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The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 153 • 50¢ PER COPY | *TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 99

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

— SPORTS —

Addison dominant in 53-6 jamboree win vs. Marion County

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2 more defendants reach plea agreements in Hanceville Police Department corruption case

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

Eric and Donna Kelso ask court to schedule plea hearings; four of six defendants now have agreements with prosecutors

CULLMAN, Ala. — Two more defendants charged in the Hanceville Police Department corruption case have reached plea agreements with state prosecutors, bringing the number of defendants moving toward negotiated pleas to four.

Former Hanceville Reserve Officer Eric Michael Kelso and his wife, » PAGE 6





CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Former Hanceville Reserve Officer Eric Michael Kelso and his wife, Donna Reid Kelso, have filed motions asking the Cullman County Circuit Court to schedule hearings at which they can formally enter negotiated pleas. The terms of their agreements have not been made public.

South Cullman KFC closes, ending family's 58-year franchise history



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Crews remove branding from the former south Cullman KFC on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026, following the restaurant's final shift Sunday. The Alabama Highway 157 KFC remains open under a separate franchisee.

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The KFC restaurant in the South Cullman Shopping Center has permanently closed, bringing an end to the Kohl and Weir family's 58-year history as KFC franchise operators.

The restaurant at 1620 Second Ave. SW completed its final shift Sunday, Aug. 16.

Crews were at the property Monday removing the restaurant's exterior branding, including the iconic red-and-white KFC bucket sign.

The family cited slowing business, changing consumer preferences and increased competition within Cullman's restaurant market as reasons for the closure.

"This has been an extremely difficult decision," Owner Kent Weir said.

The family's Kentucky Fried Chicken business began in Cullman in 1968 when Jack and Blanche Kohl opened their original "chicken store" with assistance from their youngest daughter, Mimi.

That restaurant operated at the location now occupied by Glover's Market on the city's southwest side. Kent and Mimi Weir marked their 30th year as KFC franchisees in 2026, while the Kohl family's connection to the brand extended across nearly six decades.

"This original 'chicken store' has been part of the Kohl and Weir family and the Cullman community for generations," Weir said.

Jack and Blanche Kohl, along with Mimi's brother, Larue, and his wife, Jane, expanded the family's KFC business into Guntersville, Boaz, Arab, Hartselle and Hanceville over the years.

The south Cullman restaurant was the family's final remaining KFC location.

Weir said the restaurant industry bears little resemblance to the market in which the family opened its original Cullman restaurant in 1968.

For much of KFC's history, the restaurant primarily competed against other businesses serving traditional bone-in fried chicken meals. Competition has since expanded to include restaurants specializing in chicken tenders, nuggets and sandwiches, along with burger restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores selling prepared chicken.

"The number of places selling chicken in Cullman today is remarkable," Weir said.

Cullman's continued population, commercial and restaurant growth has provided consumers with considerably more dining options than were available during much of the south Cullman KFC's history.

Weir said the restaurant was no longer competing solely with another fried chicken business across town. Instead, it faced competition from » PAGE 3

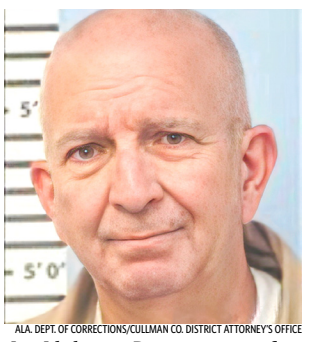
Cat left outside Cullman County Animal Shelter sparks discussion over surrender rules



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

An adult female cat was left outside the Cullman County Animal Shelter before the facility opened Monday, Aug. 17, 2026. Shelter officials said the cat was found in a filthy carrier without water after being unattended for approximately one hour. The cat is doing well and will be offered for adoption following a seven-day holding period. » PAGE 5

James Doss transferred to state prison to serve 325-year sentence



ALA. DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS/CULLMAN CO. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

An Alabama Department of Corrections record posted by Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker lists James Michael Doss at Kilby Correctional Facility with a total prison term of 325 years. » PAGE 4

CPD Officer Daniel Brown earns advanced hostage negotiation certification



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cullman Police Officer Daniel Brown and Cullman Police Chief Joey Duncan » PAGE 5

Hanceville awaits insurance answer on possible return of police department; council approves higher deductibles, fire gear

» PAGE 6



CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Aug. 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Aug. 17, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Aug. 13

- trafficking drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; US. 231
- reckless endangerment; US. 31
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 222

Aug. 14

- criminal mischief; CR 54
- domestic violence; Hwy. 278W
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 463
- harassing communications; CR 571
- reckless endangerment; menacing; assault; CR 395
- domestic violence; CR 4
- domestic violence; CR 1196
- harassment; CR 1817
- trespassing; 4th St. SW
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; 1st Ave. NE Hanceville

Aug. 15

- trafficking drugs; tampering with physical evidence; Beech Ave. SE
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Countryside Acres
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1718
- harassing communications; CR 571
- harassment; CR 1303
- harassment; CR 127
- harassment; Whaley Ave. NE
- harassing communications; CR 747

Aug. 16

- discharging firearms into unoccupied dwelling; CR 1830
- domestic violence; CR 730
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 565
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; Summit Rd.

ARRESTS

Aug. 13-16

Auston, Jacob N.; 32
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Bates, Jason C.; 59
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Branch, Karen M.; 30
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Brock, Karlee R.; 42
- PROBATION REVOKED – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Denton, Sara J.; 32
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)

Farmer, Rachel N.; 34
- PROBATION VIOLATION – fraudulent use of credit/debit card

Goodwin, Todd E.; 30
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hancock, Patrick H.; 42
- FTA – sex offense-electronic solicitation of a child

Hankins, Joshua J.; 37
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hillman Tucker, Alli M.; 19
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts0
- FTA – expired license
- FTA – improper lights

James, Joseph M.; 44
- FTA – obstructing justice using a false identity
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Johns, Deann E.; 61
- theft of property-2nd degree - theft of a firearm, rifle, or shotgun, regardless of its value

Joseph II, Peter A.; 60
- FTA – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500
- FTA – counterfeiting
- drug trafficking
- tampering with physical evidence

Kennedy, Cynthia M.; 51
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Kreps, Steven J.; 33
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Lee, William B.; 48
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Loggins, James B.; 46
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- PROBATION VIOLATION – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (no theft or damage) (2 counts)
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-residence-no force (2 counts)

Luker, Joshua J.; 32
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Malcom, Rodney, 59
- assault-harassment

Martin, Jennifer G.; 42
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous

Murray, Sr., Tevin O.; 30
- PROBATION VIOLATION – attempt to commit a crime-class B felony (aggravated assault)

Nelson, Kimberly W.; 52
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Pope, Rebecca A.; 37
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Powell, Nathan A.; 35
- theft of property-4th degree – other motor vehicle-does not exceed $500

Riggs, Destiny V.; 26
- PROBATION VIOLATION – burglary-residence-force (2 counts)

Smith, Mason C.; 26
- DUI (alcohol)

Thrower, Jeremy S.; 42
- FTA – possessing stolen property, $1500 or more
- FTA – attempting to elude a police/law enforcement officer-serious injury or death/speed exceeds 20 mph over limit
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – manufacture, sale, use, etc., of synthetic urine or urine

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Aug. 11
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157

Aug. 14
- theft of property; The Foundry; miscellaneous; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of property-1st degree; person; phone, IPAD, miscellaneous; $2,740
- theft of property; Mary Carter Store; miscellaneous; 4th St. SE
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $41; Olive St. SW

Aug. 15
- harassing communications; person
- criminal mischief-1st degree; person; damaged property; $50,000

Aug. 16
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree; menacing; harassment; person; Heritage Way SE.

ARRESTS

Aug. 14-16

Millian, Dei Santia; 20
- theft of property-4th degree

Ferrandis, Carin; 20
- theft of property-4th degree

Sheffield, Harold S.; 23
- DUI

Carter, Sue; 71
- public intoxication

Gomez, Latasha L.; 37
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – insurance violation

Defoe, Reagan E.; 22
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment

Shubert, Erica A.; 36
- DUI

Prentiss, Kimberly A.; 48
- false reporting to law enforcement

Watwood, Jason L.; 51
- unlawful distribution of controlled substances
- possession with intent to distribute controlled substance
- 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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ADCNR: Regulation change allows for bass harvest at Duck River Reservoir

Staff Reports
Contributor



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Duck River Reservoir

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has implemented a regulation change for the Duck River Reservoir in Cullman.

The revised regulation establishes a 14- to 22-inch protective slot limit for black bass. Anglers may harvest black bass less than 14 inches in total length and one black bass greater than 22 inches as part of the new 10-fish daily creel limit.

Based on the current fish population structure in the lake, harvest of black bass can occur without negatively affecting the overall health of the bass fishery.

The reservoir was previously managed under a no-harvest regulation for black bass since opening to anglers in 2018.

The regulation change provides anglers an opportunity to harvest a reasonable limit of black bass while continuing to maintain the reservoir's quality bass fishery.

A fishing license (https://myoutdooralabama.com) is required for residents ages 16-64 and all non-residents 16 and up to fish at the Duck River Reservoir. Learn more about this 640-acre man-made reservoir at www.cullmanal.gov/235/Duck-River-Reservoir.

ADCNR promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Learn more at www.outdooralabama.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

• The Cullman County Special Education Program is seeking to locate children with disabilities ages 0-21 within the Cullman County School District. Ages 0-3 call Kristie Smith, 256-734-3253. Ages 3-21 call Katie Meigs, Special Education Coordinator, 256-739-0486, Ext 2.

• The system is also seeking to locate intellectually gifted and talented children, with the emphasis on second-grade students.

• Contact Special Education Coordinator Katie Meigs at 17600 U.S. Highway 31 N, Cullman, Al 35058.

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 North Alabama Agriplex Heritage Building. 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

• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman

• 256-739-3326

• spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com

• FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman

• Wednesday, Aug. 19 – 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area 5:15-5:30. Call Aimee at 256-841-2060 for pickup.

• Friday, Aug. 21 – Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Dinner at 6 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.

• Sunday, Aug. 23 – 8:15 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.

Shirley Burden Public Library in Hanceville

• The library is open Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (closed from noon-1 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Join us on Facebook for weekly details or please feel free to call us at 256-352-0685. Follow Facebook/Hanceville Public Library for event details.

• Tuesday, Aug. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Teenage club art project – making fall leaves out of cans

• Wednesday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. Storytime with college volunteer

• Wednesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m. Children's book club and storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs

• Friday, Aug. 28, 6 p.m. Poetry night – amateurs welcome!

• Wednesday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. Storytime with teenager Savannah Kesick reading "Frog & Toad"

• Thursday, Sept. 3, 1-3 p.m. Crochet class. Bring your own design, beginner lessons available or make a baby hat

• Wednesday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. Storytime with Suhana Chitatia, board member

• Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. Storytime with Gracie Miller, volunteer

• Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. Storytime with Susan Melton "Ten Red Apples" by Pat Hutchins

• Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs, children's book club

• We are looking for community volunteers to read storytime on Wednesdays. Contact Teresa Rivera for details. Volunteers make our library successful, so we thank our local community.

Sacred Heart Church Christmas in September

Saturday, Sept. 19, 7 a.m. -7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Shop for gently used holiday decorations in the Sacred Heart Church gym. Proceeds go to St. Vincent DePaul.

Sacred Heart Church German Dinner

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 4-7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church gym. Traditional German food, $15 per plate. Dine in or take out.

Little Pink Dress Benefit

Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Stone Bridge Farms. Tickets on sale now! www.cullmanbosombuddies.com/service/little-pink-dress-event

KFC (from Front)

nearly every segment of Cullman's expanding restaurant and prepared-food market.

The closure does not leave Cullman without a KFC restaurant. The location at 5799 Alabama Highway 157 is operated by a separate KFC franchisee and remains open.

The closure announcement did not identify a future use for the south Cullman property.

The Kohl and Weir family thanked the generations of employees, customers and families who supported the business throughout its 58 years in Cullman.



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Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 18, 2026

CHS introduces new athletic trainer for 2026-2027 school year

Trent Moore
Cullman City Schools

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman High School has a new athletic trainer for the 2026-2027 school year, who will be working across all sports this fall, winter and spring.

Patrick Johnson, from Madison, Alabama, has joined CHS athletics as the school's new athletic trainer. Johnson is a graduate of St. John Paul II Catholic High School, and attended Auburn University at Montgomery and Bridgewater College in Virginia. He holds a master's degree in athletic training, and is employed as an Athletic Trainer with Baptist Health. CHS has partnered with Baptist Health to provide athletic training outreach this season.

"I am ecstatic about having the opportunity to be a part of the CHS sports

program," Johnson said. "I look forward to bringing my experiences and knowledge to help provide amazing care for our CHS student athletes."

Johnson brings a wealth of experience to the role, having worked sports at the collegiate level at the University of Tennessee football program, and previously spent six years working as an athletic trainer in Blount County. He has previously worked with JB Pennington High School, Susan Moore High School and Hayden High School.

"As the school athletic trainer, I am a state-licensed healthcare professional dedicated to ensuring the health, safety, and performance of our student-athletes. My role encompasses injury prevention, immediate on-field care, clinical assessment, and comprehensive rehabilitation for sports-related injuries and illnesses," Johnson said. "Beyond providing coverage for practices, games, and tournaments year-round, I work closely with physicians, physical therapists, coaches and parents to ensure a seamless recovery and safely get our athletes back in the game. While no single trainer can be at every event, I am always available to coordinate the care of all Bearcats!"

Johnson is married to his wife, Jessica, and the two have a 2-year-old daughter, Melodie.



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Patrick Johnson with his wife, Jessica, and daughter, Melodie

PREP FOOTBALL

Addison dominant in 53-6 jamboree win vs. Marion County

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — The preseason third-ranked 1A Addison Bulldogs hosted the Marion County Red Raiders for a jamboree game on Friday night and, in dominant fashion, took down the Red Raiders 53-6. This game was never close, and the only thing that the Bulldogs found out about themselves is that they may be deeper than they thought, with their second-and-third-stringers defeating the Red Raiders' starters 12-0 in the second half with a running clock. It must be said that Marion County's starting quarterback was injured and will miss the first few games of the season, but it may not have mattered much in this game.

Addison received the opening kickoff (kicks and punts were non-returnable in this game) and started their first possession at their own 25-yard line. On the games' first offensive snap, Bulldog senior quarterback Elijah Roberts found Conner Lane streaking down the seam for a 75-yard touchdown pass, with Lane going in untouched. Lane then kicked the extra point, and with only 15 seconds off the clock Addison led 7-0, foreshadowing the rest of the night.

On Marion County's first play, Raider freshman quarterback Jaxson Seals found Elijah Belk for a nice 11-yard pass and a first down. The next three plays netted the Raiders negative 14 yards, and they had to punt.

Addison's second possession started out badly, as the Bulldogs found themselves facing a first-and-25 after a penalty from their own 45-yard line. An 11-yard Zane Smith run, and a 19-yard pass from Roberts to Smith gave them a first down at the Raiders' 19. After a nice 11-yard pass from Roberts to Tanner Gaither put the ball down to the Raider eight, Roberts ran it in from there for the Dawgs' second touchdown. The extra point was no good, and with 8:50 to go in the first quarter Addison led 13-0.

The next big play for the 'Dawgs, Lane picked off a Raider pass and returned it 38 yards down to the Raider two-yard line. Addison's Smith rambled in from two yards out on the next play and Lane added the extra point, and Addison had jumped out to a 20-0 lead with still 4:57 left in the opening quarter.

After forcing another Raider punt, Addison fumbled the ball away on their own 38-yard line with Raider Desmond Smith scooping up the ball and returning it down to the Bulldog 16-yard line. The Raiders facing a second-and-9 from the Dawg fifteen, Seals threw a nice pass, and Roman Bellamy made a great catch over the Bulldog defender, who had good coverage, for the Raider touchdown. The extra point was no good, and the score stood at 20-6, Addison, with 1:18 to go in the first quarter.

Addison scored again on their first play from scrimmage, as Roberts found Ben Bridges for a 70-yard catch and run for the touchdown. Lane kicked the extra point, and at the end of the first quarter, Addison held a commanding 27-6 lead.

After another Raider punt, Addison took over at their own 45-yard line. Addison got down to the Raider 33-yard line, but penalties pushed them all the back to the 44-yard line of the Raiders, and Addison faced a fourth-and-20.

Bulldog Head Man Mark Hastings decided to go for it, and Roberts found Gaither streaking across the middle for a 44-yard touchdown pass. The Lane extra point made it 34-6 with 6:27 left in the first half.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison freshman running back Kash Turner running away from Marion Co. defenders in the Bulldogs' 53-6 jamboree win

Addison was able to stop Marion County on downs at the Dawg 29-yard line, and took over with just 32 seconds left in the half. After Roberts found Lane on two consecutive 9-yard passes, Addison had the ball at their own 44 with six seconds left on the clock.

Roberts then hit Scout Flynn with a short pass, and Flynn went down the home sideline, running over three Raiders for a touchdown from 56 yards out on the last play of the half. The extra point was good by Lane, and Addison led 41-6 at halftime.

The second half was played with a running clock, and the Dawgs scored on a Smith 43-yard run to put Addison up 47-6. Addison's young ones had a Kash Turner 1-yard run for the final score, sealing a 53-6 Addison win.

The Addison defense held Marion County to only crossing midfield twice, while the offense did anything they wanted. Addison will travel to Winston County High School next Friday to take on their arch rival 2A Yellow Jackets in the regular seasonn opener.

Unofficial stats

Addison ran 15 total passing plays for 326 total yards, and 18 total rushing plays for 173 total yards. In 33 overall plays, the Bulldogs racked up 499 yards of offense. Marion County, however, ran 15 total pass plays for 42 yards and 30 total running plays for a total of 112 total yards, only amassing 154 total yards on 45 plays.

Addison's Roberts was 8-8 passing with 261 yards and three touchdowns, and Zeke Wiggins was 2-5 for 65 yards and a touchdown.

The Bulldogs rushing attack was led by Zane Smith, who had four carries for 57 yards and two touchdowns. Joey Wilson had three carries for 41 yards and Turner had four carries for 36 yards and a touchdown. Additionally, Roberts had two carries for 21 yards and a touchdown.

Receiving, the 'Dawgs were led by Lane with four catches for 105 yards and a touchdown. Next, Flynn had one catch for 56 yards and a touchdown and Gaither had two catches for 55 yards and a touchdown. Bridges also had one catch for 70 yards and a touchdown, Silas Frazier had one catch for 21 yards and Smith had one catch for 19 yards.

On defense, Addison was led by Nick Nail with four tackles, followed by Smith and Major Snoddy with three each. Roberts, Brady Daniel, Skylar Cleghorn, Turner and Caleb Gregory also had two each.

Doss (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — James Michael Doss, 67, of Cullman County, has been transferred to state prison to serve a 325-year sentence imposed after he pleaded guilty to 12 child sex crime charges, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker announced.

Doss was transported Thursday, Aug. 13, to Kilby Correctional Facility in Montgomery County. An Alabama Department of Corrections record accompanying Crocker's announcement lists Doss at Kilby under Alabama Institutional Serial No. 00345372 and reflects a total prison term of 325 years.

"This is the final chapter in a long fight to hold Doss accountable for his unspeakable crimes," Crocker said.

Crocker thanked those who participated in the prosecution, giving particular recognition to the victims who came forward and continued pursuing justice throughout the case.

Doss pleaded guilty Feb. 13 to two counts of first-degree sodomy, two counts of sexual abuse of a child younger than 12, one count of production of child pornography and seven counts of possession of child pornography.

Doss entered what is known as a blind plea, meaning he pleaded guilty without an agreement with prosecutors establishing his sentence. The case had been scheduled for trial March 9.

Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Emily Niezer Johnston sentenced Doss on April 8 to a combined 325 years in prison. The sentences were ordered to be served consecutively.

Following the sentencing, Crocker said Doss showed no remorse. Crocker credited the victims with helping prosecutors secure a result that would prevent him from reoffending.

Crocker also praised the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and members of the district attorney's office for their work on the case.

The investigation began in 2020 after multiple victims came forward.

Doss, then a 61-year-old Bremen resident, was initially arrested on two counts of sexual abuse of a child younger than 12, two counts of first-degree sodomy and one count of producing obscene material depicting a child younger than 17.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office said at the time that investigators determined the abuse occurred over a period of many years.

The case later expanded to include the seven possession charges that were among the 12 counts to which Doss pleaded guilty.

Sheriff Matt Gentry said investigators moved quickly after the victims came forward, following leads that ultimately resulted in Doss' arrest.

The Tribune has followed this case since Doss' initial arrest in 2020, through his guilty plea earlier this year and his April sentencing.

www.cullmantribune.com/2020/10/05/bremen-man-charged-with-multiple-sex-crimes-involving-children

www.cullmantribune.com/2026/02/13/james-doss-pleads-guilty-to-12-child-sex-crime-charges

www.cullmantribune.com/2026/04/08/james-doss-sentenced-to-325-years-in-sex-crimes-against-children-case

Kilby Correctional Facility is a maximum-security facility for men operated by the Alabama Department of Corrections.

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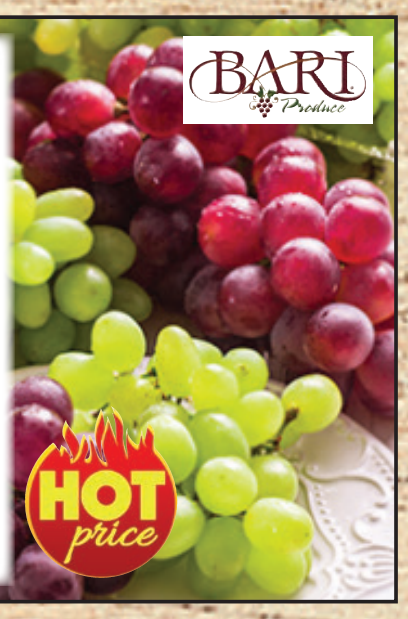
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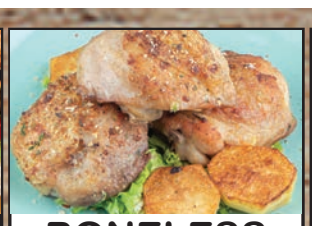
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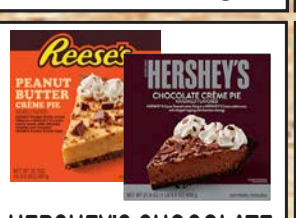
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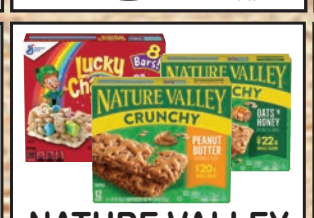
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Discussion (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — An adult female cat left unattended outside the Cullman County Animal Shelter before it opened Monday morning has prompted questions about the difference between legally surrendering an animal and abandoning one on shelter property.

Cullman County Animal Shelter Director Andrea Hudson told The Tribune the cat was left at approximately 7:54 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17. Although some early social media discussion referred to multiple kittens, Hudson confirmed that the incident involved one adult female cat.

Hudson said the shelter was closed when the cat was left in what she described as a filthy carrier without water. The animal remained unattended for approximately one hour before being discovered.

The cat is doing well and will remain safely at the shelter through a seven-day holding period before being made available for adoption, Hudson said.

Cullman County Animal Control Director Rodney Banister said the person had not been identified as of Monday. No criminal charge or citation had been announced.

The incident generated divided reactions online, including questions about why leaving an animal at the shelter would not constitute surrendering it.

Hudson said surrender is a formal process requiring contact with shelter employees, verification of information and a signed transfer of custody.

"Leaving an animal on shelter property without consent from an employee is considered abandonment, period," Hudson said. "This causes multiple problems, including the safety of the animal."

Shelter hours and intake procedures

The Cullman County Animal Shelter, located at 935 Convent Road NE, is open to the public from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. A sign on the property states that animals may not be left before operating hours without registration and warns that violators may be prosecuted.

Cullman County lists separate Animal Control complaint hours of 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those hours do not create an unattended animal drop-off period.

Hudson said owner surrenders are accepted when the shelter has available space. An appointment may be required, although staff members try to avoid long waits whenever possible.

Anyone surrendering an owned animal or presenting a stray must provide a driver's license and proof of Cullman County residency. The person signing the shelter's legal paperwork must be at least 19 years old.

Cullman County does not charge a fee to deliver a stray or complete an owner surrender.

For an owner surrender, custody transfers to the shelter once the required legal document is signed. Simply placing an animal outside the building does not complete that transfer.

People presenting an animal as a true stray must sign a document stating that the animal does not belong to them or anyone they know and that it has been in their care for fewer than seven days.

The person must also disclose whether the animal has bitten or otherwise injured a person or another animal within the preceding 10 days.

Hudson said intentionally providing false information on the document could result in an arrest.

Why the information matters

Shelter employees need to know where an animal came from, whether it may have been exposed to rabies or another disease, whether it has displayed aggression and whether it belongs to someone who may be searching for it.

"We as staff don't know a history of the animal," Hudson said. "Is it sick? Has it been exposed to anything like rabies? Was it just found, and if so, where? Is the animal from another county? There are a lot of factors that go into taking an animal."

Stray animals are held for seven days to provide their owners an opportunity to locate and reclaim them. After that period, an unclaimed animal may become available for adoption.

Hudson said the holding period also places unavoidable demands on shelter capacity. If seven stray dogs enter the shelter in one day, those animals occupy seven kennels throughout the holding period, regardless of how many additional animals arrive.

Routine owner surrenders involving contagious illness or aggression are not accepted because of the potential danger to other animals and the public, Hudson said. Injured, elderly, pregnant and very young animals may be considered individually.

The county's published website states that owner surrenders cannot be sick or injured, aggressive, pregnant or older than 10.

Because Hudson said some of those circumstances may be evaluated case by case, residents should call the shelter before bringing an animal with special medical, behavioral or age-related needs.

Why there is no 24-hour drop-off area

Hudson said a round-the-clock surrender area would require 24-hour staffing, additional capacity and facilities capable of safely separating animals whose health and behavioral histories are unknown.

"If we had a 24-hour surrender process, we would be over capacity in less than 24 hours," Hudson said.

An unattended intake area could also place healthy animals in contact with contagious ones or allow aggressive animals to injure others.

"It is not feasible, and it is not a safe situation at all," Hudson said. "We would have no history on the animals."

What to do after hours

Anyone who finds a stray or an animal requiring assistance after regular hours should contact the Cullman County Sheriff's Office nonemergency dispatch line rather than leave the animal outside the shelter.

That number is 256-735-2425. Dispatch can contact Animal Control when appropriate.

Call 911 when an animal-related situation presents an immediate threat to human life or safety.

What Alabama law says

Banister directed The Tribune to Alabama Code Sections 13A-11-240 and 13A-11-241, which address cruelty to dogs and cats.

Section 13A-11-240 is a definitions section. It defines "cruel" as an act, omission or neglect, including abandonment, through which unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering is caused or allowed to continue.

The section does not independently create a criminal charge. Its definitions are used in the related criminal provisions of Section 13A-11-241.

Under Section 13A-11-241, a person commits first-degree cruelty to a dog or cat by intentionally torturing the animal or engaging in certain conduct involving its fur, hide or pelt. First-degree cruelty is a Class C felony.

The statute defines second-degree cruelty as cruelly overloading, overdriving, depriving of necessary sustenance or shelter, beating, injuring or mutilating a dog or cat or causing such conduct to occur. Second-degree cruelty is a Class A misdemeanor.

"There are procedures in place to surrender animals," Banister said. "The shelter works extremely hard to help people. Leaving an animal without proper water in the dangerous temperatures anywhere confined in a carrier is a crime. Abandoning an animal anywhere is not acceptable."

Nothing provided to The Tribune alleges that the cat was intentionally tortured. Whether leaving the cat unattended without water satisfies the elements of second-degree cruelty or another offense must be determined by investigators, prosecutors and, if a charge is filed, the courts.

No person had been charged in connection with Monday's incident as of publication.

Hudson said the shelter's immediate concern was the danger created when the cat was left without water, supervision or a completed intake history.

"Animals should never be discarded at any location, period, especially without water or food," Hudson said. "They deserve better. Animal ownership is a privilege, not a necessity.

"Regardless of what people may say or believe, we are here for the safety and well-being of the animals in our care, and we do everything we can to make a better tomorrow for them."

The Cullman County Animal Shelter can be reached at 256-734-5448.

Brown (from Front)

Noah Galilee
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Police Officer Daniel Brown has completed the final phase of an intensive hostage and crisis negotiation training program, giving the department another advanced resource for resolving some of the most volatile situations officers can encounter without the use of force.

Brown completed the 40-hour Hostage Negotiations, Phase III course through the Public Agency Training Council in Alabama Aug. 3-7. The course was taught by retired New York City Police Department hostage negotiator Jack Cambria.

The Cullman Police Department said completion of the third phase gives Brown full certification as an Advanced Primary Negotiator.

The designation represents considerably more than attendance at a single training course.

PATC requires negotiators seeking its certification to complete all three phases of its hostage negotiation curriculum. Phase III is available only to officers who previously completed PATC's Phase I and II training.

Brown completed Phase I and II earlier this year in training hosted by the Hoover Police Department and also taught by Cambria, according to CPD.

At the conclusion of Phase III, participants face a 50-question examination covering material from all three phases and must score at least 75% to receive certification.

Each participant is also evaluated on his or her ability to perform the responsibilities of a primary negotiator. PATC's hostage negotiation certification is valid for two years before recertification is required.

What the training covers

Phase III moves beyond the fundamentals of establishing communication with a person in crisis.

PATC says the advanced curriculum covers management of hostage negotiation teams and scenes, evaluating hostage and barricade situations, suicidal-risk analysis, negotiations involving people experiencing mental illness, managing threatening situations, psychological threat assessment, stress and anxiety management and communication involving people affected by post-traumatic stress disorder.

The earlier phases include active listening, rapport building, crisis communication, management of demands, stress management and coordination among negotiators, tactical teams and incident commanders.

Participants also work through practical and scenario-based exercises designed to simulate actual crisis negotiations.

For residents, that distinction matters.

Hostage negotiation training is not limited to the movie-style scenario of someone holding another person at gunpoint.

Negotiators may be called during barricaded-subject incidents, suicidal crises, encounters involving people experiencing severe emotional or psychological distress and other situations in which establishing communication can help officers create time, gather information and work toward a safer resolution.

Having an officer trained and tested to perform the primary-negotiator role gives CPD an additional tool when a situation has reached the point where ordinary communication between a patrol officer and a person in crisis may no longer be sufficient.

It does not guarantee that every critical incident can be resolved peacefully. Rather, it gives the department specialized capability to attempt de-escalation and negotiation while commanders and tactical personnel manage the overall safety of the scene.

"This specialized training prepares officers to respond to some of the most challenging and high-pressure situations in law enforcement," CPD Chief Joey Duncan said. "It builds advanced skills in communication, crisis intervention, de-escalation, active listening and developing strategies to safely resolve critical incidents while protecting lives."

Nearly four years with CPD

Brown has served with the Cullman Police Department for nearly four years.

Archived department records show Brown was among three new officer candidates sworn in by Mayor Woody Jacobs on Sept. 26, 2022.

Since then, Brown has worked patrol assignments and participated in community outreach programs in addition to pursuing specialized crisis-negotiation training.

CPD identified Brown among officers who assisted during a December 2025 traffic stop that resulted in a fentanyl trafficking arrest, and the department has also featured him during community programs with local children.

Training under former NYPD negotiation commander

Cambria brings decades of crisis-response experience to the program.

According to PATC, Cambria served 33 1/2 years with the NYPD, including 16 years with its Emergency Service Unit, which provides tactical, rescue and counterterrorism services.

He commanded the NYPD Hostage Negotiation Team for the final 14 years of his career. In that position, Cambria coordinated more than 100 negotiators responding to hostage-related incidents throughout New York City and was responsible for training and certifying new negotiators as well as providing refresher training for existing team members.

PATC, founded in 1987 and based in Indianapolis, describes itself as the nation's largest privately owned law enforcement training organization and offers hundreds of specialized public-safety training programs.

That distinction is important when describing Brown's credential. The certification is a specialized professional certification issued through PATC's hostage negotiation program.

It does not represent a new police rank or separate law enforcement authority. It documents completion of PATC's full three-phase training sequence and successful completion of its testing and practical requirements.

For CPD, the result is an officer specifically prepared to take on the communication side of incidents in which patience, judgment and the ability to establish trust with someone in crisis may directly affect how the encounter ends.

"Officer Brown's dedication to continued training and professional development strengthens the Cullman Police Department's ability to respond when our community needs us most," Duncan said.



Hanceville Council (from Front)

Emily McMunn/ Noah Galilee

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville could know within approximately two weeks whether it can obtain insurance coverage for a future municipal police department, Mayor Nolan Bradford said during the City Council's Thursday, Aug. 13, meeting.

The insurance question represents another step in the city's effort to eventually restore municipal law enforcement following the dissolution of the Hanceville Police Department earlier this year.

The council also approved higher insurance deductibles for city vehicles and buildings, authorized the purchase of five sets of turnout gear for Hanceville Fire and Rescue and opted to continue negotiations over a proposed extension of the city's cell tower lease.

HPD

Hanceville abolished its police department Feb. 12, shifting law enforcement authority within the city to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

The ordinance dissolving the department also addressed the custody, storage and preservation of police records, evidence logs, incident reports, citations, administrative files and related documents.

During Thursday's meeting, city officials reported that work to clear materials from the former police department's evidence room is nearing completion, with materials transferred to appropriate federal and state agencies.

The next phase will involve scanning and preserving records the city is required to retain.

Bradford said he hopes to receive additional information within approximately two weeks concerning whether the city can obtain insurance coverage for a new police department.

If coverage can be secured, Bradford indicated the city could move forward with the process of seeking a new police chief.

Insurance deductibles increased

The council approved increasing the city's vehicle insurance deductible to $2,500 and its building deductible to $10,000 as part of an effort to reduce insurance premiums.

The action follows discussion at the council's July 23 meeting, when Bradford said he was continuing negotiations with insurance brokers to obtain quotes based on higher deductible limits.

At that time, no change had been approved and the matter was expected to return to the council for consideration.

Fire department to receive five sets of turnout gear

Hanceville Fire and Rescue reported a shortage of turnout gear and requested five additional sets of the protective equipment.

The council approved a budget amendment reallocating money already available in the city's budget and authorized the purchase of all five sets.

The action does not represent an additional appropriation of new revenue, but instead moves existing funds to cover the department's equipment need.

Cell tower negotiations continue

The council declined to commit the city to a proposed extended cell tower lease and instead opted to continue negotiations in an effort to obtain more favorable terms.

Options under discussion included a lump-sum arrangement and a longer-term lease agreement. Council members expressed interest in exploring alternatives between those options before making a final commitment.

The matter has carried over from the council's July 23 meeting, when discussion of the lease extension was tabled for additional review.

Other business

The council approved its regular monthly bills, including a $4,385.22 invoice from the Cullman County Commission.

The council also approved the minutes of its July 23 meeting.

The council later voted to enter executive session. Members subsequently returned to the council chamber before the meeting concluded.

The next regular Hanceville City Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m.

Agreements (from Front)

Donna Reid Kelso, each filed a motion asking the Cullman County Circuit Court to schedule a hearing at which they can formally enter a plea, according to court records Friday, Aug. 14.

The motions state that Eric and Donna Kelso are free on bond and have entered into plea agreements with the state. The documents do not identify the charges to which they intend to plead, whether other counts would be dismissed or what sentences prosecutors may recommend.

A hearing date had not been publicly announced as of Friday.

The filings come days after former Hanceville Police Chief Jason Shane Marlin and former Officer Jason Scott Wilbanks also moved to enter negotiated pleas. Court records show Marlin and Wilbanks are scheduled to appear in Cullman County Circuit Court on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The terms of their agreements also have not been made public.

The existence of a plea agreement does not by itself resolve a criminal case or impose a sentence. Each defendant must formally enter the negotiated plea in court and the judge must accept it.

Until the agreements are disclosed or summarized in open court, it is not possible to determine which charges the four defendants will admit, whether prosecutors have agreed to dismiss or reduce any counts or what punishment each could receive.

Charges against Eric and Donna Kelso

Eric Kelso was indicted on four counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and two counts of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute a controlled substance.

The indictments allege Eric Kelso distributed anabolic steroids to Wilbanks and Cody Alan Kelso, Adderall to another person and hydrocodone to Wilbanks. He is also accused of conspiring with Donna Kelso to distribute anabolic steroids to Wilbanks and Cody Kelso.

Donna Kelso was indicted on two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance and two counts of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute a controlled substance.

Court records allege she distributed anabolic steroids to Wilbanks and Cody Kelso and conspired with her husband to make those distributions.

Charges against Marlin and Wilbanks

Marlin was indicted on two counts of failure to report an ethics crime and one count of tampering with physical evidence.

The indictments allege Marlin failed to report ethics violations involving Wilbanks and Cody Kelso after being notified of them by the Alabama State Bureau of Investigation. He is also accused of removing or mishandling evidence from the Hanceville Police Department evidence room.

Wilbanks was indicted on two counts of computer tampering, two counts of using his office for personal gain, one count of tampering with physical evidence and two counts of solicitation to commit a controlled substance crime.

Court records allege Wilbanks used police department computers to access information about two people and provide it to others. He is also accused of using a department-issued phone to solicit controlled substances, traveling to a local hospital while on duty to receive an anabolic steroid injection from Donna Kelso and soliciting steroids and hydrocodone from Eric and Donna Kelso.

Wilbanks is further accused of removing or mishandling evidence from the department's evidence room.

Two cases remain pending

Six people were indicted in February 2025. No plea agreements had been publicly reported as of Friday for the remaining two defendants, former Hanceville Officers Cody Alan Kelso and William Andrew Shelnutt.

Cody Kelso was indicted on two counts of computer tampering and one count each of solicitation to commit a controlled substance crime, use of office for personal gain and tampering with physical evidence.

The indictments allege he improperly accessed criminal and vehicle records, solicited anabolic steroids from Eric and Donna Kelso, traveled to a local hospital while on duty to receive a steroid injection and removed or mishandled evidence from the department's evidence room.

Shelnutt was indicted on one count of tampering with physical evidence. He is accused of removing or mishandling evidence from the evidence room.

Their cases remain pending. Both defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Dispatcher's death prompted investigation

The investigation began after Hanceville Police Department Dispatcher Christopher Michael Willingham, 49, was found dead in his office at department headquarters on Aug. 23, 2024.

An autopsy determined Willingham died from the combined toxic effects of fentanyl, gabapentin, diazepam, amphetamine, carisoprodol and methocarbamol. His death was ruled accidental.

No defendant was charged with causing Willingham's death

Willingham's death prompted an investigation by the Alabama State Bureau of Investigation. A Cullman County grand jury later concluded that his death was the direct result of the department's negligence, lack of procedure, general incompetence and disregard for human life.

Investigators found that the department's evidence room was unsecured and that evidence had allegedly been removed, mishandled or left undocumented.

"This evidence room was anything but secure," Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said when the indictments were announced.

The grand jury described a rampant culture of corruption within the department and said it had recently operated more like a criminal enterprise than a law enforcement agency. It recommended that the police department be abolished and that another agency assume responsibility for law enforcement in Hanceville.

Five officers and one officer's spouse were indicted Feb. 14, 2025. The arrests were announced Feb. 19, 2025.

The original charging documents stated that all charges were felonies except tampering with physical evidence, which was charged as a Class A misdemeanor.

Department suspended, 58 cases lost

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office assumed responsibility for law enforcement services in Hanceville after the indictments. The Hanceville City Council later voted to suspend the police department and rebuild it from the ground up.

The fallout extended beyond the six criminal cases.

In May 2025, Crocker announced that a grand jury had voted to no-bill or dismiss 58 felony cases because of illegal actions attributed to former Hanceville officers and problems involving the handling of evidence. Crocker said most of the affected cases involved drugs.

An evidence audit documented missing cash, unmarked firearms and widespread problems with the condition and organization of the evidence room.

The negotiated pleas involving Eric Kelso, Donna Kelso, Marlin and Wilbanks will not be final until they are formally entered and accepted by the court. Any charges that remain pending continue to be allegations.

The Tribune will update this report when the plea agreements, sentencing recommendations and hearing dates become available.

Background

- www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/19/grand-jury-calls-for-abolition-of-hanceville-pd-6-arrested
- www.cullmantribune.com/2025/02/26/what-happened-to-the-hanceville-police-department
- www.cullmantribune.com/2025/05/07/da-58-cases-dismissed-due-to-hanceville-pds-illegal-actions

LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
K.C.L.C., * **CASE NO.: JU 25-120.02**
a minor, DOB: 03-03-2025. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

DENISE ANN TANNER aka DENISE ANN CONNELL, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above referenced child born on March 3, 2025, by the 8th day of September, 2026, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 29th day of July, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

FILED IN OFFICE
JUL 29 2026
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
THE ADOPTION PETITION OF * Case Number AD 2026-021
JAMES RUSSELL OSBORN, *
TO ADOPT J.A.A.S. *

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

TO: ANTHONY ARRON SNYDER biological father

Please take **notice** that a petition for adoption in the above styled matter has been filed in said Court by the Petitioner named above. As a notified party, you may appear in the adoption proceeding to contest or support the petition. Please be advised that if you intend to contest this adoption you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of service of this notice with the Clerk of the Cullman County Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama. If you fail to respond within thirty (30) days, the court may construe that failure as an implied consent to the adoption and waiver of a right to appear and of further notice of the adoption proceedings. If the adoption is approved, your parental rights and responsibilities, if any, will be considered terminated.

DONE this 7th day of August, 2026.

Petitioner:
James Russell Osborn

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice four (4) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
FENTRESS GARY WEITMAN, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-313**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Kimberley Ann Shedd, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fentress Gary Weitman, deceased, on the 7th day of August, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Kimberley Ann Shedd
Personal Representatives

Sherry H. Barrett
Attorney for Joint Petitioner
P.O Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

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

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Cullman, Alabama 35055 www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday September 1, 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. Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to prohibit the development and operation of Data Centers - Ordinance 26-42

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

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 10/13/2026
TIME 7:00: AM
LOCATION: 2251 DECATUR AVE NW
CULLMAN AL 35058

1997	CHEVROLET	GMT400	1GCEC19R2VE244327
2019	KAWKASKI	Z650	JKAEREG17KDA02666
2006	SUBARU	IMPREZA	JF1GG67696H821024
2001	CHEVROLET	SILV 1500	2GCEK19T011216374
2018	GMC	SIERRA 1500	3GTU2NEJ1JG173016
1998	TOYOTA	COROLLA CE	2T1BR12EXWC008523

10th annual Bernard Blues & BBQ returning to St. Bernard Sept. 12-13

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Live blues, handmade art and Southern barbecue will return to the grounds of St. Bernard Abbey and Preparatory School when the 10th annual Bernard Blues & BBQ takes place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12-13. Festival hours will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day.

The event brings together Alabama musicians, juried artisans, food vendors and visitors on the historic grounds of Alabama's only Benedictine abbey. All proceeds from the festival benefit St. Bernard Preparatory School.

Five musical acts are scheduled to perform throughout the weekend:

- Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon: Nathan Tate
- Saturday, noon-2 p.m.: Elnora Spencer
- Saturday, 2-4 p.m.: Charlie Soul Band
- Sunday, noon-2 p.m.: Lindy Urban
- Sunday, 2-4 p.m.: Earl Williams

Tate, a Birmingham guitarist, singer and songwriter, is scheduled to open the festival.

Spencer is a Birmingham vocalist, songwriter and visual artist who has become a prominent figure in Alabama's blues community. She was inducted into the Alabama Blues Hall of Fame as a Master of Blues Artist and became the first woman to receive the Birmingham Blues Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Charlie Soul Band is a Birmingham-based group performing a mixture of blues, rhythm and blues and soul.

Urban is a singer-songwriter from northwest Alabama whose music combines soul, blues and rock. She won the 2023 Shoals Songwriter Search and released her debut single, "Ain't Bound Now," in 2024.

The weekend will close with returning festival performer Earl "Guitar" Williams. The Bessemer bluesman grew up around the music of Gip's Place, the well-known backyard juke joint, and has earned a reputation for his guitar, harmonica and rhythm and blues performances.

Visitors will also find a juried marketplace featuring original work made by participating artists. Festival rules prohibit imports, commercial merchandise and kits.

Expected offerings include handmade jewelry, pottery, woodwork, textiles, paintings, photography, mixed media, home décor and seasonal items.

Barbecue and other Southern favorites will be available throughout the weekend.

Previous festivals have featured smoked pork, chicken, ribs, Conecuh sausage dogs and hamburgers. Specialty offerings have included monk bread, sourdough bread, strawberry waffles, funnel cakes, pastries, cheesecakes and bread pudding.

The festival's cash giveaway will return with prizes totaling more than $11,000.

Bernard Blues & BBQ began in 2017 and has grown into one of St. Bernard's major annual fundraisers.

Along with the spring Bloomin' Festival, it relies heavily on students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and community volunteers.

Anabelle Howze, St. Bernard's new marketing and events coordinator and festival director, said she is excited to help lead the milestone event.

"I am overjoyed to have become a part of the St. Bernard family," Howze said. "I have some big shoes to fill, but I've joined an amazing team of people. We have all been working hard to make sure this festival comes together and have had so much fun while doing it."

Admission to the 2026 festival is a requested donation of $10 per person. Children 12 and younger will be admitted free. Parking is free.

The outdoor festival will be held rain or shine. Pets are not permitted.

St. Bernard is located at 1600 St. Bernard Drive SE in Cullman. For more information, visit www.bernardbluesbbq.com or contact Howze at ahowze@stbernardprep.com.

Obituary Announcements: Aug. 15-17

Glenn E. Williams, 79
Funeral services for Glenn E. Williams, 79, of Cullman will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Bro. Bobby Waddell will be officiating services. Visitation was Monday, Aug. 17, from 6-8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Williams was born January 4, 1947, in Birmingham, Alabama to the late John and Frankie Williams. He passed away Aug. 14, 2026, in Cullman, Alabama. Glenn Williams was a devoted man whose life was marked by faith, service, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of others. He proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1962 to 1968, answering the call to serve with honor and dedication. Glenn was also a longtime member of Gideons International, faithfully serving for more than 20 years. His commitment to sharing God's Word and helping others reflected the faith that was so important to him. Glenn's life touched many people, and his memory will continue to live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Williams is survived by his wife of 32 years, Patricia Williams; children, Carol Ann Weber (Steven), David Earl Williams (Angel), Sonda Ellenburg (Donald), Falicia Stephens; grandchildren, Ashley Colletti (Zachary), Emma Weber, Emily Williams, Jessican England (Alex Peralta), Jennifer Baca (Thomas), Chasity Norred (Dylan). Skylar Stephens (Olivia); great grandchildren, Ellie Norred, Kolson Norred, Bella Peralta, Elizabeth Peralta, Elizabeth Stephens, Addie Stephens. Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his parents, John & Frankie Williams; children, Daniel Glenn Williams, Lisa Williams; and his brother, Carroll Erving Williams (Lydia). Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Williams family.

Kenneth Bryan Baker, 49
Kenneth Bryan Baker, age 49 of Logan, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026, at his residence. He was born Nov. 23, 1976, to Deirl Hugh Baker and Delwyn Geree Mitchell Baker. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Matthew James Baker. Survivors include his siblings, Carter Ray Baker, Tina Baker Armstrong, Rayburn Lynn Baker, Janet Baker Vintson and Luke Wade Baker and a host of nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Jody Duane Couch, Sr., 59
Funeral services for Jody Duane Couch Sr., 59, of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon-2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Couch was born June 3, 1967, in Fostoria, Ohio to the late George and Josephine Couch. He passed away Aug. 12, 2026, in Hanceville, Alabama. Jody Couch was a one-of-a-kind man whose heart was as big as his personality. He was a selfless, giving soul who would help anyone in need. Jody would have given his last dollar or the shirt off his back to someone who needed it. He never hesitated to stand up for others and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Though he could be big and bad when he needed to be, Jody also had a tender and sensitive heart that made him deeply caring toward the people and animals he loved. Jody was a die-hard Redskins fan and loved classic rock. He enjoyed working out, collecting unique treasures, quarters, and spending time around animals. He took pride in looking good and smelling good, and gold jewelry was one of his favorite things. He loved to joke and cut up with anyone, and his unique laugh and unmistakable giggle could brighten any room. Jody was also a hard-working man who spent many years as a truck driver. When he wasn't working, he loved cooking on the grill, especially having a good Sunday barbecue. Those who knew him will remember the joy he found in feeding the people he loved and bringing everyone together around good food and good conversation. Above all, Jody loved God and his family. He was a God-fearing man who cherished the people closest to him. His love story with Cheryl began when she was just 14 years old in 1986. They grew up together, shared a lifetime of memories, and continued walking through life side by side. After nearly three decades together, Jody and Cheryl were married in 2015, making their lifelong love official. Jody loved deeply, gave freely, and never met a stranger. He could make you laugh, make you feel protected, and make you feel like you mattered. He was the kind of man who would stand up for anyone, give whatever he had, and love his family with everything in him. Jody leaves behind a legacy of generosity, loyalty, laughter, faith, and unconditional love. Though he will be greatly missed, the memories of his laughter, his big heart, his Sunday barbecues, his jokes, and the countless ways he helped others will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. Jody was truly one of a kind—and there will never be another quite like him. Mr. Couch is survived by his wife, Cheryl Couch; children, Britanie Salinas, Jody Couch Jr., Jakob Couch (Kenzie), Serenity Couch; grandchildren, Journie Currington, Lincoln Jax Pitts; siblings, Laura Castro (Gabriel), George Couch (Alice), Perry Couch; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family. Mr. Couch was preceded in death by his grandson, Keaton Lantz Currington; sister, Vicky Couch; and his parents, George and Josephine Couch. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Couch family.

Wayne Trucks, 77
He was Wayne first. Then a husband to one, a dad to three, and a friend to many. But for almost 40 years, the name that had probably been said the most was Papa. Wayne was happily married to his high school sweetheart for 59 years. He loved his family, and he gave himself to them. His time. His work. His strength. His ability. Whatever he had to give, he gave it. He was a worker. He could do just about anything he put his mind to, and whatever he did, he did well. He worked with computers before most people knew much about them. Later, he became a poultry farmer and business owner. On the farm, if something needed doing, he figured out how to do it. He could wire, weld, plumb, frame, lay brick, repair equipment, or build something from the ground up. He built barns. He remodeled one home for his family and later built the beautiful home where he and Linda made their life together. He wasn't any of those things by trade. He was just that capable. But what really set Wayne apart was a rare level of determination and consistency. He showed up. He did the work. Then he got up the next day and did it again. He started early. He stayed late. He just would not quit. Meemaw had always said that if Papa needed to dig a ditch and all he had was a spoon... he'd dig the ditch with the spoon. That pretty well summed up his work ethic, but there was a lot more to Wayne Trucks than work. He loved The Beatles and Jim Croce. He loved hunting and a nighttime spinnerbait with a No. 6 blade. He loved camping with his family as long as his son-in-law handled the setup. He enjoyed drinking coffee with his friends. He was a man of few words, but you never had to wonder what mattered to him. His faith. His family. Linda. His kids, his grandkids, and his great-grandkids. Papa spent a lifetime working, building, providing, and giving himself to the people he loved. Wayne is preceded in death by his parents, Billie Trucks, Jr. and Ira Belle Trucks, and his sister, Judith McBrayer. He is survived by his wife, Linda Trucks; children, Tommy Trucks, Jr. (Angela), Todd Trucks (Angela), Tami Trucks Starnes (Steve); grandchildren, Tyler Crook, Taylor Moore (Johnny), Tiffany Crook, Scott Starnes (Emily), Tori Trucks, Tanner Trucks, Tessa Trucks, and Trevor Trucks; great-grandchildren, Keegan, Knoxleigh, Kohen, and Koby Moore, Ryann Trucks, and Silas Starnes. We would like to say a special thank you to our nurse Jenna, with Hospice of North Alabama, for her special care and attention to our family. We would also like to thank Dr. Yielding and Nurse Lynan for fighting the fight right along side us. Obituary lovingly written by the Wayne Trucks family. Wayne's life will be celebrated in a private family service. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as the family lays Wayne to rest. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Trucks family and they are in our prayers.

Melonie Glover Choudhary, 67
Melonie Glover Choudhary, 67, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Aug. 12, 2026. Born Feb. 1, 1959, in Cullman, Alabama, she lived her life rooted in the community that shaped her, and she will be remembered with deep respect and enduring affection. From her earliest years, Melonie attended West Elementary and Cullman City Schools, continuing as a lifelong resident of Cullman. Throughout her life, she carried herself with a steady strength and a gentle spirit—qualities that were felt most clearly by those who knew her best and loved her most. Melonie's greatest devotion was to her family. She is survived by her children, Zandria (Jeffrey) Robinson and Derrick(Christy) Blackmon, and by her grandchildren, Evan Robinson, Isaiah Robinson, and Aarlyn Blackmon. Her grandchildren were the highlight of her life, and she cherished the time she spent with them, offering love that was constant, patient, and unwavering. She also found joy in the simple pleasures of everyday life—especially shopping and being surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Melonie's heart extended beyond her family as well, and she held close the friendships that brought comfort and companionship through the years. She is lovingly remembered by her special friends, Madeline Smith, Brandy Brown, and Rhonda Johnson. A devoted companion in her home and heart, her dog Yana was dearly loved, and the bond they shared was a quiet reflection of Melonie's kind-hearted nature. Melonie Glover Choudhary was cherished in life and will remain deeply loved in memory. Her presence, her resilience, and her steadfast care for those around her leave a lasting imprint on all who were fortunate to know her.

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Hanceville Funeral Home
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Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130

Shots from 2nd Fridays in downtown Cullman on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026 – the theme was 'Neon Moon.'



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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



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- 10-Speed Automatic
- ProGrade Trailering System
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WAS $68,075
NOW $53,874
SAVE $15,000!

2026 Buick Envista Sport Touring
STK# 64271
- 1.2L EcoTec Turbo
- Illuminated Entry
- 8-Way power Driver Seat Adjuster
- Auto High-Beam Headlights
- Exterior Rear Parking Camera

WAS $29,880
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STK# 64207
- Super Cruise Package
- Power Liftgate
- Enhanced Automatic Parking Assist
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WAS $65,610
NOW $55,409
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- 20" Machined Aluminum Wheels
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NOW $59,404
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STK# 69538
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