SEIDELMARTINPLASTICSURGERY
AESTHETICS_ONIST
1919 DAHLKE DRIVE, N.E.
CULLMAN, AL 35058
103 1ST AVENUE, N.E.
SUITE 130
CULLMAN, AL 35055
256-739-9993
WWW.SEIDELMARTINPLASTICSURGERY.COM
SEIDEL + MARTIN PLASTIC SURGERY
SEIDEL+MARTIN AESTHETICS on 1st

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 152 • 50¢ PER COPY | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 156

WORKING FOR YOU!



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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WEATHER
72 55
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY SUNNY

Community Calendar
» PAGE 2

7 93888 98541 4

RESTAURANT FEATURE

Eat by the water at Drifters Bar & Grill

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.

Drifters Bar & Grill is a family run restaurant shaped by prayer and persistence, set right on beautiful Smith Lake. » PAGE 4



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Drifters Bar & Grill, seen at night

Cullman County seniors celebrate the season



CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
Left to right are Henry Arndt of the Simcoe Senior Center, Barbara Whitehead of the Active Adult Center, Sheila Johnson of the Colony Senior Center and Jamie McBrayer of the Cullman Senior Center. Arndt and McBrayer won 2025 Senior Christmas Party Best Festive Awards, but Whitehead and Johnson were stiff competition.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Seniors gathered for the annual Cullman County Senior Christmas Party hosted by the Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA) and the Active Adult Center on Dec. 16. The annual favorite brought together volunteers, elected officials and community partners to celebrate the season.

The celebration was held at Cullman OmniPlex, where seniors from across the county enjoyed food, music, door prizes and holiday fellowship.

Organizers highlighted the many individuals and groups who helped make the event possible, including volunteers who assisted with food service, transportation and guest support throughout the day.

The COA extended special thanks to Temple Baptist Church volunteers Weston Cockrell and Luke Parker, who assisted with safely shuttling attendees to and from their vehicles during extremely cold temperatures.

"We are truly grateful for your kindness and dedication," COA officials stated.

Organizers also recognized the support of elected officials who helped support senior services and programming throughout the year.

"We could not have accomplished what we did this year without the unwavering support of our elected officials," COA officials stated.

The Cullman County legislative delegation includes Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Rep. Heath Allbright, R-Holly Pond; Rep. Cindy Myrex, R-Bremen; and Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley.

Organizers noted that Myrex was unable to attend the event due to prior commitments in Montgomery, where she was hosting a group of young women from Cullman during a tour of the Governor's Mansion. COA officials said she sent her warm wishes and ex- » PAGE 2

Medicare questions?
VIVA MEDICARE
Call 1-833-202-5538 (toll-free) | TTY: 711
8am - 8pm, Mon - Fri
(Oct 1 - Dec 31: 8am - 8pm, 7 days a week)
www.VivaHealth.com/Medicare

EDITORIAL

Christmas, every day it counted » PAGE 6

Local group honors Confederate veterans


THOMAS JEFFERSON DENNEY CAMP #1442
» PAGE 8

Cullman County Library offers free grant research tool for nonprofits » PAGE 3

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Weeds N Roots Herbals shares holistic healing locally


DEANN DUKE
DeAnn Duke owns Weeds N Roots Herbals. » PAGE 5

RECIPE REVIVAL

Traditional English scones


ELIZABETH ADKINS
Making English scones from scratch » PAGE 4



Seniors (from Front)



CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Capt. Edward Potter with Michael Johnson

pressed that she would have attended otherwise.

The event also included festive recognitions, including the 2025 Senior Christmas Party Best Festive Awards, which were presented to Henry Arndt of the Simcoe Senior Center and Jamie McBrayer of the Cullman Senior Center.

Organizers said Barbara Whitehead of the Active Adult Center and Sheila Johnson of the Colony Senior Center provided strong competition for the honors.

A grand prize drawing was also held, with Hershel Brimhall named the 2025 Senior Christmas Party grand prize winner.

Higginbotham Insurance and Financial Services was recognized as the grand prize sponsor. COA officials thanked Trae Norrell and Lawson Schaffer for their continued support of senior programming, noting that while they were unable to attend this year's event, their contributions remain meaningful to the senior community.

The COA also recognized the attendance of 2025 Ms. Senior Cullman County Sheri Rasco and 2025 Ms. Super Senior Cullman County Mazzie Twilley, whose presence added to the celebration.

Additional appreciation was extended to the board members of the Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant for presenting a check to support the Santa for Seniors project.

Youth volunteers were also recognized during the event. Members of the Addison boys' varsity basketball team assisted with service duties and later shared a musical performance that organizers described as a highlight of the day.

"We are blessed in our area to have good young men and young women who volunteer to help their communities," COA officials stated.

The annual Senior Christmas Party is open to Cullman County residents aged 55 and older and is hosted jointly by the Cullman County Commission on Aging and the Active Adult Center.

Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!
Unclaimed/Abandoned Vehicles, Mobile Homes & Surety Bonds
JSE:Alabama's Vehicle Title Recovery Service!
We can help with most Titled Vehicles in Alabama, including Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's & Trailers. Stop in, by phone or online!
Free Phone Consultation
Call 1-256-850-0527
www.JSEAL.com







EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS
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
• 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. 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.

23rd Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park
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.

Cullman County Library offers free grant research tool for nonprofits

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County nonprofit leaders and community organizations now have access to a powerful new funding research resource through the Cullman County Public Library System.

Library officials recently announced the availability of Candid, a comprehensive tool designed to help nonprofits identify potential funding sources for programs, services and projects.

Candid was previously known as the Foundation Center and GuideStar and is widely used nationwide for grant research and nonprofit development.

The database allows users to search for grant-making foundations, explore current funding opportunities and review detailed profiles of funders and past grants awarded.

In addition to funding data, Candid also provides tools and training resources aimed at strengthening grant-writing skills and improving organizational effectiveness.

Access to Candid is available at no cost to library patrons.

However, the resource can only be used while inside one of the library's branches and connected to the library's Wi-Fi network.

Patrons can access Candid by visiting the library's Online Resources page at cullmanlib.org/online-resources while onsite at a library location.

The program is provided through support from the Alabama Public Library Service, which works to expand access to educational and professional resources through public libraries across the state.

Library officials said the addition of Candid is intended to strengthen local nonprofits by giving them professional-grade research tools that are often costly or difficult to access independently, helping community organizations better compete for funding and grow their impact.

For more information, visit the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System at 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman, call 256-734-2720 or visit www.cullmanlib.org.

NOW HIRING TIRE TECHS
SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY
COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

COMMUNITY CORNER



SUBMIT BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY, SEE YOUR AD ON THURSDAY!
PLACE YOUR AD AT TRIBUNE.STORE OR CALL US AT 256-739-1351

FOR SALE

BREATHE FREELY AT HOME! Central Boiler's Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR wood furnace eliminates indoor smoke for healthier living. Boilerworx Plus – serving Cullman and surrounding areas. Call 256-347-6832!

SERVICES

SELLING A RV, Tractor or Golf Cart? ADVERTISE STATEWIDE or by region in over 100 Newspapers, reaching over 1 million readers each week! Run your ad in our Classified Network for just $210 per week! Make one call to this newspaper (participating Ala-SCAN newspaper) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-833-770-0326

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1371 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-385-7131

CONSUMER CELLULAR - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-844-358-5270

HEALTH/BEAUTY

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-7885

ATTENTION: VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only $99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-833-641-6606

FOR SALE

OMAHA STEAKS WINES. 12 world class wines (and bonus gifts) for ONLY $79.99 (plus s/h.) Save $160! 12 new wine selections plus a FREE $25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-888-536-6102 and mention code AGJF002 or visit www.GetOSWine.com/sip364

WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package comes with 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Smash Burgers ONLY $89.99. Call 1-866-487-1716 and mention code 79797NYH or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe2828

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-641-6672

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6567

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-683-2005 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-877-323-5516 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-877-817-4697 www.dental50plus.com/alabama #6258

REPLACE YOUR ROOF with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-833-955-3163

AUTOMOTIVE

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-426-0193

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-724-3049 today!


A-1 Battery Sales
AUTO – TRUCK – TRACTOR
Quality Batteries For Every Need
Since 1979
2152 Co. Rd. 1169 • Cullman, AL 35055
Phone: (Office): 256-734-9438

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

Borden Family Pharmacy
Established in 1999
Borden
FAMILY
PHARMACY
bordenfamilypharmacy.com
256-734-7535

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

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

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Anabelle Howze - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Rhonda Richie - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 25, 2025

RECIPE REVIVAL

Traditional English scones

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 Elizabeth Adkins, a warm scone fresh from the oven is far more than a simple baked good.

English scones are a traditional treat from England, and often served with jam and cream, alongside a lovely cup of tea.

"I chose this recipe because my husband is from England. When we were first married, we lived in England together, and we often enjoyed going into bakeries and coffee shops to share a delightful English scone," she said. "I like to make scones for my husband and my children, as proper scones are not as easy to find in America."

Her journey with scones began when she and her husband moved back to the States.

"The first scones I made were American scones, and while these scones were indeed delicious, they were not like the English scones we had enjoyed together in England. I experimented and tried a few scone recipes until I landed on a recipe that I felt represented the English scone in a traditional way," Adkins explained.

Traditionally, English scones aren't very sweet. "Scones are like an American biscuit, but slightly sweeter and softer," she said. "I added heavy whipping cream to my recipe (as many recipes simply use milk). Also, I use salted butter instead of unsalted butter. If I am in the mood for a slightly sweeter scone, I sometimes sprinkle the top of my scones with turbinado sugar before placing them in the oven to bake."

English scones carry deep meaning for her family. "This recipe evokes a nostalgic, happy feel. It takes us back to our time as a newlywed couple, where we spent time in Stratford and Bath, England, and enjoyed lovely scones in quaint English tearooms," Adkins explained.

"The recipe is appropriate for any occasion, but it is often a special treat in our home. It is lovely to enjoy a cup of tea and a scone with cream and jam on a rainy, chilly Saturday afternoon."

Her love of English heritage extends beyond baking. After her marriage and move to England, she lived there for two years and had her eldest daughter. When she returned to America, she was determined to take the experiences she had in England and incorporate them into her home and daily life.

"We do this together as a family by making traditional foods and desserts. We celebrate some of the unique English traditions with our children by doing special homeschool lessons and crafts, which teach them a bit about their English heritage. We also enjoy thrifting and antiquing. I am often drawn to lovely pieces of China, crystal, brass or wood...as well as little trinkets that remind me of the English cottages that are located in the iconic Cotswolds," she said.

Adkins said her blog, Cotswold Kitchen Mom, grew naturally from this passion.

"Since moving back to America, I have always made it my goal to make traditional English recipes for my husband and children. I think it is important to celebrate their English heritage, as we do their American heritage," she said. "Preserving traditional recipes is very important to me. My husband left England to come to America because he loved me. While we enjoy living in America, we also miss the beauty of the English countryside and culture. Making English recipes is a way I can show my love to my husband and children, all the while acknowledging the beauty of another culture."

She said she hopes her blog inspires readers to try new recipes and appreciate the lovely, ordinary things in life.

"I hope it encourages people to value family time, while using creativity, and that it teaches people to look at thrifted/antique items as treasures that can make a home beautiful. I hope every reader walks away encouraged and inspired.

www.cotswoldkitchenmom.com



ELIZABETH ADKINS

Traditional English scones

ENGLISH SCONES

Ingredients

- 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 cup + 1 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 6 tbsp. salted butter (cubed)
- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

2. To a large mixing bowl, add flour and baking powder. Stir together.

3. Add cubed (slightly soft) butter to the flour mixture. Using fingers, rub butter into the flour. (This will result in a crumbly texture.)

4. Stir in the sugar.

5. In a separate mixing bowl, whisk eggs well. Add the milk and the cream to the eggs but reserve 1 tbsp. milk and egg mixture to brush on the tops of the scones before they go into the oven.

6. Stir the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients. (Mixture will be slightly sticky.)

7. Flour work surface. Flatten the scone dough with the palm of your hand (to a 1/2 to 3/4 inch thickness).

8. Brush reserved egg and milk mixture to the tops of the scones.

9. Place parchment paper on a baking sheet. Place scones a few inches apart.

10. Bake scones in preheated oven for 10-12 minutes (or until the tops are golden brown and the scones have risen properly).

11. Enjoy scones with whipped cream or clotted cream, and raspberry or strawberry jam. Scones are best enjoyed fresh on the first day.

Drifters (from Front)

Owners Tanya and Jason Veres said the idea for the restaurant didn't come easily, only after months of conversation, research and, as Tanya put it, "doors that weren't opened, they were all kicked open."

With Jason Veres' background in food service, stemming from his mother's work and their shared memories of life on the lake, the couple knew they wanted to build a place that reflected both quality and community. The name "Drifters" honors those evenings drifting on the water with their kids, watching the sun sink over Smith Lake.

The Vereses wanted Drifters to feel like more than a restaurant. "We strive to make everybody happy," Jason Veres said. "You're going to have a good experience at a reasonable price. Families should be able to come out, enjoy themselves and want to come back."

That commitment to quality meals is evident in the menu. Steaks are hand cut in-house, burgers are ground fresh and pork chops are prepared on-site. Local favorites include the ribeye, redfish and pork chops, along with appetizers like gator bites and the crowd-pleasing street corn dip. Seasonal items rotate in and out to keep the menu fresh for returning guests, and desserts like bread pudding keep people coming back for more.

What truly sets Drifters apart isn't just the food but the culture. The Vereses said they consider their employees family, and the restaurant as an opportunity to invest in the lives of young people. "When our kids head off to college, I feel like I've sent 15 kids off at once," Tanya Veres laughed. "They become one big family here."

The local community has continued to support the restaurant, and residents form the backbone of business year-round. With live music on weekends, seasonal events like pumpkin-carving contests and catering options for private parties, Drifters continues to grow as both a gathering place and a destination.

"If you just want to get out of town, we're only 10 minutes from the interstate. Come eat by the water with us," they said.

Drifters Bar & Grill is located at 173 County Road 312 Cullman, AL 35057. Find it online at Facebook/Drifters Bar & Grill Smith Lake.



DRIFTERS/LILY CHAMBERS

Smith Lake painted on the wall inside Drifters Bar & Grill



– BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT –

Weeds N Roots Herbals shares holistic healing locally

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com



DEANN DUKE

DeAnn Duke owns Weeds N Roots Herbals.

DeAnn Duke's journey in herbal medicine began in 1996, when her then 3-year-old son had suffered repeated ear infections — she decided to seek out a more holistic cure, or create one.

Nearly three decades later, Duke is an herbalist and owner of Weeds N Roots Herbals.

"Looking back to my son when he was young, he has been on so many different antibiotics, and they have become ineffective," Duke said. "I then began to start learning about alternative methods for healing, and the next ear infection led me to the local GNC Store. From there, an employee recommended garlic oil for his ear, and it worked! I bought books and began learning more and more and gained confidence in my skills as I treated my family. In 2003, my third son was diagnosed with autism. As I searched for answers and help for him, I was taken down a road of deeper holistic study. Again, I was being prepared for the future."

Duke's professional herbal studies began in 2014, after losing her 16-year-old son in 2013.

"My son's death left me devastated and I knew I needed something to occupy my mind away from constant sorrow, so I signed up under Professional Clinical Herbalist Shonda Parker and dove in early 2014," Duke said. "I am trained as a community herbalist, but I have always loved the medicine preparation side of herbalism. I began selling to the public in fall 2016 to my Facebook friends. The business name, 'Weeds N Roots Herbals' was born and it was just Fire Cider, elderberry syrup and cough syrup at that time.

Duke said the response from the community was great and the products she was sharing she had been making for many years.

"I started with products I created for my own family that proved successful time and again," Duke said. "I quickly realized that I needed a store to get my products in, and Chambers Farm and Garden Supply, as well as, Herbs, Organics, & More in Cullman became home to Weeds N Roots Herbals. I was nervous about how the response was going to be, but the public was very receptive and the testimonials began to trickle in. Anytime you begin something new, it can be a gamble, but thankfully the people were also searching for natural remedies."

Duke's product list began mostly with cold/flu remedies like elderberry syrup, Fire Cider, cough syrup, and throat spray.

"I quickly added remedies that I had made and used with my children to treat viruses, diaper rashes, ear aches and my own teething babies," Duke said. "I had experienced five wonderful home births and had made my own postpartum kit, so now our local midwives have access to those kits and they can also be ordered online by anyone."

Fast-toward to years later, Duke's product list has expanded to salves and ointments, kidney stones, shingles, UTI relief, respiratory help, winter teas, natural facial care, perfume, sun care, insect repellent, along with all the cold/flu/immune support herbal remedies.

"Make no mistake; there are miracles in medicine and we are all so thankful and blessed to have access to it, but we also need the herbs, which have always been called the people's medicine," Duke said. "They have nourished, soothed and helped bring healing to many generations since the beginning. They have earned their place and respect in history and the traditions need to make it to our future. When I first began, elderberry syrup was the big seller, but Fire Cider quickly became a favorite, due to its congestion/sinus help. Another product that took a bit, but has made a name for itself is Luxurious Face Cream. It smooths fine lines and moisturizes beautifully, while only containing natural ingredients."

Duke's products can be found online at www.weedsnrootsherbals.com or at Chambers Farm and Garden Supply in Cullman; Herbs, Organics & More in Cullman; J. Calvert Farms in Dodge City; and The Green House- Farmhouse Midwifery in Good Hope.

"I do one to two vendor markets each year where I offer products that are not in stores, so follow me on socials to get info," Duke said. "Let me say how very humbled and thankful I am for every customer that has purchased products, shared social posts, gave recommendations word of mouth and provided testimonials for my products. Thank you so much."

For more information visit www.facebook.com/weedsnroots or @weedsnrootsherbals on Instagram.



DEANN DUKE

Fire Cider is a popular product from Weeds N Roots Herbals.



DEANN DUKE

Elderberry syrup from Weeds N Roots Herbals

– HIDDEN GEMS –

The sweet surprise that is Seven Winds Kitchen

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

Cullman is home to many unique places, shops and hidden gems. Nestled in Logan along County Road 222, Seven Winds Kitchen is a story of a family recipe passed down through generations.

Owner Jane Gammon founded the business in 1994, but candy making had been going on long before that. Her mother, Berta Dee Gammon, had been making peanut brittle for as long as Jane Gammon could remember, giving it to friends and neighbors each Christmas. After losing her job in corporate work, she turned that recipe (Bert's Brittle) into a business, honoring her mother's legacy.

"Christmas is still our biggest season," she said. "But the brittle has grown far beyond what Mama made."

Seven Winds Kitchen offers peanut brittle, pecan brittle and pecan gems, which have become customer favorites. Other sweets include pralines, white chocolate drops, fudge and peanut clusters. For those who prefer a savory bite, Gammon also makes a spicy Southern snack she calls Cheese Hooies: buttery cheese straws with pecans and a touch of cayenne.

The kitchen also produces pound cakes, tea cakes, peanut butter cookies, German chocolate cakes and more, tucked into gift baskets alongside the candies. The family grows much of what they use in-house, including cucumbers, garlic and dill for homemade pickles, as well as fruits like blueberries, muscadines and pears for jams and jellies.

Despite the variety, Gammon said, customers always circle back to the brittle. "We stretch the brittle thinner than most. That's what sets it apart. Many traditional brittles are poured thick, but Mama always spread hers out. People love that." The reputation has spread far beyond Cullman County. She remembers a customer declaring, "This is the best peanut brittle in the world. I know because I've tried it in 44 countries."

For Gammon, the business means more than sales. It's about honoring her mother's love of cooking and her father's devotion to the farm. Over the years, Seven Winds has catered events, built gift baskets for the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville and served countless customers who now feel like family.

"It means a lot to carry on what Mama started," she said. "She loved feeding people. I think she'd be proud to see it still going."

Seven Winds Kitchen is located at 10011 County Road 222, Logan, AL 35098. Find it online at www.sevenwindskitchen.com.



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Famous Bert's Brittle



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Homemade jams and jellies



ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Seven Winds Kitchen offers a delicious array of homemade goodies

EDITORIAL

Christmas, every day it counted

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Christmas meant something different to me growing up.

Santa was never part of the equation. Not because I was cynical or angry or deprived of imagination, but because I understood early that Santa did not write IOUs. He did not wait until tax refunds arrived. He did not promise later what could not be delivered now.

That understanding did not come with bitterness. It came with clarity.

Our family was not materialistic. We were close, even when the home itself was fractured in ways that do not fit neatly into memory. We loved one another deeply. We just did not measure Christmas by what was under the tree or how many gifts could be stacked around it.

Holidays were never meant to be grand in our house. They were never meant to be performative. There were no dozens of boxes.

There was no illusion that one day out of the year would suddenly make everything whole.

Christmas showed up in quieter ways. In the rare moments when my mom could scrape together enough money for a school field trip. In the expensive snack at the zoo or the Space and Rocket Center that felt like a luxury because I understood what it took to make it happen.

Those moments, small to most, carried more meaning than anything that could have been wrapped and placed under a tree.

As adults, we chase the rush. The tearing of wrapping paper. The quick hit of excitement.

The momentary endorphin dump that fades almost as fast as it arrives. We convince ourselves that the giving or receiving of things is what makes the season meaningful.

It never was.

What lasts is time. What lasts is presence. What lasts is knowing who showed up when it counted, who sat beside you, who laughed with you, who stayed.

Those are the gifts that do not wear out, do not break, do not end up forgotten in a closet by February.

So as boxes are opened and paper is shredded this Christmas, I hope we pause long enough to remember that the things will fade. The moments will not.

From myself and everyone at The Cullman Tribune and Cullman Today, Merry Christmas. May we carry the parts that matter into the days ahead and look forward to a better, steadier 2026.

COLUMN

Sore feet, no seat

Joe Hobby
Tribune Contributor



I've done some dumb things in my life. Over the years, I've displayed an All-American level of stupidity on a number of occasions. Once, I gave my wife a gift card for Christmas. What's worse, it was for Home Depot – that's stupid. I recently tried to repair a table leg and discovered I'd glued it on upside down, after the glue dried – that's dumb. Once, I erroneously used dog shampoo for over a week – that's idiotic. Strangely, it left me with an overpowering urge to chase cars. And sadly, I'm embarrassed to say I recently added yet another idiotic trophy to my collection.

Please take this as a warning. If any of y'all are planning theme park trips, learn from my mistake. Do not do what I did. Let me explain.

I was recently in Orlando, visiting Universal Epic Universe with my grandchildren. And the only thing "epic" was my epic lapse in judgment that caused me to wait in line way too long for one particular roller coaster.

It was in Nintendo Land, and I spent over two-and-a-half hours waiting to get on a ride – that is not a typo. It was called Super Mario's Mine Car Madness, and believe me, the only madness was the wait. To be fair, they told us it was a 135-minute line. And like geniuses, we nodded and said, "Sounds reasonable." Apparently, we forgot that 135 minutes is basically the runtime of the movie "Titanic."

There was a sign at the entrance that said, "You must be this tall to ride." It should've said, "You must be this dumb to wait this long." That is a long time to be standing. The park designers could have made the wait a bit more tolerable by including benches, or leaning rails. But no. I suppose management believes seating is for quitters or the weak. Call me soft, but standing on concrete for almost three hours doesn't feel like entertainment when you've paid good money for "the experience." Maybe if a few executives were forced to stand in their leather-soled dress shoes that long, we might see some policy changes.

The whole thing felt slightly demeaning. Several thousand of us were funneled through a maze of chutes like cattle waiting to get dipped for ticks.

Nearly two hours in, the loudspeaker announced an additional 40-minute delay. My feet immediately filed a formal complaint, and not a verbal one. These suckers went into full riot mode. They were hopping mad. Trust me, you do not want angry feet. My feet are like my wife; not only do they never forget, but they will also remind me of my misdeeds forever.

By then, our entire group was as ill-tempered as an infant without a nap, and with good reason. When you have only one day at the park and spend almost three hours of it standing in line, it becomes a Universal Epic Fail in every measurable category: time wasted, physical pain, patience lost and money down the drain.

Finally, we got on the ride. It was...decent, not great. And not much more than two minutes long.

When it ended, I laughed out loud. Almost three hours of standing for a couple of minutes? I've waited longer for my toast to pop up in the morning, and that doesn't require an appointment with a podiatrist afterward.

I said to my wife, "All that anticipation, and it was just a big letdown."

She replied, "Just like our wedding night."

I didn't even respond. I knew when I'd been properly one-upped.

I thought we'd learned our lesson. As we walked away, everyone agreed we would never stand in line that long for an amusement park attraction again. That is, until later in the day, when they spotted the coveted Harry Potter ride with only a 120-minute wait.

Group psychology kicked in, and everyone headed straight for the queue. Everyone but me.

They may have short memories, but my feet sure don't, and I have to live with them.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: www.mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

VIRGIL B. FOWLER
Real Estate and Insurance
AGENCY
Quality Since 1935
734-3821
vbfowlerinsurance.com
Successors to
WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler



LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary have been granted to PAUL MARSHALL CARY, as the Executor on this 9th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

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

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

JoAnn Persall and
Constance D. Hunkeapillar
Co-Personal Representatives

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

WESLEY DALE KILGO
Personal Representative

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

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 9th day of December, 2025.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
CYRUS MITCHELL LEETH, * CASE NO.: PC2025-443
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to Juanesta J. Green, as Personal Representative of the Estate of CYRUS MITCHELL LEETH, deceased, on the 15th day of December, 2025, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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

Juanesta J. Green
Personal Representative

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

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 15th day of December, 2025.
Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2025-425

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PRISCILLA ANN STEWART, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Bruce Turner and Marsha Fallin as Co-Administrators of the Estate of Priscilla Ann Stewart, Deceased, on the 16th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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.

Bruce Turner
BRUCE TURNER
Co-Administrator of the
Estate of Priscilla Ann Stewart,
Deceased

Marsha Fallin
MARSHA FALLIN
Co-Administrator of the
Estate of Priscilla Ann Stewart,
Deceased

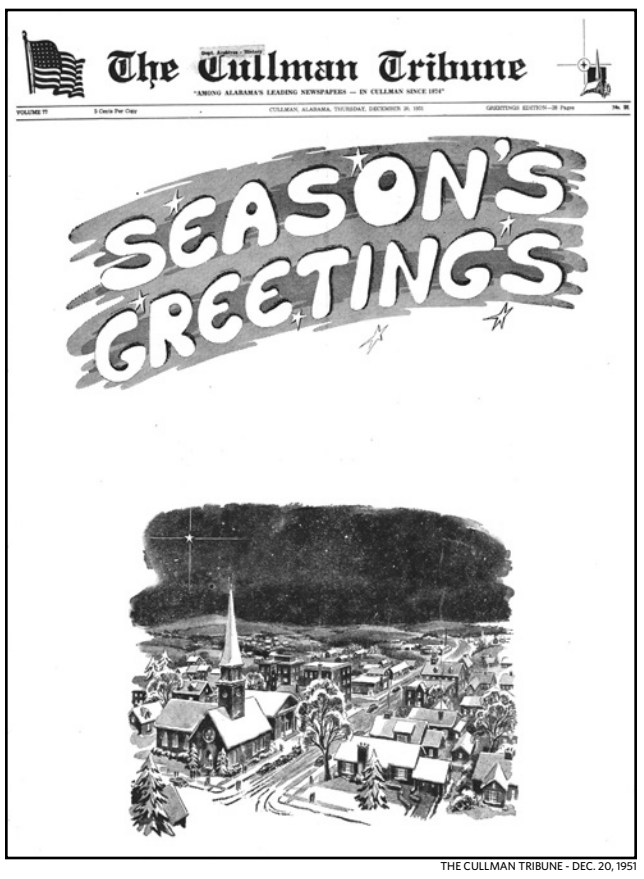
PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the Petitioners
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

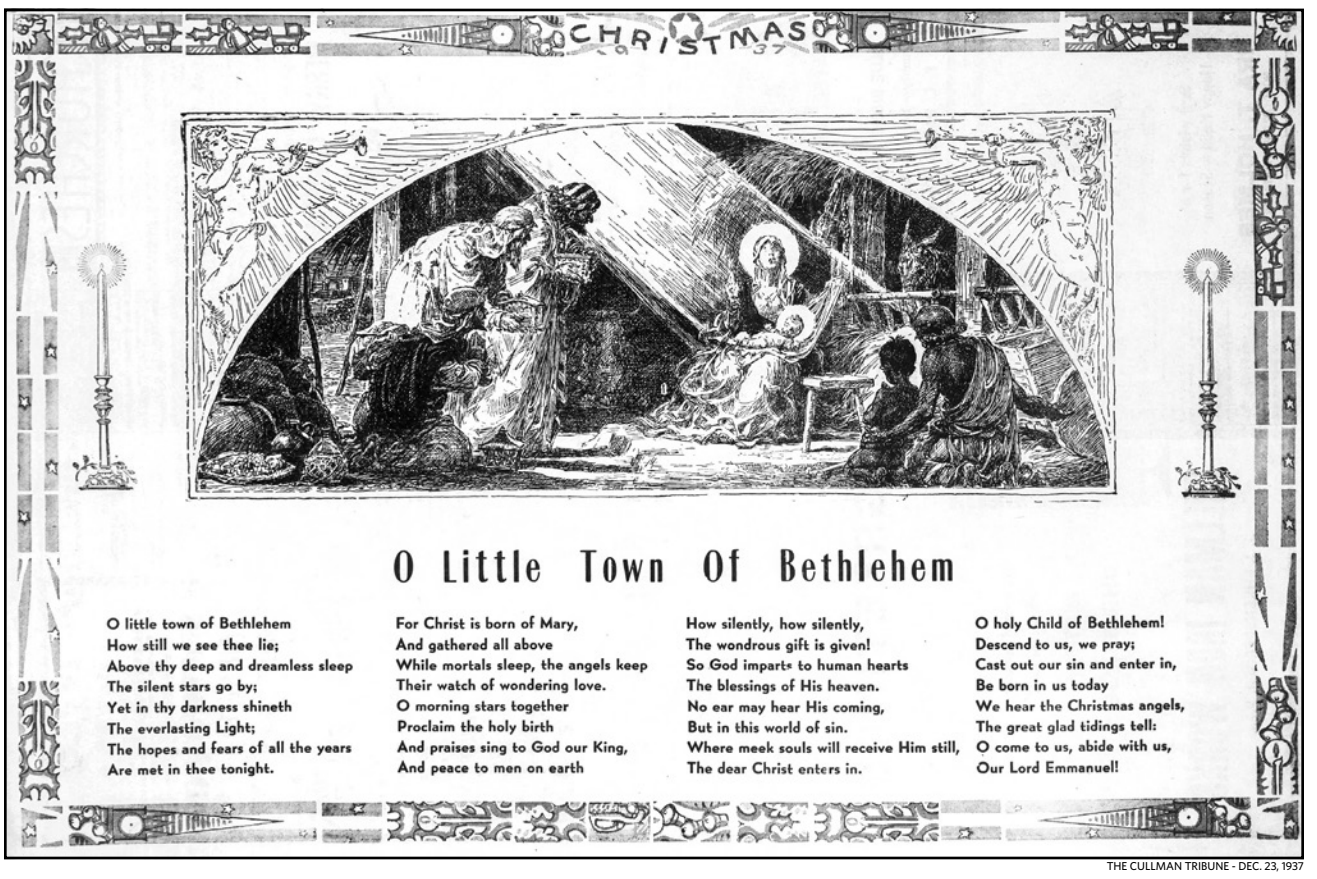
Please publish the above notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Merry Christmas from The Cullman Tribune!



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE - DEC. 20, 1951



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE - DEC. 23, 1937



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE - DEC. 20, 1951

Christmas Criss-cross

Fit all the words into the right spaces and you'll end up with a three-word gift in the heavy squares–something we all want for Christmas. The answer is at the lower right, but don't peek until you've finished the puzzle.

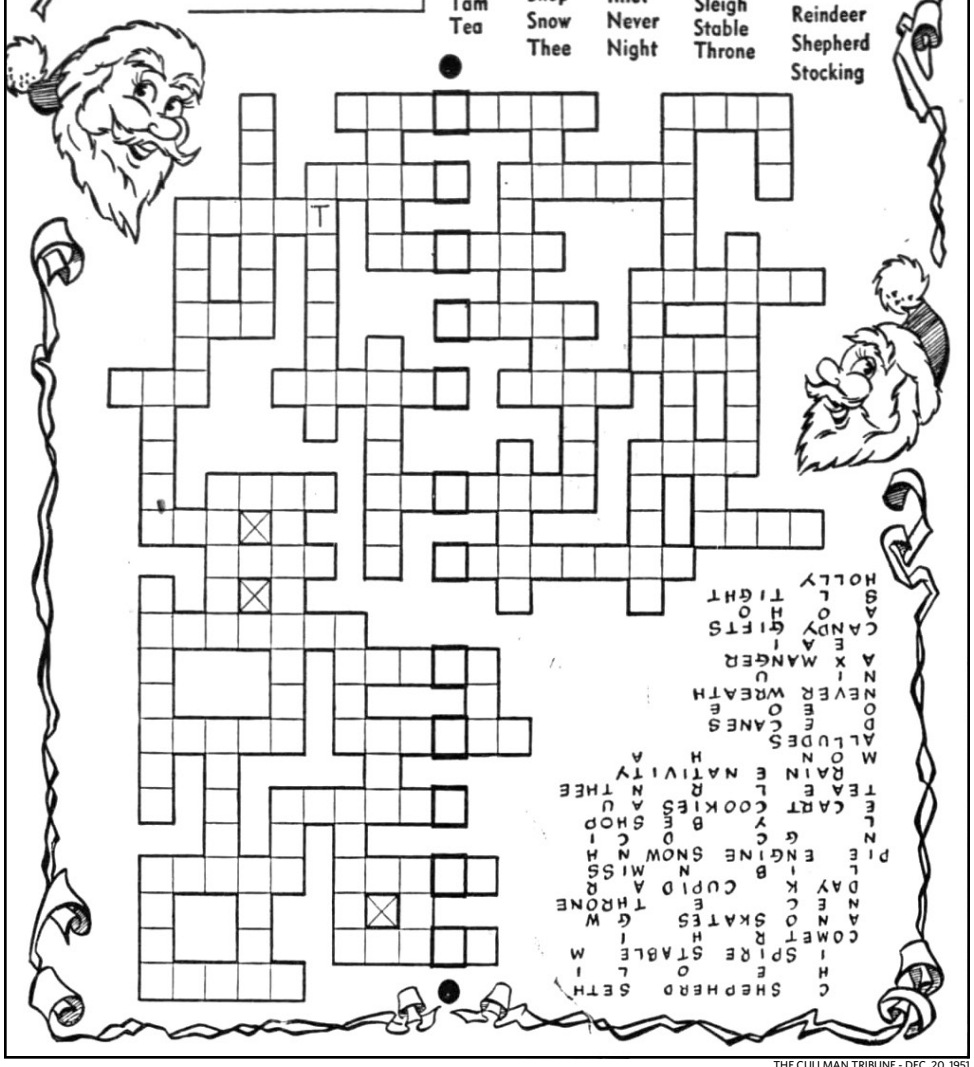
Day
Fog
Him
Inn
May
Out
Pie
Rot
Rug
Set
Tam
Tea

Cart
Cash
Doll
Inch
Miss
Odes
Rain
Scow
Seth
Shop
Snow
Thee

Birth
Candy
Canes
Carol
Comet
Cupid
Gifts
Heirs
Holly
Inlet
Never
Night

Santa
Sheep
Spire
Tight
Vixen
Candle
Engine
Manger
Skates
Sleigh
Stable
Throne

Wreath
Alludes
Bicycle
Chimney
Cookies
Madonna
Worship
Nativity
Reindeer
Shepherd
Stocking



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE - DEC. 20, 1951

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

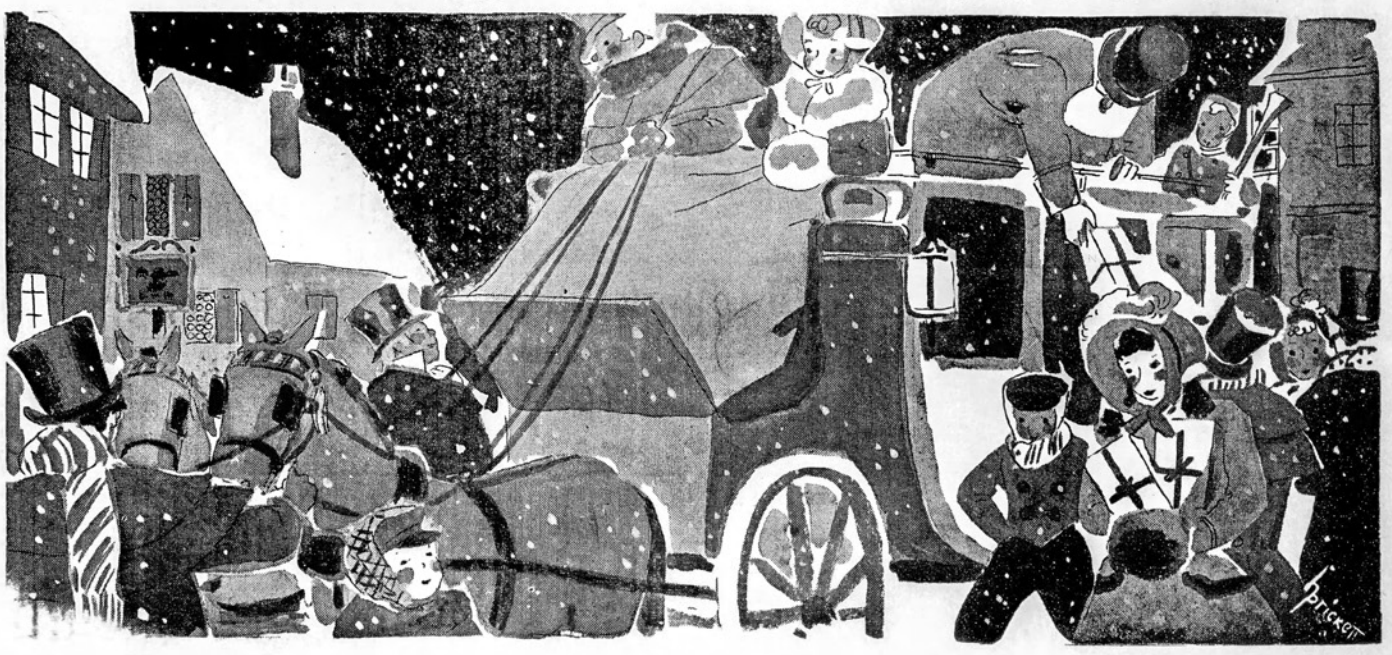
Merry Christmas

Christmas of '74 - - - Cullman was the hub of a dreamer's plans. The stage coach was on its way out. - - - A courageous group of colonists was beginning the groundwork of an endeavor which was to mean to the ones of our generation a prosperity unknown to many other folks, even neighboring ones.

Founded in the same year in which the town was chartered was The Tribune. It was proper that a free press should give voice to a free people struggling with the hardships of pioneering.

Through the years The Tribune has become an institution to aid the people of Cullman County and to record their joys and sorrows.

The goodwill of our readers and advertisers has been of the utmost value in keeping The Tribune the oldest and most progressive newspaper in Cullman County. For this we are sincerely thankful and trust that we may help the folks of this county in a larger measure during the year of 1940.



The Cullman Tribune

"The Oldest And Most Progressive Newspaper In Cullman County"

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE - DEC. 21, 1939

Local group honors Confederate veterans



THOMAS JEFFERSON DENNEY CAMP #1442

The Thomas Jefferson Denney Camp #1442, a local camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, placed handmade wreaths at the final resting places of Confederate veterans in four different locations around Cullman County. The camp met Dec. 11, and made 37 wreaths out of Christmas tree limbs, then hand-tied bows to affix to them. The wreaths were placed Saturday, Dec. 13, to honor some of our ancestors and veterans. Pictured left to right are Rick Leipert, Wayne Willingham, Nathan Lamar and Jason Willingham.



THOMAS JEFFERSON DENNEY CAMP #1442



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!