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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Lady Eagles, Eagles pick up wins over Hanceville

» PAGE 4

Vinemont Council highlights completed road projects, recognizes Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Vinemont Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6, approving several resolutions and addressing updates related to operations and infrastructure.

During the meeting, council members approved Resolution No. 2026-01-01, establishing new operating hours for Vinemont Town Hall. The updated schedule sets office hours for Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., and Fridays from 7 a.m.-noon.

Town Clerk Kayecea Sasser presented the FY 2025 Town of South Vinemont Rebuild Alabama Annual Report, highlighting recent road improvement efforts. Sasser reported that resurfacing projects on Roberson Street, B Avenue, Nesmith Road and Wood Street have been completed and are now 100% finished. » PAGE 5



2024 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
The Vinemont Town Council met Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026.

Ollie's Bargain Outlet slated to open in April in Cullman



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Ollie's Bargain Outlet will open in April in the old Goody's location in the Town Square Shopping Center in southwest Cullman.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Ollie's Bargain Outlet is preparing to open in southwest Cullman, with leasing finalized and hiring underway for a store planned at the former Goody's location in the Town Square Shopping Center.

Ollie's Bargain Outlet has posted multiple job listings for its upcoming Cullman location, identifying the store as a "new store coming soon" and advertising management and sales positions tied to the Cullman, AL 35055 area.

On behalf of Drinkard Development, Jason Grimmett confirmed the lease has been executed and provided an anticipated opening window.

"On behalf of Drinkard Development I am pleased to confirm that we have executed a lease with Ollie's to open in the former Goody's location in the Town Square Shopping Center," Grimmett said. "If all goes well, Ollie's will be open in mid-April 2026."

The new store will fill a void left by the closure of Big Lots, which shut down its Cullman location last year as part of a national liquidation.

"Ollie's will fill a void left by the closure of Big Lots for discount shopping," Grimmett said. "Ollie's takes great pride in offering a wide range of value-oriented goods and at the lowest possible prices."

Job postings on Ollie's official careers website show the company is actively hiring for several roles, including a co-store manager, assistant store manager and retail sales associates.

The postings, dated Dec. 30 and Dec. 31, indicate preparations are underway ahead of the store's opening. Postings can be found at https://tinyurl.com/yb-3de47u.

According to the postings, the Cullman location is hiring both full-time management positions and part-time sales associates. Management roles focus on store operations, merchandising, staffing and financial oversight, while sales associate positions emphasize customer service, merchandising and register operations.

Grimmett said the Ollie's customer base is expected to align closely with shoppers who previously frequented Big Lots.

"Everyone shops at Ollie's," he said. "However, it is expected that the average Big Lots customer will follow that trend of value shopping and become a loyal Ollie's shopper."

Grimmett said bringing Ollie's to Cullman was a long-term effort by the Drinkard Development team.

"Getting Ollie's to Cullman has been in the works by the Drinkard team for more than three years," » PAGE 8

Whaley officially qualifies to run for Cullman County sheriff



CHAD WHALEY
Lt. Chad Whaley with his family » PAGE 3

Aderholt qualifies for reelection to US Congress



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ADERHOLT
Congressman Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama » PAGE 7

Reed: Alabama's unemployment rate drops to 2.7% in November

» PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Sissy Lou is learning the world one gentle step at a time



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
Sissy Lou » PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 7

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 7, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 31

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $3; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $117; Olive St. SW

Jan. 5

- theft of property-2nd degree; person; cash; $1,900
- theft of property-3rd degree; Cullman Park & Rec; plants; $1,000; Cleveland Ave. SW
- theft by deception-3rd degree; person; cash; $1,000

Jan. 6

- theft of property-4th degree; person; bicycle; $200; Lee Cir. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; Hickory Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ave. E
- theft of property-1st degree; NAPA Auto Parts; auto parts; $8,939

ARRESTS

Jan. 6

King, Jeffrey D.; 47

- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment
- FTA – public intoxication (3 counts)
- FTA – resisting arrest (2 counts)
- FTA – DUI
- FTA – run stop sign
- FTA – run red light
- FTA – improper lane usage

Holcomb, Anita L.; 43

- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Ratliff II, Kenneth D.; 43

- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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734-2406

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CORRECTION

In the article titled "Josh Speakman announces run for Cullman County Commission, District 2," published Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2025, we said Kelly Duke currently holds the Cullman County Commission, District 2 seat. The District 2 seat is currently held by Garry Marchman.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Poetry of Recovery: Recovery Support Group
Every Saturday at 10 a.m. at 514 Cleveland Ave. SW in Cullman. Facebook/The Poetry of Recovery. Contact Jeff at 727-542-6413 or John at 256-636-0612.

Cullman County Historical Society Meetings
We meet the fourth Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. at the Cullman County Museum. Each meeting features a specific program or speaker. Join us!

Attention Senior Citizens
If you are 60 or over, please come to the Cullman Senior Center at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW and have some fun with us and eat lunch. Good fun, good friends and good food. Different things going on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. Volunteers needed to deliver meals to homebound. Call Commission on Aging for info. 256-734-1241.

Cullman County Republican Women Monthly Meetings
Second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullman VFW. President Cathi Bradford: "We are going to begin training to track legislation in Montgomery. If you need information, you can directly message me on Facebook." Full meals at 5:30. Meetings start at 6.

The Crossing Food Bank
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman (in the Housing Authority).

Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502.

Baileyton Bargain Days
First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Al-Anon Meetings
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

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.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church of GOD

- 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- 256-739-3326
- spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
- FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
- Friday, Jan. 9 – 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.
- Saturday, Jan. 10 – 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Indoor yard sale. Proceeds will support the transition houses and our church ministries.
- Sunday, Jan. 11 – 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.

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.

CHS Class of 1969 Luncheon
Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. Casual dress. Spouse/significant other included. Please check your email and respond accordingly.

Cullman Eagle Forum Meeting
Monday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Hanceville Housing Authority, 819 Kiki Drive, Hanceville, AL 35077. We will be training local citizens on hand counting election ballots. Come see how fun and easy it is to perform this essential civic duty. All are invited to attend.

Cullman Women's Health Forum

- Saturday, Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek. Local nonprofit Lotus Health Inc. is hosting its inaugural Women's Health Forum with the generous support of our Gold Sponsors – Alabama Farmers Federation and First Federal Mortgage – along with other gracious sponsors/collaborators. Please join us as we connect with community/state leaders and health care professionals for a day focused on women's health, education, preventative screenings and local resources.
- We will open the Free Day Forum at 1p.m. with women's healthcare exhibitors hosted by The Venue at Cotton Creek (417 Third Ave. SW Cullman). We have a great itinerary of speakers on women's health and free women's health screenings.
- We are also honored to present Senate hopeful Jared Hudson (R), and Attorney General candidates Katherine Robertson (R) and Pamela Casey (R) for a live podcast. Topics will include trafficking and current legislation impacting women's health in Alabama. We are currently accepting exhibitors and welcome sponsors for this important day of education and dialog.
- Following our FREE day forum, we will gather for a Meet and Greet dinner.
- For more information and to purchase dinner tickets/sponsor or become an exhibitor please visit https://lotushealthinc.org/events/womens-health-forum. We look forward to meeting with you in our effort to improve women's health outcomes in the state of Alabama.

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.

Casino Night Benefiting Hope Horses
Saturday, Feb. 28, from 6-10 p.m. at Cotton Creek, 417 Third Ave. SW in Cullman. Let's go all-in for a fun-filled casino night benefiting Hope Horses! Tickets are $100 and include dinner, drinks and starter chips! Hope Horses, Inc. is a nonprofit organization. All donations made payable to Hope Horses are tax deductible. For more information, please email us at krice@hopehorsesinc.com.

Whaley (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Sheriff's Office Director of Communications Lt. Chad Whaley this week officially qualified to run for Cullman County sheriff.

Whaley announced his candidacy back in June 2025.

"What an incredible way to begin 2026," Whaley said this week. "After months of preparation and prayer, today marks a major milestone in this journey. I am honored and grateful to the Cullman County Republican Committee for allowing me to officially sign the qualification paperwork to run for sheriff of Cullman County. This moment represents more than a signature — it represents a commitment to serve, protect and lead our community with integrity."

Whaley said as sheriff, he will remain committed to building a class A sheriff's office.

"Our community deserves so much and moving forward, my focus is clear," Whaley said. "I want to establish a dedicated warrant division to bring justice for victims, aggressively target high-crime areas and continue the fight against illegal drugs across our county. I want to strengthen and streamline training for deputies and citizens alike, improving professionalism, preparedness and community partnerships in order to create a safer Cullman County for everyone. Last, I want to expand and enhance the SRO program by improving training and adding much needed personnel to better protect our schools and support our students."

He said the new year brings new opportunities.

"Together, we will continue building a safer, stronger Cullman County," Whaley said. "Don't forget to vote Chad Whaley for sheriff on May 19! Let's move forward — together."

Key dates

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

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 8, 2026

PREP BASKETBALL

Meek completes a season sweep of Addison behind a Ferguson double-double

Lucas Gray
lucas@cullmantribune.com

ADDISON, Ala. — The Meek Tigers bounced back from a four-game skid on Tuesday night in a big way, traveling to rival Addison and leaving with a 46-42 win. The game was a stark contrast from their overtime thriller in December, with the first three quarters of this matchup only seeing 56 total points scored. It was a slugfest, with both teams failing to find offensive rhythm until the fourth quarter.

The most complete performance of the night came from Meek's Parker Ferguson, who, in addition to leading the Tigers in scoring was often the cause of Addison's lack of rhythm on the other end. He stuffed the stat sheet, leading the game in points and rebounds, finishing with 20 points, 11 rebounds, four steals and three blocks.

"Last game (against Addison) he had the injury and missed almost all of Christmas break. I had a talk with him earlier today about being the best player on the floor, about being the most dominant guy when he walks in. I pulled him in my office and told him 'when you walk in the gym everyone needs to respect you, because you can be that guy,' and today he showed that you really have to pay attention to where he's at because he can control the game himself and I'm really, really proud of him for how he played today," Meek head coach Bryan Woods said.

Having another impressive scoring night against the Bulldogs was guard Colman Bonner, who had an 18-point and three-steal night with an assist and a rebound. He scored seven of the team's eight points in the first quarter before Ferguson scored seven of his own in the second.

The teams went into halftime both under 20 points, with Meek's 11-5 second quarter advantage giving the Tigers a 19-15 lead at the break. Despite that, due to the overall sloppiness of the game, there felt like little momentum to be had. On getting the team settled down at halftime, Woods said his message was simple: play cleaner basketball.

"Well, just gotta clean it up. We were down on rebounds almost double at the half, they had 14 second chance points at the half and that was the difference. We tried to grit our teeth and play better defense and be more patient on offense, stop turning it over. If you're patient you're gonna get looks, but if you rush you're not going to get anything," Woods said.

The sentiment was surely echoed in Addison's locker room as well, and both teams did play more efficient basketball in the third quarter. Addison fought back, as Scout Flynn and Judah Wilkins powered a 6-0 run at the end of the quarter to tie the game up at 28. Flynn had a complete game as well, scoring 11 points to lead Addison, and grabbing eight rebounds and stealing two balls. The Bulldogs' run would continue into the fourth, and grew to 12-2. Meek needed momentum, and after a quick bucket by Ferguson, they'd get a jolt of electricity from guard Sawyer Farley, who threaded the needle on a 3/4 court pass to Weston Hutchins who sunk the layup.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Meek forward Parker Ferguson going up for a layup.

It would spark a 13-2 Meek run that saw them regain the lead and eventually hold onto it for good. A powerful dunk from Addison's Elijah Roberts, who finished the night with 10 points, seven rebounds and three steals, energized the crowd and team, but a handful of Meek free throws sealed it on the other end.

"Well this was really big for us, we've been on a four-game skid since Christmas break. We've had sickness and some injuries come through. This is huge for us, coming back and getting a little healthier, going into the county tournament, starting the new year. Big for our kids, big for the morale," Woods said.

Meek returns to action on Thursday night, traveling to Phillips, while Addison will travel to Cullman Christian on Thursday.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Eagles, Eagles pick up wins over Hanceville

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs Eagles hosted the Hanceville Bulldogs in a pair of county games on Monday night, and both Eagle squads ended up sweeping Hanceville. In the varsity girls' game, the Lady Eagles jumped out to a double-digit lead but a pair of big runs by the Lady Bulldogs helped them tie things up at 32 going into the final quarter. A big fourth quarter by Cold Springs, though, helped them get past Hanceville 50-41. The varsity boys' game saw the Eagles get out to an early lead and stretched it out to double-digits at the half. Hanceville cut it to single digits in the second half, but Cold Springs quickly made it a double-digit lead again, and they would go on to knock off the Bulldogs 62-45.

COLD SPRINGS 50 – HANCEVILLE 41
(Varsity Girls)

Cold Springs started out red-hot from behind the three-point line, as Paizley Whitlow drilled one from the right wing, and Hollyn Bruer nailed four straight threes to give the Lady Eagles a 15-0 lead. Kynzlee Farr knocked down a shot to put Hanceville on the scoreboard, but a trey by Ella Dickerson made it an 18-2 game. A pair of baskets by Farr cut it to 18-6 going into the second period.

Farr drained a three, and Mattie Keith knocked down a pair of free throws to trim it to just seven at 18-11. Kerrigon Moore and Alex Twitty each added a basket down low to make it an 18-15 game. Cold Springs got their first basket of the second quarter on a rebound and putback by Kotie Calvert with 1:32 remaining in the first half. Whitlow quickly followed that up with a three on the next possession to put the Lady Eagles ahead 23-15. A late basket by Moore made it a 23-17 game at the half.

Bruer nailed her fifth three from the top of the key, and Dickerson knocked down a short jumper to give Cold Springs a 28-17 lead early in the third. That's when Farr got red-hot from behind the three-point line, as she drilled a trio of treys to make it a 30-26 game. Moore scored through a foul and ended up hitting the free throw to cut it to one, then Twitty put in a driving layup to give the Lady Bulldogs their first lead of the game at 31-30. Dickerson laid it up and in on the other end to give the Lady Eagles the lead right back at 32-31. Keith split her free throws to tie the game up at 32 going into the final period.

Macie Huffstutler knocked down a shot down low, Dickerson split her free throws and Whitlow knocked down both of her free throws to give Cold Springs a 37-32 lead early in the fourth quarter. Kaelyn Lamer dropped in a floater to cut it to 37-34. Baskets by Whitlow and Bruer made it a 41-34 game, then later on in the fourth, Calvert drained a pair of free throws, and Dickerson put in a driving layup to stretch the Lady Eagle lead to 45-35. Moore knocked down a pair of baskets to make it a 47-39 contest, but the Lady Bulldogs wouldn't get any closer after that, though, as Cold Springs would go on to defeat Hanceville, 50-41.

Bruer led the way for the Lady Eagles with 17 points. Dickerson ended up with 14 points, and Whitlow posted 10 points. For the Lady Bulldogs, Farr finished with 19 points, and Moore added 11 points.

COLD SPRINGS 62 – HANCEVILLE 45
(Varsity Boys)

Both teams were tied at six almost midway through the opening period. Lindan Hill and Wyatt Barker each split their free throws to give Cold Springs an 8-6 lead. Hill hit a pair of baskets in the paint to stretch the Eagle lead to 12-8. Ayden Black added a trey from the left wing to make it a 15-8 game. Drake Bentley drained a three from the left wing to cut it to 15-11, but Breydon Hallmon knocked down a late shot to put Cold Springs ahead, 17-11, going into the second period.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Lindan Hill goes up for a layup attempt.

Baskets by Sam Abney and Hunter Black made it a 17-15 game early in the second. Cash Dickerson dropped in a floater, Hallmon knocked down a shot down low, and Ethan Day buried a trey from the right wing to give Cold Springs a 24-15 lead. Later in the second quarter, Dickerson drained a trey to make it a 28-17 game.

A pair of free throws by Nick Davis made it a 29-21 game, but Hill added a basket with three seconds left to put the Eagles ahead, 31-21, at the half.

Cold Springs held a 38-26 lead in the third after a rebound and putback by Hallmon, but A.J. Carnathan knocked down a trey to cut it to 38-29. Baskets by Hallmon and Day gave the Eagles a 42-29 lead. Abney buried a three from the right wing, then later on that quarter, Javus Leusby scored through a foul and completed the three-point line at the free throw line to trim the Bulldog deficit to 11 at 46-35 late in the third. Dickerson buried a three of his own to give Cold Springs a 49-35 lead, and they would take a 50-37 lead into the final period.

Another rebound and putback by Hallmon and a basket in the paint by Day put the Eagles ahead, 54-37. Carnathan knocked down a three to cut it to 57-44, but Hill put in a driving layup to make it a 59-44 game. Free throws by Barker and Dickerson helped put the finishing touches on a 62-45 win for Cold Springs.

Four players finished in double figure scoring for the Eagles. Hill finished with 16 points. Hallmon added 15 points. Day put in 13 points, and Dickerson posted 10 points. Abney led the way for Hanceville with 12 points. Davis and Bentley each added nine points, and Carnathan ended up with eight points.

Cold Springs will go to Cordova, and Hanceville will travel to take on J.B. Pennington Tuesday night.

City of Cullman seeks volunteers for Tree Commission

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — City of Cullman residents who have a passion for trees and community stewardship are encouraged to apply to serve on the Cullman Tree Commission.

The advisory board helps guides local leaders on the care, preservation and expansion of the city's urban forest.

The commission provides recommendations to the mayor and City Council on matters involving the community forest.

City Hall officials said the commission typically meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of every even-numbered month in the city hall auditorium, 204 Second Ave. NE, unless otherwise posted.

Residents interested in serving on the commission are encouraged to submit an application online at https://cullmanal.gov/board-application.

For more information, visit the City's website or call 256-734-5500.

Lotus Health Women's Health Forum coming Jan. 31

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Lotus Health Inc., a Cullman-based nonprofit focused on holistic and preventive health, will host a Women's Health Forum on Saturday, Jan. 31, at The Venue at Cotton Creek, offering free public access to exhibitors, health screenings and educational resources.

Aleah Pilgrim, president of Lotus Health, said the organization focuses on providing resources and referrals while developing wellness programs designed to "meet them where they are." The nonprofit is building preventive health packages that combine lifestyle medicine visits, mobile telehealth appointments and mental wellness support through group programming and collaborations with counselors. Additional options may include chiropractic care, massage therapy or a gym membership.

The upcoming Women's Health Forum is designed to bring together community partners, health providers and local leaders while creating space for discussion around women's health, wellness and safety issues, including topics that are not always widely addressed.

The forum is open to both women and men, organizers said, noting that many participating community leaders and political figures are men.

In addition to screenings and community discussions, the forum will emphasize education, particularly in women's health and fertility awareness. Pilgrim said Lotus Health offers educational programming led by its director of education, including classes designed to help young women better understand their reproductive health. The organization hopes to expand access to these programs locally as part of its broader goal to fill gaps in preventive care and support women as caregivers within the community.

The event will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, at The Venue at Cotton Creek. The public portion will take place from noon-5 p.m.

Exhibition hours will run from noon-4 p.m. and will include exhibitors and health screenings. From 4-5 p.m., the forum will host a podcast-style question-and-answer session with political candidates who have agreed to participate.

Following the public forum, an invitation-only dinner and meet-and-greet is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. for speakers, sponsors and vendors who purchase tickets. Registration information for the dinner, as well as exhibitor and sponsor opportunities, is available through an online form at www.lotushealthinc.org/events/womens-health-forum.

Pilgrim said the forum will include a strong educational component and aims to raise awareness while connecting attendees with local organizations and services. Lotus Health also plans to continue expanding its referral network to direct individuals to additional resources when the nonprofit is unable to meet specific needs.

For more information, visit www.lotushealthinc.org/events/womens-health-forum.



ALEAH PILGRIM

Lotus Health's Lisa Fuchs, RN; Aleah Pilgrim; and Dr. Noah Gudel, DO pose for a photo at the at the Republican Executive Committee Meeting at VFW to promote the event

Vendor applications still open for Bloomin' Festival

Anabelle Howze
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Vendor applications are still open for the upcoming Bloomin' Festival arts & craft show, with organizers encouraging interested artisans to apply even though several categories are already full.

Now entering its 42nd year, the Bloomin' Festival is known for featuring original, handmade items and attracting a strong crowd to the campus of St. Bernard each spring. Festival Director Joyce Nix said the craft show prioritizes unique, artisan-made products and maintains category limits to ensure variety for attendees.

Several popular categories including candles, jewelry, soap and wood products, are nearly or completely booked, though availability exists for other original, handmade goods.

Vendor applications open annually about a week after the festival, though organizers will continue accepting applications until all spaces are filled.

Interested vendors may apply through the festival's website by downloading and submitting an application with photos or by completing an online application and uploading photos directly.

Applicants are notified regarding payment after their submissions are reviewed.

Vendors who participate benefit from the festival's community-focused atmosphere and loyal following.

The event draws visitors who return year after year, many citing Cullman's hospitality along with local support as reasons for participating.

The Bloomin' Festival serves as a fundraiser for St. Bernard Preparatory School.

A $10 donation is requested at the gate to help cover advertising and event expenses. One of the festival's signature attractions is its prize giveaway, which this year includes items such as a Dyson cordless vacuum, a Blackstone outdoor griddle, Apple AirPods 4 and a ViewSonic Encore projector.

Festival activities also include reduced admission to the Ave Maria Grotto throughout the weekend, along with a wide range of artisan goods, including handmade brooms, wind chimes, pottery, ceramics, stained glass and specialty food items, including treats for pets.

Organizers stress that vendor spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and encourage interested participants to submit applications as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Get more information at www.bloominfestival.com. This year's Bloomin' Festival will take place April 18-19.

Vinemont (from Front)

The council also approved a proclamation recognizing January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, aiming to increase public awareness and visibility of a crime whose victims are often unseen.

Additionally, council members approved the purchase of a Generac generator for town hall, with an estimated cost between $10,000 and $12,000, to ensure continued operations during power outages.

The meeting concluded with an announcement regarding an upcoming community event. Senior Citizens Day will be held Jan. 19, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Vinemont Community Center.

The next meeting of the Vinemont Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 3, at Vinemont Town Hall. The work session will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the council meeting at 6. Vinemont Town Hall is located at 36 Patton Drive.



Sissy Lou (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Sissy Lou is a Great Pyrenees and Golden Retriever mix, approximately 9-10 months old, with a quiet soul and a thoughtful presence that reveals itself slowly and beautifully. She's The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

An introvert by nature, Sissy Lou finds comfort in routine. Consistency gives her a sense of security and allows her confidence to grow at her own pace.

She is currently learning leash manners and responds best to calm guidance, patient encouragement and the reassuring presence of a mentor dog who helps her understand the world around her. Her confidence blossoms when she knows she is safe and supported, whether that support comes from another dog or from you.

With continued positive reinforcement, Sissy Lou shows all the makings of a therapy, companion or reading dog deluxe. Like a raw piece of clay, she is eager to be shaped into a purposeful and happy girl. Her gentle demeanor, attentiveness and emotional awareness make her especially well-suited for a home that values patience, structure and connection.

Sissy Lou's adoption fee is $130, which covers her spay procedure, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchipping and a basic health check. It also supports the ongoing care of other animals while they wait for their forever homes.

Visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If Sissy Lou finds her family quickly, many other deserving pets remain at the shelter, hopeful for the same chance at love and stability.

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

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-18 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 18
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Big Sky Trading, LLC, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:

PPIN: 8563. Parcel No.: 09-08-33-2-005-007.000. Property Address: 2211 Second Avenue NW.
Commence at the intersection of the west right of way line of US Highway No. 31 with the north line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 33, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, then go in a southerly direction along said right of way line a distance of 976.7 feet to the point of beginning: thence go 90 degrees 00 minutes right a distance of 150 feet; thence go 90 degrees 00 minutes left a distance of 100 feet; thence go 90 degrees 00 minutes left a distance of 150 feet to a point on the west right of way line of U.S. Highway No. 31; thence go 90 degrees 00 minutes left along said right of way line a distance of 100 feet to the point of beginning. The above described land lies in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 33, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, in Cullman County, Alabama. Source of Title: Deed Book 539, Page 53.
within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as AG-1 Agricultural District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from R-1 Residential District to B-3 Business District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.

SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 26th day of January, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended. Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-21 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 21
TO AMEND THE CITY OF CULLMAN ZONING ORDINANCE

SECTION I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify, amend, or delete portions of the current Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION II. The following section of the City of Cullman Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 62, "Zoning," Section 163, "Nonconforming Lots," of the *Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama*, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

Sec. 62-163. Nonconforming lots.

(a) *Vacant lots.* If the owner of a nonconforming vacant lot owns adjoining land that may be combined with it in order to comply with the requirements of this chapter, the lots must be combined before the city issues a building permit or any approval required by this chapter for development of the lots.

If the owner of a nonconforming vacant lot of record does not own sufficient adjoining land to enable compliance with the area and dimensional requirements of this chapter, one building and its accessory structures may be built provided they conform as closely as possible, **as determined by the Building Official**, to the requirements of the applicable district, and further provided that no side yard, where required to be greater than five feet, may be reduced to less than five feet.

(b) *Occupied lots.* Where multiple dwellings existed on one lot in the R-1 or R-2 District, on the effective date of Ordinance No. 848, the owner may apply for a variance to subdivide the lot, so that each dwelling may be on its own lot, though the resulting lots may be smaller than required by this chapter. If a dwelling on such a lot is destroyed by fire or natural disaster, it may be rebuilt provided it conforms as closely as possible, **as determined by the Building Official**, to the district requirements.

(c) REPORTING. All determinations by the Building Official shall be reported to the Council at the next council meeting following said determination(s).

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

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

SECTION . SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and that holding of any provision hereof to be void and invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision which might have been held invalid. This Ordinance repeals any prior Ordinance in conflict therewith.

SECTION V. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage by the council, approval and publication as required by law. Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

STATE OF ALABAMA,
CULLMAN COUNTY.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by **CHASE MALLARD, and wife, GEORGIA MALLARD,** to **RICKY MYREX and CINDY MYREX**, dated October 29, 2024, which mortgage appears of record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, at Mortgage Book 2102, Page 10; and the undersigned Ricky Myrex and Cindy Myrex as Mortgagees, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, in front of the main entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on January 29, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all of her right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit: **Property 1:** A parcel in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 12, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast corner of said forty; thence West along the south forty line to the east right of way of Whitson Road; thence Northerly along the east right of way of Whitson Road to the north line of said forty; thence East along the forty line to the northeast corner of said forty; thence South along the east forty line to the point of beginning. Less that certain parcel in the Northeast corner deeded by Deed Book 713, Page 485, being 3.79 acres, more or less. Also described as:The Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, lying East of Lewis Smith Lake. **LESS & EXCEPT:** Lots 1, 2 and 3 of the Fowler & Garrison Smith Lake Subdivision as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, in Map Book 4, Page 15. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the Salay-Smith Subdivision, as recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, in Map Book 4, Page 25. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence West along the South line of said forty a distance of 566 feet, more or less, to the West right of way of Whitson Road; thence Northwesterly along said right of way a distance of 327 feet to the point of beginning; thence meandering along the right of way of Whitson Road a distance of 490 feet to a point; thence S 72°30'W a distance of 200 feet to a point on the 510 elevation of Lewis Smith Lake; thence Southeasterly along the 510 elevation of Smith Lake a distance of 324.0 feet to a point in the center of a hollow; thence N 54°15'E a distance of 365 feet, more or less, to a point on the Westerly right of way of Whitson Road and the point of beginning. Containing 2.0 acres, more or less. Lying and being in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence West along the South line of said forty a distance of 566 feet, more or less, to the West right of way of Whitson Road; thence Northwesterly along said right of way a distance of 34 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue Northwesterly along said right of way a distance of 293 feet to a point; thence S 54°15'W along a hollow a distance of 365 feet, more or less, to a point on the 510 elevation of Lewis Smith Lake; thence Southwesterly and thence Southeasterly along said 510 elevation a distance of 261.3 feet, more or less, to a point; thence N 80°05'E a distance of 391 feet to the point of beginning. Lying and being in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 9, and the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, all in Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, and containing 2.3 acres, more or less. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Commence at the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 9, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence South along the east line of said forty a distance of 328 feet, more or less, to a point on the North right of way of County Road 109; thence Northwesterly along said county road a distance of 370 feet to a point on the westerly edge of Whitson Road for the point of beginning; thence continue along right of way of County Road 109 a distance of 598.4 feet to a point on the edge of a slough of Smith Lake; thence Northwesterly along the 510 elevation of Smith Lake a distance of 154 feet to a point; thence North 80 degrees 05 minutes East a distance of 391 feet to a point on the West side of Whitson Public Road; thence along the Westerly side of said road a distance of 392 feet to the point of beginning. Lying and being in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 9, and the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West and containing 2.0 acres, more or less. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** A TRACT OF LAND BEING IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER SECTION 4 TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH RANGE 4 WEST CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA. DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT #1 OF FOWLER AND GARRISON SUBDIVISION MAP BOOK 4 PAGE 15 AS RECORDED IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA. THENCE N88°17'29"E 64 FEET. THENCE N00°30'51"E 164.75 FEET. THENCE S88°17'29"W 101 FEET. THENCE N68°16'10"W 149 FEET TO THE FLOOD ELEVATION OF 510 OF LEWIS SMITH LAKE. THENCE ALONG SAID FLOOD ELEVATION THE FOLLOWING CHORD BEARINGS AND DISTANCES: S2°44'37"E 125.29 FEET, S3°06'51W 82.62 FEET AND S59°55'25"W 34.31 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT #1 OF FOWLER AND GARRISON SUBDIVISION. THENCE N88°17'29"E 202.19 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. BEING 1 ACRE MORE OR LESS. LESS AND EXCEPT ALL RIGHTS OF WAY AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD. LESS AND EXCEPT AN EGRESS INGRESS EASEMENT 20 FEET MORE OR LESS IN WIDTH THE CENTER OF WHICH BEGINS N88°17'29"E 13 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT #1 OF FOWLER AND GARRISON SUBDIVISION. THENCE N22°17'52"W 71.93 FEET. THENCE N21°48'49"E 31.67 FEET. THENCE N21°48'49"E 36.46 FEET. THENCE N1°46'36"E 30.17 FEET. THENCE N35°39'31"W 5.67 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Commence at the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, being a 1 ½ inch pipe; thence South a distance of 50.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue along last course a distance of 180.00 feet; thence with an interior angle 90°00'00" right, run in an Easterly direction a distance of 210.00 feet to a ½" capped rebar; thence with an interior angle of 90°00'00"right, run in a Northerly direction a distance of 20.00 feet to a ½" capped rebar; thence with an interior angle of 142°40'52"right, run in a Northwesterly direction a distance of 201.20 feet; thence with an interior angle of 127°19'09"right, run in a Westerly direction a distance of 88.03 feet back to the point of beginning. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence North 89 degrees 04' 35" East, 210.00 feet to an existing capped iron; thence South 01 degree 18' 12" West, 207.30 feet to an existing capped iron; thence North 36 degrees 51' 42" West, 194.09 feet to an existing capped iron; thence South 89 degrees 04' 35" West, 88.03 feet to a point; thence N 00 degrees 55' 25" West, 50.00 feet back to the point of beginning. Said land lying in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama. Less & except all that portion of the above described property that lies below the 510 foot elevation of Smith Lake. **ALSO LESS & EXCEPT:** BEGIN AT A 2-INCH IRON BAR BEING THE NE CORNER OF THE SE QUARTER OF THE SW QUARTER OF SECTION 4 TOWNSHIP 12S RANGE 4W CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND RUN S00º20'40"W FOR 309.27 FEET TO A REBAR CAPPED 31148, THENCE N89º39'20"W FOR 529.76 FEET TO A REBAR CAPPED 31148, THENCE N00º21'28"E FOR 314.72 FEET TO A REBAR CAPPED 31148, THENCE S89º03'56"E FOR 529.72 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 3.79 ACRES+-. SUBJECT TO a 20-foot wide ingress-egress easement being the same easement as described in a deed to Timothy S. Thomas and Sharon Thomas by deed recorded in Deed Book 647 page 223, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the purported Northwest corner of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama and run South 89 degrees 15 minutes 04 seconds East (bearing based on Alabama State Plane, West Zone, NAD 83, grid) and run along the accepted North line, a distance of 210.00 feet to a found capped corner (CA-0259) marking the Northeast corner of said Thomas tract; thence run South 02 degrees 58 minutes 33 seconds West and run along the East line of said Thomas tract, a distance of 125.74 feet to a set rebar having an Alabama State Plane, West Zone, NAD 83, coordinate value of N. 1463851.36', E. 2130121.55', same being the point of beginning; thence South 02 degrees 58 minutes 33 seconds West, a distance of 20.49 feet; thence South 74 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds East, a distance of 47.84 feet; thence South 56 degrees 36 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 50.86 feet; thence South 42 degrees 44 minutes 23 seconds East, a distance of 43.61 feet; thence South 36 degrees 52 minutes 15 seconds East, a distance of 40.95 feet; thence South 31 degrees 13 minutes 52 seconds East, a distance of 21.84 feet; thence South 00 degrees 09 minutes 33 seconds West, a distance of 26.66 feet; thence South 53 degrees 00 minutes 46 seconds West, a distance of 18.38 feet; thence South 78 degrees 28 minutes 55 seconds West, a distance of 28.45 feet to a point; thence North 87 degrees 49 minutes 08 seconds West, a distance of 36.81 feet to a point on the East line of the Calhoun Tract as recorded in Deed Book 477 page 140, in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama; thence South 02 degrees 54 minutes 20 seconds West and run along said East line, a distance of 29.65 feet; thence North 78 degrees 28 minutes 55 seconds East, a distance of 76.11 feet; thence North 53 degrees 00 minutes 46 seconds East, a distance of 32.84 feet; thence North 00 degrees 09 minutes 33 seconds East, a distance of 42.22 feet; thence North 31 degrees 13 minutes 52 seconds West, a distance of 28.44 feet; thence North 36 degrees 52 minutes 15 seconds West, a distance of 42.97 feet; thence North 42 degrees 44 minutes 23 seconds West, a distance of 47.07 feet; thence North 56 degrees 36 minutes 36 seconds West, a distance of 56.44 feet; thence North 74 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds West, a distance of 55.44 feet to the point of beginning. ALSO SUBJECT TO A 20-FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS & UTILITIES DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A 2-INCH IRON BAR BEING THE NE CORNER OF THE SE QUARTER OF THE SW QUARTER OF SECTION 4 TOWNSHIP 12S RANGE 4W CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND RUN N89º03'56"W FOR 529.72 FEET, THENCE S00º21'28"W FOR 44.47 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE POINT OF BEGINNING OF A 20 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT, THENCE ALONG SAID CENTERLINE S88º07'35"W FOR 76.43 FEET, THENCE S47º26'19"W FOR 555.02 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 220 BEING THE CENTERLINE POINT OF ENDING OF SAID 20 FOOT WIDE EASEMENT. LEGAL DESCRIPTION ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY OF RANDALL C. PHILLIPS, PLS # 31148, DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2021, PROJECT NUMBER 21042. **Property 2:** All that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, lying North of County Road 109 and East of Whitson Road (County Road 220).

Property 3: Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West; thence West along the South line of said forty a distance of 566 feet, more or less, to the West right of way of Whitson Road; thence Northwesterly along said right of way a distance of 327 feet to the point of beginning; thence meandering along the right of way of Whitson Road a distance of 490 feet to a point; thence S 72°30'W a distance of 200 feet to a point on the 510 elevation of Lewis Smith Lake; thence Southeasterly along the 510 elevation of Smith Lake a distance of 324.0 feet to a point in the center of a hollow; thence N 54°15'E a distance of 365 feet, more or less, to a point on the Westerly right of way of Whitson Road and the point of beginning. Containing 2.0 acres, more or less. Lying and being in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

This property will be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the Office of the Judge of Probate of the County where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The purchase price must be paid in certified funds by close of business on the date of sale at the Law Office of Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. at the address indicated below. Bland, Harris & McClellan, P.C. reserves the right to award the bid to the next highest bidder should the highest bidder fail to timely tender the total amount due. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

RICKY MYREX and CINDY MYREX
By: Nancy F. McClellan, Attorney 401 2nd Avenue SW Cullman, Alabama 35055 (256) 734-4040

Unemployment (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Department of Workforce Secretary Greg Reed this week announced that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November decreased to 2.7%. This is down from November 2024's rate of 3.3%. The rate represents 65,078 unemployed persons, compared to 78,802 in November 2024.

Cullman County's November 2025 rate is 2.4%, down from 2.9% in November 2024.

"It's always a good day when we are able to announce that we've set three new records in Alabama," said Reed.

"We continue to see improvement in our labor force, including how many people are working and how many jobs our economy is supporting. We are all working together to ensure that Alabama is positioned in its best light for the upcoming new year."

The number of people counted as employed increased by 31,401 over the year to 2,312,892, a new record high. The civilian labor force also increased to 2,377,970, with 17,677 more people joining over the year.

Over the year, wage and salary employment increased by 12,400 to 2,223,800, also a new record high, with gains in the leisure and hospitality sector (+7,800), the private education and health services sector (+6,800), and the construction sector (+3,900), among others.

"This industry growth is remarkable and shows that our continued dedication to establishing and nurturing partnerships between government and business is paying off.

"Yet again, we have record high job growth across the state," continued Reed.

"Wages are at a record high. Alabama's families are realizing the fruit of our efforts, and we are committed to keeping them high."

Average weekly wages increased by $83.65 over the year to a new record high of $1,148.80.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are Shelby and Elmore counties at 2.1%, St. Clair, Morgan, Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Lee and Blount counties at 2.2%, and Lawrence, Chilton, Chambers and Autauga counties at 2.3%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are Perry County at 5.9%, Wilcox County at 5.8% and Monroe County at 5.7%.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are Trussville and Alabaster at 1.9%, Pelham, Madison, Hoover and Homewood at 2.0% and Vestavia Hills at 2.1%. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are Prichard at 5.8%, Selma at 4.9% and Anniston at 4.2%.

NOTE: Local Area Unemployment Statistics for October 2025 were not collected due to the federal government shutdown. Therefore, data is not available for October 2025. This data includes the civilian labor force, the number of people employed, the number of people unemployed and the unemployment rate.

Aderholt (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

HOOVER, Ala. — Congressman Robert Aderholt this week officially qualified to seek reelection to represent Alabama's 4th Congressional District.

According to his announcement, he is "continuing his long-standing commitment to putting the needs of north Alabama first."

The rest of Aderholt's announcement is below:

Throughout his service in Congress, Aderholt has made constituent service a top priority, maintaining a strong district presence and helping thousands of residents with veterans' benefits, Social Security, Medicare, and issues involving federal agencies.

His work has consistently focused on delivering practical results for farmers, small businesses, seniors, and working families across the 4th District.

He has also made it a priority to stand up for the most vulnerable among us with pro-life and pro-family initiatives with his work as Chairman of the House Values Action Team.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Aderholt has advocated for policies that strengthen the economy, our borders, promote American energy independence, support agriculture, maintain a strong military, and uphold conservative values important to the people of North Alabama.

President Donald J. Trump has endorsed Congressman Aderholt for reelection, calling him "a tremendous champion for Alabama's 4th Congressional District" and praising his leadership on America First priorities. In his endorsement, President Trump highlighted Aderholt's work to create jobs, cut taxes and regulations, support American manufacturing, champion farmers and ranchers, strengthen the military and veterans, secure the border, and defend the Second Amendment. President Trump concluded by giving Aderholt his "complete and total endorsement," stating, "He will never let you down."

"I am grateful for President Trump's endorsement and for the continued trust of the people of the 4th District," Aderholt said. "Serving the people of this district has always been my top priority, and I look forward to continuing that work on behalf of Alabama's 4th Congressional District."

Congressman Aderholt remains committed to representing Alabama's 4th Congressional District with integrity, accessibility, and results-driven leadership.

Key dates

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



Cullman Housing Authority's Public Housing waitlist will open for applications

to be picked up at the Administration Building, 408 Cleveland Ave SW, beginning Monday, January 12, 2026, Monday – Thursday of each business week.

The last day to pick up an application will be **Thursday, April 2, 2026.**

All applications must be returned no later than 5:00 pm by **April 23, 2026.**

No documents will be required at this time.

CULLMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
PAMELA DAUN BEARD SHADDRIX, * CASE NO.: PC2025-421
AKA PAM SHADDRIX *
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to MATTHEW DAVID SHADDRIX, as Personal Representative of the Estate of **PAMELA DAUN BEARD SHADDRIX, AKA PAM SHADDRIX**, deceased, on the 29th 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.

MATTHEW DAVID SHADDRIX
Personal Representative

J. Birch Bowdre, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
Post Office Box 530910
Birmingham, AL 35253

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 29th day of December, 2025.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-20 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 20
TO AMEND THE CITY OF CULLMAN ZONING ORDINANCE

SECTION I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify, amend, or delete portions of the current Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION II. The following section of the City of Cullman Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 62, "Zoning," Section 32(d)(1), "Lots, yards and open spaces," of the *Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama*, is hereby deleted in its entirety and amended and replaced as follows:

Sec. 62-32. Lots, yards and open spaces.

(d) Exceptions and modifications.

(1) Where a lot of record does not conform to the requirements of the applicable district, the lot may nonetheless be used as a building site upon approval by the Building Official so long as they conform as closely as possible to the requirements of the district.

(e) **REPORTING.** All determinations by the Building Official shall be reported to the Council at the next council meeting following said determination(s).

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

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

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and that holding of any provision hereof to be void and invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision which might have been held invalid. This Ordinance repeals any prior Ordinance in conflict therewith.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage by the council, approval and publication as required by law. Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-16 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 16
TO AMEND THE CITY OF CULLMAN ZONING ORDINANCE

SECTION I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify, amend, or delete portions of the current Zoning Ordinance.

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

Sec. 62-165. - Reconstruction of damaged buildings or structures.

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

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

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

d) In order to promote economic vitality, community well-being and public safety, any Blighted Property that is residential may be demolished and rebuilt within the same footprint provided that setbacks comply with the International Residential Code. Blighted Property is defined as any property and/or structure that exhibits one or more of the following conditions:

1) Structures that are unsafe, uninhabitable, or deteriorated,
2) Abandoned, vacant, or boarded buildings,
3) Repeated criminal activity or nuisance behavior involving said property,
4) Presence of mold, vermin, stagnant water, fire hazards, or other conditions harmful to health or safety,
5) Neglected, run-down and/or unsightly structures,
6) Accumulation of trash, debris, or overgrown vegetation, or
7) Conditions that pose a threat to public health or safety

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

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

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and that holding of any provision hereof to be void and invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provision which might have been held invalid. This Ordinance repeals any prior Ordinance in conflict therewith.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval and publication as required by law. Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-19 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 19
AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, Nguyen & Ha Properties, LLC, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:

PPIN: 90179. Parcel No. : 17-08-28-0-001-011.002. Property Address: Ellsworth Drive SW.
Lot #1 as shown on the attached survey prepared by Kelly L. Whitfield which is more particularly described as follows: A parcel of land being in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama, described as commencing at the locally accepted northwest corner of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of said Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 3 West; thence S 00°21'35" W 15.00 feet to a found 5/8" capped rebar "PLS 23340"; thence S 89°39'44" E 741.79 feet to a set ½"capped rebar "LS 19901", being the point of beginning; thence continuing S 89°39'44" E 322.29 feet to a set ½" capped rebar "LS 19901"; thence S 33°21'31" E 109.53 feet to a set ½" capped rebar "LS 19901"; thence S 25°55'23" E 64.64 feet to a set ½" capped rebar "LS 19901"; thence N 89°39'44" W 366.49 feet to a set ½" capped rebar "LS 19901" (being N 00°16'32" E 49.90 feet from a found ½" capped rebar); thence N 00°16'32" E 149.09 feet (passing a found ½"capped rebar at 144.14 feet), back to the point of beginning.

within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as AG-1 Agricultural District on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from AG-1 Agricultural District to R-3 Residential District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.

SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 26th day of January, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended. Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk.

The Pantry at the Link After Hours set for Jan. 13

Anabelle Howze
anabelle@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The first "After Hours" distribution at The Pantry at The Link this year is coming up Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 4:30-7 p.m. After Hours distributions are designed to serve individuals and families who are unable to visit during The Link's normal business hours.

The initiative was created in response to feedback from community members who work traditional 9-to-5 schedules and could not access the pantry during the day. The After Hours pantry aims to ensure food assistance is available to all who need it, including working families.

The After Hours distribution offers the same experience as the pantry's regular operating hours, using the organization's "neighbor's choice" model.

Visitors receive pre-packed staple items such as peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, then shop for additional items, including fresh produce, meat, eggs, cereal, snacks and other dry goods.

Families of four or fewer can expect to receive about 50 pounds of food, while larger households typically receive around 80 pounds.

First-time visitors do not need proof of income or residency. An ID is preferred but not required. Guests check in through the double glass doors facing Ninth Street, complete a brief intake process and are paired with a personal shopper who assists them through the pantry and helps load groceries into their vehicle. Return visits take significantly less time.

After Hours distributions are once per month on the first Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates include Jan. 13, Feb. 3, March 3 and April 7. Organizers said they hope to add additional nights as demand increases.

The Link of Cullman County is located at 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman. Get more information at www.linkingcullman.org.



Ollie's (from Front)

he said.

"Having the right size building, the right timing and synergy all finally came together to make this deal happen."

He said Drinkard Development's relationship with Ollie's has developed across multiple states.

"Our relationship with Ollie's first started in Kentucky, then later in Tennessee and now we are pleased to open them in Alabama," Grimmett said. "They will be a great community partner for Cullman."

Grimmett also noted several product categories Ollie's is known for nationwide.

"Ollie's prides themselves on their book sales and the amount of rugs and carpets they offer," he said.

What is Ollie's Bargain Outlet?

Founded in 1982 in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Ollie's Bargain Outlet began as a single closeout store and has grown into one of the largest closeout retailers in the United States.

The company operates under the slogan "Good Stuff Cheap" and focuses on selling brand-name merchandise at deeply discounted prices.

Ollie's business model centers on purchasing excess inventory, overstock and closeout merchandise from manufacturers and other retailers.

Because inventory changes frequently, each store offers a rotating selection of products that may include housewares, toys, books, food and candy, electronics, rugs and flooring, seasonal merchandise and home décor.

Unlike many national retailers, Ollie's places an emphasis on in-store shopping rather than online sales, creating a value-driven "treasure hunt" experience for customers.

Before the Cullman store opens, local shoppers often travel to nearby Ollie's locations.

The nearest stores include Jasper, located approximately 50 miles southwest of Cullman, and Albertville, located approximately 70 miles southeast of Cullman.

Additional Ollie's locations operate farther away in cities such as Birmingham and Anniston, making the Cullman location a closer option for value-oriented shoppers in Cullman County and surrounding areas once it opens.

Why Ollie's is expanding into former Big Lots locations

Ollie's expansion into Cullman aligns with a broader national growth strategy centered on acquiring and repurposing former big-box retail spaces.

The company has outlined plans to open dozens of new stores nationwide through 2026, with a focus on locations that match its preferred footprint and customer base.

As part of that effort, Ollie's has acquired a significant number of former Big Lots store leases following Big Lots' bankruptcy and liquidation process.

Industry analysts have noted that former Big Lots locations are often well suited for Ollie's stores due to building size, layout and established retail corridors.

This strategy allows Ollie's to expand efficiently while bringing discount retail back into communities that lost similar stores.

Cullman's Town Square Shopping Center fits that model, providing an existing retail structure and a market with demonstrated demand for value-oriented shopping.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 6-7

Joseph D. Villa, 75
Funeral services for Joseph D. Villa, 75, of Hanceville will be 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday, Jan. 8, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Villa was born June 18, 1950, in Lorrain, Ohio. He passed away January 3, 2026, in Hanceville, Alabama at his residence. Mr. Villa passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and meaningful connections. Throughout his life, Joseph loved deeply—his family, his friends, and the many moments that made life special. He had a generous heart and a warm spirit that drew people to him, and in return, he was truly loved by many. Those who knew Joseph will remember his caring nature, his ability to make others feel valued, and the quiet strength with which he lived his life. His memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him, and his love will continue to live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind. Mr. Villa is survived by his wife, Charlotte Villa; children, Bret Villa (Sherry), Scot Villa, Chris Villa (Kim); grandchildren, Joseph "Hunter" Villa, Mason Villa, Kaite Villa, Cassidy Villa; siblings, Darlene Miller, Linda Rayl, Candy Villa; mother-in-law, Martha Nell Hinkle Green; a host of nieces and nephews; and beloved dog, Daisy. Mr. Villa was preceded in death by his parents, Josepha & Juanita Villa; and his aunt and uncle, Phil & Bonnie Nolen.

Bethany K. Chambers, 56
Funeral services for Bethany K. Chambers, of Hanceville, Alabama, will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Garden City Cemetery. Bro. Ron Collett will officiate services. The family will welcome guests for visitation on Tuesday, January 6th at Hanceville Funeral Home from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mrs. Chambers was born on April 11, 1969, to the late Vernon Lee and Lady Elan Alvis in Cullman. She passed away at the age of 56 on Jan. 4, 2026 at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. Beth was a loving and caring woman who showed her love through her home and her cooking. To know her was to love her, and her sweet spirit and kind heart will be missed by all who were blessed to know her. Survivors include her husband, Tony Chambers; children, Cody Chambers (Tabatha Gerry), Taylor Hooks (Geremy) and Emma Chambers (Patrick McKeehan); niece Jacey Alvis; brother-in-law, Tim Chambers (Amy). In addition to her parents, Mrs. Chambers was preceded in death by her sister, Connie Thompson; and brother, Tony Alvis. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Chambers Family.

Elizabeth Smith Stewart, 91
Elizabeth Smith Stewart, a faithful, adventurous, and sweet soul, passed away on Jan. 3, 2026, at the age of 91. Born on March 25, 1934, Elizabeth lived a life marked by deep faith, curiosity, kindness, and joy, and was a cherished resident of Cullman, Alabama. Elizabeth is survived by her loving husband, Warren S. Stewart, Jr.; her devoted daughters, Sharon Stewart Fenstermaker and Melinda Stewart Harbison; and her son, Warren Sterling Stewart III. She is also survived by her beloved grandson, Michael Sterling Harbison, and her brother, Larry Joe Smith. She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Ruth Gable Smith. Elizabeth graduated from J.B. Pennington High School and the University of Alabama, where she proudly served on the university's first basketball cheerleading squad and remained a lifelong Alabama football fan. She put her business degree to good use throughout her varied career, serving as a financial secretary at First Baptist Church Atlanta and later as a Social Security court reporter among many other roles. It was at First Baptist Church Atlanta that she met and married her husband, Warren. A devoted mother and grandmother, Elizabeth dearly loved her church communities and formed lifelong friendships at First Baptist Church Atlanta and First Baptist Church Cullman. She was a well-loved and respected Sunday School teacher whose faith and example touched many. Elizabeth loved to travel, especially to the beach, and she found joy in cooking, reading, and sharing her sharp sense of humor. A dedicated recycler, animal lover (particularly of cats), and fashion enthusiast inspired by her seamstress mother, Elizabeth embraced life with enthusiasm and care. Above all, she adored her grandson and delighted in every moment with her family. Elizabeth was truly a force of nature who lived a beautiful life of faith, leaving a legacy of love and a standard worth emulating. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Jan. 8, from 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, Alabama. Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Food Ministry at First Baptist Church Cullman.

Roger Dale Wilson, 80
Roger Dale Wilson, aged 80, passed away on Jan. 4, 2026. He was born on Jan. 9, 1945. Roger was a resident of Cullman, Alabama. Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Eddy Wilson; his mother, Edith Nancy Wilson; his father, Gid Kirkland Wilson; his sisters, Peggy Parker, Nancy Kramer, Nelda Graves, and Corinda Wilson; and his brothers, Jim Wilson, Harold Wilson, Frank Wilson, Bill Wilson, and Hardy Wilson. He is survived by his daughter, Wendy Waldrep (Will); his sons, Ronnie Wilson (Lisa) and Bobby Wilson (Lynnette); his sisters, Debbie Bennett (Terry), Brenda Neace (Shiloh (deceased)), and Cinda Childress. He is also survived by six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends. Honorary pallbearers will be Greyson Wilson, Corbin Wilson, Jack Wilson, Parker Vandergrift, Phoenix Wilson, and Weston Waldrep. A Celebration of Life Visitation will be held on Jan. 7, 2026, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, Cullman, Alabama. This will be followed by a Celebration of Life Funeral Service from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the same location. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Roger's memory to St. Jude's Hospital. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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