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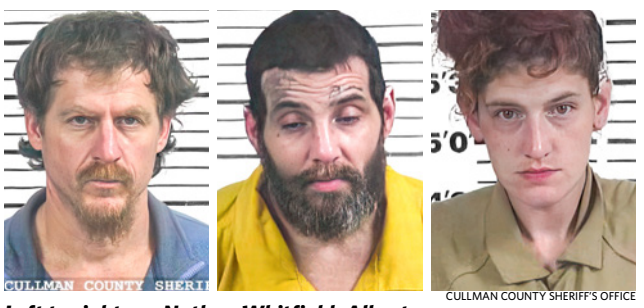
CCSO announces multiple drug arrests

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office on Monday, Dec. 29, said it was "proud to share the results of recent proactive enforcement efforts that led to multiple significant drug arrests."

Sheriff Matt Gentry said the arrests are a direct reflection of deputies being alert, engaged and committed to protecting the people who live and work in Cullman County.

On Dec. 26, during a routine traffic stop, deputies encountered Nathan Whitfield, 42, of Vinemont, who was found to have active warrants. » PAGE 3



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Left to right are Nathan Whitfield, Albert Dragon and Leann Elizabeth Finchum.

Christkindlmarkt sets single-day attendance record, sees visitors from all 50 states



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Christkindlmarkt continued its rapid growth in 2025, posting record attendance numbers, expanded national and international visitation and a sharp rise in economic impact.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Christkindlmarkt continued its rapid growth in 2025, posting record attendance numbers, expanded national and international visitation and a sharp rise in economic impact, according to Nathan Anderson, executive director of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism.

Attendance estimates compiled by CPRST using Placer.ai foot-traffic analytics show approximately 415,000 total visits during the 2025 season, an increase from about 360,000 visits in 2024.

"We use Placer.ai, a nationally recognized foot-traffic analytics platform, to estimate attendance throughout the season," said Anderson. "Those figures represent total visits across the full duration of each season."

CPRST also recorded the highest single-day attendance in the event's history during the 2025 season.

"We continue to see strong peak nights each year," Anderson said. "In 2025, our highest single-day attendance was Dec. 13, with approximately 45,000 visitors, which is the largest single-day total we've ever recorded."

By comparison, the peak day in 2024 occurred on Dec. 7, when about 40,000 people attended.

The busiest stretch of the season once again came during the final weekend. CPRST estimates approximately 90,000 visitors attended the Christkindlmarkt over the final three days of the 2025 season, marking an increase of about 21,000 people over the record-setting final weekend in 2024.

"For both years, the final weekend of the Christkindlmarkt has been the busiest stretch," Anderson said. "That continued growth really speaks to how much momentum the event has built."

Visitor origin data reflected a continued expansion in regional, national and international travel to Cullman. In 2025, CPRST estimates that 80% of attendees » PAGE 4

CCSO and CPD share tips for NYE safety » PAGE 7

New Year's Eve plans take shape around the area » PAGE 2

Bosom Buddies sees successful 2025, looks to 2026



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dona Adams, Lee-Marie Hart and Fran Sasnette Scott perform with the Klassy Kickers at the Little Pink Dress benefit on Tuesday Oct. 7, 2025, at Stone Bridge Farms. » PAGE 6

Cullman County Democrats set qualifying period for 2026 election cycle » PAGE 2

First Day Hikes at Alabama State Parks offer chance to see sunrise, sunset, everything in between



LAUREN MASSEY/ALABAMA STATE PARKS

Oak Mountain State Park in Pelham offers a First Day Sunrise Hike to King's Chair Over-look, which is recognized as one of Alabama's most breathtaking long-range vistas. » PAGE 4



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 29

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 29, 2025. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 22

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278E
- theft of property; CR 1296
- theft of property; Blountsville St. NE
- menacing; CR 109
- theft of property; CR 616
- possession of controlled substance to sell/distribute; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Edmondson Rd. SE
- theft of property; CR 312

Dec. 23

- theft of property; CR 520
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 38
- theft of property; CR 222
- theft of property; CR 1339
- theft of property; CR 437
- domestic violence; CR 1282

Dec. 24

- domestic violence; Edward St. NE Hanceville
- harassment; CR 1855
- harassing communication; CR 1552
- assault; criminal mischief; domestic violence; CR 1552

Dec. 25

- burglary; Hwy. 68N
- domestic violence; CR 88
- theft of property; unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; Holly Pond Rd.
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 255
- attempting to elude; I65SB

Dec. 26

- domestic violence; kidnapping; CR 1422
- domestic violence; CR 1720
- theft of property; CR 196
- possession of controlled substance to sell/distribute; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1114
- domestic violence; CR 723
- violation of domestic violence protection order; CR 1611

Dec. 27

- possession of controlled substance to sell/distribute; I65NB
- theft of property; Cemetery Rd.
- domestic violence; Kentucky Ave. SE Hanceville
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 69N
- burglary; Dove Rd.

Dec. 28

- theft of property; CR 1235
- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1663
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 109

ARRESTS

Dec. 22-28

Bair, Angela; 46
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Bair, Jr., Duane A.; 60
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Bowers, David W.; 28
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Cammon, Michael E.; 61
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Coleman, William B.; 55
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Coon, Tyre J.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Day, Riley R.; 39
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA – failure to signal

Dixon, Douglas L.; 35
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)

Dragon, Albert J.; 45
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Evans, Catherine H.; 44
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Figureoa, Antony M.; 24
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Finchum, Leann E.; 32
- drug trafficking
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Giles, Christopher L.; 47
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Glispie, Keith A.; 38
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Grant, Nathan D.; 22
- public intoxication

Harper II, James L.; 26
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree – harassing communications

Hill, Donald E.; 40
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- family offense-NS non-support-child
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Holder, Jerome T.; 49
- FTA – pedestrian under the influence

Hudson, Charles S.; 51
- permitting dogs to run at large

Hutto, Kristin R.; 43
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Jones, Michael D.; 34
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Levi, Jacqueline D.; 47
- FTA – criminal trespass

McKnight, Marty T.; 45
- public intoxication

Miller, William B.; 63
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled

Norris, Brandon S.; 35
- assault-domestic violence-strangulation or suffocation
- kidnapping-to aid/accomplish crime-adult

Perez Sandoval, Lesli S.; 22
- DUI (alcohol)

Taylor, Deborah D.; 59
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

White, Christian H.; 24
- FTA – illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card

White, Roger A.; 47
- FTA – resident license – freshwater fishing

Whitehead, Joshua N.; 42
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card

Whitfield, Nathan W.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Wilbanks, Jeremy D.; 40
- FTA – assault-domestic-menacing-other weapon
- FTA – kidnapping – exposure to possible physical injury

Wright, Bryan N.; 57
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 24
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $105; Hwy. 157

Dec. 26
- theft of property-1st degree; Contreras Steel; cash

Dec. 27
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Marie St. NW

Dec. 28
- theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; miscellaneous; $14
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; theft of property-1st degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous, damage to '21 Chrysler; Hwy. 31N
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; theft of property-3rd degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous, damage to '23 Toyota; Hwy. 31N
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 4th St. SE
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Mitchell Rd. NE

ARRESTS

Dec. 26-28

Hill, Donald E.; 40
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while revoked

Castana, Daniel A.; 34
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – resisting arrest

Wilbanks, Jeremy D.; 40
- FTA – obstructing governmental operations
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – pedestrian in roadway

Quaco, Danielle M.; 31
- FTA – insurance violation

Carden, Camara M.; 34
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Graves, Christopher S.; 42
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Thomason, Joshua L.; 36
- FTA – insurance violation

Allred, Dustyn H.; 30
- FTA – DUI – controlled substance
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal mischief-3rd degree
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA – unauthorized use of vehicle
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – no tag (2 counts)
- FTA – driving while suspended (2 counts)
- FTA – run stop sign
- FTA – driving without license

Gatlin, Aaron S.; 32
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

McCauley, Comfort T.; 47
- domestic violence-3rd degree

James, Angel M.; 29
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – harassment

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Cullman County Democrats set qualifying period for 2026 election cycle

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — At a meeting earlier this month, the Cullman County Democrats Executive Committee approved the qualifying period for the 2026 election cycle. This election year will include county party positions, selected positions for Cullman County offices, State Democratic Executive Committee members and state and federal offices.

The Executive Committee set the qualifying period to run concurrently with that of the Alabama State Democratic Party qualifying period. The qualifying period will be Jan. 5-23, 2026.

Anyone who would like to qualify to run as a Democrat from Cullman County should contact the county chair at cullmandemocrats@gmail.com or through the county party's social media pages. Please contact us to learn what positions are available, qualifying fees and candidate qualifications for 2026. More information is available at www.cullmandemocrats.org.

Plans (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — As the calendar turns toward the new year, several businesses and venues in and around Cullman County have announced New Year's Eve events, ranging from family-friendly celebrations to live music and late-night activities.

Events currently scheduled for Dec. 31 offer options throughout the afternoon and evening, with additional gatherings expected to be announced in the coming days. Residents are encouraged to check back and share any events that may not yet be listed.

Below is a list of New Year's Eve events confirmed so far.

New Year's Eve Celebration
- Goat Island Brewing
- 1646 John Cooper Dr., Cullman, AL 35055
- All-day, all-night event
- Time: Begins at noon
- Cost: Varies
- Contact: 256-747-5556
- Take note: Smokin Joe's BBQ LLC will be serving up an incredible New Year's Eve menu. Meals must be pre-ordered. Avenue G will play at 8 p.m.

Littles New Year's Eve
- Sportsworld Skate Center
- 90 County Road 1223, Cullman, AL 35058
- Kids' New Year's skate event
- Time: 2-5 p.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: 256-739-4050, info@sportsworldskate.com
- Take note: Family-focused time window

Downtown New Year's Eve Celebration
- Traditions Bank
- 109 Second Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35055
- City-approved New Year's Eve celebration featuring live music, a drone display, food vendors and alcohol service
- Time: 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: 256-735-2121
- Take note: Street closures planned, large crowds expected

Three on a String "Jerry-atric" New Year
- Sugar Creek Music Club
- 344 Camp Road, Hayden, AL 35079
- Live performance by Three on a String with guest Sean Dietrich
- Time: 6 p.m.
- Cost: $35 cash cover
- Contact: 256-841-2522, info@sugarcreekmusicclub.com
- Take note: Private club, membership or guest access required

New Year's Eve with Jesse Priest
- Puckett's Cullman
- 6076 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058
- Live music performance
- Time: 7-8:30 p.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: Venue reservations through Puckett's Cullman
- Take note: Check venue for age restrictions

New Year's Eve All-Night Skate
- Sportsworld Skate Center
- 90 County Road 1223, Cullman, AL 35058
- Overnight skating with giveaways
- Time: 7 p.m.-2 a.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: 256-739-4050
- Take note: Late-night event, check age requirements

New Year's Eve Lane Rentals
- Cullman Bowling Center
- 1710 Tally Ho St., Cullman, AL 35055
- Private lane rentals for New Year's Eve parties
- Time: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. sessions
- Cost: $125 per lane
- Contact: 256-734-2600
- Take note: Advance reservations encouraged

New Year's Eve Celebration
- Valley Tavern & Grille
- 1710 Tally Ho St., Cullman, AL 35055
- Evening New Year's Eve event
- Time: 7:30 p.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: 256-841-5020
- Take note: Age restrictions not publicly listed

New Year's Eve Party
- Cullman Elks Lodge
- 1525 Brantley Ave. NW Cullman, AL 35055
- Evening New Year's Eve event
- Time: 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
- Cost: Not publicly listed
- Contact: 256-734-9943
- Take note: Crooked Creek Band will perform.

Have an event to add?
Businesses, churches and community organizations planning New Year's Eve events in and around Cullman County are encouraged to comment directly on The Cullman Tribune's Facebook post with event details, including time, location and contact information, so the list can continue to grow.



Arrests (from Front)

Deputies allegedly detected the odor of marijuana, which led to a search of the vehicle.

That search allegedly uncovered methamphetamine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Whitfield was taken into custody and charged with trafficking/possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and larceny (FTA).

On Dec. 27, deputies stopped a vehicle on I-65 northbound at mile marker 307 for a traffic violation.

During the stop, deputies learned that passenger Albert Dragon, 42, of Falkville, had active warrants.

A search of the vehicle allegedly led to the discovery of fentanyl, which Dragon allegedly admitted belonged to him.

He was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute, possession with intent to distribute (FTA), unlawful possession of dangerous drugs (FTA) and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia (FTA).

On Dec. 28, a traffic stop on County Road 222 near Trident Marina turned into another major drug seizure when deputies allegedly discovered trafficking-level amounts of suspected fentanyl, along with distribution-level quantities of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Leann Elizabeth Finchum, 32, of Mt. Olive, was arrested and charged with trafficking in fentanyl, unlawful distribution of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Gentry said the Cullman County Sheriff's Office remains diligent year-round during traffic stops and day-to-day routine work to keep the community safe.

"This past week was one of the many demonstrations of deputies remaining alert, focused and aware during potential times of trouble," Gentry said.

He continued, "This is the work our deputies do every day. Proactive enforcement like this happens daily in Cullman County, and we will continue to aggressively target those who bring illegal drugs into our communities.

"Our message is clear: drug dealers are not welcome here.

"If you choose to traffic poison in this county, our deputies will find you, and you will go to jail.

"I'm extremely proud of the dedication and relentless effort our deputies put in day in and day out to protect our citizens."

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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. 31 – 6:30 p.m. Candlelight service. Join us as we welcome the new year in prayer, worship and unity. Invite someone to come with you and share in this special time.

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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 Saint Joseph Dr. NW in Cullman. Quilters of all experience levels are welcome.

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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 30, 2025

Hikes (from Front)

Josh Bean
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Kick off 2026 with fresh air and a sense of adventure while enjoying some of Alabama's most scenic views by participating in a First Day Hike at an Alabama State Park.

Alabama State Parks will again offer First Day Hikes on Jan. 1, giving everyone the chance to explore Alabama's breathtaking natural landscapes with guided hikes at more than a dozen state parks – all part of a nationwide celebration encouraging Americans to start the new year outdoors.

A few key experiences on this year's First Day Hikes schedule include hikes to see waterfalls at Chewacla State Park in Auburn, an adventure hike to the DeSoto Falls basin at DeSoto State Park, a sunrise hike to King's Chair at Oak Mountain State Park and a sunset hike at Cheaha State Park.

"The First Day Hikes are the perfect way to start the new year," said Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship. "Our State Parks are home to hundreds of miles of the very best trails found anywhere in America, and First Day Hikes are a chance to start the new year off right. For anyone who's never been on a First Day Hike at an Alabama State Park, consider this your invitation. We want to see you on the trails this year."

As part of the National First Day Hike Program, which includes events in all 50 states, Alabama's hikes offer a meaningful way to welcome the new year. From peaceful forest trails to sweeping vistas, each hike showcases the beauty and diversity of Alabama's great outdoors.

The First Day Hikes also celebrate The Year of Alabama Trails, a statewide initiative led by the Alabama Tourism Department that celebrates the state's network of trails and invites adventurers of all ages to explore Alabama's most scenic landscapes.

Volunteers and park personnel lead the First Day Hikes inside Alabama State Parks.

Hikers of all ages and skill levels are invited to ring in the new year by immersing themselves in Alabama's stunning natural beauty in a low-stress, family-friendly environment.

A complete list of First Day Hikes at Alabama State Parks can be found online at alapark.com/first-day-hikes-2026, and hikers can reserve their spot by making an online reservation.

Winter weather could impact outdoor plans. Registering in advance ensures you'll receive real-time updates and important notifications about your selected hike.

To make the most of your experience, park officials recommend bringing plenty of water or a sports drink, snacks or meals as needed, and hiking poles if desired. Dress for the season and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or hiking boots to stay comfortable on the trail.

First Day Hikes are free with daily Alabama State Park admission, where applicable, to make it a family-friendly activity to begin the new year.



JOSH BEAN/ALABAMA STATE PARKS

The First Day Hike Sunset Hike at Cheaha State Park follows the Pulpit Rock Trail, which offers panoramic views of the Talladega National Forest.

Lake Guntersville State Park, Cheaha State Park, Chewacla State Park and DeSoto State Park are offering two First Day Hikes each, and online reservations are available for all First Day Hikes.

For hikers seeking overnight accommodations before or after participating in a First Day Hike, online reservations for lodge rooms, chalets, cabins and campgrounds can be made online at Alapark.com through the "Plan Your Alabama State Parks Adventure Online" portal. Joe Wheeler State Park is also hosting a New Year's Eve Party on Dec. 31, complete with food and live music, and Lake Guntersville State Park also offers a New Year's Eve package.

"There's no better way to start the new year than by lacing up your hiking boots and getting your family into nature," Alabama State Parks Director Matthew Capps said. "It's the perfect way to start 2026 on the right foot."

Christkindlmarkt (from Front)

came from outside Cullman County and 15% traveled from outside Alabama.

"One of the most exciting trends we continue to see is the growth in regional and national attendance," Anderson said. "Even as local attendance continues to grow, more people are choosing to travel specifically to Cullman for this event."

For the first time in the Christkindlmarkt's history, CPRST confirmed attendance from all 50 states along with visitors representing seven different countries.

"That kind of reach is truly remarkable to see," Anderson said. "It speaks to the market's growing regional, national and international appeal."

As crowds increased, CPRST made several operational adjustments during the 2025 season to improve safety and guest experience. Anderson said expanding and reconfiguring the footprint played a major role in improving pedestrian flow.

"Expanding and reconfiguring the footprint, including relocating large tents and the Ferris wheel, helped improve pedestrian flow and reduce congestion during peak hours," Anderson said.

"Our vendors also did an outstanding job managing lines, which helped the experience feel more comfortable even on our busiest nights."

Parking and traffic flow also remained a focus area. CPRST reported improvements such as reduced speed limits through the festival area, designated rideshare pickup and drop-off locations, expanded parking near the site and at Cullman High School and recommended traffic routes from U.S. Highway 31 and U.S. Highway 278.

"We were very fortunate this year to have access to the Cullman High School parking lot, which significantly improved overall parking capacity," Anderson said. "We never reached full capacity there, and that helped relieve pressure throughout the area."

CPRST estimates the Christkindlmarkt generated more than $35 million in direct economic impact in 2025, compared to approximately $28 million in 2024.

Anderson said the growth reflects both higher attendance and an increase in out-of-county and out-of-state visitors who tend to stay longer and spend more throughout the community.

Local business owner Josh Wiggins said the Christkindlmarkt continues to generate measurable benefits for area businesses beyond the immediate festival footprint.

"Every year when the Christkindlmarkt comes around, we can feel it. Even though we're more than a mile away, we see a significant bump in business and a lot of new faces coming through our doors."

Wiggins said many of those visitors arrive in Cullman for the market and then branch out to explore restaurants, shops and attractions throughout the city, extending the event's impact well beyond the festival grounds.

"People visit for the market and end up exploring so many great things Cullman has to offer, and that's been great for us and for a lot of other local businesses. It's exciting to watch the event keep growing and to see how much it helps the whole community," said Wiggins, who owns Johnny's Bar-B-Q.

Local vendors continued to be a cornerstone of the market, according to CPRST. In 2025, approximately 67% of participating business owners were based in Cullman County.

"We're especially proud that the majority of our market's business owners are local," Anderson said. "Our local businesses play a huge role in keeping visitor dollars circulating in our community year-round."

CPRST also emphasized continued collaboration with other county holiday attractions, including Christmas at the Grotto and the Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park.

Coordinated messaging and cross-promotion helped strengthen the region's overall holiday tourism impact, Anderson said, noting the Ave Maria Grotto experienced a record month in December.

Planning discussions for the 2026 season are already underway. While CPRST does not anticipate expanding the Christkindlmarkt's physical footprint, Anderson said the focus will remain on refining operations, improving guest flow and continuing to elevate programming and experiences.

"Our focus will be on refining operations, improving guest flow and continuing to elevate programming and experiences within the existing layout," Anderson said.

Mayor Woody Jacobs said the Christkindlmarkt has become a point of pride for the community and a reflection of Cullman's collaborative spirit.

"Cullman continues to show what's possible when a community comes together with a shared vision," Jacobs said.

"The Christkindlmarkt has become something our citizens can truly be proud of, drawing visitors from across the country while showcasing the hospitality and spirit that define our city."

As the season concluded, Anderson credited the event's success to broad community collaboration.

"This event truly doesn't happen without a whole lot of teamwork," Anderson said. "Most of all, I want to thank the people of Cullman, who showed up and supported the Christkindlmarkt in record numbers."





WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

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Cullman, AL 35055
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Warehouse Discount Groceries
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Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4380

Warehouse Discount Groceries
780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL 35077
256•352•6245

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Prices Effective - Wednesday, December 31, 2025 through Tuesday, January 6, 2026



NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS
Beef Boneless
Family Pack
$10.99 LB.



ASSORTED PORK CHOPS
Fresh Bone-In
Family Pack
$1.89 LB.



COLLARD GREENS
Extra Large
Bunch
$2.99 EA.



GREEN CABBAGE
Fresh
49¢ LB.



CAMPBELL'S CHUNKY SOUP
15-19 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



STARKIST CHUNK LIGHT TUNA
5 Oz.
in Oil or Water
88¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB PINTO BEANS
1 Lb. Bag
Dried
69¢ EA.



KRAFT CHEESE
5-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $10



YOPLAIT YOGURT
4-6 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $1



5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL



Product Availability May Vary • Good Only While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Not Responsible For Typographical Errors • No Sales To Dealers At These Prices



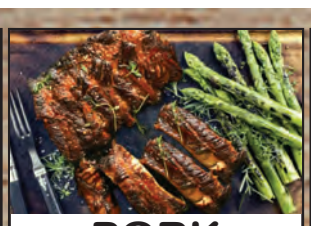
GROUND CHUCK
Fresh 80% Lean
Family Pack
$4.99 LB.



SMOKED HOG JOWL
Chunk Style
"A New Year's Tradition"
$1.79 LB.



CHUCK ROAST
Beef
Boneless
$6.99 LB.



PORK SPARE RIBS
2 Piece
Previously Frozen
$2.49 LB.



DRUMSTICKS OR THIGHS
Fresh Chicken
Family Pack
$1.59 LB.



MOZZARELLA STICKS
3 Lb. Breaded
Restaurant Quality
$9.99 EA.



DEAN'S SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
$3.49 EA.



WRIGHT BACON
40 Oz. Stack Pack
Hickory Smoked
$13.99 EA.



BRYAN BOLOGNA
12 Oz.
Regular or Thick
2 for $4



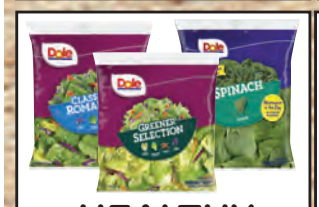
CAROLINA PRIDE SMOKED SAUSAGE
14 Oz.
$3.29 EA.



RUSSET POTATOES
8 Lb. Bag
U.S. #1 Colorado
$2.99 EA.



SWEET ONIONS
3 Lb. Bag
Peru
$3.49 EA.



HEALTHY DOLE SALADS
Classic Romaine, Greener Selection or Teenage Spinach
$1.99 EA.



SLICING TOMATOES
Large
$1.29 LB.



ZUCCHINI OR YELLOW SQUASH
Fresh
Southern Grown
$1.39 LB.



PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE
8 Oz. Pkg. Original
or 1/3 Less Fat
2 for $6



SIMPLY JUICE
46-52 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



BLUE BONNET SPREAD
45 Oz. Tub Original
or With Calcium
$2.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB BISCUITS
5 Ct. Butter Me-Not
or Texas Style
4 for $5



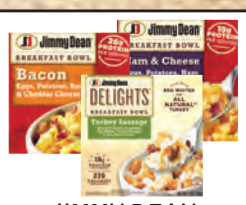
HUNGRY JACK PANCAKES
12-40 Ct.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



TOTINO'S PIZZA ROLLS
100 Ct. Pepperoni
or Combination
$9.99 EA.



LEAN CUISINE
8-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



JIMMY DEAN BREAKFAST BOWLS
7-9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



BUSH'S BEST CHILI BEANS
15-16 Oz. or Chili Magic
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



CRAV'N FLAVOR SALTINE CRACKERS
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



RO★TEL TOMATOES
10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



FRENCH'S CHILI-O SEASONING MIX
1.75-2 Oz. Original
or With Onion
5 for $5



HUNT'S TOMATOES
28 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



BUSH'S BEST BEANS OR PEAS
15-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
5 for $5



GLORY BLACKEYE PEAS
15 Oz.
5 for $5



HORMEL CHILI NO BEAN
15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



RAGU PASTA SAUCE
45 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



CAPRI SUN JUICE DRINK
10 Ct.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



FAYGO SOFT DRINKS
12 Pk. 12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
3 for $12



FOOD CLUB SOFT DRINKS
2 Liter Bottles
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



SPECIAL K CEREAL
11-16 Oz. Kellogg's
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



BETTY CROCKER FRUIT SNACKS
5-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
6 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
4 for $13



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
10 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Mini Cans
2 for $12



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
2 Liter Bottles
2 for $4

DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$6.49 EA.

LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
4.75-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5

FRITO LAY TOSTITOS
9-14.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

TOSTITOS SALSA OR DAIRY DIPS
15-17.25 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

GOLDEN FLAKE, UTZ OR ZAPP'S CHIPS
7-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4

ON THE BORDER TORTILLA CHIPS
8-12 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4

LEWIS BAKE SHOP SANDWICH BREAD
20 Oz. White
or Honey Wheat
2 for $5

LITTLE DEBBIE SEASONAL SNACKS
6-11.9 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6

BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon Gold or Brown
Rim Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.

COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$13.49 EA.

MICHELOB ULTRA OR ULTRA ZERO
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$16.99 EA.

JACK DANIELS COUNTRY COCKTAILS
6 Pk.
Bottles
$7.99 EA.

OPERA PRIMA BELLINI OR BRUT
750 mL
Bottles
$8.99 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

KENTUCKIAN GOLD ROAST BEEF
Deli Sliced
$13.39 LB.

CHARTER RESERVE SMOKED GOUDA
or Havarti
Deli Sliced
$8.99 LB.

CHICAGO STYLE ITALIAN BEEF
Deli Sliced
$13.59 LB.

GORDO'S CHEESE DIPS
32 Oz. Original or
Mild with Jalapeno
$12.39 EA.

Holiday spirit

From photographer Sherry Brown, who captured these images for The Tribune on Christmas evening: "The town of Cullman truly knows how to celebrate Christmas. With vintage window displays, twinkling lights and a charming small town atmosphere, the holiday spirit is felt everywhere. Enjoy the Christmas experience!"

PHOTOS COURTESY SHERRY BROWN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE















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Your neighbors.
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INSURANCE AGENCY
CULLMAN



Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
simple human sense

EDITORIAL

I quit New Year's resolutions and nothing fell apart

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Most years, New Year's Eve arrives with a familiar ritual. Resolutions are made. Promises are declared. Jan. 1 is treated like a universal reset button, pressed at the same moment by mil-lions of people hoping this time will be different.

And for a short while, it feels good.

My own realization came while sitting in an old newsroom, working on a story about New Year's resolutions. Reading through everyone's goals was inspiring. Many were thoughtful and ambitious. Some were deeply personal. But as I read, I recognized my own past declara-tions in those words. I had made similar promises before and couldn't make them last a week.

That moment clarified something for me.

Most resolutions fade within weeks. Not because people lack effort, but because choosing one date as a collective turning point rarely comes with the support needed to keep going once the excitement wears off. I've been there. More than once.

So I stopped making resolutions. Instead, I started making changes.

Not sweeping declarations. Not grand announcements. Just small, daily alterations. I fo-cused on improving my craft, strengthening my ability to lead those who work alongside me at The Cullman Tribune and addressing parts of myself I spent years trying to ignore or hide.

That process is not comfortable.

Pulling off emotional bandages stings. Sometimes it hurts badly. But the pain is temporary. And unlike covering a wound again and again, removing what hides it allows real healing to begin. Over time, the wound doesn't just look better. It becomes stronger.

That is what I've been working toward over the past year or so. Daily healing. Small progress. Not perfection. Not a checklist. Just forward movement.

This approach allows growth as a whole, not the cherry picking of one or two areas just to satisfy outside expectations. I am not responsible for anyone else's emotions, but I do take them into account while doing the harder internal work, especially in places that have been mentally welded shut for years.

I am grateful for those small changes. And I genuinely admire the people who can make a big declaration each year and follow through. That discipline deserves respect.

But for me, real growth doesn't come from doing what society says should be fixed.

It comes from working on what you know needs attention.

So as 2026 approaches, I won't be making a resolution. I'll keep doing what I've been doing. Making adjustments. Learning. Healing. Improving a little at a time.

Not on one special day. But every day.

Bosom Buddies (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Bosom Buddies Foundation was founded 12 years ago to support local cancer patients. The nonprofit is supported by annual fundraising events and donations.

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation President Jennifer Limerick said one of the most meaningful moments of 2025 was raising funds at the group's signature event, the Little Pink Dress benefit.

"Seeing our community come together — especially the overwhelming support from local businesses who generously donated auction items — was truly inspiring," she said.

"Each contribution, bid and act of kindness reflected the heart of Cullman County and strengthened our mission to support those affected by all types of cancer.

"Little Pink Dress was more than a fundraiser; it was a reminder of the power of community and compassion working together."

Limerick said the plan for 2026 is to have another successful Little Pink Dress fundraising event.

"It's our most favorite event, and to be honest, it takes all year long to plan and prepare for the event to be successful," she explained.

"Other businesses do smaller fundraising events that we attend, but at this time we don't have any other events planned for 2026."

Limerick said every dollar raised goes to help Cullman County residents in active cancer treatment with basic living expenses such as food, gas and utilities.

"We help with medical bills, rent, mortgages and, on special occasions, auto repair, heat, air, etc., anything that will help the patient be more comfortable and have the ability to get to and from their treatments," she said.

"We have an outreach program for breast cancer patients where we provide them with a bag of essentials needed for their recovery.

"We will gladly take donations for those bags. Items we collect are all new items such as bras, knitted breast forms, socks, blankets, note pads, pens, magazines, adult coloring books, gel pens, coloring pencils, crossword puzzles, word search, seat belt covers and small soft pillows."

You can donate all year long in any amount by mailing it to Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation, PO Box 123, Vinemont, AL 35179, or dropping by Options Wigs & Accessories at 2201 Second Ave. NW (U.S. Highway 31) Cullman AL 35058.

"We are welcoming volunteers. They can contact us through our Facebook page and anyone wanting to do fundraisers for CCBBF would be greatly appreciated," Limerick said.

For more information about the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation, visit www.cullmanbosombuddies.com.



LEGALS

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GARRY DWAYNE MCDONALD, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-462

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary, having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Adam J. Cumberworth
Personal Representative

Adam J. Cumberworth
Attorney for Personal Representative
407 2nd Ave SW
106 South Side Square
Huntsville, Al. 35801
(256) 384-5295

TO PUBLISHER: ***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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by 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

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

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.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Cullman County, AL 1 Page(s)

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF YVONNE A. STERLING, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2025-449

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Testamentary, having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of December, 2025, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Joan R. Anderson
Personal Representative

Benjamin B. Spratling III
Attorney/ Personal Representative
2320 Cahaba Road
Mountain Brook, Al. 35223-1102
(205) 401-2391

TO PUBLISHER: ***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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

New Year's traditions

Anabelle Howze
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As the year comes to a close and a new year begins, cultures around the world welcome the new year with traditions believed to bring luck, prosperity and fresh beginnings.

In the United States, one of the most recognizable customs is singing "Auld Lang Syne" at midnight. The song originated in Scotland and is based on a poem by Robert Burns, written in 1788. The title translates to "for old times' sake," encouraging people to reflect on the past year and appreciate lasting friendships and relationships.

Clothing choices also carry symbolic meaning in some cultures. In the Philippines, wearing polka dots on New Year's Eve is thought to attract wealth, as the circular patterns resemble coins. In Brazil, many people dress in white to symbolize peace, renewal and purification as the new year begins.

Popping champagne has become a global New Year's Eve staple. The tradition dates back centuries to France, where sparkling wine became associated with celebration and new beginnings. The pop of the cork signals festivity and optimism for the year ahead.

Cleaning the home before the new year is another common practice that symbolizes a fresh start. Clearing clutter is believed to make space for new opportunities and positive energy.

In New York City, thousands gather in Times Square and millions more watch on television for the annual ball drop. The tradition began in 1907 to mark The New York Times' new headquarters and has since become one of the world's most iconic New Year's Eve celebrations.

Food traditions also play a role. In Spain and parts of Latin America, people eat 12 grapes in the final seconds before midnight, one for each month of the coming year, to ensure good fortune. In the American South, black-eyed peas are often eaten as the first meal of New Year's Day, a long-standing symbol of luck and prosperity.

Fireworks, a tradition dating back more than 1,000 years to China, are believed to ward off bad spirits with loud noise and bright light. Another enduring custom, the New Year's kiss, traces back to British traditions in which a kiss at midnight was thought to bring blessings and protect loved ones in the year ahead.

Together, these traditions reflect a shared hope for happiness and good fortune as the New Year begins.

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CCSO and CPD share tips for NYE safety

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Cullman Police Department are sharing ways to be safe on New Year's Eve.

Sheriff Matt Gentry said as his department rings in the new year, the CCSO wants everyone to enjoy the night — but be smart and safe.

"Use common sense, plan ahead and never drink and drive," Gentry said. "If you're celebrating, choose a designated driver or another safe way home. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in large crowds, and look out for one another. When it comes to fireworks, there is no law prohibiting their use in Cullman County, but safety still matters. Please handle fireworks responsibly, and remember — alcohol and fireworks are a bad combination."

Gentry said they want everyone to have fun, but celebrate responsibly, and help make sure everyone gets to start the new year at home with the people they love.

"We want folks to enjoy the new year with their family and friends, but the most important thing is that everyone is smart, stays safe and makes it home," he said. "One good decision can make all the difference."

Police Chief Joey Duncan said as the community prepares to celebrate the arrival of the new year, his department wants to remind residents and visitors to make safety their top priority during New Year's Eve festivities.

"New Year's Eve is a time of celebration, but it can also be one of the most dangerous nights of the year on our roadways," Duncan said. "Our goal is to ensure everyone can enjoy the holiday and return home safely."

The CPD urges the public to plan ahead, especially when it comes to transportation.

"Impaired driving continues to be a leading cause of serious injury and fatal crashes during holiday celebrations," Duncan said.

"If you plan to drink alcohol, do not drive. Designate a sober driver or make arrangements to stay where you are. One poor decision can have lifelong consequences."

In addition to impaired driving concerns, Duncan emphasized the importance of being mindful of others during celebrations.

"Reckless driving and disorderly behavior are dangerous and unacceptable," Duncan said. "These actions put innocent people at risk and will be addressed through enforcement."

The CPD will have increased patrols throughout the city on New Year's Eve, focusing on impaired driving, traffic safety and overall public safety. Officers will also be monitoring areas with higher traffic and larger gatherings.

"Our officers are committed to protecting the community throughout the holiday," Duncan said. "We ask everyone to do their part by making responsible choices and looking out for one another."

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Obituary Announcements: Dec. 27-29

Lisa Dahlke, 50
Funeral Service for Lisa Dahlke, age 50, of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Andy Heis officiating; burial will be at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29, 2025, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Dahlke passed away on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025, at home surrounded by family. She was born Oct. 20, 1975, to James and Carolyn Means. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Novella and Richard Buchanan; grandparents, James and Hazel Means, and father-in-law, Gilbert Dahlke. Survivors include her husband, Jeremy Dahlke; daughter, Alexis (Kennedy) Griffin; son, Hunter (Isabelle) Dahlke; son, Fysher Dahlke; parents, James and Carolyn Means; mother-in-law, Connie Davis; step mother-in-law, Tanya Dahlke; sister, Mendy (Bryan) Grimmett; sister, Misty (Mark) Redmond; sister-in-law, Christie (Carl) Thomas; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Billy Joe Cochran, 71
A graveside service for Billy Joe Cochran, 71, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Hopewell Cemetery. Mr. Cochran was born October 8, 1954, in Cullman, Alabama. He passed away Dec. 24, 2025, in Falkville, Alabama. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve Cochran family.

Rosa Lee Tabor, 94
Rosa Lee Tabor, born on April 7, 1931, in Clovis, New Mexico, passed away on December 24th, 2025, at the age of 94. A resident of Cullman, Alabama, Rosa was known for her kind and happy personality. She was loved by many friends and enjoyed a life filled with raising a family, camping, golf, and giving back to others. For almost a decade, she attended Valley Presbyterian Church until failing health would no longer allow it. Rosa also enjoyed making stained glass art, painting and traveling. Rosa is survived by her son Jay (Cynthia) Tabor, grandson Wes (Jennifer) Tabor and daughter Candace Tabor. She also leaves behind her great grandsons Calvin and Elliot Tabor. Rosa was preceded in death by her husband John Wesley Tabor, son Steven John Tabor, parents Jasper (Bessie) Denney, and extended family Carla Michelle Twilley and Charlotte Marcum. There are no services to be announced at this time.

Lela Mae Davis, 81
Lela Mae Davis, born on Oct. 31, 1944, in Paint Rock, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 27, 2025, at the age of 81. She was a resident of Hanceville, Alabama. Lela Mae Davis is survived by her husband, Curtis Davis; her daughters, Tina Brown (Mike), Stephanie Neal (Jason), and Nicole Hawkins (Heath); and her son, Jeff Davis. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. A Celebration of Life Visitation will be held at Center Hill Baptist Church, located at 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077, on Dec. 29, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating. This will be followed by a Celebration of Life Funeral Service at 1 p.m. The burial will take place at Hopewell Cemetery, 492 County Road 582, Hanceville, AL 35077, following the service. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Hurdline 'Hassie' McCroy, 85
Hurdline "Hassie" McCroy, age 85, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 27, 2025. She was born to the late Alton and Katherine Maybelle Guthery Johnson, and was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph McCroy; her son, Darrell McCroy; her daughter, April McCroy; and her siblings, Opal Johnson, James Johnson, Bodie Johnson, Audrey McSwain, and Sheila Whatley. Hassie is survived by her loving siblings: Tommy (Emma) Johnson, Danny (Ladonna) Johnson, and Joe Johnson. She is also survived by her children: Kathy (Richard) Daniel, Larry (Dawn) McCroy, Tim McCroy, and Rodney McCroy. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Chris Striker, Duffy (Amber) Striker, Sean (Ashley) Daniel, Courtney (Kristian) Blair, Brandon McCroy, Cody (Lindsay) McCroy, Jesse McCroy, Justice McCroy, Kristian (Heath) Grimes, and Rodney "Junior" McCroy, along with a host of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Hassie will be remembered for her love of family, her strength, and the lasting impact she made on all who knew her. Her memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved her. Funeral service will be Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025, at 12 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Valley Springs Cemetery, Bro. Larry Duke and Duffy Striker officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Pallbearers will be Rodney McCroy, Chris Striker, Sean Daniel, Tim McCroy, Jesse McCroy, Brandon McCroy, Cody McCroy. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Roger Dale Bowen, Sr., 69
Roger Dale Bowen, Sr., age 69 of Vinemont, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, at Cullman Regional. Survivors include his son, Roger Dale Bowen, Jr.; significant other, Kathy Diane Culwell; stepson, Michael Culwell and stepdaughter, Kaylee Culwell. A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

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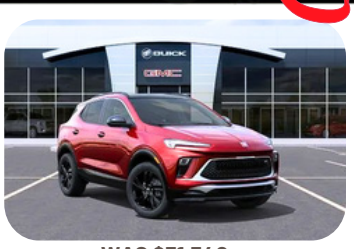
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