026, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short form subdivision at 1011 Main Avenue SW – create two lots
2. Short form subdivision – 1432 Dripping Springs Road NW – create five lots
3. Rezoning request on Ellsworth Drive SW – AG-1 to R-2
4. Short form subdivision – Ellsworth Drive SW – create four lots

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ NO. CHA2025-03
PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS (PBV)

Cullman Housing Authority (CHA) is seeking proposals from qualified, license, property owners/developers to provide Project-Based Vouchers (PBV).

Separate, sealed proposals to provide this service will be received at **408 Cleveland Avenue, Cullman, Alabama 35055** until **11:00 A.M.** CST, **January 6, 2026.**

Electronic documents are available through Housing Agency Marketplace E-Procurement, by accessing the following website:

https://ha.internationaleprocurement.com/requests.html?company_id=78231

CHA reserves the right to reject any/or all proposals, make the determination as to what is equal to the specifications and/or scope of work, or to waive any informality in the proposals received, and to accept any proposal, which, in its opinion, may be in the best interest of CHA.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
Marquisha Griffin, Executive Director

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition of)
Christian Tyler James)
Case Number: AD 2025-010

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: The Unknown Father of the minor child P.W.G. D.O.B, 6-23-2021 WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY CHRISTIAN TYLER JAMES. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST NOTICE OF PUBLICATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 18th DAY OF December, 2025.

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

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioner
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)775-4444

****

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

PLEASE PUBLISH THE ABOVE NOTICE IN SAID PUBLICATION FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS AND SEND PROOF OF PUBLICATION TO JUDGE OF PROBATE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

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

Case# PC2025-314
PB MIN Book:239 Page:172
Recorded in Above Book and Page
12/15/2025 12:03PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
GARY LYNN COLLIER,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2025-314

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to GAVIN ROSS FRANKLIN as Personal Representative of the Estate of GARY LYNN COLLIER, deceased, on the 15th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

GAVIN ROSS FRANKLIN
Personal Representative

Kalif R. Green, Esq.
Kalif R. Green, Attorney at Law, LLC.
107 Bangor Ave NE
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-735-6040

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CYWILLA CAROL CRUMPTON
a/k/a CAROL C. CRUMPTON,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC 2025-434

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to RICHARD SHIVERS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Carol C. Crumpton, deceased, on the 5th 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.

Richard Shivers
Personal Representative

Robert Scott Dooley
Attorney for Petitioner
118 18th Street North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

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

Case# PC2025-430
PB WIL Book:134 Page:865
Recorded in Above Book and Page
12/05/2025 2:42PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF
JACK L. SMITH, Deceased.

CASE NO: PC 2025-430

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to MICHAEL R. SMITH, as Executor of the Estate of JACK L. SMITH, Deceased, on the 5th 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.

MICHAEL R. SMITH,
Executor for the Estate of Jack L. Smith, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

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, Cullman, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Case# PC2025-302
PB WIL Book:134 Page:859
Recorded in Above Book and Page
12/05/2025 2:24PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN)
Deceased.)

CASE NO PC 2025-302

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL (Self-Proved Will)

TO: PAUL EDWARD PETTIS and all known and unknown heirs of the estate of ANNIE PETTIS COLEMAN, deceased.

The Petition of Bonnie Styles to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Annie Pettis Coleman, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **15th day of January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, Judge of Probate Office, Room 101.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 5th day of December, 2025.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith, LLP
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-734-4721

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 Aaron Graves to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Gateway Mortgage, a division of Gateway First Bank, its successors and assigns dated February 28, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on March 8, 2022 in Deed Book 2004, Page 659 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 395, Page 409 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

The undersigned, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, 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 15, 2026 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the accepted Southwest corner of the above described forty; thence N 89 degrees 05' 41" E a distance of 736.17 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the point of intersection of the East right of way of County Road 698 and the North right of way of County Road 695 and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning follow said East right of way by the following chord bearings and distances (all points marked with 5/8 inch rebar irons); N 1 degree 44' 07" E, 37.74 feet; N 4 degrees 13' 01" E, 73.34 feet and N 5 degrees 54' 48" E a distance of 62.66 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence leaving said right of way run N 89 degrees 56' 05" E a distance of 125.00 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence S 4 degrees 15' 53" W a distance of 174.74 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron on the above described North right of way; thence N 89 degrees 34'39" W along said North right of way a distance of 125.00 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 0.50 acres, more or less. Said property subject to all right of ways or easements of record. Description taken from survey of H.D. Harris, Reg. No. 5742 dated March 4, 2006.

Said property is commonly known as **901 County Road 695, Holly Pond, AL 35083**.

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

December 12, 2025

foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

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.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
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. 24-05971AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

24-05971AL

EDITORIAL

The weight that never leaves

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

There is a kind of tired that has nothing to do with sleep. It does not go away with rest, routine or time. It is the exhaustion of waking up every day already worn down, already negotiating with yourself just to exist.

Living with constant depression is not loud. It does not always announce itself. Most days, it looks like functioning. Showing up. Doing the work. Saying the right things. Inside, it feels like dragging yourself through a life you are expected to appreciate but never quite feel connected to.

Self-love is talked about as if it is something everyone starts with and occasionally loses. For some of us, it never formed at all. Confidence was never built, so there was nothing to restore.

What grows instead is a constant internal interrogation, a belief that you are always one step behind, one mistake away from being exposed as inadequate.

For as long as I can remember, even as a child, my prayers were not about heaven or hell. They were about just ceasing. Not death in a dramatic sense, not punishment or reward, just the idea of being allowed to stop without consequence. To simply not exist anymore felt more merciful than either eternity.

That thought has never meant I wanted to abandon anyone. In fact, the truth is the opposite. I am still here because the lives tied to mine matter more than my own exhaustion.

Leaving would cause harm I could never justify, and responsibility has always outweighed despair. Some people remain not because they feel hope, but because duty leaves them no other choice.

There is a particular cruelty in being trapped between not wanting to live and not being able to leave. It is a quiet prison. You continue breathing, continue producing, continue caring for others while carrying a weight no one can see. Survival becomes a long-term assignment, not a choice.

There are moments when the strain becomes too much for the body to hold. Crying can arrive without warning, not tied to a single thought or event. Laughter can follow just as unexpectedly, sharp and out of place, as if the nervous system is grasping for air.

These are not performances or contradictions. They are what happens when stress and unprocessed emotion finally erode through a vessel that appeared sealed.

When the mind has been disciplined into silence for too long, the body finds its own way to speak.

People often say, "You're strong," without realizing that strength in this context simply means endurance. It means continuing despite the absence of joy. It means waking up every day knowing you will do it again tomorrow.

This is not a story about wanting to die. It is a story about how hard it can be to live. About what it costs to stay. About the unseen labor of those who remain not because life is beautiful, but because leaving would break the people they love.

And sometimes, telling the truth about that weight is the only relief available.

If you are reading this during a week when everything feels too heavy and the idea of ending it seems like relief, please pause.

Strong emotions can compress time and make permanent decisions feel urgent. They are not. Even when the pain feels endless, it is not proof that escape is the answer.

If you do not feel safe talking to family or friends, reach out to someone whose only role is to help you through the moment. You are not weak for needing that, and you are not trapped, even if it feels that way right now.

Speaking up does not lock you into anything. It simply buys you time. Sometimes surviving the moment is enough.

If you or someone you love is struggling with thoughts of suicide or self-harm, help is available. In the United States, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline can be reached by calling or texting 988.

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is free and confidential. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If you are considering self-harm and do not feel comfortable talking to family or friends, please reach out. You are never truly trapped, even when it feels that way.

Help begins with speaking up, and you do not have to do that alone.





Obituary Announcements: Dec. 20-22

Renee Leigeber, 60
Renee Leigeber, age 60 of Hanceville, passed away on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at Cullman Regional. She was born, February 21, 1965, to August L. Leigeber and Mildred Irene Leigeber. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Ashley Trent; brothers, Jimmy, Timothy Wayne, Terry Lee and Douglas Leigeber; sister, Irene Leigeber-Hill; and beloved Fur Baby, Dixie who was waiting on her to come home. Survivors include her, son, Aron Howell (Katie); grandchildren, Bella, Maggie, Marlie, Morgan and Molly Kate; brothers, Richard Leigeber (Carolyn) and Keith Leigeber; sisters, Jackie Leigeber, Martha Drake (Claude), Tina Poole (Terry), and Wendy Burks (Phil); and a host of nieces, nephews, family & friends. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Donny Wayne Stricklin, Jr., 54
Funeral services for Donny Wayne Stricklin, Jr., 54, of Bremen, Alabama, will be 2 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Bethany Baptist Church. Bro. Brandon Stripling and Bro. Jay Washburn will officiate services. The family will welcome friends for visitation at Hanceville Funeral Home on Saturday, December 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Donny was a man whose life was defined by service, loyalty, and a deep love for people. Known for his big heart and even bigger sense of humor, Donny never met a stranger—only friends he hadn't made yet. A devoted and lifelong Alabama football fan, Donny proudly supported the Crimson Tide with passion that was impossible to miss even if it meant delaying an important event. To his grandchildren, he was lovingly known as "Pee Pee," a title he cherished and lived up to every day through his constant presence, encouragement, and love. Donny worked for several years at Sansom Equipment, where his role went far beyond a job description. He treated his coworkers as family, always showing up for them—whether it was work-related or not. His loyalty and care for others were hallmarks of who he was. A dedicated volunteer firefighter and EMT for many years, Donny selflessly served his community, willing to help in moments when others needed him most. His commitment extended to youth as well, as he devoted countless hours to Cold Springs Athletic youth sports, including Upwards Basketball, and proudly supported the RCBC Youth Council. He believed deeply in guiding and uplifting young people. Donny was truly a "friend's friend"—someone who would stand by anyone, whether he knew them well or had just met them. His love for jokes and playful spirit were legendary, often expressed through perfectly timed—or hilariously inappropriately timed—music, guaranteeing laughter wherever he went. Above all else, Donny loved his family. His loving wife, children and grandchildren were the center of his world, and he poured his heart into being present, supportive, and proud of each of them. Donny leaves behind a legacy of kindness, service, laughter, and love that will live on in the many lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Survivors include his loving wife, Lorrie Stricklin; children, Brennen (Allyson) Stricklin and Hannah Stricklin; grandchildren, Agustus Wayne Stricklin, Ivy Faye Stricklin and Omari Cooper Stricklin; father, Donald Wayne Stricklin Sr. (Rita); siblings, Danny Stricklin (Gloria), Devan Ponder (Brian), David Still (Kimberly) and James Still (Jennifer), step-brother, Tim Busbee (Rebecca); brother-in-law, Jamie Akin (Jan); grandfather, Leldon Stricklin; and a host of many nieces, nephews and cousins. Mr. Stricklin was preceded in death by his mother, Modene Campbell Stricklin; grandparents, Mae Stricklin and Ogle and Oleta Campbell; step-sister, Tonya Busbee; niece, Rhianna Busbee; and mother and father-in-law, Gary and Linda Akin. To celebrate his passion for Alabama football, the family asks that guests consider wearing causal Alabama football attire on Saturday or your favorite college football team. Also, he was cared for beautifully by the liver transplant team, ABTX team, SICU team and PCCU team at UAB. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Stricklin Family.

David Eric Evans, 46
A memorial service is incomplete at this time for David Eric Evans, 46, of Cullman. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Eric passed away December 19, 2025, at his residence. He was born September 13, 1979. Eric was extremely likeable, everyone loved him. He was a hard worker, loved his kids and was a future grandpa to Erica Evans. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Pete and Virginia Evans; father, Barry David Cooper and an aunt, Vickie Waters. Survivors are his mother, Brenda Cooper; the love of his life and mother of his children, Sephanie Burriss; son, Dawson Hill; daughters, Madison Evans, Alexia Evans (Steven Evans); sisters, Lindsay Cooper (Corey Williams), Misty Layfield; sister-in-law, Christina Layfield; nieces, Jessa Lee Williams, Aaliyah Swayze Williams; cousin, Donnie Moore; family and many friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Diana Faye Jackson, 78
Funeral service for Diana Faye Jackson, 78, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Cullman City Cemetery, Pastor Tim Keener officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1-2 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Jackson passed away December 21, 2025, at her residence. She was born January 30, 1947, to James Ottis Parker and Mildred Alice Bryant Parker. Diana loved to sew. She was a member of the Cullman Church of Christ and was a loving wife and mother. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, David Parker; sister, Tammy Maddux. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Donald Jackson; sons, Barry (Tish) Jackson, Jonathan Jackson; daughter, Blair Jackson (Jeremy Barnett); sister, Barbara Sandlin; grandchildren, Sean (Amy) Jackson, Eric (Ashley) Jackson, Ethan Jackson, Brodie Jackson, Braxton Jackson, Brooklyn Jackson, Katheryn Baggett, Hannah Baggett, Gabby Simpson, Micheal Simpson; several great grandchildren; family and friends. The family would like to say a special thank you to Affinity Hospice for their loving care and thank you for all the food brought to the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Donnie Raye Keller, 83
Funeral Service for Donnie Keller, age 83 of Eva, will be at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Etha Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Keller passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at the Folsom Center. He was born, April 11, 1942, to Alfred Vaughn Keller and Elsie Cobbs Keller. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his daughter, Kim Cotner (Mark); sons, Craig (Cindy) Keller and Scott (Jackie) Keller; granddaughters, Lexy and Stefanie; grandsons, Peyton, Nicholas, Jacob, Wes and Josh; great grandchildren, Aria, Elijah, Carter Marie and Corbyn; sisters, Linda (Johnny) Hudgins and Anita (George) Patterson.

FREE OBITUARY LISTINGS

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: obits@cullmantribune.com

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

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

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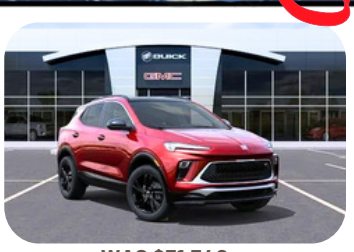
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