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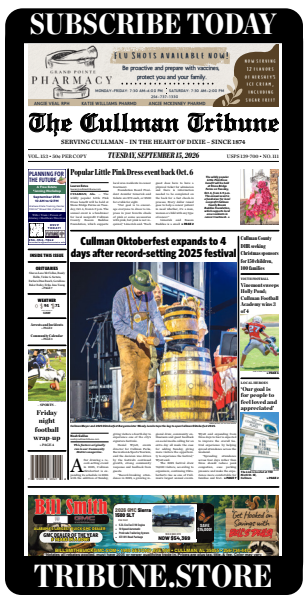
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WEATHER

93 70
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
HEAT ADVISORY THROUGH SATURDAY, AREAS FOG THEN SUNNY

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Unbeaten showdown, 2 county clashes lead week 5 slate

» PAGE 4

Cullman City Council approves $58.5M FY2027 budget, discloses 1.3% revenue decrease for FY2026

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council at its Sept. 14 meeting approved the city's FY2027 budget. It also welcomed a senior from Enterprise, Alabama, Jaiden Bloodworth, who is the president and founder of youth-led nonprofit All the Same Alabama.

Budget

The Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-146, approving the city's FY2027 budget, which goes into effect Oct. 1, 2026. The total Geneal Fund budget is $58,427,213.

It also disclosed that for FY2026, the city's revenues decreased 1.3%.

City Clerk Wesley Moore shared, "Normally our revenues increase every year by 3%, roughly, on average. This year that wasn't the case, as our revenues went down 1.3%. I've been here 21 years and revenues have only gone down one other time."

He expressed that finalizing the FY2027 budget was not easy. "This » PAGE 2

Travel + Leisure names Cullman Christkindlmarkt one of America's top Christmas markets



2024/SHERRY BROWN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The only Southern market on the list, Cullman Christkindlmarkt drew more than 415,000 visitors last year to a city of 20,000.

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Travel + Leisure has named Cullman Christkindlmarkt to its list of the "10 Coolest Christmas Markets in the U.S." for the 2026 holiday season, placing Cullman alongside New York City; Chicago; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Carmel, Indiana; and Leavenworth, Washington. Cullman is the only market in the South to make the list.

The national travel publication described the selected markets as holiday destinations "worth planning a trip around." Its feature highlighted Cullman Christkindlmarkt's rapid growth, authentic German elements and signature attractions, including the world's largest Schwibbogen, an illuminated hand-crafted wooden arch, and the tallest Christmas pyramid in North America.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt has become the fastest-growing Christmas market in the United States, expanding from eight wooden market huts and about 5,000 visitors in 2019 to a downtown holiday village that welcomed more than 415,000 visitors in 2025. That is roughly 20 times the city's population of about 20,000.

"Cullman Christkindlmarkt is a remarkable Alabama tourism success story," Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said. "In only a few years, it has grown into a nationally recognized destination that welcomes visitors from all 50 states while celebrating Cullman's German heritage and the Southern hospitality that makes Alabama special. I congratulate the City of Cullman and everyone whose hard work has made this event a source of pride for our entire state."

"This means a great deal to our community," Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said. "Cullman Christkindlmarkt showcases our heritage, draws visitors from across the country and delivers real economic impact for our local businesses. My hope is that everyone who reads about us in Travel + Leisure comes to see it for themselves in November."

The 2025 market ran 24 days and grew to 75 vendors across more than a quarter-mile of vending space offering handcrafted goods, holiday merchandise and authentic German cuisine, including a flagship structure housing German retailer Käthe Wohlfahrt. About 80% of visitors traveled from outside Cullman County, generating an estimated $28 million in local economic impact. The market is produced by Cullman » PAGE 6

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80 YEARS
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.
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Cullman Power Board to mark 75 years of powering growing city



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Power Board has grown from 2,947 customers in 1951 to 9,254 today. » PAGE 5

Cullman County FCCLA students showcase culinary skills at annual Beef Cook-Off



STEPHANIE BLAIR

Baylee Dye of Cold Springs High School was named Cullman County's Most Outstanding FCCLA Member and will be recognized at the Cullman County Farm-City Banquet in November. » PAGE 5

PET OF THE WEEK

Olive is a tiny tabby made for companionship



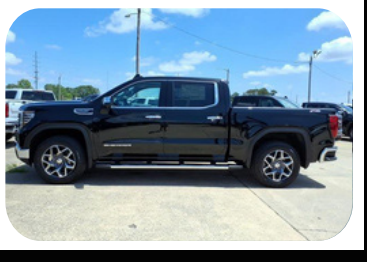
CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Olive » PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Sept. 16

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Sept. 16, 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

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

Sept. 14

Miller, Brasha N.; 35
- FTA – public intoxication
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA – switched tag

Fanning, Nathan D.; 42
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Budget (from Front)

took a lot of teamwork between department heads and the mayor and council working together. I really feel like this budget is going to provide high-quality service to our citizens. It values the city employees and their hard work to our community. It shows that even during a difficult year, you can balance a budget."

He continued, "In addition, we gathered some additional information that will held with the development with a Comprehensive Strategic Plan which will provide direction and vision for our community moving forward."

The official budget presentation is available at cullmanal.gov.

All the Same Alabama

This summer, along the many special initiatives held around the state, All the Same Alabama held a Hydration Tour donating hydration supplies to first responders. Bloodworth noted that All The Same Alabama would be donating water bottles to the first responders in the city. He stood with Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Darren Peeples and Councilman Chuck Shikle.

"We try to do initiatives like this to make sure that the work you do every day does not go overlooked," Bloodworth said. "Thank you for welcoming me into your city. You have the best first responders I've ever seen. I have a lot of friends in Cullman and they've spoken a lot about you all."

Recovery Month

Mayor Woody Jacobs and the Council proclaimed the month of September 2026 as Recovery Month.

The proclamation reads that it will, "encourage all citizens to promote hope, support recovery and help reduce stigma."

Jacobs stated, "A lot of City of Cullman employees have gone through recovery programs. We're glad of that – we're proud of that. One thing that helps that happen is that you've got a built-in support group amongst the employees."

He continued, "We've had great success and we've had great employees. There's no stigma with us. If you work hard, we like ya."

Ordinances approved

The Council approved Ordinance No. 2026-49, which will amend Section 22-50 of the Code of Ordinances to adopt the 2021 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council and the 2021 Life Safety Code 101. This is in accordance with Code of Ala. 1975, § 11-45-8, setting rules and regulations to conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion.

The ordinance will also amend Sections 22-85, 86, 87 regarding open burning. The act of open burning will require a permit and must be 500 feet from homes, other occupied dwellings and roads whereas smoke could lead to driving visibility issues. This also requires the constant supervision of the fire with a garden hose or fire-extinguisher nearby. Burning will only be allowed for untreated wood and vegetation between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. with no added vegetation after 3 p.m.

The Council also approved Ordinance No. 2026-50. This ordinance aims to delete Chapter 58 Vegetation and replace Chapter 32 Nuisances to reduce the duplication and overlap of information about grass and weed nuisances, property upkeep, citations, enforcements, liens and abatements.

First readings

The Council held a public hearing and first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-43, which amends the Zoning Ordinance to prohibit any new detached single-family housing in residential (R-4) zoning.

This ordinance will replace Sections 52, 53, 54, 55 of Residential Districts, adding Section 56 Design Quality Standards, and removing Section 93 Attached Single-Family Dwellings from Chapter 62 Zoning in the Code of Ordinances, which received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Council President Kim Hall called on Chief Building Inspector Brandon Lewis to speak on the matter.

Lewis clarified, "Over the past months the Building Department has shared the proposed changes with local groups including local realtors and local builders. We've received a lot of feedback and cooperation from them – positive feedback on the changes proposed."

He stated that these changes will create more options for builders, while encouraging higher quality for building as well. He noted the favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission in August 2026 and the Building Department recommended that the Council adopt this.

The Council also had a first reading of Ordinance No. 2026-51, which will replace Section 181 will follow the City of Cullman Personnel Handbook which lists rules, guidelines, regulations and any related policies.

Section 182 will give the city clerk, city treasurer, police and fire chief who, already having some level of authority, the ability to maintain that authority pertaining to city employees and to have a say in the creation of policies.

Section 182 reads, "The city clerk, city treasurer, police chief, and fire chief may only be removed by a two-thirds vote of the city council elected to serve. All officers listed above must report to their designated committee chair, at least once per month, to keep the city council informed of the operations of their department. In addition to the normal duties of their respective departments, these officers shall set formal procedures for personal conduct of the employees within their departments not inconsistent with the policies set by the city council."

Resolutions adopted

Resolution No. 2026-145 pertains to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program, created by the City of Cullman in hopes of enhancing residential homes within the city limits and setting a higher quality standard for their reconstruction.

Chris Lindsey, of 1301 Marie St. NW, applied to this program and its adoption was recommended and reviewed favorably by the Building Department.

Recommended by City Engineer Erica York and Street Superintendent Scotty Talley, the Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-150, approving the Street and Transportation Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027. The resolution states that the City of Cullman acknowledges the importance of street and transportation infrastructure. It also notes this infrastructure as the highest capital asset and financial commitment.

Resolution No. 2026-147 E-911 makes E-911 public safety answering point (PSAP) training available to Communications Dispatch for FY2027. The Council acknowledged the importance of continued training, specifically for Communications Dispatch operators. The approved funding for the E-911 Board of Commissioners amounts to $3,333 per agency in the Cullman County district to assist E-911 personnel in attending PSAP training.

Resolution No. 2026-148 authorizes Jacobs to enter into community service contracts for FY2027.

The resolution reads, "WHEREAS, the Cullman City Council recognizes that public services are provided to the citizens of the City of Cullman, Alabama, which improving their quality of life including but not limited to educational services, rehabilitation services, medical services, promotion of tourism and commerce, mental healthcare, and personal wellness by the following: a) American Legion Post No. 4 of Cullman, b) Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, c) Cullman 310 Authority, d) Cullman Agriplex, e) Cullman Area Mental Health (Wellstone), f) Cullman Caring for Kids, g) Cullman County Commission on Aging, h) Cullman County Health Department, i) Cullman County Public Library, j) Cullman Farmers Market Steering Committee, k) Cullman Regional Medical Center, l) Good Samaritan Clinic, m) Hope Horses, n) Liberty Learning, o) Pilot Light of Cullman County, p) The Link of Cullman County, q) United Way of Cullman County, r) Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2214 of Cullman, s) Victim Services of Cullman, t) World Changers."

Resolution No. 2026-149 allows Jacobs to enter into an agreement with Anderson, Williams, McKinnis & Co., Inc. (AWM) so that they may administer the flexible spending account benefit plan for the city employees.

Hall noted the city may provide a workshop for employees who are considering the benefit and want to have an opportunity to meet and ask further questions.

Special event request

The Council approved a special event request submitted by Jeff Harris for car shows to be held in the public parking lot on Second Avenue Southeast on Oct 9 and Nov 13, from 6-9 p.m.

The next Cullman City Council meeting will be held Monday Sept 28, in the city hall auditorium, with a work session at 6 p.m. and regular meeting to begin at 7.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Grace Episcopal Church Cheeseball Sales are Underway! Place Your Holiday Order by Oct. 5.

The Grace Episcopal Church Women are currently selling their popular cheeseballs for the holidays! This year we are offering nine cheeseball flavors. Orders must be placed by Monday, Oct. 5, 2026. You may place your order by going to www.gracechurch.org where you can order online or print out an order form to mail in. You can also call the church office 256-734-6212 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to place your order. Cheeseballs will be ready for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 19, at Grace Episcopal Church. All proceeds from our cheeseball project go to outreach including Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), the Good Samaritan Health Clinic, The Pilot Light Home, The Willow Path (formerly Victim Services), Hope Horses, Cullman Caring for Kid and Wallace State Campus Ministries.

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.

Alpha Delta Kappa Invitation
- Are you a woman educator looking to connect, grow, serve, and make a difference? We want to invite you to contact our local Cullman chapters Alpha Theta or Beta Delta. Alpha Delta Kappa is a national honorary organization of more than 25,000 women educators who share a commitment to valuing all people and promoting quality education.
- Build lifelong friendships
- Connect with educators who share your passion
- Grow through leadership and professional opportunities
- Serve your school, community and beyond
- Celebrate the important work of women educators
- Your dedication to education matters. Your voice matters. You belong with us.
- For more information contact President of Alpha Theta Laurita Hogland 256-531-2298 or Presidents of Beta Delta Rhonda Vanzant 256-708-7980 or Lisa Hullett 256-962-4252.

Church Services: Spirit Life Church
- 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- 256-739-3326
- spiritlifechurchcullman@gmail.com
- FB-Spirit Life Church Cullman
- Friday, Sept. 18 – 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, Sept. 19 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
- Sunday, Sept. 20 – 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.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. Storytime with Susan Melton "Ten Red Apples" by Pat Hutchins
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Children's book club and storytime with Briana Taylor and Angelyn Riggs, children's book club
- October-November, regular Wednesday 10 a.m. storytime continues. Please visit the Facebook page for weekly detailed information.
- Adult book club meets monthly- Saturday, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, at 10 a.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mud Creek Festival BOOK SALE
- Library will be closed on Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day
- 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.

Cullman County Fair Parade

Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. U.S. Highway 31, from Seventh Street Southwest to Arnold Street Northwest.

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

Olive (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With soulful eyes, unusual coloring and a heart set on companionship, Olive, affectionately known as "Squirrel," is easy to love. The approximately 3-month-old tabby kitten is The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week.

Olive's shelter résumé is short but persuasive. She has a playful and loving personality and a preference for staying close to someone.

Her nickname suits her well. Olive's distinctive coat coloring bears an unusual resemblance to that of a squirrel or rabbit, giving the tiny, compact kitten a look all her own.

More than anything, Olive cherishes company. When meal time rolls around, she climbs onto the footstool near her dinner and patiently waits to be picked up.

Unassuming and affectionate, Olive demonstrates the qualities desired in a therapy, companion or reading kitty.

Her gentle nature could make her a comforting presence for someone seeking a devoted feline friend.

"I love this tiny, compact girl!" a shelter representative said.

Olive's $100 adoption fee includes her spay, age-appropriate vaccinations, rabies vaccine, microchip, deworming and general exam.

To meet Olive or learn more about adopting her, visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. The shelter is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

If Olive has already been adopted, be sure to check out her friends at the shelter. One of them may be waiting for you.

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PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Unbeaten showdown, 2 county clashes lead week 5 slate

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Every game on the local Week 5 schedule will carry weight in a region race.

All 10 local teams will compete across eight region matchups Friday, Sept. 18. Cold Springs and Cleveland will bring unbeaten records into their Class 2A, Region 5 showdown, while Meek visits No. 2 Addison and Vinemont travels to Holly Pond for a pair of county clashes.

Good Hope returns from an open date with an unbeaten region record. Cullman and Fairview are looking to recover from home losses, while Hanceville and West Point continue their pursuit of their first victories.

All eight games are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Records below are listed overall and in region play.

Meek (2-2, 1-1) at No. 2 Addison (4-0, 2-0)
Addison has allowed seven points all season. Meek scored 68 last week.

That contrast gives one of Cullman County's longest-running series a different kind of tension as the Tigers travel to A.G. Hicks Stadium.

Addison remained No. 2 in Class 1A in this week's Alabama Sports Writers Association rankings after overwhelming Phillips 52-0. The Bears finished with one first down and minus-14 yards of offense.

Elijah Roberts completed two passes for 120 yards and two touchdowns while adding 103 yards and another score on only three carries. Zane Smith scored four touchdowns, Judah Wilkins added two and Joey Wilson closed the scoring with a 31-yard run.

The Bulldogs have outscored four opponents 195-7, and their first-team defense has yet to surrender a point.

Meek answered its region-opening loss at Hackleburg by routing Cherokee 68-14. Evan McCay returned a first-quarter takeaway and was credited with the game's opening touchdown, while Dalton Freeman scored the Tigers' final two touchdowns.

Addison leads the all-time series 60-12 and won last year's meeting 61-22. Meek enters this meeting with its offense coming off its most productive night of the season and an opportunity to become the first team to seriously test Addison's defense.

Cold Springs (3-0, 2-0) at Cleveland (4-0, 2-0)
The only matchup between unbeaten teams on the local schedule will leave one program alone at 3-0 in Class 2A, Region 5.

Cold Springs surrendered its first points of the season last week but remained unbeaten by holding off Lamar County 32-20. The Eagles built a 19-6 halftime lead and added 13 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Bulldogs from completing a comeback.

The victory followed shutouts of Vinemont and Locust Fork. Cold Springs has scored 83 points while allowing 20 through three games.

Cleveland has been equally steady during its 4-0 start. The Panthers have defeated Susan Moore 37-0, Appalachian 35-34, Midfield 21-12 and Southeastern 35-6.

Cleveland has scored at least 21 points in every game and owns a 128-52 scoring advantage. Cold Springs, however, won last year's meeting 54-22 despite Cleveland holding a 17-11 advantage in the all-time series.

Both teams have already survived a close game and won comfortably when given the opportunity. Friday's winner will gain the clearest early advantage either has seen in the region race.

Cullman (2-2, 1-1) at Huffman (1-2, 0-2)
Cullman and Huffman will meet for the first time with both teams trying to regain ground in Class 5A, Region 5.

The Bearcats trailed Mortimer Jordan by 14 points at halftime last week before mounting a fourth-quarter comeback. Colt Colvard connected with Grayson Gay for an 11-yard touchdown before the break, and Brooks West later added a 32-yard field goal.

Cullman pulled within 28-23 following an onside-kick recovery by Kolby Holt, but Mortimer Jordan answered and left Oliver Woodard Stadium with a 35-23 victory.

Huffman opened its season by defeating Hazel Green 41-3. The Vikings have since lost consecutive region games, falling 35-34 at Jasper before losing at Minor last week.

Cullman can move back above .500 in region play with its first road victory of the season. Huffman enters its second and final home game of September trying to avoid an 0-3 start in the region.

Fairview (2-2, 1-2) at Sardis (1-2, 1-1)
Fairview's past two games could hardly have been more different.

Scottsboro scored 48 points against the Aggies two weeks ago, but Fairview held Guntersville to one touchdown last Friday. The Aggies still came away with a 7-3 loss after leading 3-0 at halftime.

Ayden Batz and Collin Nelson helped Fairview move inside the Guntersville 5 during a first-half scoring opportunity, but a missed field goal kept the Aggies from extending their lead. Fairview's defense continued giving the offense chances before Guntersville finally broke through on a 4-yard third-quarter touchdown.

Sardis found its offense last week after being shut out in losses to Haralson County and Guntersville. The Lions defeated Crossville 48-6 for their first victory and improved to 1-1 in the region.

Only two points separated these teams last season, when Fairview escaped with a 41-39 victory. The Aggies lead the all-time series 7-4, but Sardis enters Friday with momentum and a chance to move ahead of Fairview in the region standings.

Good Hope (2-1, 2-0) at Crossville (1-3, 0-3)
Good Hope returns from its open week as one of three teams without a region loss in Class 4A, Region 8. The Raiders also received votes in this week's Class 4A ASWA rankings.

Good Hope scored 82 points in consecutive region victories over Brewer and Guntersville. The Raiders built a 21-0 halftime lead against Guntersville before answering the Wildcats' second-half rally and closing out a 35-21 victory.

Parker Johnson rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns while throwing another scoring pass to Ayden Young. Hollis added 114 rushing yards and a touchdown, while Web Buchanan and Chase Boles recorded interceptions.

Crossville opened its return to varsity play with a 24-13 victory over Asbury but has since dropped three consecutive region games. Scottsboro, Brewer and Sardis have outscored the Lions 159-13 during that stretch, including Sardis' 48-6 victory last week.

Friday will bring the first meeting between Good Hope and Crossville since 1999. Crossville won that game 10-7, leaving the all-time series tied 1-1.

Hanceville (0-4, 0-2) at Glencoe (2-1, 1-1)
Hanceville has shown flashes through a difficult opening month but has not been able to turn them into a complete performance.

Nick Davis returned an interception for a touchdown against Tanner, and Javus Leusby broke a 71-yard touchdown run against Vinemont. The Bulldogs were unable to generate another scoring spark last week as Holly Pond left Ray Talley Stadium with a 50-0 victory.

Hanceville scored 28 points in its opener against Carbon Hill but has been held to 12 across its past three games.

Glencoe opened with a 35-8 victory over Hayden and defeated Susan Moore 42-13 in its region opener. The Yellow Jackets were then shut out 30-0 at Etowah last week.

Friday's game will be the first between Hanceville and Glencoe since 2013. Glencoe won that meeting 49-35, leaving the all-time series tied at two victories apiece.

Vinemont (2-2, 1-1) at Holly Pond (2-1, 1-1)
A county rivalry returns with both teams occupying the same place in the Class 3A, Region 6 standings.

Vinemont held unbeaten Oneonta to one first down across its first three possessions last week. The Eagles then recovered a muffed punt, and Josh Rhodes scored on a 2-yard run to put Vinemont ahead 8-6 midway through the second quarter.

Oneonta used two big plays to take a 21-8 halftime lead before pulling away 35-8. The loss followed Vinemont's 52-6 region victory over Hanceville, when Gabriel Herrera scored five touchdowns.

Holly Pond experienced a similar reversal. The Broncos followed a 65-14 loss to Oneonta by shutting out Hanceville 50-0.

John Hamby opened the scoring against the Bulldogs, and Hunter Tolbert added two first-half touchdowns as Holly Pond built a 28-0 halftime advantage.

Vinemont and Holly Pond have not met since the Eagles won 40-24 in 2023. Vinemont leads the all-time series 27-22, but Friday's result carries more immediate importance: the winner will emerge with a 2-1 region record while the loser falls below .500 in region play.

West Point (0-4, 0-2) at Ardmore (1-3, 0-2)
Something will give Friday night when two teams still searching for their first region victory meet at Ardmore.

West Point remained within one score of West Morgan through the first quarter last week before the Rebels scored five second-quarter touchdowns and pulled away 60-12.

Max Patterson completed eight passes for 104 yards and two touchdowns. Titan Thornton caught four passes for 33 yards and a score, while Skylar Echols added a 10-yard touchdown reception.

The Warriors have shown more offensive production during region play, scoring 28 against Priceville and 12 against West Morgan after managing 26 points across their first two games.

Ardmore has lost three straight since opening with a 27-26 victory over East Limestone. The Tigers fell 49-8 at Hamilton before producing a season-high 31 points in last week's 55-31 loss to Brooks.

West Point defeated Ardmore 25-20 last season and leads the all-time series 7-1. Friday offers the Warriors a chance to continue that success while giving one of the two teams its first foothold in the region standings.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs surrendered its first points of the season last week but remained unbeaten by holding off Lamar County 32-20.







Restaurant Week menu feature: Karma's offering 'The Fat Elvis' through Sept. 21

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Restaurant Week made its debut on Sept. 10, kicking off with Culinary in Cullman at The Venue at Cotton Creek, which allowed attendees to taste the best of Cullman's diverse culinary offerings. Participating restaurants, community leaders and residents came together to sample a range of coffee, wine, steak, pizza, wings and more.

Cullman County Tourism Bureau Executive Director Harmony Heard was seen among the crowd, donning one of Visit Cullman's Restaurant Week aprons.

She expressed gratitude and excitement seeing the event finally happen after so much preparation.

Restaurant Week will continue through Monday, Sept. 21. Participating restaurants will have special discounts and limited-time items.

One participating business is Karma's Coffee House, which is featuring a sandwich called "The Fat Elvis." It's peanut butter, banana and bacon on toasted sourdough.

Organizers stated, "It's the perfect combination of salty, sweet, crunchy and creamy."

The Fat Elvis can be paired with a beverage from Karma's fall menu. The Bonfire Nights latte contains espresso, yin, praline and toasted marshmallow cold foam. The sweet marshmallow of espresso, with the salty bacon and creamy banana on The Fat Elvis makes for a balanced, enjoyable combination.

You can visit Karma's Coffee House at 103 First Ave. NE, Suite 140, Cullman. It's open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

FCCLA (from Front)

Stephanie Blair
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County FCCLA members put their culinary skills, creativity and leadership on display during the annual All-County Beef Cook-Off held Sept. 15, 2026, at Cotton Creek Venue in Cullman.

Sponsored by the Cullman County Cattlewomen's Association, the annual competition brought together Family and Consumer Sciences students from across the county to showcase their abilities preparing and presenting beef dishes.

The event gives students a chance to apply classroom skills while gaining valuable experience through friendly competition.

Jacob Fales of Fairview High School took home the top honor, earning first place and the opportunity to advance to the State Beef Cook-Off in April.

Additional winners were Reese Guthrie of West Point High School, second place; Fuller Williams of Good Hope High School, third place; Jacey Harbison of Fairview High School, fourth place; and Katie Holmes of Vinemont High School, fifth place.

The event also recognized outstanding student leadership within FCCLA.

Baylee Dye of Cold Springs High School was named Cullman County's Most Outstanding FCCLA Member.

Dye will be formally recognized for this achievement at the Cullman County Farm-City Banquet in November.

The All-County Beef Cook-Off is made possible through the support of the Cullman County Cattlewomen's Association and the dedication of FCCLA advisers throughout Cullman County.

Advisers include Stephanie Blair, Cold Springs High School; Amie Veal, Cullman Area Technology Academy; Brittany Gardner, Fairview High School; Amanda Williams, Good Hope High School; Amy Chambers, Hanceville High School; Amelia Burke, Holly Pond High School; Madison Sapp, Vinemont High School; and Kalie Faulk, West Point High School.

Through events such as the Beef Cook-Off, FCCLA students can strengthen culinary and career-readiness skills while developing leadership, confidence and professionalism.



STEPHANIE BLAIR

Pictured are Cyndi Roden, Cullman County Cattlewomen's Association president; Jacob Fales, first place; Reese Guthrie, second place; Fuller Williams, third place; Jacey Harbison, fourth place; and Katie Holmes, fifth place.

Cullman Power Board (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Power Board will mark 75 years of public service Oct. 16, commemorating the day the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman assumed control of the city's Electric Department in 1951.

The utility has grown from 2,947 customers at its start to 9,254 homes and businesses today, expanding its network alongside Cullman while retaining its locally governed mission: keeping electricity reliable, responding when outages occur and serving the community that owns its public trust.

CPB launched a multi-week anniversary celebration Aug. 31, using weekly themes and giveaways to highlight customers, employees and local businesses.

"For 75 years, we've had the privilege of powering the City of Cullman, and we think that's worth celebrating," the utility said in announcing the campaign.

The milestone reflects the growth of a locally governed utility that began with fewer than 3,000 customers and now serves more than 9,000 homes and businesses.

A public utility takes shape

The Utilities Board of the City of Cullman was incorporated as a public corporation during the Alabama Legislature's 1951 regular session. It initially operated Cullman's Water Works Systems before adding the Electric Department and its 2,947 customers on Oct. 16, 1951.

That structure remains in place. CPB owns and operates the local electric distribution system and purchases power from the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Cullman City Council appoints the five-member Utilities Board, which also oversees the Cullman Water Treatment Plant and Duck River Reservoir.

Current board members are Kim Hall, Paul Schaffer, Jason Willoughby, Dr. Wayne Fuller and Dr. Steve Murphree.

CPB now reports 9,254 customers, 259 miles of line and 99.9% service reliability. The system has expanded with Cullman's neighborhoods and businesses, but its basic responsibilities remain the same: maintaining lines, responding to outages, serving customers and planning improvements.

The people behind the power

CPB devoted the second week of its anniversary campaign to the "Faces Behind the Power."

"For 75 years, it's been our employees who have shown up every day to serve Cullman," the utility said.

That work extends beyond routine operations. Storms and equipment failures can require around-the-clock restoration, while mutual-aid agreements send crews to help other communities recover.

In September 2020, eight CPB employees traveled to Fairhope after Hurricane Sally damaged south Alabama. They brought three bucket trucks, a digger derrick and a pickup truck to help Fairhope Public Utilities restore service through a reciprocal agreement administered by Electric Cities of Alabama.

CPB has also faced regional challenges. On Christmas Eve 2022, TVA asked local power companies, including CPB, to conduct temporary rolling blackouts during extreme cold. The event showed how local service depends on conditions across the wider Tennessee Valley system.

Service beyond the meter

CPB's community role has included customer events and assistance programs.

For years, Powerfest served as a customer-appreciation gathering with food, fellowship and door prizes. The event grew from Public Power Day and Public Power Week observances.

"We're a public power community and we certainly value and appreciate the opportunity to serve our customers," then-General Manager and CEO Mike Manning told The Tribune at Powerfest in 2019.

Operation Share allows customers to contribute at least $1 per month to an emergency energy fund administered by the Community Action Partnership of North Alabama for residents with limited incomes who are elderly, disabled or sick.

Operation Round Up, created with Cullman Electric Cooperative, lets customers round up their bills to support grants for local educators. Since its creation in 1993, the program has awarded more than $6 million for classroom resources and student learning.

CPB also connects customers with TVA EnergyRight programs for energy savings, home upgrades, incentives and electric-vehicle information.

A change in leadership

Manning shaped much of CPB's modern history. He joined the utility in 1979, became general manager in 1996 and retired in 2021 after 42 years with the Power Board.

He was succeeded by Allison Bright, an engineer with previous Alabama Power experience who became CEO in October 2021.

"She has some really good experience with Alabama Power, and I think she'll be a great benefit for Cullman," Manning told The Tribune during the transition.

In 2022, the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association recognized Bright among 10 female general managers through its Women in Power initiative.

Building the next system

CPB's future depends on continuous infrastructure work, including tree trimming, pole replacement, equipment upgrades and system monitoring.

Bright told The Tribune in November 2025 that proactive tree trimming is one of CPB's most effective defenses against storm-related outages. She also cited pole replacements, guy-wire modifications and equipment-rating improvements as ways to strengthen the system.

The utility has deployed supervisory control and data acquisition technology, or SCADA, at its substations to give operators better information and help crews respond more quickly and safely.

"As we continue expanding this system, it allows us to monitor and respond to outages more quickly and safely during winter storms," Bright said.

CPB is also exploring expanded customer alerts, including mobile and text notifications. Its current digital tools include an online customer portal, bill payment options, a mobile application and a real-time outage map.

In late 2025, Davey Resource Group crews began inspecting and verifying equipment across the system as part of work related to pole attachments and long-range planning.

Better field data and monitoring are intended to support faster decisions, safer work and clearer customer information.

During a January 2026 winter-weather threat, Bright said CPB used its website, outage map, social media and local media partners to communicate with customers.

"Following CPB on social media, checking our official website and relying on trusted local news outlets are the best ways to stay informed," she said.

The next 25 years

CPB's anniversary campaign has highlighted customers, employees and local businesses, reflecting the broader role of public power in Cullman.

On Oct. 16, the utility will mark 75 years with 6,307 more customers than the city Electric Department had when the Utilities Board took control in 1951. Its lines reach farther, its monitoring tools are more advanced and customers expect information faster.

The basic promise remains unchanged.

When Cullman opens a school, starts a production line, serves a meal or settles in at home, the system is expected to be ready. CPB spent its first 75 years building that expectation. Its next chapter will depend on how well it continues to meet it.



Puckett's Restaurant announces Cullman closure after almost 4 years

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Puckett's will close its Cullman restaurant, ending a nearly four-year presence in the community that was the Tennessee-based brand's first location outside its home state.

A. Marshall Hospitality (AMH) announced Sept. 14 that it is closing both its Cullman and Hendersonville, Tennessee, restaurants. AMH's media release gives Sept. 18 as the closing date.

The Cullman restaurant is at 6076 Alabama Highway 157, occupying the former Ruby Tuesday building. It opened in fall 2022 as the seventh Puckett's restaurant.

The company attributed the closures to difficult economic conditions. CEO Claire Crowell said AMH will concentrate on improving existing operations and investing in communities where the brand has longer-established relationships, rather than making expansion its immediate priority.

AMH said it is discussing other jobs and transition assistance with affected employees. Its announcement does not identify how many Cullman workers will be affected.

Cullman connections helped bring the restaurant to Alabama

The decision to enter the Cullman market grew partly from relationships developed long before the restaurant opened.

The Tribune's Sept. 8, 2022, coverage described friendships between Andy and Jan Marshall and Alabama customers who had regularly traveled to the company's Tennessee restaurants. Andy Marshall said at the time that those longtime customers helped encourage the family to establish a Puckett's in Cullman.

In that earlier report, Mayor Woody Jacobs emphasized the opportunity to put an empty restaurant building back into use while reaching both local customers and travelers on Interstate 65.

The location's accessibility was part of the city's enthusiasm for the project.

The Tribune also reported that Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, assisted with the building's redesign. Gudger had previously worked with the business on the interior of its Pigeon Forge restaurant.

Following the closures, six Puckett's restaurants will remain in Tennessee: Nashville, Franklin, Columbia, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga and Pigeon Forge.

Gift cards remain usable at AMH's other restaurants and carry no expiration date, the company said.

"The hospitality group is working directly with the employees impacted by the closures to offer alternative opportunities and support them during this transition," the announcement said.

Christkindlmarkt (from Front)

Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism with support from city departments, local businesses and volunteers.

"We are honored by this recognition," said Nathan Anderson, executive director of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism. "We set out to build a Christmas market that reflects Cullman's German heritage and delivers an experience that stands among the best in the country. It takes hundreds of people to build and operate this market every year, and the credit belongs to every one of them."

The recognition follows other recent honors. The Alabama Tourism Department selected the market as the 2026 Alabama Event of the Year, and the Southeast Tourism Society named it a 2025 Signature Event of the Southeast.

The 2026 Cullman Christkindlmarkt will be held Nov. 19 through Dec. 23. Admission is free.

Read the complete Travel + Leisure feature at www.travelandleisure.com/bestchristmas-markets-us-for-2026-12110656.

For more information about Cullman Christkindlmarkt, visit www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: *
SAMANTHA DEANN FRANCIS MOHAMED,* **CASE NO. PC2026-329**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted Amanda H. Schafner, as Administrator of the Estate of Samantha Deann Francis Mohamed, deceased, on the 8th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

DONE this the 8th day of September, 2026.

Amanda H. Schafner
Administrator

Erin G. Adams
Attorney for Petitioner
5000 Grantswood Road, Suite 120
Birmingham, Alabama 35210

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JACOB CANTRELL,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900161.00**

LYDIA ANNE CANTRELL,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Lydia Anne Cantrell, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Jacob Cantrell's Divorce Complaint by October 26, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case Number 25-DR-2026-900161.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 27th day of August, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
G. RHYS BATTLES
200 2nd AV SE
CULLMAN, AL 35055





LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

JUDY ANN MOCTEZUMA, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-327

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF JUDY ANN MOCTEZUMA, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Sherry H. Barrett on the 8th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Sharon H. Barrett, Personal Representative (Administrator)

Please cause the above notice to be published once a week for three successive weeks in said newspaper, and thereafter forward an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for the Estate
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INVITATION TO BID
CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA
East Side Park — Softball/Baseball Lighting Project Bid Number: PW 2026-14

Sealed bids for softball and baseball field lighting materials at East Side Park will be received by the City of Cullman, Alabama, until 2:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, September 25, 2026, at the City Clerk's Office, Cullman City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 (mailed bids to P.O. Box 278, Cullman, AL 35056-0278). Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time in the City Hall. This is a public works project subject to the provisions of Title 39, Code of Alabama 1975. A two-step procurement process will be used. Bidders must first submit a Pre-Bid Design Submittal for review. Only responsive bidders will be eligible to submit a sealed lump sum bid. The project is funded as a whole or in part with federal financial assistance and is subject to 2 CFR Part 200 and the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA). Bid documents, including the full Technical Specifications & Instructions to Bidders, are available for examination at the City Clerk's Office, Cullman City Hall, or by contacting Kyle Clark, Parks Director, at kclark@cullmanrecreation.org or 205.496.2039. Questions regarding the bid should be directed to Kyle Clark. All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond or other acceptable security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish performance and payment bonds, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, and meet all other requirements set forth in the bid documents, including Alabama General Contractor licensing, E-Verify enrollment, and BABA compliance. The City of Cullman reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process.

Wesley Moore, Cullman City Clerk
204 Second Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
cityclerk@cullmanal.gov

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Ron M. Roberson and Brenda C Roberson in favor of Peoples Bank of Alabama, dated September 15, 2023, and recorded in Book 2063 starting at Page 96 on or about September 20, 2023 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama; the undersigned Peoples Bank of Alabama, as mortgagee, 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 Cullman County Courthouse in the City of Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama, on October 7, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, all its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 25 and 26 of Lakeshore West Subdivision, Phase II, as shown and known on the recorded plat thereof in Map Slide B-285-B, in the Probate Records of Cullman County, Alabama

The property address is: 55 County Rd 142, Crane Hill, AL 35053

THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, ENCUMBERANCES, 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. THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED AS TO THE TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO. This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. The mortgagee/transferee reserves the right to bid for and to purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the sale of the real estate. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

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.

Michael R. Lunsford
Mortgagee
Attorney for Mortgagee
Peoples Bank of Alabama
Porterfield, Harper, Mills, Motlow & Ireland, P.A.
1912 Cherokee Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
22 Inverness Center Parkway, Suite 600
Birmingham, AL 35242
(205) 980-5000

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

JOHN WAYNE NICKLES,
Plaintiff

vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2026-900174.00**

RACHEL SUSAN NICKLES,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Rachel Susan Nickles, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer John Wayne Nickles' Divorce Complaint by October 26, 2026, or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case Number 25-DR-2026-900174.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 21st day of August, 2026.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPLETION

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that, Hernandez Universal Construction, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Construction of North Alabama Agriplex Extension at 1714 Tally Ho Street, Cullman, AL 35055 for the State of Alabama and the City of Cullman, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify 5R Design, PC, 120 Holmes Ave. NE, Ste 303, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Hernandez Universal Construction, Inc.
444 Old Trinty Road
Decatur, AL 35601

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
CHARLOTTE ANN COLLINS, * **CASE NO.: PC 2026-354**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Charlotte Ann Collins, deceased, on the 3rd day of September, 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.

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
Personal Representatives

Jospeh N Hocutt
The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. BOX 2441227
Montgomery, Alabama 36124

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS BURK, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2026-328

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS BURK, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Allison Mary-Anna Hazel Burk on the 8th day of September, 2026, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Allison Mary-Anna Hazel Burk, Personal Representative (Administrator),

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

Please cause the above notice to be published once a week for three successive weeks in said newspaper, and thereafter forward an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-344

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KENNETH LEE SPORTS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Carrie Ann Sports and Kendra Leigh Sports on the 31st day of August, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Carrie Ann Sports and Kendra Leigh Sports
Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

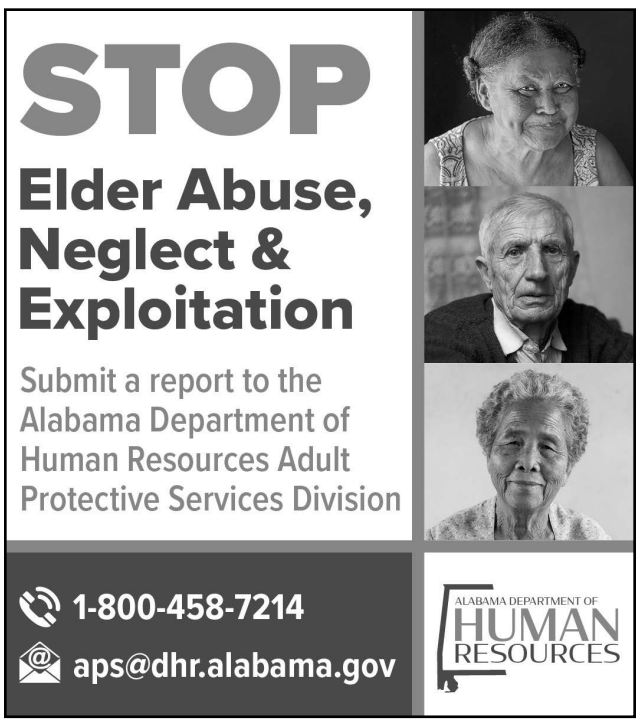
Please cause the above notice to be published once a week for three successive weeks in said newspaper, and thereafter forward an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith Attorneys, LLC
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
steve@smithandsmithllp.com







Obituary Announcements: Sept. 15-16

Marilyn Wooten Gamble, 85
In loving memory of Marilyn Wooten Gamble Marilyn Wooten Gamble, A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and faithful servant of the Lord, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, at the age of 85. She was born on May 26, 1941, to Denver and Mavis Wooten, who preceded her in death. After spending her childhood in Arley, Alabama, her family moved to Cullman. Marilyn's life was a beautiful testimony to the love of Christ and the joy of serving others. The Holy Spirit had given Marilyn the special gift of encouragement, and she used that gift to lift people up, speak hope into their lives, and remind them of the goodness of God. Her words, prayers, kindness, and unwavering faith touched countless lives. She devoted her whole life to her family and her church, finding her greatest joy in loving and serving those around her. For many years, Marilyn taught Sunday school at First Baptist Church, where she faithfully shared her love for the Lord and invested in the lives of others. Her faith was not something she spoke about; it was something she lived every day. Marilyn was also an English teacher, and proper grammar was a trademark of hers. Her love of language was part of what made her so wonderfully, unmistakably Marilyn. She taught so many at West Point, Hanceville, Wallace State, and St. Bernard Preparatory School. Marilyn was totally and completely smitten and in love with her husband, Gene. Their love was a precious example of devotion, companionship, and faithfulness. Gene was her heart, and their life together was one of her greatest adventures. They modeled the example of what marriage is supposed to look like. Their devotion to each other was rare. Her family was her greatest earthly treasure. Her love lives in them and through them, and will continue to live through the generations that she's nurtured. Services for Marilyn will be held at First Baptist Church in Cullman on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026, with visitation from 10 a.m.-noon. Her Celebration of life will be at noon. Marilyn is survived by her devoted husband, Gene; her daughter, Jennifer Clark (Marcus); her grandchildren, Alex Tanner (Kristen) and Ty Tanner; and her great-grandchildren, Jesse, Kayleigh Grace, and Michael. She is also survived by her sister, Jayne Barnett (Ches), and her nephews, Beau) Barnett (Shannon), Les Barnett (Sara), and Billy Barnett (Kristen), along with many other beloved family members and friends. Though her absence leaves a deep and tender sorrow, Marilyn's legacy of faith, encouragement, devotion, and love will remain in the hearts of all who knew her. She spent her life pointing others toward Christ, loving her family wholeheartedly, teaching others, and bringing light into the lives of those around her. Her life was a GIFT. Her love was a BLESSING. Her faith was her LEGACY. And now she sees Jesus face to face.

Annette Yates, 85
A celebration of life for our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, Annette Yates, lovingly called "Mema", will be Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Chet Berry officiating. Visitation will be from 2-3 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Annette was born on Sept. 21, 1940, in New Hope, Alabama. She was one of three children born to Earl and Clyde Elrod. She was preceded in death by her parents; twin sister, Jeanette Berry and a younger sister, Sheila Montgomery; brother-in-law, Rod Montgomery; grandson, Austin Schaffer, and grandson In Law, Caleb Vandagriff. She is survived by her husband of almost seventy years, James Yates; sons, Jerome Yates (Sandra), Tim Yates (Paula); daughters, Anita Schaffer (Jimmy), and Pam Berry (Chet); grandchildren, Margie McFalls (Matt), Emily Vandagriff, Trent Schaffer, and Kalan Krueger; great-grandchildren, Sydnie Vandagriff, Sadie Vandagriff, Layla Grace McFalls, Eli Krueger, Ben Krueger, Ezra Krueger, Sawyer Vandagriff; brother-in-law, Robert Berry; a host of nieces and nephews. Annette graduated from Holly Pond High School and worked as a seamstress and quality inspector for many years. She loved serving and being active in her community. She was a member of the New Hope No. 2 Baptist Church and enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels for eighteen years. She was a Blue-Ribbon quilter, a member of the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild, serving as President one year. She was a member of the New Hope Fan Club and a member of the Holly Pond Homemaker's Club, serving as president for two years. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Annette's name to the Alzheimer's Association. You can make donations at act.alz.org.

Dennis Nyle Kahler, 79
Funeral services for Dennis Nyle Kahler, 79, of Bangor will be Saturday, Sept. 19, at 3 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Cullman City Cemetery. Officiating the service will be Mr. Alton Bailey. Visitation will be the night prior, Friday, Sept. 18, from 6-8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Kahler lived a life of service to his country and community in the army, national guard, and Birmingham Fire Department. He also loved storytelling and music and was the president of the Alabama Songwriters Association for many years. He was also well known for his role of "Santa Claus," and was often found at the North Cullman mall and many daycares during the holiday season. He loved to make children's day by being Santa Claus. Mr. Kahler loved the numerous pets he had over the years and enjoyed spending his time outside with them. But above all else, he loved his family more than anything. Mr. Kahler is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia Kahler; children, Kris (Kim) Kahler, Kim (Jeff) Ray; grandchildren, Jessica (Bailey) Horton, Courtney (Drew) Padgett, Kayley Kahler, Keaton Kahler, Austin Ray; sister, Bonnie Morrow; and numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews who loved him dearly. Mr. Kahler is preceded in death by his parents, John Howard Kahler III and Florence Isabell Confer Kahler; and brothers, Terry and Jack Kahler. Serving as pallbearers are Jeff Ray, Keaton Kahler, Austin Ray, Bailey Horton, Drew Padgett, and Jeff Green. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Kahler family.

Victor Leroy Baughman, 69
Victor Leroy Baughman, 69, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Sept. 12, 2026. Born and raised in the Welti community, Victor was the son of Lyle Baughman and Bobbie Jean "Jennie" Tucker. He was a proud graduate of Holly Pond High School. A man of many trades, he was known mostly for his skilled work in HVAC and electrical services, dedicating many years to his family's business. Beyond his work, Victor's greatest joy was his family. He loved spending quality time with his children and grandchildren. As a true Alabamian, he was also a passionate football fan who rarely missed a game. Victor is survived by his beloved wife, Gail Baughman; his two sons, Joshua Baughman and his wife, Paola, and Derek Baughman and his wife, Jessica; and his three cherished grandchildren, Matthew, Alexia, and Brooklyn Baughman. He was preceded in death by his father, Lyle, and his mother, Jennie. Friends are invited to join the Baughman family for a time of visitation on Wednesday evening, Sept. 16, 2026, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, beginning at 6 p.m. and concluding at 8 p.m. Mr. Baughman will lie in repose on Thursday morning, Sept. 17, 2026, from 11 a.m. until funeral services begin at noon. Thursday's services will be held in the funeral home chapel as well. Following services, Mr. Baughman will be laid to rest in Center Point Cemetery. Obituary written with love by the Baughman family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Baughman family.

Ronald Lee Brooks, 83
Ronald Lee Brooks, 83, of Crane Hill, Alabama, was born Oct. 22, 1942, in North Carolina and passed away Sept. 13, 2026. He will be remembered as a devoted and beloved husband, father, and family man whose steady work ethic and faithful presence shaped the lives of those who knew him. From an early age, Ronald learned what it meant to shoulder responsibility. Growing up amid family hardships, he faced adversity with resolve and a quiet resilience that carried him forward. He left school after the eighth grade so he could go to work and help support a household that included six siblings—an early reflection of the diligence and dependability that would define his life. During his working years, Ronald held a corporate position before taking the bold step of opening his own automotive repair shop. There, he found his stride—skilled, committed, and proud of work done right—until back injuries forced an early retirement. Even then, his determination and willingness to do for others remained constant. In May of 1962, Ronald married Brenda Gail Key Brooks, and together they shared 64 years of marriage marked by loyalty and enduring devotion. Their life together began in Greensboro, North Carolina, and in June 1963, they welcomed their only child, Johnny Lee Brooks. Johnny later married Stacy Sorensen, and the family grew with the blessing of grandchildren: Heather Nicole, followed by twins Michaela Michelle and Sarah Danielle. Heather (Adam), Michaela (Jason), and Danielle grew into successful young adults, and Ronald took great pride in seeing the next generations flourish. He was also blessed with great-grandchildren, Tucker, Tanner, Carter, and Vivian. Ronald's interests reflected both his craftsmanship and his love of shared time with family. He enjoyed hunting and racing—motocross with his son Johnny and stock car racing. He especially loved building motors and building them fast, finding satisfaction in the precision, patience, and know-how the work required. NASCAR was his favorite sport; he recorded races on VHS and treasured taking his family to the track, turning those outings into lasting memories. He also enjoyed watching westerns and listening to oldies and country music. Among his favorites were "I Will Always Love You" by Dolly Parton and "Last Date" by Floyd Cramer. Ronald also gave of himself beyond his home. As an active Mason in Greensboro, he participated in community outreach, offering guidance to young people facing adversity and supporting Christmas festivities and gift-giving. In times of need, he provided a temporary home for friends and family—an act of care that spoke to the kind of man he was: steady, generous, and quietly protective of those he loved. Ronald is survived by his wife, Brenda Gail Key Brooks; his son, Johnny Lee Brooks; his sisters, Rosemary Burnett, Kathy Brooks Elders, and Myron Brooks Inman; his brothers, Gary Brooks and Dale Brooks; Grandchildren: Heather Nicole, twins Michaela Michelle and Sarah Danielle; great-grandchildren: Tucker, Tanner, Carter, and Vivian; and a host of other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Bryan Branklin Brooks; his mother, Virginia Johnsie Tucker Brooks; and his brother, Danny Joe Brooks. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held in the Fireside Room at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055, on Sept. 20, 2026, from 2-4 p.m. In remembering Ronald, family and friends will carry forward the example he set—of devotion that did not waver, work done with pride, and a love that made room for others.

Robert Maurice Hansen, Jr., 83
US Air Force Master Sargent (Retired) Robert Maurice Hansen, Jr., age 83 of Vinemont, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born, Aug. 27, 1943, in San Diego, California, to Robert Hansen, Sr. and Joye Hansen. He was preceded in death by his son, Robert Allen Hansen and his brother, James L. Hansen and his parents. Survivors include his wife, Mary Hansen; sons, Michael (Keri) Hansen, Aaron (Deborah) Hansen and James Nay; daughters, Jeannie (Andrew) Gallegos and Kim Hansen; grandchildren, Zachary Hansen, Abby (Jonathon) Barnes, Kristen (Caméron) Hansen, Rebekah (Aaron) Clark, Seth Hansen, Camron Hansen and a host of great grandchildren, his fur babies and brother, Don (Kim) Hansen.

Hulen Lewis Briscoe, 86
A Graveside Service, with military honors for Hulen Lewis Briscoe, age 86 of Cullman, will be at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, at Cullman City Cemetery, with Pastor Zack Freeman officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, 2026, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Briscoe passed away on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born, July 26, 1940, to Herman Briscoe and Willa Mae Harris Briscoe. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rachel Patterson Briscoe; his baby brother Jerry Charles Briscoe. Survivors include his daughters, Elizabeth "Beth" Pitmon (Loren) and Teresa Briscoe; grandchildren, Savanna Freeman (Zack), Jacob Chumley (Tosha); great grandchildren, Danny Freeman, Drew Freeman, Zoe Freeman, Graesen Chumley and Harley Chumley; sisters, Elsie Faye Stafford, Bobbie Jean Hutson (Carl); lifelong friends, Hugh and Sarah Arnold; and host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Hulen Briscoe was a hardworking man with the most precious and loving heart. He loved his family with all that he had and was always there when we needed him. He taught us the meaning of hard work, love, strength, and devotion. His presence brought comfort, and his love was something we could always count on. I am so thankful for every moment and every memory, He will forever be loved, forever missed, and forever carried in our hearts. He was all these things but most of all he was our Daddy.

Judith Clark Hensel, 81
Judith Clark Hensel was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Dec. 7, 1944, to father, Carl Norton Hensel and mother, Margaret Bliss Potter. She passed away Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, in Guntersville, Alabama, after many years of declining health.

Judith was raised initially in Minnesota. After her parents divorced, she spent her childhood years in Carmel, California, where her mother had family. She continued to spend time periodically with her Minnesota family. She graduated from Lewis & Clark College, in Oregon.

Judith's adult years were consumed with many adventures in this country and India—always with the goal of seeking greater communication with the Lord. She ultimately found peace and rest in her beloved Catholicism. She eventually settled in Alabama and became a devout catholic. She built a community of wonderful friends who enriched her life, including Lee John Bruno, Karen Duffy, Mary Baker and Terry Kopp.

She is survived by her biological brother, Peter Hensel (Jackie) and her step siblings, Ede Rice (Jack), Rob Hensel (Signe), Pam Johns (Pat) and Heidi Heiland (Dan). Funeral Mass on Sept. 17 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Cullman, Alabama.

In memory of Judith's spirit of giving and the love for her community, in lieu of flowers please donate to the United For Life Foundation. https://www.unitedforlifefoundation.org/give/ P.O. Box 43217, Birmingham, AL 35243

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BOOK REVIEW

'Nash Falls' by David Baldacci

Cathy Lay Mayor
Contributor

Longtime readers of David Baldacci know that he released a new character and series last fall.

The first book, "Nash Falls," introduces the main character, Walter Nash, a hardworking investment banker who follows the rules — though some might consider him a bit boring. His wife, Judith, frequently refers to him as an "Eagle Scout," while their 19-year-old daughter, Maggie, aspires to be an influencer.

Nash works for Sybaritic Investments, a multibillion-dollar firm he eventually discovers is involved in illegal ventures.

Before the suspense begins, Nash and his family attend the funeral of his father. Nash and his father have been estranged since he was 14 years old.

There are several strangers plus a few bikers from his father's time in Vietnam at the funeral.

The spokesperson for the group speaks at the funeral, where he berates and insults Nash. Nash finds out later that this was at the request of his father.

Later that night Nash is visited by a FBI agent. The FBI wants him to find evidence that Sybaritic is involved in money laundering with China and Russia. He can either get information about his boss and his boss' boss or go down with the ship when the feds make an arrest. Nash has to reinvent himself into a fighting machine to help his daughter and save his reputation.

"Nash Falls" is a fast-paced novel with a lot of intrigue and danger. The book leaves much unanswered. But, the sequel was published a few months ago!

David Baldacci is a former attorney known for his political thrillers and crime fiction. His books have sold over 150 million copies.

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