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Southern Ghost Girls holding ghost walk on Saturday, Oct. 3 » PAGE 4



PIXABAY

From Cullman's German kitchens
» PAGE 11

Cullman City Council approves agreement for $15M bank and retail development

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - A planned $15 million commercial development on Third Street Southwest, including a new First National Bank facility and property reserved for future retail, will receive city assistance for road improvements under an agreement approved by the Cullman City Council on Sept. 28.

The development covers approximately 3.75 acres at 201 and 401 Third St. SW. First National Bank of Pulaski plans to construct a bank and community room at 201 Third St. SW, with the remaining property at 401 Third St. SW reserved for retail development.

The agreement describes the bank as being under contract to acquire the property.

First National already operates a Cullman branch at 1645 Derenda Ave. SW, Suite E. The development agreement does not specify whether the new facility would replace that location or operate as an additional branch.

The council adopted Resolution 2026-152 authorizing the economic development agreement, which assigns the city responsibility for 80% of the cost of a required deceleration lane on U.S. Highway » PAGE 3

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Ribbon cutting, keg tapping, more kick off Cullman Oktoberfest 2026



KRYSTAL CORLEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Community members, festival organizers and costumed participants line up behind a blue-and-white Bavarian ribbon at the Oktoberfest gate Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026, in Depot Park.

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Oktoberfest 2026 is officially underway. A ribbon cutting at the festival gates and an evening of opening ceremonies took place Thursday, Oct. 1, at Depot Park. On Friday, the fun continued with Senior Day and more.

As the gates opened Thursday at 4 p.m., a crowd of community members, festival organizers and participants dressed in lederhosen and dirndls lined up behind a blue-and-white Bavarian ribbon beneath the festival's Oktoberfest archway. They were flanked by the giant mascot figures that greet visitors at the entrance.

Admission to Cullman Oktoberfest is free. Opening day welcomed visitors to three covered biergartens – the Hofbräuhaus, Ethos/Goat Island and the Weihenstephan Festzelt – along with vendors and the Kinderbereich kids zone, home to a 110-foot Ferris wheel and a double-decker carousel. Stilt walkers in traditional German dress and the festival's costumed mascots roamed the grounds, greeting families as they arrived.

Live music began at 5 p.m., and the afternoon schedule included relay races, a chair-stacking show, Bavarian jugglers and a Bavarian jump rope show.

Opening ceremonies

The main event of the night came at 6:30 p.m., when the main stage hosted opening ceremonies featuring the 2026 Burgermeister, Miss Oktoberfest and the traditional tapping of the keg.

Miss Oktoberfest contestants, dressed in dirndls and crowned with flowers, took the stage before the crowd. Then, with festivalgoers packed in front of the stage and phones raised, the first keg was tapped with a wooden mallet, officially marking the start of the festivities.

This year's Burgermeister, Edgar Veigl, is a descendant of Cullman's original German settlers. He serves as Oktoberfest's official ambassador and grand marshal and will represent the festival throughout the celebration.

The evening continued with a brat-eating contest, stein hoisting and a best-dressed contest on the main stage, as well as a candlelight walking tour at the Cullman County Museum.

Friday

Friday featured Senior Day events, a yodeling contest and a late-evening headlining performance by Manuela Horn.

Saturday

Saturday begins with the Oktoberfest 5K and 10K at 8 a.m., followed by the wiener dog races at 11 a.m., dueling pianos and another Manuela Horn performance from 9:30-11 p.m.

Sunday

Sunday brings Family Olympics, a Manuela Horn family show from 4-5:30 p.m. and a closing performance by The Overtones.

Oktoberfest continues through Sunday, Oct. 4. Hours are 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday.

Depot Park is located at 309 First Ave. NE.

For the full schedule of events, visit www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com or download the official Cullman Oktoberfest app. For more information, call 256-734-9157.

Cullman woman killed in Hwy. 69/CR 747 multivehicle crash Thursday afternoon » PAGE 2

Cullman woman dies after being struck by vehicles on Hwy. 31 downtown » PAGE 2

Budget breakdown: Hanceville City Council projects $5.46M in revenue for FY 2026-27 » PAGE 2

Sacred Heart Altar Society serves annual German Dinner



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Sacred Heart Altar Society served a traditional German dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026. » PAGE 12

Senior Day brings music, dancing and a new Miss Senior Oktoberfest to Depot Park » PAGE 12

Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant introduces contestants ahead of Nov. 7 event » PAGE 12

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 2

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 2, 2026. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Sept. 28
- theft of property; CR 1763
- criminal mischief; CR 52
- domestic violence; CR 233
- burglary-domestic violence; Clint Warren St. NE
- theft of property; CR 606
- criminal mischief; Town Hall Dr.
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 641
- possession of controlled substances; CR 652
- theft of property; CR 1678

Sept. 29
- assault; CR 1742
- theft of property; CR 504

Sept. 30
- possession of controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; tampering with physical evidence; Hwy. 278E
- dog bite; CR 544
- harassment; Railroad Ave. NE
- domestic violence; Wesley Ave. N
- trespassing; Main St. SE Hanceville
- domestic violence; interference with domestic violence emergency call; CR 940
- violation of protection order; CR 544
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 641
- theft of property; CR 395
- theft of property; CR 216
- theft of property; US. 31N

ARRESTS

Sept. 28 – Oct. 1

Black, Shannon I.; 40
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)

Boyles, Leslie K.; 22
- GJ – assault-child abuse-simple-family (2 counts)

Campbell, Jennifer L.; 46
- GJ – theft by fraudulent leasing

Carnes, Reese I.; 25
- burglary-residence-force

Coker, Curtis E.; 34
- harboring a fugitive

Cooper, Crystal B.; 43
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Dale, Dianne H.; 61
- assault-harassment

Figgs, Michael A.; 34
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence

Garcia, Gustavo; 53
- assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon

Griffin, Kenneth J.; 20
- FTA – speed above 70 mph – interstate highway
- FTA – driving without drivers license
- FTA – failure to register vehicle

Hall, David R.; 71
- criminal trespass

Hanners, Joshua E.; 37
- possession of a stolen vehicle

Harper, Scott A.; 41
- GJ – sex offense-sexual abuse-2nd degree-more than 15 years older than the victim

Harris, Belinda G.; 51
- receiving stolen vehicle
- property crime-dismantling, destroying, changing identity of vehicle

Harris, Brandon L.; 46
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – failure to register vehicle (2 counts)
- FTA – speed above 70 mph – interstate highway
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Harrison, Jamarion A.; 22
- certain person forbidden to possess pistol

Hollenack, Lyndsey N.; 32
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Holt, Jr., Roderick J.; 36
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Hudson, Bobby R.; 35
- possession of synthetic narcotic
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ibrahim, Ferris J.; 37
- GJ – receiving stolen vehicle
- GJ – property crime-dismantling, destroying, changing identity of vehicle

Johnson, Ladonna W.; 46
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Johnson, Matthew L.; 42
- GJ – burglary-residence-force
- GJ – theft of property-2nd degree, $1500-2500 (3 counts)
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant
- GJ – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies (2 counts)
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large (2 counts)
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Lewis, Ashton D.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – Alabama probation violation

McCown, Katelynn M.; 33
- burglary-2nd degree – domestic violence
- harboring a fugitive

McNabb, Calvin A.; 26
- homicide-manslaughter
- assault-1st degree
- speed above 70 mph – interstate highway

Miller, Breaunah J.; 26
- GJ – receiving stolen property
- GJ – property crime-dismantling, destroying, changing identity of vehicle

Myslinski, James M.; 43
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Pearson, Juwan I.; 29
- FTA – passing forged instrument

Pence, Jr., Larry D.; 52
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Queen, Richard; 79
- GJ – sex offense-victim under 12
- GJ – sexual abuse

Robbins, Coty A.; 40
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – promote prison contraband
- FTA – DUI

Rutherford, Jr., Johnny E.; 36
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – illegal possession of prescription drugs

Salter, Tyler R.; 32
- possession of a stolen vehicle

Sheppard, Sierra S.; 24
- FTA – DUIA

Turney, Aaron K.; 35
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs

Washington, Jonathan D.; 28
- FTA – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (3 counts)

Westmoreland, Cathel M.; 59
- FTA – drug trafficking
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Wiley, Emmanuel K.; 28
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sept. 27
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $207; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $665; Olive St. SW

Sept. 29
- criminal trespass-1st degree; Twigs & Twiz, LLC; Main Ave. SW

Sept. 30
- retail theft of property-1st degree; Lowe's; general merchandise; $3,670; Cherokee Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person
- organized retail theft; retail theft of property-2nd degree; Lowe's; general merchandise; $1,961; Cherokee Ave. SW

Oct. 1
- theft of property-1st degree; person; motorcycle; Cleveland Ave. NW
- retail theft of property-1st degree; Belk; general merchandise; $6,000; Cullman Shopping Center
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '17 Chev. Cruze; 2nd Ave. SW/3rd St. SW

ARRESTS

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1

Johnson, Ladonna W.; 46
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

Ford, Brandon L.; 53
- retail theft of property-1st degree

Turney, Aaron K.; 35
- FTA – driving without license (2 counts)
- FTA – insurance violation

Duke, Joel K.; 62
- FTA – receiving stolen property-4th degree

Water, Kendra S.; 32
- DUI

Imlay, Jason W.; 50
- FTA – insurance violation

Lewis, Ashton D.; 29
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree

King, Dustin B.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Hwy. 31 (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – A Cullman woman died Thursday night, Oct. 1, after being struck by two vehicles on U.S. Highway 31.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the victim as Donna Butler, 69.

According to the Cullman Police Department, at approximately 9:21 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle collision on Second Avenue Northwest (U.S. Highway 31).

The CPD said the collision involved two vehicles and a pedestrian, whom it also identified as Butler.

Butler was transported to a local hospital, where she later succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The CPD's Traffic Homicide Unit is investigating the crash.

"This remains an ongoing investigation, and these are all of the details that will be released at this time," the department said.

CR 747 (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

SIMCOE, Ala. – A Cullman woman was killed in a multivehicle wreck that happened Thursday afternoon at approximately 1 p.m. in the Simcoe community.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the deceased as Malinda E. Chandler, 73.

According to Alabama State Troopers, the crash occurred when the 2015 Hyundai Sonata driven by Chandler, was struck by a 2012 Ford Focus driven by Brandi N. McFadden, 39, of Cullman.

After the initial impact, the Hyundai was then struck by a 2003 Ford F-250 driven by Austin D. Johnson, 23, of Baileyton.

Troopers said Chandler was not using a seat belt at the time of the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Alabama Highway 69 and County Road 747.

Hanceville (from Front)

Liz Tankersley
liz@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - The City of Hanceville's fiscal year 2026-27 budget projects approximately $5.46 million in revenue and $5.17 million in expenditures, leaving an anticipated $289,044.32 in net income.

Sales taxes make up a significant portion of the city's projected revenue, with approximately $2.79 million budgeted for the year.

The total includes approximately $2.01 million in general sales tax revenue, along with city tax, consumers use tax, sellers use tax and simplified sellers use tax collections.

Other sources of revenue include $673,349.11 for the Hanceville Fire Department (most from fire dues), $345,971.93 from business licenses, $289,381.61 in franchise taxes and $262,833.55 in ad valorem taxes.

The budget also projects $185,559.93 in alcohol tax revenue. Of the amount allocated for alcohol tax disbursements, 50% will go to the General Fund, 35% to infrastructure and 5% each to the Fire Department, Police Department and schools.

Public Works accounts for approximately $1.52 million in expenditures. The department's budget includes $646,775 for payroll, $200,000 for paving projects, $158,669 for repairs and maintenance and $55,000 for fuel. The budget also includes $50,500 for a tractor and $37,615.97 associated with the ALDOT Highway 31 drainage project.

Fire Department expenditures total approximately $1.14 million, including $577,222 for payroll, $121,172.28 for health insurance and $96,683.93 in capital outlay. Capital expenses include $54,553.32 for a fire pumper truck, $25,000 for a lean building and $17,130.61 for a cardio monitor. The department also has $48,716.52 budgeted for fire station loan payments.

The city has budgeted approximately $989,513 for Parks and Recreation. Of that amount, $450,365.79 is designated for ball-related expenses. The largest item is $343,100 in capital outlay for fencing. Other Parks and Recreation expenditures include $206,596 for park payroll, approximately $69,963 for pool expenses, $30,630 for utilities and $24,341.03 for park improvements.

The budget includes $23,000 for Parks and Recreation events, including $10,000 for Kids Night Out, $8,000 for Day in the Park, $3,000 for Fish-O-Rama and $2,000 for the Christmas Market.

General Fund expenditures total approximately $1.23 million. Among the larger expenses are $434,330.64 for insurance and $422,900.04 for payroll and payroll taxes. The budget also includes $75,604.09 for dues and subscriptions and $56,600.36 for the Industrial Development Board.

A total of $19,150 is budgeted for donations, including $12,000 for Hanceville Schools and $3,000 for the Wallace State Community College Scholarship Fund. Other allocations include funding for the North Alabama Agriplex, Civitan Club, Cullman County Veterans Program, First Source for Women and Good Samaritan Health Clinic.

Library expenditures are budgeted at $49,254.36, while Building Inspector expenditures total $35,690.04 and Municipal Court expenditures total $18,318.25.

The budget covers the fiscal year beginning in October 2026 and ending in September 2027.

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Development (from Front)

278, also known as Third Street Southwest.

The bank is responsible for the remaining 20%. The entrance to the future retail area would align with Fourth Avenue Southwest.

The cost-sharing provision includes engineering, construction and related state or federal requirements. The publicly posted agreement does not include a construction estimate for the lane or establish a maximum dollar amount for the city's contribution.

The approximately $15 million investment cited in the resolution refers to the overall commercial development, not the city's share of the project.

According to the agreement, the bank reported that rising construction and labor costs, along with required public infrastructure improvements, made financial assistance necessary for the deceleration lane.

Sidewalks along Second Street Southwest and Third Avenue Southwest are also required. The agreement provides additional time for their installation while the city seeks Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding.

The bank must submit sidewalk plans for city approval and would be responsible for installing the sidewalks if grant funding is unavailable or is not awarded within the period specified in the agreement.

The city approved the arrangement under Amendment 772, the Alabama constitutional provision authorizing certain public assistance for private economic development projects.

In its resolution, the council identified commercial redevelopment, employment opportunities and increased tax revenue as anticipated benefits supporting the expenditure of public funds.

The resolution describes the property as part of an underdeveloped area of the downtown business district.

The agreement identifies reuse of the site and additional commercial activity on surrounding properties among the city's objectives. It does not establish a numerical job-creation commitment.

The posted agreement is between the city and the bank. It does not include a county funding commitment or a condition requiring approval by the Cullman County Commission.

Construction remains subject to applicable permitting, building, zoning, subdivision and environmental requirements.

The agreement also identifies approval from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as a requirement for operating the bank, but does not document the status of that approval.

Retail tenants, building sizes and construction or opening dates are not identified in the posted documents.

The agreement also does not detail how the planned community room would operate or establish that the property purchase has closed.

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315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

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
- Saturday, Oct. 3 – 4-8 p.m. Fall festival
- Sunday, Oct. 4 – 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. Prayer service at 2 p.m.

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.
- 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.

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

MS. SENIOR CULLMAN COUNTY PAGEANT
November 7, 2026
at Fairview High School Auditorium
Ages 60 and above
Applications will be coming soon.
If you have any questions, reach out to us.
Email: msccp2025@gmail.com
Call: 256-507-1687
Facebook: Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant

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The Cullman Tribune
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PREP FOOTBALL

Cullman falls to Jasper 31-6 in region matchup

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

JASPER, Ala. - Jasper scored the game's first 14 points and held Cullman scoreless after halftime to defeat the Bearcats 31-6 in a Class 5A, Region 5 matchup Thursday night.

The loss dropped Cullman to 2-4 overall and 1-3 in region play. Jasper improved to 4-2 and 3-1.

Jasper quarterback Carmello Hudson opened the scoring with a 23-yard touchdown pass to Keanu Anderson during the first quarter. The extra point gave the Vikings a 7-0 lead.

Zion Coger accounted for Jasper's next two touchdowns, scoring once before halftime and again during the third quarter.

One came on a touchdown pass from Hudson and the other on the ground, giving Hudson two scoring passes and Coger two touchdowns for the night.

Trailing 14-0 late in the second quarter, Cullman received the field position it needed following a long kickoff return.

The Bearcats drove to the Jasper 1-yard line, where Carson Stancil powered into the end zone with 1:31 remaining in the half. The score cut the Vikings' lead to 14-6.

Jasper answered before the break when Oliver Mosley connected on a 55-yard field goal with two seconds remaining.

The kick sent the Vikings into halftime with a 17-6 advantage and was reported as the second-longest field goal in Jasper program history.

Coger's second touchdown extended Jasper's lead to 24-6 during the third quarter. The Vikings' defense continued to keep the Bearcats off the scoreboard, and Cedrick Vincent Jr. added a fourth-quarter rushing touchdown to produce the 31-6 final.

Cullman will remain on the road for another region game Thursday, Oct. 8, against Gardendale. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

PREP FOOTBALL

Brooks pulls away from West Point, 47-21

Jared Spears
jared@cullmantribune.com

KILLEN, Ala. - West Point stayed within striking distance through the first half Thursday night, but Brooks pulled away after halftime to defeat the Warriors 47-21 in a Class 4A, Region 7 matchup.

The loss dropped West Point to 0-7 overall and 0-4 in region play. Brooks improved to 4-3 overall and 2-2 in the region.

West Point received the opening kickoff, but its first possession ended when Brooks intercepted a pass and took over at its own 15-yard line.

The defenses controlled the remainder of the first quarter, which ended scoreless after the Warriors punted the ball back to the Lions.

Brooks opened the scoring with 9:20 remaining in the second quarter, finishing a drive that took nearly three minutes and taking a 7-0 lead.

The Warriors answered when Max Patterson connected with Carter McAfee for a touchdown with 7:13 left in the half, tying the score at 7.

After West Point stopped Brooks on downs, Patterson found McAfee for another touchdown.

The score gave the Warriors their first and only lead of the night, 13-7, with 4:20 remaining before halftime.

Brooks responded with a touchdown before the break, sending the teams into halftime tied at 13.

Both offenses were held scoreless early in the third quarter before Brooks moved ahead 19-13 with 4:20 remaining in the period.

West Point's ensuing possession ended on downs near the Brooks 30-yard line, and the Lions capitalized when Ro Thompson scored with 2:45 left to extend their lead to 26-13.

The Warriors turned the ball over again as the third quarter expired, and Brooks added another touchdown early in the fourth to stretch the margin to 33-13.

Patterson scored on a 1-yard run later in the fourth quarter, cutting the Brooks lead to 33-21.

The Lions answered with two more touchdowns to close the scoring and secure the 47-21 victory.

West Point will return home to host Hamilton on Friday, Oct. 9.

Oktoberfest Walking Tours continue this weekend

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - One of the Cullman Oktoberfest's many traditions is growing along with the festival. Former Burgermeister Michael Sullins is leading a newly expanded lineup of walking tours.

These guided tours offer attendees a deep dive into the city's rich, vibrant history.

"With Oktoberfest growing into a four-day festival, it felt like the perfect opportunity to expand our walking tours as well," Sullins said.

"We've designed a lineup that truly offers something for everyone, whether you are a lifelong resident or a first-time visitor."

The tours are free to the public, operating on a first-come, first-served basis with limited slots available. Attendees can sign up at the Cullman County Museum just before each scheduled tour.

While the tours cost nothing to join, donations to support the museum are highly encouraged. More details can be found on the official Cullman Oktoberfest site at www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com/walking-tours.

Remaining tours include:

- "Prost to the Past" (Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.): This will be a 30-minute, half-mile introduction to local heritage. The tour goes down First Avenue, the historic heart and soul of downtown Cullman, to unveil classic town stories.
- "Locals and Legends" (Saturday, Oct. 3, at 6 p.m.): This 30-minute tour allows listeners a fast-paced introduction of Cullman's most dramatic lore. Part of the history will include the 1936 bank teller Catherine Clark Voss, who famously survived a point-blank gunshot wound while fighting off a robber at State National Bank.
- "Sermons in Glass" (Sunday, Oct. 4, at 3 p.m.): This one is about an hour long, with a 0.7-mile guided walk down Second Avenue. It will feature the works of the world-renowned Von Gerichten Art Glass Company as the tour explores the stained-glass windows of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church. This event will help strengthen the perspective of how artistry bridged Ohio craftsmanship with German imports.

When asked which route shouldn't be missed, Sullins didn't hesitate.



CHASADY WOODS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Michael Sullins and Julie Burks lead a walking tour on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026.

"While every single tour brings something unique to the table, if you're asking a former Burgermeister for a personal recommendation, you simply cannot miss 'Locals and Legends,'" Sullins shared. "Where else can you get your photo taken with the first Cullman Burgermeister to ever tap an Oktoberfest keg alongside our newest leader?"

The tour will feature guest appearances from 2026 Burgermeister Edgar Veigl, who will share personal family stories and hidden Cullman gems. "Edgar and I go way back, and I am absolutely thrilled he is joining us to share his family's history and his own hidden Cullman gems," Sullins said. "It's going to be unforgettable, so don't miss it!"

The Cullman County Museum is located at 211 Second Ave. NE.


ANABELLE HOWZE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Shawn Bennett, Lesley Ann Hyde and Sherri Hankey

Ghost Girls (from Front)

Chasady Woods
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – On Saturday, Oct. 3, Southern Ghost Girls Tours & Investigations will return to Cullman's Warehouse District for a candlelit twilight walking tour and paranormal history event. They previously held a similar event in early May of this year.

Visitors are advised to gather at Sipsey Winery at 112 Clark St. NE, Cullman for the guided ghost walk at 7 p.m. Though the earlier the better! The tour will be led by owner and founder Lesley Ann Hyde.

The organizers wrote, "While downtown Cullman transforms into a vibrant Bavarian wonderland, the shadows of 1st Avenue hide secrets from our town's past."

The tour is said to cover Cullman's 1873 German immigration settlements with an interesting, eerie twist of ghost stories gathered from locals. Attendees will also learn about Cullman's founder, Colonel Cullmann, and how he shaped where the town is today.

Organizers advise that they will not be congregating inside the winery and the event does not require walking throughout the downtown historic district.

Admission is $36 per person and each person who purchases a ticket will receive one glass of cider, wine or nonalcoholic beverage. The tickets are available on Eventbrite or www.southerghostgirls.com

You can visit www.southernghostgirls.com for more information.

Jacobs proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Cullman

Leanne H. West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - Mayor Woody Jacobs has proclaimed October 2026 Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the city of Cullman, joining communities across the country in raising awareness, supporting survivors and recognizing the organizations and advocates working to prevent domestic violence.

Representatives from The Willow Path joined Jacobs at Cullman City Hall Sept. 30 for the proclamation.

The proclamation recognizes domestic violence as a serious public health and safety issue that can affect people of all backgrounds and have lasting effects on victims, families, workplaces and communities. It also calls on residents to honor survivors, remember those lost, raise awareness, support local services and work together to end domestic violence.

"We're fortunate to have The Willow Path and other organizations in our community that are there to help people when they need it most," Jacobs said.

"I appreciate the work they do to help victims find safety, support and a way forward. That work makes a real difference for individuals and families in our community."

Domestic Violence Awareness Month has been nationally recognized each October since 1989. The 2026 national campaign continues the theme "With Survivors, Always," emphasizing the importance of moving beyond awareness to action and standing with survivors through safety, support and solidarity.


CITY OF CULLMAN
Pictured, left to right are The Willow Path Board Member Stephanie Childers, Board Member Stefani Nelson, Board Member Katie Brown, Mayor Woody Jacobs, Executive Director Jessica Atchley, Board President Lori Williams and Financial Officer Denise Gilley.

Locally, The Willow Path has served Cullman County for more than three decades. Established in 1991 as Victim Services of Cullman, the organization became The Willow Path in 2025.

The organization provides emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, prevention education and long-term support for survivors of domestic violence.

The Willow Path is also encouraging the community to participate in National Wear Purple Day.

"Oct. 22 is National Wear Purple Day! We are asking all of our community members to wear purple that day," said Executive Director Jessica Atchley. "Need a purple ribbon? Call our office and we will deliver one for you and your whole team that week!"

Purple is widely recognized as the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, providing a visible way for individuals, businesses, offices and organizations to show support for survivors and help bring attention to domestic violence in their communities.

As stated in the city's proclamation, domestic violence can be prevented through collective action to raise awareness, support survivors, promote healthy relationships and build safer communities.

Find out more about The Willow Path at www.thewillowpath.org.



Centuries-old Latin choral books on display at St. Bernard for Oktoberfest

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com



REGINA GONGRE /ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School is displaying a pair of Latin choral books dating to the 1600s as part of Cullman's Oktoberfest celebration.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Two hand-written Latin choral books, one of them repaired with a scrap of parchment more than 700 years old, are on display at St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School as part of Cullman's 2026 Oktoberfest.

The City of Cullman invited St. Bernard to take part in this year's celebration because of the Abbey's deep German roots. According to a handout prepared by the school, the founding monks of St. Bernard came from Germany, first stayed at St. Vincent Archabbey in Pennsylvania and then made their way to Cullman, where they founded St. Bernard Abbey in 1891.

"As you look around, we are sharing a few pieces of our history that help tell the story of the monks and the Catholic tradition they brought with them," the handout reads.

Books from the 1600s

The centerpiece of the display is a set of two large Latin choral books. St. Bernard brought in Cullman County Museum Director Molly Bloom, who is trained in the study of old manuscripts, to examine both. Based on the type of book, the materials and the style of calligraphy, Bloom dated the books to the 1600s.

The pages are made of lambskin, and the bindings are wood and leather.

Their size is part of the story. Before modern printing, books were extremely expensive and time-consuming to produce, so monks did not each have their own copy. Instead, one oversized book was placed in the choir loft of the church so an entire group of monks could sing from it together. One monk was often responsible for turning the large pages while the others sang.

A patch older than the book

Visitors who look closely at the book nearest the door can spot a page that was repaired long ago. The piece used for the repair came from an even older manuscript dating to the 1300s.

"In one small section of this book, we are looking at material that is more than 700 years old," the handout notes.

Each book carries its own history. Some pages of the book on the right, particularly those containing feast days, were removed over the years. The book on the left contains material highlighting Mary, the mother of Jesus, as well as St. Jerome.

St. Jerome, who lived in the fourth and fifth centuries, was a priest, scholar and monk best known for translating the Bible into Latin. His translation, known as the Vulgate, became one of the most influential Latin versions of Scripture in the history of the Church. St. Bernard called it fitting that he appears in one of its books, since faith, education, scholarship and monastic life have been connected at the school for more than 130 years.

More than beautiful objects

"These books are more than beautiful and very old objects," the handout reads. "They give us a glimpse into the lives of the monks who came before us: their faith, their scholarship, their music, and their dedication to preserving and passing on the Christian tradition."

St. Bernard thanked the City of Cullman for inviting the abbey and school to be part of Oktoberfest.

"We hope you enjoy learning a little about our German roots and the remarkable history of St. Bernard Abbey and Prep School," the handout reads.

Cullman Oktoberfest runs through Sunday, Oct. 4.

St. Paul's brings 1870s German worship back to life with Gottesdienst

Krystal Corley
krystal@cullmantribune.com



COURTESY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church hosted a German-language Gottesdienst on Tuesday, Sept. 29, followed by a German-style meal.

CULLMAN, Ala. – St. Paul's Lutheran Church invited the community to step back in time Tuesday evening, Sept. 29, for a Gottesdienst, a worship service in German modeled on how Cullman's early settlers would have worshiped.

The 6 p.m. service at the church, 513 Fourth Ave. SE, was billed as a chance to "experience how our ancestors worshiped in German!" A German-style meal with traditional entertainment followed in the church gym.

According to the church's service bulletin, the service was "an approximate historical replica" of what a Gottesdienst would have looked like, without Holy Communion, when Col. John Cullman came to Cullman in the 1870s. The hymns, readings and prayers closely followed the traditional pattern for a Sunday morning service.

"But this order of service goes beyond just Cullman," the bulletin reads. "This order of Divine Service is a very ancient tradition which goes back to the earliest days of the Church. Although they would have had different melodies and a different language, this order of service is something which Christians have enjoyed throughout the world for nearly two thousand years."

A feast day in German

The evening fell on the Day of St. Michael and All Angels, a traditional church feast also known as Michaelmas. The bulletin's cover carried the title in German, "Tag des Erzengels Michael und aller Engel," along with an engraving of the archangel Michael and the congregation's German name, "Die Evangelisch-Lutherische St. Pauli Gemeinde zu Cullman, Alabama."

English translations were printed in italics throughout the bulletin so that "everyone can follow along, no matter how much German you know." Worshipers were encouraged to sing the hymns and join in the congregation's spoken parts, with the choir singing to help lead them.

What "Gottesdienst" means

Gottesdienst, pronounced GOT-us-deenst, literally translates to "God's Service." In the Lutheran Church, the term refers to the Sunday morning gathering of Christians, known in English as the Divine Service.

The bulletin explained that the name is meant to describe God serving His people rather than people serving God, pointing to the account in John 13 of Jesus washing His disciples' feet.

"It does not mean 'our service to God'—no, far from it! What it means is God's service to us," the bulletin reads.

The church closed its welcome with an invitation: "We are blessed by your presence among us, and we pray that today's Gottesdienst is a blessing to you."

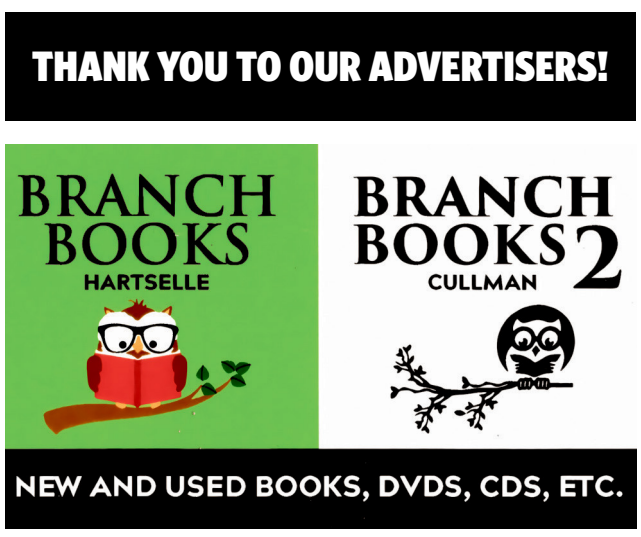
Honoring Cullman's German roots

The service came as Cullman celebrates its German heritage with Oktoberfest,.

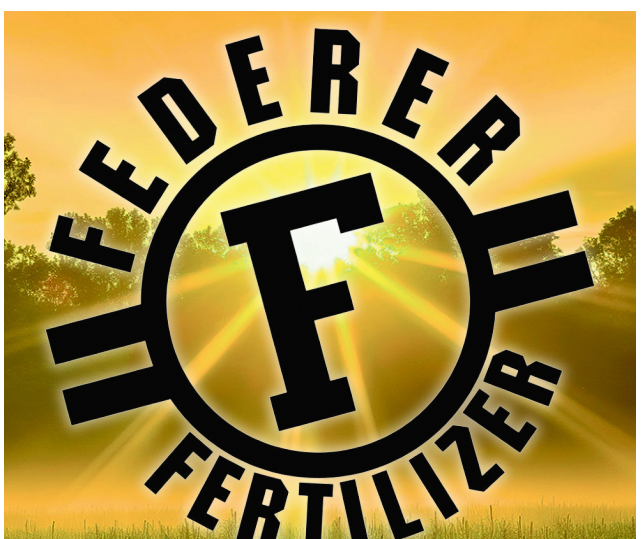
St. Paul's Lutheran Church holds regular Sunday services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. and invited those who attended Tuesday to return and worship with the congregation.



THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!











LEGALS

Case# PC2026-311
PB MIN Book 247 Page 454
Recorded in Above Book and Page
10/01/2026 10 24AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)
ED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
)
Evelyn N. Hays,) Case No. PC 2026-311
)
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Deborah A. Drinkard as Personal Representative of the Estate of Evelyn A. Hays, deceased, on the 1st day of October, 20 26, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Deborah A. Drinkard
Personal Representative
Deborah A. Drinkard

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
Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe VIN:1GNEC13Z32J238605

2010 Nissan Frontier VIN:1N6AD0ER6AC448353

2005 Chevrolet Equinox VIN:2CNDL23FX56060902

2002 Buick Park Avenue VIN:1G4CW54K324232006

2001 Ford F-150 VIN:1FTZX17231NB75444

2023 Toyota Corolla VIN:5YFB4MDE9PP004963

2001 Honda CR-V VIN:JHLRD28471S019992

These vehicles will be sold on October 30, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Notice is hereby given that CROM, LLC whose office address and phone number are as follows: 250 S.W. 36th Terrace Gainesville, FL 32607 and (352) 372-3436, has completed all work on the Utilities Board of the City of Cullman Water Treatment Plant Improvements Contract No. 5 Inspection, Cleaning & Rehabilitation of Ground Storage Clearwell Tanks. All persons having any claim for labor, materials or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named Contractor and the Owner's Engineer (St. John & Associates, Inc., 256-734-2114).

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
BETTY KING DOOLEY AKA)
BETTY RENE BELL DOOLEY,) CASE NO.: PC2026-288
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR THE PROBATE OF LAST WILL
AND TESTAMENT OF BETTY KING DOOLEY, DECEASED

TO: JIM LEE DOOLEY, TIMOTHY JOHN DOOLEY, SHANNON JAY DOOLEY, SHELTON SHANE DOOLEY, HOPE DOOLEY DUNN, HEATHER RUTH HARRIS, WILLIAM JACKSON DOOLEY, GENNEVA MAE CONANT AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KINS OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF BETTY KING DOODLEY AKA BETTY RENE BELL DOOLEY

Petition for the Probate of Last Will and Testament of Betty King Dooley, Deceased filed by April Dooley Nunnelley, Personal Representative, through Attorney, Laura D. Jacobs has been set for hearing on **7th day of January, 2027, at 11:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition if they see proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
Probate Office
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this 23rd day of September, 2026.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Laura D. Jacob
2310 Market Place Suite B
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Legislature at its 2026 Regular Session enacted Act No. 2026-141 (HB436), which ordered an election to be held on a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022 relating to Cullman County, Alabama; and

WHEREAS notice of this election, together with the proposed amendment, is required by law to be given by proclamation of the Governor, to be published once a week for four successive weeks preceding the date appointed for the election in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in the county affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, as Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby give notice, direct, and proclaim that on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, an election will be held in Cullman County, Alabama, in the manner and form provided by law upon the following proposed amendment to the Constitution of 2022 of the State of Alabama:

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY ACT NO. 2026-141

(a) In Cullman County, an individual 65 years of age or older may claim a senior property tax exemption for ad valorem tax purposes on real property located in the county which is owned by the individual, classified as single-family owner-occupied residential property, and used as the principal place of residence of the individual for not less than five years immediately prior to the tax year for which the individual first claims the senior property tax exemption. The senior property tax exemption shall freeze the assessed value of the property for the year immediately prior to claiming the exemption.

(b) The following provisions shall apply to the individual claiming the senior property tax exemption:

(1) The taxpayer shall continue to receive the senior property tax exemption as long as the taxpayer continues to use the property as his or her principal place of residence.

(2) The individual shall continue to be eligible to claim a homestead exemption and any other exemption authorized by law on the property.

(3) The property shall continue to be subject to any millage rate changes on the property.

(4) The assessed value of any additions to the property after claiming the senior property tax exemption shall be added to the assessed value of the property and subject to ad valorem tax based on the increase in the assessed value of the addition after the taxpayer claims the senior property tax exemption.

(5) This exemption may be claimed beginning October 1, 2027, for the value of the property on October 1, 2026.

(6) This exemption must be claimed in writing with the Cullman County Revenue Commissioner between October 1 and December 31.

FURTHER, I proclaim and direct that this proclamation shall be published once a week for the four successive weeks immediately preceding Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in each newspaper qualified to run legal notices in Cullman County, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 52
TO REPLACE *SECTION 82 – REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE* OF *CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION* OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS: **SECTION I.**
The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify, amend, or delete sections of the *Code of Ordinances* of Cullman, Alabama.
SECTION II.
Section 82 Regular Meeting Schedule of *Chapter 2 Administration* of the Code of Ordinances of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with following:

Section 82 Regular Meeting Schedule.

Regular meetings of the City Council shall be held on the following dates: the second and fourth Mondays of each month. All regular meetings shall convene at 6:00 p.m. at Cullman City Hall and all meetings, regular or special, shall be open to the public. The City Council may adopt a resolution to approve or amend the regular meeting schedule.

SECTION III. Severability Clause.
Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and the holding of any provision hereof to be void or invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof, and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provisions which might have been invalid.
SECTION IV. Effective Date.
This Ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September,2026 /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 28th day of September, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2026-380

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF FRANKLIN D. BUTTS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Stuart L. Butts on the 23rd day of September, 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.

Stuart L. Butts
Personal Representative

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JAMES OLEN REID, * **CASE NO.: PC2026-369**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration having been granted to **ADRIENNE N. WHITEHURST** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **JAMES OLEN REID**, deceased, on the 17th 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 will be barred.

Adrienne N. Whitehurst
Personal Representative

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

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for (3) 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 RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARY ROBINSON, * CASE NO PC 2026-320
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY AND PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARY ROBINSON, DECEASED, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OVER ESTATE

TO: JOEY ROBINSON AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF MARY ROBINSON

Petition for Letters Testamentary and Probate of the Last Will and Testament of Mary Robinson, Deceased, and Appointment of Personal Representative over Estate, filed by Robert Wayne Meadows, Petitioner, through Attorney John Eric Burnum has been scheduled for the **17th day of November, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 24th day of September, 2026.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
WILLIAM DAN KEEL,) CASE NO.: PC2024-044
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
Petition of JUDSON BLAIR KEEL, for the Probate of the Will and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAN KEEL, Deceased and OBJECTION TO ADMITTANCE OF LOST LAST WILL & TESTAMENT AND OBJECTION TO GRANT OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY and MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO PROSECUTE OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO SET FINAL HEARING

TO: JUDSON BLAIR KEEL AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF WILLIAM DAN KEEL

Petition of Judson Blair Keel, for the Probate of the Will and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Dan Keel, Deceased, filed by Judson Blair Keel, through Billy W. Jackson and Roy Williams, which have withdrawn as Attorney of record.

Objection to Admittance of Lost Last Will & Testament and Objection to Grant Letters Testamentary filed by Zackary Edkar Knight, heir-at-law, through Attorney, William S. Pylant.

Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Prosecute or, in the Alternative, Motion to Set Final Hearing filed by William S. Pylant, Attorney for Zackary Edkar Knight, heir-at-law of William Dan Keel, deceased.

A hearing on these matters has been scheduled for the **15th day of December, 2026, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown Judge of Probate.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition(s) if they see proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
Probate Office
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this 1st day of October, 2026.

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

William S. Pylant
100 Washington Street NE, Suite 204
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
)
JIMMY WILLIAMSON,) CASE NO.: PC2024-439
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY AND AMENDMENT TO PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS OF TESTAMENTARY

TO: JAMES SKINNER, TIM HESTERLY, ANDY MORRIS, LYNN WILLIAMS, FELICIA HULSEY AND ANY KNOWN AND UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KINS OR INTERESTED PARTIES OF JIMMY WILLIAMSON

Petition to Probate Will and for Letters of Testamentary, filed by Diane Skinner, by and through Attorney, C. Blake West, *and Amendment to Petition to Probate Will and for Letters of Testamentary* filed by, C. Blake West, Attorney for Personal Representative, Diane Skinner, has been set for hearing on **7th day of January, 2027, at 10:00a.m.** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said Petition if they see proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
Probate Office
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this 23rd day of September, 2026.

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

Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2026-370

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BONNIE JEAN PRITCHARD BRADFORD, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to the undersigned, HENRY EUGENE BRADFORD, on the 18th day of September, 2026, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, 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

Dated this the 18th day of September, 2026.

Henry Eugene Bradford
HENRY EUGENE BRADFORD
Personal Representative of the
Estate of Bonnie Jean Pritchard Bradford,
Deceased

PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the
Estate of Bonnie Jean Pritchard Bradford, Deceased
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 1-2

Shirley Ann Bartholomew, 79
Funeral service for Shirley Ann Bartholomew, 79, of Cullman will be at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with interment in Jones Chapel Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 1-3 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Shirley passed away Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at Hanceville Nursing Home & Rehab. She was born May 15, 1947, to Arlen and Opal Brown Skinner. She loved her family and especially loved her little baby, her dog, Gizmo. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Glenn Bartholomew; her son, Johnny Peek. Those left to cherish her memory are her son, Frankie (Rhonda) Peek; brother, Glenn (Gina) Skinner; grandchildren, Dewayne Peek, Anthony (Tiffany) Peek, Latasha Peek, Kaitlyn Peek, Jais Peek, Colton Peed; great-grandchild, Abigail Peek; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Cullman Funeral Home and Crematory
– "Sincere Compassionate Care" –

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LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 43

TO AMEND THE CITY OF CULLMAN ZONING ORDINANCE

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

SECTION II. The following section of the City of Cullman Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 62, "Zoning," Sections 52, 53,54, 55, 56, and 93," of the *Code of Ordinances City of Cullman, Alabama*, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

Sec. 62-52. R-1 Low Density Single-Family Residential District.

Purpose. The purpose of the R-1 District is to protect existing and enable development of new single-family residential areas at low densities, including other uses customary to such neighborhoods.

(1) Attached single-family dwellings may not be developed between two occupied detached single-family dwellings on the same block frontage and must be constructed to the Design Quality Standards, see Sec. 62-56.

(2) Design Quality Standards permit smaller lot sizes while requiring residential homes to be constructed to significantly higher architectural, material, and design standards, see Sec. 62-56.

Sec. 62-53. R-2 Medium Density Single-Family Residential District.

Purpose. The purpose of the R-2 District is to protect existing and enable development of new single-family residential areas and the development of new areas at moderate densities, including other uses customary to such neighborhoods.

(1) Attached single-family dwellings may not be developed between two occupied detached single-family dwellings on the same block frontage and must be constructed to the Design Quality Standards, see Sec. 62-56.

(2) Design Quality Standards permit smaller lot sizes while requiring residential homes to be constructed to significantly higher architectural, material, and design standards, see Sec. 62-56.

Sec. 62-54. R-3 High Density Single-Family and Duplex Residential District.

Purpose. The purpose of the R-3 District is to protect existing and enable development of new single-family residential areas at high densities along with other housing types and nonresidential uses customary to such neighborhoods.

(1) Attached single-family dwellings may not be developed between two occupied detached single-family dwellings on the same block frontage.

(2) Design Quality Standards permit smaller lot sizes while requiring residential homes to be constructed to significantly higher architectural, material, and design standards, see Sec. 62-56.

(3) Not more than two duplexes may be developed between two occupied detached single-family dwellings on the same block frontage.

Sec. 62-55. R-4 Single-Family and Multifamily Residential District.

Purpose. The purpose of the R-4 District is to protect existing and enable development of new single-family and multifamily residential areas at high densities along with nonresidential uses customary to such neighborhoods.

Table 4-1: Uses Permitted in Residential Districts

	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4
Accessory dwelling, see section 62-94		SE	P	P
Caretaker dwelling	SE	SE	SE	SE
Duplex			P	P
Single-family dwelling, attached, see section 62-93			P	P
Single-family dwelling, attached, see section 62-93 – Design Quality Standards	P	P		
Single-family dwelling, detached	P	P	P	
Single-family dwelling, detached zoned R-4 prior to 1/1/26				P
Multifamily dwelling, more than 4 units per building				P
Quadplex				P
Triplex				P
Day care facilities				
Child or adult day care center		C	C	C
Child day care group home (7—12 children)		C	C	C
Child day care home (up to 6 children)	C	P	P	P
Residential care facilities				
Assisted living facility				C
Emergency care home (see section Code of Ala. 1975, § 11-52-75.1)				P
Family care home (see section Code of Ala. 1975, § 11-52-75.1)			C	P
Independent living facility (up to 6 residents)			C	P
Independent living facility (more than 6 residents)				P
Nursing care facility				C
Transitional care home				C
Other nonresidential uses				
Amateur radio tower	P	P	P	P
Bed and breakfast, see section 62-95	C	C	C	C
Boarding house, see section 62-96			C	P
Cemetery	C	C	C	C
Golf course	C	C	C	C
Home occupation, see section 62-99	SE	SE	SE	SE
Institutional use, low intensity	C	C	C	C
Institutional use, medium intensity	C	C	C	C
Place [of] worship, low intensity	C	C	C	C
Place of worship, medium intensity	C	C	C	C
Parks, playgrounds and nature preserves	C	C	C	C
Public buildings	C	C	C	C
Public utility facility	P	P	P	P
Recreation facility, public	C	C	C	C
Residential (country) club	C	C	C	C
Short-term rentals, subject to section 62-103		P	P	P
Small cell facilities	SE	SE	SE	SE
Telecommunications tower, see section 62-105	C	C	C	C

P — The use is permitted by right.

SE — Special exception, requires approval by the zoning board of adjustments per section 62-184. C — Conditional use, requires approval by the planning commission per section 62-172.

A blank cell indicates the use is not permitted.

Table 4-2: Residential District Area and Dimensional Requirements

	Minimum Yard Setbacks				Minimum Lot Width	Minimum Lot Area
	Front	Street Side	Rear	Side		
R-1						
Detached single family	40 ft.	20 ft.	40 ft.	15 ft.	100 ft.	15,000 s.f.
Detached single family, DQS	35 ft.	15 ft.	40 ft.	12 ft.	80 ft.	12,000 s.f.
Attached single family, see section 62-52, 62-93, and DQS	35 ft.	15 ft.	40 ft.	12 ft. [1]	30 ft.	3,500 s.f.
R-2						
Detached single family	35 ft.	15 ft.	40 ft.	12 ft.	80 ft.	12,000 s.f.
Detached single family DQS	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft.	60 ft.	9,000 s.f.
Attached single family, see section 62-53, 62-93, and DQS	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	30 ft.	3,500 s.f.
R-3						
Detached single-family	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	12 ft.	70 ft.	10,500 s.f.
Detached single family DQS	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft.	60 ft.	9,000 s.f.
Attached single family, see section 62-54 and 62-93	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	24 ft.	3,000 s.f.
Duplex	35 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	70 ft.	12,500 s.f.
R-4						
Detached single-family only applicable to property zoned R-4 prior to 01/01/2026	30 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft.	50 ft.	7,500 s.f.
Attached single family, see section 62-93	30 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	20 ft.	2,500 s.f.
Duplex	30 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	60 ft.	10,000 s.f.
Triplex	30 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	65 ft.	12,500 s.f.
Quadplex	30 ft.	15 ft.	35 ft.	10 ft. [1]	70 ft.	15,000 s.f.
Multifamily	30 ft.	25 ft.	35 ft.	25 ft. [1]	100 ft.	25,000 s.f.

[1] Applies only on the unattached side of attached single-family dwellings. (Ord. No. 2020-16, § 4.05, 3-16-2020; Ord. No. 2021-20, § VI, 2-8-2021)

Sec. 62-56. Design Quality Standards.

Purpose. The Design Quality Standards are intended to promote high-quality residential development that enhances the character of Cullman's neighborhoods, protects property values, and encourages thoughtful growth. These standards provide an incentive for development by permitting smaller minimum lot sizes in designated areas, while requiring residential homes to be constructed to significantly higher architectural, material, and design standards. This approach ensures that increased density is balanced with superior aesthetic and functional quality.

Applicability. These standards shall apply to all new single-family residential construction and major renovations in subdivisions or zoning districts where the City has approved the use of reduced lot sizes under the Design Quality Standards overlay or equivalent provisions.

Lot Size Incentives. Standard minimum lot sizes may be reduced up to 20-28% depending on the underlying zoning district.

Required Design and Construction Standards:

1. **Architectural Design -** All homes must exhibit superior architectural design, incorporating elements that reflect quality craftsmanship and compatibility with Cullman's existing neighborhoods. Acceptable architectural styles include Traditional, Craftsman, Southern Vernacular, Neo-Classical, and other historically inspired designs.
2. **Building Materials** - All materials must be of high quality, durable, and aesthetically appropriate. The use of inferior or temporary materials is prohibited.
   - **Exterior Walls**: Primary exterior materials on all elevations visible from public streets shall consist of brick, cultured stone, natural stone, or fiber cement siding (James Hardie or equivalent premium-grade product with a minimum 30-year warranty). Stucco or cementitious siding may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Exterior walls are required to be clad with approved masonry materials. Masonry cladding shall extend from grade to roof eaves. Gable end walls and dormers may be clad with any material permitted by the 2021 International Residential Code. Exposed smooth-faced standard concrete block and vinyl siding are prohibited.
   - **Roofing**: Primary roofing materials shall be: 1) a minimum 30-year warrantee and UL Class A fire rated architectural shingles with dimensional design, 2) a standing seam metal, 3) a high grade copper, zinc, or prefinished aluminum with concealed fasteners, 4) concrete or clay tiles in flat or barrel profiles, 4) natural slate, or 5) similar premium high grade roofing materials. Exposed fastener "ag-panels" are prohibited. Roof colors shall be earth tones or other colors compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.
   - **Windows and Doors**: Energy-efficient windows (minimum U-factor and SHGC ratings per current International Energy Conservation Code) with simulated divided lights or true divided lights on front elevations. Front entry doors shall be solid wood, fiberglass, or steel construction with decorative glass, sidelights, or transoms.
   - **Foundations**: Exposed foundation walls shall be covered with brick, stone, or decorative concrete masonry units.
   - **Front Entry**: The front main entry door shall be covered by a roof system. Covered area shall be a minimum of 3 feet wide and 5 feet deep.
   - **Trim, Columns, and Architectural Details**: All trim, soffits, fascias, and decorative elements shall be constructed of durable materials such as fiber cement, painted wood, composite, minimum 46 mil vinyl ,or minimum 24 mil aluminum. Columns shall be substantial and architecturally appropriate. All exterior vertical wood columns, posts, and railing supports shall have a minimum dimension of nominal 6"x 6".
   - **Accessory Structures:** All accessory structures shall be finished with exterior finishes that match or complement the primary structure.
   - **Driveways and Walkways**: Concrete or paver driveways and walkways are required. Asphalt is prohibited in front yards.
3. **Building Form and Massing**
   - Homes must avoid monotonous or "box-like" appearances through the use of varied rooflines, covered front porches, dormers, gables, bays, and architectural projections.
   - Ceiling heights on main floor shall be minimum 9'.
   - Chimney construction must be masonry from the ground up, "cantilevered" boxed chimneys are prohibited.
   - Detached single-family dwellings shall be provided with a two-car garage. Garages shall be a minimum two-car garage with door/s. Garage doors shall be carriage-style or raised-panel with windows, where visible from the street. The minimum interior dimensions of garage shall be 22' x 22' or preapproved equivalent. If a double door is provided, the minimum dimension shall be 18' wide x 8' high. If two single doors are provided, the minimum dimensions of each shall be 9' wide x 8' high. For lots less than 60' wide, a one-car garage shall be allowed with a minimum interior garage dimension of 16'x22' and the minimum door width of 10'. Unenclosed carports are prohibited.
4. **Exterior Details and Craftsmanship**
   - All homes must include enhanced detailing such as decorative trims, shutters, columns, and appropriate lighting fixtures.
   - Rain gutters, downspouts, and any required subgrade drainpipe shall be installed at all roof eaves and valleys. Gutters shall terminate at an approved location and shall not drain to adjacent properties.
   - All exterior HVAC units, tankless water heaters, and similar mechanical equipment shall be screened with approved materials or landscaping or not visible from street.
5. **Landscaping and Site Design**
   - A minimum of one 2" caliper tree shall be provided at front of home. Species of tree shall be as recommended by the Tree Commission, Ordinance No. 2026-31.
   - Sod or approved landscaping must be provided and installed from the face of the primary structure to the back of curb or sidewalk; from the side of primary structure to the side property lines; and must extend a minimum of 30' from the rear of primary structure.
   - All utilities, refuse containers, and mechanical equipment must be screened from public view using consistent materials and landscaping.
6. **Fencing**
   - Fences, if installed, shall be of approved materials. Wood fences shall be constructed of materials with a minimum thickness of nominal 1".

Enforcement. Failure to comply with these Design Quality Standards shall constitute a violation of the City's Zoning Ordinance and may result in stop-work orders, fines, or revocation of occupancy permits.

Sec. 62-93. Attached single-family dwellings.

(a) *Site design.*
   (1) A group of attached dwellings may not exceed eight dwelling units. Groups must be planned so that units on the same block frontage are either all front-loaded or all rear-loaded.
   (2) When an end unit of an attached dwelling does not front on a street, it must be separated from any adjacent dwelling by at least 20 feet.
   (3) Swimming pools are not permitted on individual lots unless the lot is of sufficient width to meet all applicable requirements.

(b) *Pedestrian access.*
   (1) Sidewalks at least five feet wide must be provided across the applicable street frontage of attached dwelling lots.
   (2) An easement appurtenant across lots must be provided whenever a resident of an attached dwelling must cross an adjoining lot to reach his or her own lot.

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

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September,2026 /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 28th day of September, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 50

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, REPEALING THE EXISTING CHAPTER 32 (NUISANCES) AND CHAPTER 58 (VEGETATION) OF THE CITY CODE

OF ORDINANCES IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ENACTING A NEW CONSOLIDATED CHAPTER 32 (NUISANCES) THAT INCORPORATES GRASS AND WEED PROVISIONS, ENHANCES DEFINITIONS WITH REFERENCES TO CODE OF ALA. 1975, §§ 11-67-60 THROUGH 11-67-68, STREAMLINES ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Cullman has authority under the laws of the State of Alabama, including but not limited to Code of Ala. 1975, §§ 6-5-120 et seq. (nuisances), §§ 11-67-60 through 11-67-68 (weeds and grass as public nuisances; procedures for abatement, notice, hearings, alternate procedures, liens, and costs), and §§ 11-47-131 through 11-47-140 (general abatement authority); and

WHEREAS, the existing provisions in Chapter 32 (Nuisances) and Chapter 58 (Vegetation) contain substantial overlap and duplication regarding grass and weed nuisances, property maintenance, enforcement, citations, abatement, and liens; and

WHEREAS, repealing the existing chapters and enacting a new consolidated Chapter 32 will improve clarity, reduce redundancy, and strengthen enforcement while preserving all substantive authority; and

WHEREAS, the Cullman City Council finds that these updates are necessary and in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Cullman;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, as follows:

Section 1. Repeal of Existing Chapters.

Chapter 32 (Nuisances) and Chapter 58 (Vegetation) of the Code of Ordinances are hereby repealed in their entirety.
Section 2. Enactment of New Chapter 32.

A new Chapter 32 (Nuisances) is hereby enacted to read in its entirety as follows:

CHAPTER 32 – NUISANCES

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 32-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- *Abandoned vehicle* means any motor vehicle which is in a wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, discarded or otherwise inoperable condition. The term does not include any motor vehicle: (a) enclosed within a building on private property and (b) held in connection with a business enterprise, lawfully licensed by the City on property zoned for junkyard, vehicle repair facility, or vehicle storage yard.
- *Building* means any structure or part thereof, not a dwelling as defined in this section.
- *Debris* means junk, lumber, furniture, furniture parts, stoves, sinks, cabinets, household fixtures, refrigerators, car parts, abandoned broken or neglected equipment, or the scattered remains of something of little or no apparent economic value.
- *Dwelling* means any building or structure or part thereof used and occupied for human habitation or intended to be so used, and including any outhouses and appurtenances belonging thereto or usually enjoyed therewith.
- *Enforcing official* means any employee designated by the mayor or the chief of police as the person to exercise the authority and perform the duties delegated by this chapter to the enforcing official.
- *Grass or weed nuisance* means any abundance of overgrown grass or weeds within the city which is injurious to the general public health, safety and general welfare by: (1) providing breeding grounds and shelter for rats, mice, snakes, mosquitoes and other vermin, insects and pests; (2) attaining such heights and dryness so as to constitute serious fire threat or hazard; (3) bearing winged or downy seeds, when mature, that cause the spread of weeds, and, when breathed, irritation to the throat, lungs, and eyes of the public; (4) hiding debris, such as broken glass or metal, which could inflict injury on any person going upon the property; (5) being unsightly; or (6) any growth of grass or weeds, other than ornamental plant growth, which exceeds 12 inches in height. (Code of Ala. 1975, § 11-67-60.)
- *Improved subdivision* means a division of a tract of land or acreage into tracts or parcels and the improvement thereof by construction of streets, water lines and, where applicable, sewer lines to serve the subdivided prop
- *Junk* means worn out or discarded material having little or no value including, but not limited to, household appliances or parts thereof, tools, discarded building material or any other unsightly debris, the accumulation of which has an adverse effect upon a neighborhood's health, safety or general welfare.
- *Litter* means rubbish, refuse, waste material, garbage, dead animals or fowl, offal, paper, glass, cans, bottles, trash, scrap metal, debris, plastic, cigarettes, cigars, containers of urine, food containers, rubber tires, or any foreign substance. *Litter shall not include any agricultural product in its natural state that is unintentionally deposited on a public highway, road, street, or public right-of-way.*
- *Natural condition* means uncultivated and unseeded land, still in a state of nature.
- *Nuisance* means anything that unlawfully causes hurt, inconvenience, or damage to another as defined in Code of Ala. 1975, § 6-5-120, and includes conditions declared to be nuisances under §§ 11-67-60 et seq.
  This includes anything which is injurious to health, indecent, or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as to interfere with the enjoyment of life or property of another person.
- *Occupant* means any person living, sleeping, cooking or eating in, or having actual possession of, a dwelling.
- *Owner of property* (or *owner*) includes the legal title holder, lessee, occupant, or agent of the legal title holder or lessee in charge, possession or control of said property.
- *Weeds* means any brush, grass, vegetation, or any plant that is not regularly cut or cultivated. This definition shall not include plants maintained in a garden for agricultural purposes. A plant shall be deemed to be
  "regularly cultivated" if it is routinely cared for by any person to foster, encourage, or promote its growth.

Secs. 32-2—32-36. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. LITTERING

Sec. 32-37. Littering.

A person commits the crime of littering if he or she engages in any of the following acts:

- Knowingly deposits in any manner litter on any public or private property or in any public or private waters without permission to do so.
- Negligently deposits, in any manner, glass or other dangerously pointed or edged objects on or adjacent to water to which the public has lawful access or on or upon a public highway or within the right-of-way.
- Discharges sewage, oil products, or litter into a river, inland lake, or stream within the state or within territorial waters of the state.
- Throws, drops, or permits to be thrown or dropped any litter upon or alongside any highway, road, street, or public right-of-way and does not immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed; or removes a
  wrecked or damaged vehicle from a highway and does not remove glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the highway from the vehicle.
- **S**weep, throw, or dispose of trash, waste matter, or garbage onto or into property not such person's own or under such person's control, except in the landfill in a lawful manner.
- Throw or sweep trash, rubbish, garbage or filth of any kind on the streets, sidewalks or public grounds in the city or into waterways, ponds, lakes or other bodies of water, or allow the same to be done.
- Transport any solid waste unless the vehicle in which such matter is being transported shall be equipped with canvas or mesh wire covering with attachments for the purpose of securely covering such matter in order that same shall not fall or otherwise be removed during the period of such transportation. It shall be unlawful for any person operating any such vehicle transporting solid waste to permit any part of same to fall from the vehicle and litter the streets or other public ways.
- Place or throw or cause another to place or throw, in or upon any street, or public or private property of another, any dead bird or animal, tainted meat, decayed fruits or vegetables, human or other excrement.
  Sec. 32-38. Penalties and abatement.

Any person found in violation of this Chapter shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars ($500.00), by imprisonment in the municipal jail for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each offense shall constitute a separate violation.

Secs. 32-39—32-67. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Sec. 32-68. Grass, weeds, inoperable vehicles, and other property nuisances.

(a) **Purpose.** This section is adopted under the authority of Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-67-60 et seq., to protect public health, safety, and welfare by requiring property owners to maintain their property free of nuisances.

(b)**Prohibited conditions.** It is unlawful for any owner, occupant, or person in charge of property in the City of Cullman to allow or maintain any of the following:

(1) Grass, weeds, or vegetation that creates a public nuisance as defined in Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-67-60 et seq.;
(2) Unmaintained property that is an eyesore or public nuisance;
(3) Open storage of inoperable or abandoned vehicles, appliances, building materials, tires, trash, junk, debris, or similar items that create blight, attract vermin, or are unsightly; or
(4) Any other condition on the property (including rights-of-way and easements) that constitutes a public nuisance.

(c)**Exceptions.** This section does not apply to:

(1) Property left in its natural condition;
(2)Property zoned for agricultural use;
(3)Cultivated crops or gardens during the growing season (as long as they are not overgrown with weeds);
(4)Maintained ornamental landscaping that is not part of general property neglect; or
(5)Contiguous parcels of undeveloped land with established vegetation in the total amount of five (5) acres or more which are all owned by the same and/or related entities shall be for this Chapter considered as farmland in its natural condition.

(d)**Owner's responsibility.** Every property owner must keep grass, weeds, and the overall property free of nuisances. This duty includes the portions of rights-of-way and easements that adjoin the property (except where public facilities make maintenance impractical). The City only maintains rights-of-way and easements as needed for safety and operations. All other maintenance is the owner's responsibility.

(e)**Notice to owner.** When the enforcing official finds a violation, the official shall send written notice to the owner (in person or by first-class mail). The notice shall:

(1) Describe the violation;
(2) Require the owner to correct it within seven (7) days; and
(3) Be sent to the person listed on the county tax records as the last person assessed for ad valorem taxes.
If the problem is not corrected within seven days, a second notice shall be sent requiring correction within fourteen (14) days. Owners must promptly notify the City of any change in ownership. Knowingly failing to do so is a violation of this section.

(f)**Enforcement options.** If the owner does not correct the violation after proper notice, the City may use one or both of the following procedures:

(1) City Council abatement process (Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-67-60 et seq.). The City Council may adopt a resolution declaring the condition a public nuisance and ordering its removal. The City shall then:

a. Mail notice of a public hearing by certified mail at least 21 days before the hearing;
b. Publish notice in a local newspaper once a week for two weeks (or post notice in three public places if no newspaper is available); and
c. Post two signs on the property at least seven days before the hearing.

After the hearing, the Council may confirm the cost of the work. Those costs become a special assessment and lien against the property and may be collected like other municipal taxes and liens.

(2)Municipal court citation. The enforcing official may issue a summons requiring the owner to appear in municipal court. A person found guilty is subject to the penalties in subsection (g). The City may use both procedures at the same time or one after the other.

(g)**Penalties.** Any person found in violation of this Chapter shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars ($500.00), by imprisonment in the municipal jail for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each offense shall constitute a separate violation.

(h)**City abatement and recovery of costs.** If the owner fails to correct the violation, the City may enter the property and perform the necessary work (cutting, removal, cleanup, etc.). All costs, including labor, equipment,
administrative fees, court costs, and attorneys' fees, shall be charged to the owner and become a lien on the property.

(i)**Simplified process for properties previously abated**. If the City has previously abated a weed or similar nuisance on the same property under Code of Alabama 1975, § 11-67-60 et seq., the following process may be used:

(1) Declaration and notice. The enforcing official may declare the property a nuisance without a Council resolution, newspaper notice, or signs on the property. The official shall send written notice by first-class mail to the owner listed in the tax records. The notice shall state:

a. The property has been declared a nuisance;
b. The owner has 21 days to correct it;
c. The City has abated a similar problem on the property before;
d. The cost of the work will become a lien on the property;
e. The owner may correct the problem themselves before the City acts; and
f. The owner may file an appeal with the City Clerk's office within 14 days of the notice date.

(2) Appeal. An owner who disagrees with the finding may file a written appeal, including required contact information, with the City Clerk's office within 14 days of receiving the notice. The hearing of Appeal will consist of a three-member panel: 1) the City Clerk or designee, 2) the Chief Building Official or designee, and 3) the Chief of Police or designee. The hearing shall be held within 7 days of filing the Appeal with the City Clerk's office. The date and time of the hearing shall be posted on the public bulletin at City Hall. The hearing will be held at Cullman City Hall. If the decision is upheld, the owner may still correct the problem before the City performs the work.

(3) Cost report and confirmation. After the abatement period ends, the enforcing official shall submit a cost report to the City Council. The Council shall assess the costs of abatement through resolution. Confirmed costs become "weed liens" and shall be added to the next property tax bill and collected in the same manner as municipal ad valorem taxes.

Secs. 32-69—32-102. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. NOISE

Sec. 32-103. Purpose and authority. This article is adopted under the authority of Code of Alabama and the City's power to abate public nuisances. Its purpose is to protect the health, safety, peace, and quiet of the citizens of Cullman by reducing excessive and unnecessary noise.

Sec. 32-104. General prohibition. It is unlawful for any person to make, continue, cause, or allow any unreasonably loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise that unreasonably interferes with the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of a reasonable person of ordinary sensitivity.

Sec. 32-105. Specific prohibited acts. The following acts are declared unlawful:

(a) Noise-making devices. Operating any noise making or sound reproducing device or instrument (electrical or mechanical) on private property or in a public place in a manner that creates excessive or objectionable noise and becomes a public nuisance. Playing amplified music or similar devices in a public place between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. is considered a public nuisance.

(b) Vehicle-related Noise.

1. Operating a vehicle with an altered, defective, or missing muffler that creates excessive noise.
2. Excessive use of horns or signaling devices of a vehicle, except as a danger warning.
3. Use of "Jake" brakes or engine compression brakes.
4. Racing engines, spinning tires, or "jackrabbit" starts that create loud noise.
5. Playing music from a vehicle so loud that it disturbs other drivers and the peace and rest of the public.

(c) Animals and fowl. Keeping or permitting any animal or fowl on one's premises or in a public place that, by its habitual actions, creates objectionable noise and disturbs the peace and rest of the public.

(d) Construction, Power Tools, and Equipment. Creating any excessive and unnecessary noise through construction work or any other occupation with any tool, equipment, equipment, machinery, vehicle, or other object in a manner that disturbs the peace and rest of the public between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. is considered a public nuisance unless a special event permit has been obtained from the City.

(e) Noise near places of worship. Creating any excessive or unreasonable noise on any street or in any public place adjacent to a church or other place of worship while religious services are being conducted, if the noise unreasonably interferes with or disturbs the worship service.

(f) Sound trucks, loudspeakers, and amplified devices without a permit. Using a sound truck, loudspeaker, sound amplifier, radio, television, phonograph, calliope, or any other device that emits loud and raucous noise on the streets, sidewalks, or in any public place within the City without a special event permit approved by the City Council.

Sec. 32-106. Penalties. Any person found in violation of this Chapter shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars ($500.00), by imprisonment in the municipal jail for a term not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each offense shall constitute a separate violation.
Secs. 32-107—32-127. Reserved.

Section 3. Severability.
If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 4. Repealer.
All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Effective Date.
This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 14th day of September, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 14th day of September 2026./s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk.
APPROVED this the 14th day of September, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 51

TO REPLACE *SECTION 181 - ADOPTION OF PERSONNEL POLICIES* AND *SECTION 182 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS* OF *CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION* OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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

SECTION I.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify, amend, or delete sections of the ***Code of Ordinances*** of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION II.

Section 181 Adoption of Personnel Policies of ***Chapter 2 Administration*** of the Code of Ordinances of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with following:

Section 181 Adoption of Personnel Policies.

The Cullman City Council adopts the official Personnel Handbook, dated October 1st, 2026, for the City of Cullman, Alabama, that provides rules, regulations, and policies including but not limited to:

1) Equal employment opportunities;
2) The organization and function of personnel administration;
3) The methods of employee selection;
4) The probationary period for employees;
5) The process for changing of an employee's status;
6) The employee incentives plan;
7) The nepotism policy;
8) The administration of an employee classification plan;
9) The administration of the employee pay plan;
10) The attendance and leave policies for employees;
11) The employee conduct policies;
12) The employee disciplinary procedures;
13) The employee safety policies;
14) The city owned vehicle and equipment policies;
15) The travel policies for employees;
16) The work policies for off-duty employees;
17) The political activity regulations for employees;
18) The ethics policies for employees;
19) The employee dress code and hygiene policies;
20) The uniform policies for employees;
21) The information technology policy for employees;
22) Such other personnel policies, regulations, provisions, or notices as were and may be necessary to provide for the adequate and systematic handling of personnel matters.

A copy of the personnel handbook, dated October 1st 2026, for the City of Cullman, Alabama, is available for inspection in the office of the city clerk.

Section 182 Election of Officers of ***Chapter 2 Administration*** of the Code of Ordinances of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with following:

Section 182 Election of Officers.

The following officers, *all which have some level of authority over employees of the city, exercise some discretionary policy making authority, or a portion of their duties is the ability to discharge some portion of the sovereign power of the city*, shall be appointed by majority vote of the city council whose terms are coextensive with that of the appointing council and shall continue to serve until their successors are elected and qualified:

1) City clerk.
2) City treasurer.
   The positions of city clerk and treasurer may be combined by a two-thirds vote of the city council elected to serve. Once the offices of city clerk and treasurer have been combined, a two-thirds vote of the city council elected to serve is necessary to separate those positions.
3) Police chief.
4) Fire chief.

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.

The following officers shall be appointed by majority vote of the city council shall continue to serve until their successors are elected and qualified:

1) City attorney.
   The city attorney shall be appointed by a majority vote of the city council. The appointment of the city attorney shall be subject to the approval of a contract. The term of the contract shall not exceed one year. The city attorney shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the city council.
2) City prosecutor.
   The city prosecutor shall be appointed by a majority vote of the city council. The appointment of the city prosecutor shall be subject to the approval of a contract. The term of the contract shall not exceed one year. The city prosecutor shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the city council. The positions of city attorney and city prosecutor may be combined by a two-thirds vote of the council elected to serve. Once the offices of city attorney and city prosecutor have been combined, a two-thirds vote of the council elected to serve is necessary to separate those positions.
3) City judge.
   The city judge shall be appointed by a majority vote of the city council. The appointment of the city judge shall be subject to the approval of a contract. The term of the contract shall not exceed two years. The city judge shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the city council. The mayor may appoint a special judge to any case before the city court which the city judge has a conflict or recuses himself. The city judge, or his designee, may appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute any case in which the city prosecutor has a conflict or recuses himself. The city attorney may be appointed by the court to act as city prosecutor if the court so orders.

All appointees in this section, who by statute require a bond(s) for their performance, shall have said bond(s) approved by the mayor and such premiums for bond(s) shall be paid out of the city treasury.

SECTION III. Severability Clause.

Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and the holding of any provision hereof to be void or invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof, and it is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provisions which might have been invalid.

SECTION IV. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 28th day of September,2026 /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 28th day of September, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

No Brunswick stew in Brunswick

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I had dreamed for weeks about feasting on a big bowl of Brunswick stew in the home of its birthplace. Although there are those who strongly disagree, Brunswick stew is said to have originated in the city of Brunswick, Georgia, and therefore carries the city's name. We spent last week there and on its accompanying Golden Isles.

Since my discovery of the meat-based stew, I have enjoyed many variations of the tasty concoction and in many locations across the South. I have long imagined how cool it would be to indulge in a bowl or two of the savory stew in the place of its origin. Brunswick County, Virginia claims to have been making Brunswick stew long before Georgia stirred up their first potful. I'll let the two places settle their argument. I really don't care which one made it first, I'm just glad somebody did. They can both claim bragging rights.

Sadly, and much to my chagrin, I was not able to fulfill my dream. No, it was not because Brunswick, Georgia doesn't have Brunswick stew...they do, but they also have seafood, and I do love seafood. The first few days of our stay I found more seafood than I did stew, so I indulged in what was readily available. About midweek, I may have indulged in the seafood a little too much. I had a blackened shrimp Po-Boy sandwich that was about the size of a small submarine. That was on top of an already ingested onion-and-cheese sauce with chips appetizer. Long before the night was over, those fantails were doing backflips in my stomach... perhaps in that cheese sauce. After that, I didn't want any shrimp, seafood, stew or much of anything else for the next few days. By the time I was ready to chow down again I had long gone from Brunswick...the city or county.

Even though I missed out on the stew, I am certainly glad I did not miss out on the area. We decided to set up camp in Brunswick because it is known as the Gateway to the Golden Isles. Several barrier islands lie between Georgia's mainland and the Atlantic. You can only get to several of them by boat, but you can reach Jekyll, St. Simons and Sea Island by causeways from Brunswick, so that was where we pitched out tent for the week. Okay, actually we didn't even bring our tent, so we stayed at the Holiday Inn Express... not just "last night" as in the commercial, but every night. It was convenient and they serve breakfast!

We spent the first day touring the city of over 100,000. I have now walked down Broadway, in New York and Nashville, not to mention Rainsville, Alabama. I have walked the Royal Mile through Edinburgh, Scotland. I have walked on Bourbon Street... in a perfectly straight line. And, I have now walked down Newcastle Street, through the heart of Old Town Brunswick.

Oh, my, what a lovely little city. We spent most of our day visiting the antique stores, coffee shops, a great bookstore, a guitar shop and a place called Markers. Makers is an Arts-and-Crafts Café where you can make your own piece of pottery, fire it and paint it, all while drinking a delicious glass of cider, or whatever you wish. If you're not feeling creative, you can purchase something someone else has already made. We painted an already made Santa Claus tree ornament.

We will hang our new ornament on our tree later, but if you will hang with me for the next week or two, I'll tell you more about the Golden Isles.

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com.

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: Oct. 3, 1946

Cullman County High F. F. A. News
BY OTTO EVERS
The enrollment in vocational agriculture in the Cullman County High School is the largest in the history of school. Eighty-three boys are enrolled this year in vocational agriculture with 94 active F. F. A. members.

The officers for the F. F. A. Chapter this year are: President, James Johnson; Vice-president, Melvin Smith; Secretary, Buford Lowery; Treasurer, Owen Knight; Reporter, Otto Evers; Sentinal, Frank Hancock.

The following boys attended the State F. F. A. Convention on August 26 and 27 in Auburn, and received the State Farmers degree, James Walter Johnson, Melvin Smith, and Otto Evers.

Mack Hood a member of the 2nd. year class won a trip to Kansas City to the National F. F. A. Convention for showing the Reserved Champion Shorthorn Steer in Birmingham in May. Mack will leave Montgomery October 19 for Kansas City, Missouri and will be gone a week.

Seventeen boys have bought beef calves and have started feeding them for the beef calves shows next spring. Many of the boys are getting registered O. I. C. gilt, and several are planning to add some registered Guernsey cattle to their farming programs.

Jerry Bradford brought home the award from the Decatur Dairy show last Thursday. Among the awards were $65.00 in cash, a silver trophy, and a registered Guernsey heifer, in addition to a fleet of blue ribbons. He was showing his six head of fine Guernsey, they were 4-H Club cattle. Jerry is a first year F. F. A. member.

The community canning plant which is under the supervision of the vocational agriculture and Home Economics department has closed another successful canning season. For the second year the Cullman plant has lead the state in numbers of cans put up for home use. The number of cans for this year is 38,116 which is about a 10,000 increase over last year.

Mr. Clayton O'Mary and Mr. Jerry Roden, Jr., have returned to Auburn after spending three weeks in our Agriculture department doing their apprentice teaching. They are both seniors and will receive their degrees in Agriculture Education in December.

Mr. Hodges one of our best supporters has been happy recently since his Guernsey heifer won 1st. and 2nd. place in Cullman and Decatur shows. Mr. Hodges is always easy to get along with, but he is especially good natured as long as those Guernseys win.

Local Author Wins Honor
By special recommendation, by critics, Mrs. Lorena (Berry) Brown, of Vinemont, has become an honorary member of the "National Poetry Group." Members are: amateur, semi-professional, and professional poets, lyricists, prose-writers, book authors and literary figures of all types.

Mrs. Brown's work published in "My Favorite Poems," and "Of America We Sing," in 1944-45, won her this honor.

Cullman County Singing Convention To Be Sunday
The Cullman County Singing Convention will be held at the high school auditorium in Cullman on Sunday, October 6 beginning at ten o'clock in the morning.

Among the outstanding guests expected are Adger M. Pace of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., W. O. Cooper of Little Rock, Ark., O. A. Parris of Jasper and Dwight Brock of Chattanooga, Tenn., as well as the faculty of the Cullman Music school W. Lee Higgins of Dalton, Ga., Miss Billie Reynolds of Little Rock, Ark., and Mrs. Florence Farrington of Morganton, N. C.

An added feature of the Sunday program will be the Home Land Harmony Quartet of Atlanta, Ga., which will attend the convention as well as present a concert at the local auditorium on the preceeding night.

Seventeen Enlist Here For Service In Army
Seventeen men enlisted in the Army at the U. S. Recruiting Station, Court House, here, during the past week as announced by S-Sgt. James W. Coovert.

Archie L. White, son of Mrs. Pearl White, Rt. 4, Cullman, enlisted in the Army Air Forces for 3 years. Archie had previously served over 3 years in the Navy, being discharged as a Gunners Mate 2-c. Hoyt E. Perdue, Trade;



Maurice N. Creel, Hanceville; Jimmy McNabb, Cullman; Charles Linley, Cullman; Charles B. Chapman Jr., Hanceville and Milton Smith, Jr., Cullman, also joined the Air Force for 3 years.

Mancel G. Whatley, Hanceville; Earl J. Chaffin, Cullman; Marvin D. Harbison, Cullman and Forrest A. Florence, Bremen, enlisted for 3 years in the Army Ground Force.

Simeon J. Calvert, Cullman; Johnny W. Greer, Hanceville; Jr. H. Sullins, Hanceville; John W. York, Cullman; James B. Rowell, Vinemont and Maxwell D. Brown, Vinemont, entered the Regular Army, unassigned, for 18 months.

POET'S CORNER

The Last Day of September
Randy C. Hale

Summer is gone

and the trees will soon

shake their aprons.

The crisp dry leaves

once green, turning loose,

to cascade away.

October with its orange and

red hues will soon

be earth's new attire.

The markets will fill with

pumpkins, gourds,

hay bales and corn stalks

for decor.

September departing,

closing summer dreams

for this Autumn affair.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
OCT. 3

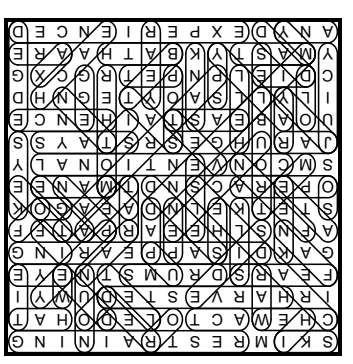
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
OCT. 3

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ANSWERS:



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7	2	4	5	1	9	3	8	6
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4	3	1	8	9	5	2	6	7
8	9	6	7	4	2	1	3	5
2	4	8	9	5	6	7	1	3
3	5	7	1	8	4	6	2	9
1	6	9	2	7	3	5	4	8

LEGALS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 49

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AMENDING CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE III, SECTION 22-50 REGARDING FIRE CODE; CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 22-85 CONSTRUCTION SITE REQUIREMENTS; CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 22-86 BONFIRE REQIREMENTS; CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 22-87 AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL BURNING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to modify, amend or delete portions of Chapter 22 (Fire Prevention and Protection): Article III (Fire Codes), Section 22-50 (Adopted); Article IV (Open Burning), Section 22-85 (Construction Site Requirements); Section 22-86 (Bonfire Requirements); Section 22-87 (Agricultural and horticultural burning requirements) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cullman.

Section 2. Amendment.

Section 22-50 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 22-50. Adopted.

Pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, § 11-45-8 and for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion, the city has adopted the 2021 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council and the 2021 Life Safety Code 101, published by the National Fire Prevention Association together with other National Fire Prevention Association codes referenced therein. The fire code adopted in this article shall be controlling within the limits of the city and its police jurisdiction except to the extent specifically modified in this article or by the fire chief as provided in this chapter.

Section 22-85 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 22-85. Construction site requirements.

Open burning on a construction site, to dispose of waste materials from the construction or demolition of buildings, shall be permitted under the following conditions:

(1) A permit shall be obtained from fire rescue department. Application for the permit shall be submitted in writing, together with a permit fee in the amount provided in the city fee schedule, before the fire is set and shall be in such form as required by the fire chief. The application shall contain as a minimum the purpose of the proposed burning, the nature and quantities of material to be burned, the dates when such burning will take place, and the location of the burning site. The permit shall be valid for no more than 90 consecutive calendar days.
(2) The burning must be at least 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling and a distance from any road that would prevent visibility issues from the smoke.
(3) The location of the open burning must be at least 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling other than a dwelling located on the property on which the burning is conducted.
(4) Any opening burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
(5) The person attending the open burning shall have a garden hose or other appropriate fire extinguishing equipment readily available for such use.
(6) Open burning is prohibited when it is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric or local circumstances make such fire hazardous. The fire chief or his designated representative shall order the extinguishment, by the permit holder or the fire department, of any open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.
(7) Burning hours shall be limited. The fire should be started between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No vegetation shall be added to the fire after 3:00 p.m.
(8) Only untreated wood and vegetation may be burned.
(9) The following materials shall not be disposed of by open burning:
a. Paper;
b. Cardboard;
c. Paints;
d. Refuse;
e. Garbage;
f. Hazardous or toxic materials;
g. Flammable or combustible liquids;
h. Asbestos siding or shingles;
i. Plastics;
j. Rubber or rubber tires;
k. Explosive materials;
l. Chemicals; or
m. Any other materials deemed unsafe or unsuitable for burning.
(10) No flammable liquids shall be used to start or intensify any open burning.

Section 22-86 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 22-86. Bonfire requirements.

Ceremonial or recreational bonfires shall be permitted under the following conditions:

(1)A permit shall be obtained from the fire rescue department. An application for the permit shall be submitted in writing, together with a permit fee in the amount provided in the city fee schedule, before the fire is set and shall be in such form as required by the fire chief. The application shall contain as a minimum the purpose of the proposed bonfire, the nature and quantities of material to be burned, the date when such burning will take place, and the location of the burning site. The permit shall be valid for no more than one calendar day.
(2) The location of the bonfire shall be at least 500 feet from any structure and adequate provisions shall be made to prevent fire from spreading within 50 feet of any structure.
(3)The location of the open burning must be at least 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling other than a dwelling located on the property on which the burning is conducted
(4)The bonfire shall not be more than five feet by five feet by five feet in dimension and shall not burn longer than three hours. The size and duration of a bonfire may be increased by the fire chief or his designated representative when it is determined that fire safety requirements of the situation and desirable duration of burn warrant the increase.
(5)Any bonfire shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
(6)The person attending the open burning shall have a garden hose or other appropriate fire extinguishing equipment readily available for such use.
(7)A bonfire is prohibited when it is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric or local circumstances make such fire hazardous. The fire chief or his designated representative shall order the extinguishment, by the permit holder or the fire department, of any open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.
(8)Fuel for a bonfire shall consist of only seasoned dry firewood and shall be ignited with a small quantity of paper. The fire shall not be used for waste disposal purposes.

Section 22-87 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cullman, Alabama, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Sec. 22-87. Agricultural and horticultural burning requirements.

Open burning, for recognized agricultural or horticultural purposes, to maintain or increase the quantity or quality of agricultural or horticultural production shall be permitted under the following conditions:

(1)A permit shall obtained from fire rescue department. An application for the permit shall be submitted in writing, together with a permit fee in the amount provided in the city fee schedule, before the fire is set and shall be in such form as required by the fire chief. The application shall contain as a minimum the purpose of the proposed burning, the nature and quantities of material to be burned, the dates when such burning will take place; and the location of the burning site. The permit shall be valid for no more than five consecutive calendar days.
(2)The location of the open burning shall be at least 500 feet from any structure and adequate provisions shall be made to prevent fire from spreading within 50 feet of any structure.
(3)The location of the open burning must be at least 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling other than a dwelling located on the property on which the burning is conducted.
(4)Any opening burning shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
(5)The person attending the open burning shall have a garden hose or other appropriate fire extinguishing equipment readily available for such use.
(6)Open burning is prohibited when it is offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric or local circumstances make such fire hazardous. The fire chief or his designated representative shall order the extinguishment, by the permit holder or the fire department, of any open burning which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.
(7)Burning hours shall be limited. The fire should be started between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No vegetation shall be added to the fire after 3:00 p.m.
(8)The fire shall not be used for waste disposal purposes.
(9)No flammable liquids shall be used to start or intensify any open burning.
(10)The location of the opening burning must be zoned as agricultural.
(11) Any appropriate permits required by the state forestry commission must be obtained prior to the issuance of the city permit.

Section 3. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 14th day of September, 2026. ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 14th day of September,2026 /s/Kim Hall - President of City Council. **ATTESTED BY:** /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk. **APPROVED** this the 14th day of September, 2026. /s/Woody Jacobs.

Prior to entering any Alabama school or child care center, an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization must be submitted for each child.

www.alabamapublichealth.gov/imm

Vaccines for Children Program · Alabama Public Health · Immunization Division

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PAYMENT TRANSITION

Important Notice to Cullman County Water & Sanitation Customers

September 25 is the final day Cullman Electric Cooperative (CEC) will accept payments for Cullman County Water & Sanitation accounts. No water or sanitation payments can be accepted between **September 26th through October 4, 2026. Payment processing will resume October 5, 2026 with Cullman County Water Department.**

Grace Period

A grace period will be in effect during the transition period. **Customers will not be penalized for payment delayed due to the temporary system conversion.**

Payments made after September 25th, 2026

Any payment made to Cullman Electric Cooperative after September 25, 2026, will be applied ONLY to electric service accounts. They will not be credited to water or sanitation accounts.

Beginning September 26, 2026:

- All new water service applications/New meter taps
- Move-in and move-out request
- Disconnects
- All other water inquires

Must be handled directly through the Cullman County Water Department.

Automatic Bank & Credit Card Draft (AUTOPAY)

- Any draft established through Cullman Electric Cooperative **WILL NOT TRANSFER** to the new billing system.
- There will be some customers where draft will not come out due to the transition.
- After September drafts are completed, **NO MORE DRAFTS** will be processed until you set up draft directly with Cullman County Water Department.

Customers will need to enroll directly with Cullman County Water Department. To enroll you can go to ccwaterandsanitation.payub.com or come into the office (All this can be done once we go live October 5, 2026)

Sanitation Information

All sanitation information, including service questions, account updates, and other inquiries, should be directed to Cullman County Sanitation.

Cullman County Sanitation: 256-287-1142

Payments

Payments for both water and sanitation services will need to be made at or to the Cullman County Water Department.

Website: ccwaterandsanitation.payub.com
Payment Phone Number (IVR): 888-299-1527
In Office: 2020 Beech Ave SE Cullman, AL 35055 (In person, drop box, and mail)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to improve our customer service and billing process.

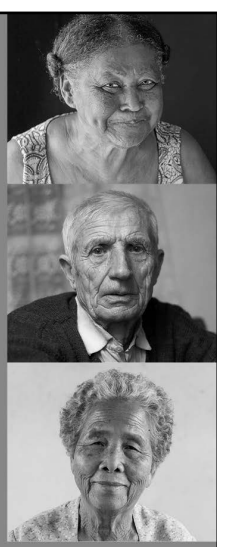


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dhr.alabama.gov/AFC

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Elder Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation



Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214
aps@dhr.alabama.gov

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Kitchens (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

This feature originally ran in our Community Matters magazine.

In Cullman, German food is more than a meal.

It connects today's families to the people who settled this community, the traditions they carried with them and the recipes preserved around kitchen tables for generations.

Some recipes were written carefully on index cards. Others were prepared from memory and taught by watching a mother, father, grandmother, grandfather or neighbor at work in the kitchen.

Measurements became more precise. Ingredients changed according to what was available.

Families added their own touches.

Still, the purpose remained the same: preparing something nourishing and bringing people together.

German cooking is often described as hearty, but its character comes from balance.

Vinegar brightens warm potatoes and slow-cooked cabbage. Apples bring sweetness to savory dishes. Mustard adds sharpness to sausage and roasted meats.

Flour, eggs, butter, potatoes and onions become comforting dishes through technique, patience and tradition.

"From Cullman's German Kitchens" celebrates familiar Oktoberfest flavors through recipes adapted for today's home kitchen.

From golden schnitzel and handmade spätzle to warm potato salad, Bavarian-style pretzels and buttery German cake, these are foods meant to be prepared patiently, served generously and shared.

Willkommen. Pull up a chair and enjoy a taste of German tradition.

BAVARIAN-STYLE SOFT PRETZELS — BREZELN

- Makes: 8 large pretzels
- Preparation time: 30 minutes
- Rising time: Approximately 90 minutes
- Baking time: 14-18 minutes

With their dark golden crusts, soft centers and sprinkling of coarse salt, pretzels are among the foods most closely associated with Bavaria.

Fresh pretzels may be served with sweet mustard, cheese spread, butter or alongside bratwurst and sauerkraut.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups warm water, approximately 105-110 degrees
- 1 Tbsp. light brown sugar
- 2 1/4 tsp. active dry yeast
- 4 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more as needed
- 2 tsp. fine salt
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- 10 cups water
- 2/3 cup baking soda
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 Tbsp. water
- Coarse salt, for topping

Directions

1. Combine the warm water and brown sugar in a large mixing bowl.
2. Sprinkle the yeast over the water. Allow the mixture to stand for five to 10 minutes, or until foamy.
3. Add the flour, fine salt and melted butter. Stir until a rough dough forms.
4. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface. Knead for approximately eight minutes, or until smooth and elastic.
5. Add additional flour 1 tablespoon at a time only if the dough remains excessively sticky.
6. Place the dough in a lightly greased bowl. Cover it and allow it to rise in a warm location for approximately one hour, or until doubled in size.
7. Heat the oven to 425 degrees.
8. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Lightly grease the parchment.
9. Turn the dough onto a clean work surface and divide it into eight equal portions.
10. Roll each portion into a rope approximately 24 inches long.
11. Form the rope into a wide U shape. Cross the ends twice, then fold the ends downward. Press them gently onto the bottom curve to form the traditional pretzel shape.
12. Bring 10 cups of water to a gentle boil in a wide pot.
13. Carefully add the baking soda. The water may foam briefly.
14. Using a large, slotted spoon, lower each pretzel into the simmering solution for 20-30 seconds.
15. Remove the pretzel, allow the excess water to drain and place it on the prepared baking sheet.
16. Whisk the egg yolk with 1 tablespoon of water.
17. Brush the mixture lightly over each pretzel. Sprinkle with coarse salt.
18. Bake for 14-18 minutes, or until the pretzels are a deep golden brown.
19. Transfer the pretzels to a wire rack. Allow them to cool for at least five minutes before serving.

German kitchen note

Traditional Bavarian pretzels are dipped in a food-grade lye solution, which gives them their distinctive dark crust. A baking soda solution offers home cooks a more approachable alternative.

Serving suggestion
Serve warm with German-style sweet mustard, cheese spread or butter.

TRADITIONAL BREADED PORK SCHNITZEL — SCHWEINESCHNITZEL

- Serves: 4
- Preparation time: 25 minutes
- Cooking time: Approximately 15 minutes

Crisp on the outside and tender inside, schnitzel is one of the most recognizable dishes associated with German-speaking Europe.

Traditional Wiener schnitzel is prepared with veal. Pork schnitzel is widely enjoyed in Germany and provides an affordable option for the family table.

Ingredients

- 4 boneless pork loin chops, approximately 5-6 ounces each
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 1/2 cups fine, plain breadcrumbs
- Vegetable oil, canola oil or clarified butter, for frying
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges
- Chopped fresh parsley, if desired

Directions

1. Place one pork chop between two sheets of plastic wrap or parchment paper.
2. Using the flat side of a meat mallet, pound the pork gently until it is approximately 1/4-inch thick.
3. Repeat with the remaining pork chops.
4. Pat the pork dry. Season both sides with salt and pepper.
5. Place the flour in a shallow dish.
6. Whisk the eggs and milk together in a second shallow dish.
7. Place the breadcrumbs in a third shallow dish.
8. Coat each pork cutlet lightly in flour. Shake away the excess.
9. Dip the cutlet into the egg mixture and allow the excess egg to drip away.
10. Coat both sides with breadcrumbs.
11. Do not press the breadcrumbs firmly into the meat. A light coating helps create a crisp crust that separates slightly from the meat during frying.
12. Pour enough oil into a large skillet to reach a depth of approximately 1/4 inch.
13. Heat the oil over medium-high heat.
14. Working in batches, place the breaded cutlets carefully into the hot oil.
15. Cook for approximately two to three minutes on each side, or until golden brown.
16. Check the pork with a food thermometer. It should reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees.
17. Allow the schnitzel to rest for at least three minutes before serving.
18. Do not overcrowd the skillet. Add additional oil between batches if needed.
19. Transfer the schnitzel to a wire rack or paper towel-lined plate.
20. Serve immediately with lemon wedges and parsley.

German kitchen note

Bread the schnitzel immediately before frying. Allowing the coating to rest for too long may cause it to become heavy or soggy.

Serving suggestion
Serve with warm German potato salad, spätzle, braised red cabbage or cucumber salad.

GERMAN MARINATED POT ROAST — SAUERBRATEN

- Serves: 6-8
- Preparation time: 30 minutes
- Marinating time: 2-3 days
- Cooking time: Approximately 3 hours

Sauerbraten translates to "sour roast."

The traditional dish develops its distinctive sweet-and-sour character by marinating beef with vinegar, vegetables and warm spices before slowly braising it until tender.

Regional recipes differ. Some use wine, buttermilk or raisins. Others thicken the gravy with gingerbread or crushed gingersnap cookies.

This version uses ingredients readily available to modern home cooks while preserving the dish's savory, tart and slightly sweet flavor.

Ingredients
For the marinade

- 1 beef chuck roast, approximately 3 1/2-4 pounds
- 2 cups dry red wine or additional beef broth
- 1 1/2 cups red wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1 large yellow onion, sliced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 celery ribs, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, lightly crushed
- 2 bay leaves
- 8 whole black peppercorns
- 6 whole cloves
- 6 juniper berries, lightly crushed, optional
- 1 tsp. mustard seeds

For the roast and gravy

- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 10-12 gingersnap cookies, finely crushed
- Additional salt, pepper, vinegar or brown sugar, as needed

Directions

1. Place the beef roast in a large glass, ceramic or food-safe nonreactive container.
2. Combine the wine, vinegar, broth, onion, carrots, celery, garlic, bay leaves, peppercorns, cloves, juniper berries and mustard seeds in a large saucepan.
3. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil.
4. Reduce the heat and simmer for approximately five minutes.
5. Remove the marinade from the heat. Allow it to cool completely.
6. Pour the cooled marinade and vegetables over the roast.
7. Cover and refrigerate for two to three days. Turn the roast once or twice each day.
8. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 325 degrees.
9. Remove the roast from the marinade and pat it thoroughly dry.
10. Strain the marinade. Reserve both the liquid and vegetables.
11. Season the roast with salt and pepper.
12. Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat.
13. Brown the roast for approximately three to four minutes on each side.
14. Transfer the roast temporarily to a plate.
15. Add the reserved vegetables to the Dutch oven. Cook for approximately five minutes.
16. Stir in the tomato paste and brown sugar. Cook for one minute.
17. Return the roast to the Dutch oven.
18. Add enough reserved marinade to reach approximately halfway up the sides of the meat.
19. Bring the liquid to a gentle simmer.
20. Cover the Dutch oven and transfer it to the oven.
21. Cook for approximately 2 1/2-3 hours. Turn the roast halfway through cooking.
22. Check the meat for tenderness. It is ready when it can be easily pierced with a fork.
23. Transfer the roast to a cutting board and cover it loosely.
24. Strain approximately 3 cups of the cooking liquid into a saucepan. Discard the cooked vegetables and whole spices.
25. Bring the liquid to a gentle simmer.
26. Whisk in the crushed gingersnap cookies a small amount at a time until the gravy reaches the desired thickness.
27. Taste the gravy.
28. Add a small amount of brown sugar if it is too tart. Add vinegar if it needs additional brightness. Season with salt and pepper as needed.
29. Slice the roast across the grain.
30. Serve with the warm gravy.

German kitchen note

Sauerbraten should taste balanced rather than sharply sour. Vinegar provides brightness, while brown sugar and gingersnaps soften the acidity and add depth.

Food safety note
Keep the roast refrigerated throughout the marinating process. Because the marinade has been in contact with raw meat, it must be fully cooked before it is used in the finished gravy.

BRATWURST WITH APPLES, ONIONS AND SAUERKRAUT — BRATWURST MIT ÄPFELN, ZWIEBELN UND SAUERKRAUT SERVES: 6

- Preparation time: 15 minutes
- Cooking time: Approximately 35 minutes
- Bratwurst and sauerkraut are familiar favorites during Cullman's Oktoberfest season.

Apples and onions soften the sharpness of the sauerkraut and create a savory dish with gentle sweetness.

Ingredients

- 6 uncooked bratwurst links
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil or butter
- 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 2 medium firm apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 24-ounce jar sauerkraut, drained
- 1 cup apple cider or unsweetened apple juice
- 1 Tbsp. German-style or Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. caraway seeds, optional
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- Salt, if needed
- Chopped fresh parsley, optional

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat.
2. Add the bratwurst and brown for approximately two to three minutes on each side.
3. The sausages do not need to be completely cooked at this stage.
4. Transfer the bratwurst to a plate.
5. Add the onion to the skillet. Cook for approximately five minutes, or until softened.
6. Add the apple slices. Cook for an additional three minutes.
7. Stir in the garlic. Cook for approximately 30 seconds.
8. Add the sauerkraut, apple cider, mustard, caraway seeds and black pepper.
9. Stir gently to combine.
10. Nestle the browned bratwurst into the sauerkraut mixture.
11. Bring the liquid to a gentle simmer.
12. Cover and reduce the heat to medium-low.
13. Cook for approximately 20 minutes. Turn the bratwurst once during cooking.
14. Check the bratwurst with a food thermometer. Each link should reach an internal temperature of 160 degrees.
15. Remove the lid during the final five minutes if excess liquid remains.
16. Taste the sauerkraut. Add salt only if needed.
17. Sprinkle with parsley and serve warm.

German kitchen note

Caraway seeds have a warm, earthy flavor commonly associated with rye bread and cabbage dishes. They are traditional in many sauerkraut preparations but may be omitted.

Serving suggestion
Serve with warm pretzels, sweet mustard, German potato salad or mashed potatoes.

BRAISED RED CABBAGE WITH APPLES — APFELROTKOHL

- Serves: 6-8
- Preparation time: 20 minutes
- Cooking time: Approximately 1 hour

Slow-cooked red cabbage is a traditional accompaniment to German roasts, sausages and holiday meals.

Apples, vinegar and sugar create the sweet-and-sour balance that defines the dish.

Ingredients

- 1 medium head red cabbage, approximately 2 pounds
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 2 medium tart apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup apple cider or unsweetened apple juice
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup water or vegetable broth, plus more if needed

Directions

1. Remove any damaged outer leaves from the cabbage.
2. Cut the cabbage into quarters. Remove the hard core.
3. Slice the cabbage into thin strips.
4. Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven or heavy pot over medium heat.
5. Add the onion. Cook for approximately five minutes, or until softened.
6. Add the apples. Cook for an additional three minutes.
7. Add the cabbage a handful at a time.
8. Stir until it begins to soften and there is room for the remaining cabbage.
9. Stir in the vinegar, apple cider, brown sugar, salt, pepper, cloves, bay leaf and water or broth.
10. Bring the mixture to a gentle simmer.
11. Cover and reduce the heat to low.
12. Cook for approximately 45-60 minutes, stirring occasionally.
13. The cabbage should be tender but not mushy.
14. Add a small amount of water or broth if the pot becomes dry.
15. Remove the bay leaf.
16. Taste and adjust the flavor.
17. Add a small amount of vinegar for additional tartness or brown sugar for additional sweetness.
18. Serve warm.

German kitchen note

Red cabbage often develops a deeper flavor when prepared one day in advance. Cool and refrigerate it promptly, then reheat it gently before serving.

Color note
The vinegar helps preserve the cabbage's rich red-purple color during cooking.

BREMEN-STYLE BUTTER CAKE — BREMER BUTTERKUCHEN

- Makes: 12-16 servings
- Preparation time: 30 minutes
- Rising time: Approximately 90 minutes
- Baking time: 20-25 minutes

Butterkuchen, or butter cake, is a German sheet cake traditionally made with soft yeast dough and a topping of butter, sugar and almonds.

The cake is lightly sweet and intended to be shared. It is often enjoyed with coffee during Kaffee und Kuchen, the German custom of gathering in the afternoon for coffee, cake and conversation.

Ingredients
For the dough

- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 2 1/4 tsp. active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 6 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

For the topping

- 8 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon, optional
- 2 Tbsp. heavy cream

Directions

1. Warm the milk to approximately 105-110 degrees.
2. Pour the milk into a large mixing bowl.
3. Stir in the yeast and 1 tablespoon of the sugar.
4. Allow the mixture to stand for approximately five to 10 minutes, or until foamy.
5. Add the remaining sugar, flour, salt, egg, softened butter and vanilla.
6. Mix until a soft dough forms.
7. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface.
8. Knead for approximately six to eight minutes, or until smooth and elastic.
9. The dough should remain soft. Add additional flour only if needed to prevent excessive sticking.
10. Place the dough in a lightly greased bowl.
11. Cover it and allow it to rise in a warm location for approximately one hour, or until doubled in size.
12. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.
13. Press the dough evenly into the prepared pan.
14. Cover and allow it to rise for an additional 20-30 minutes.
15. Heat the oven to 350 degrees.
16. Use a fingertip or the handle of a wooden spoon to make small indentations across the surface of the dough.
17. Cut the softened butter into small pieces.
18. Distribute the butter across the cake, pressing some pieces gently into the indentations.
19. Combine the sugar and cinnamon, if using.
20. Sprinkle the mixture evenly over the dough.
21. Scatter the sliced almonds across the top.
22. Drizzle the heavy cream lightly over the cake.
23. Bake for approximately 20-25 minutes, or until the edges are golden and the center is fully baked.
24. Allow the cake to cool slightly before cutting it into squares.
25. Serve warm or at room temperature.

German kitchen note

Butterkuchen is a yeast cake rather than a rich American-style layer cake. Its soft crumb and buttery topping make it especially well-suited for serving with coffee.

GERMAN-STYLE SWEET MUSTARD — SÜSSER SENF

- Makes: Approximately 3/4 cup
- Preparation time: 10 minutes
- Resting time: At least 4 hours
- Sweet mustard is commonly served with Bavarian sausages, pretzels and roasted meats.

Its flavor improves after resting, allowing the sweetness, acidity and spice to blend.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup whole-grain mustard
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 3 Tbsp. honey
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- Pinch of ground cloves, optional

Directions

1. Combine the whole-grain mustard, Dijon mustard, honey, brown sugar, vinegar, salt and cloves in a small bowl.
2. Stir until the brown sugar has dissolved and the ingredients are thoroughly combined.
3. Cover and refrigerate for at least four hours before serving.
4. For the best flavor, prepare the mustard one day in advance.
5. Store it in a covered container in the refrigerator.

A German table in Cullman
German food has long held a place in Cullman's community celebrations, church gatherings and family traditions.

The dishes prepared today may not be identical to those served generations ago.

Ingredients became easier to obtain. Measurements became more precise. New cooks adjusted recipes according to taste, availability and the needs of their families.

That evolution is part of a recipe's history.

A handwritten card may contain a grandmother's careful instructions. A well-used cookbook may open naturally to a family favorite. Some recipes survive without ever being written because one generation takes the time to stand beside another and learn.

The recipes in this section reflect traditional German flavors while using ingredients, equipment and measurements familiar to modern American kitchens.

They are intended to be prepared, shared and adapted as they become part of new family traditions.

The tradition of Kaffee und Kuchen — Coffee, cake and conversation
In Germany, Kaffee und Kuchen means "coffee and cake."

The afternoon tradition centers on slowing down and spending time together.

Family members and friends gather over coffee, tea and a slice of cake. The occasion may be planned or informal, but its purpose is simple: conversation and companionship.

Butterkuchen, apple cake, fruit tarts and other lightly sweet desserts are natural additions to the table.

The tradition offers a fitting reminder that food is not remembered only for its ingredients.

It is remembered for the people who prepared it, the table around which it was served and the stories shared while everyone stayed for one more cup of coffee.

Recipes survive because someone makes them again
Recipes are preserved in handwritten notes, remembered measurements and stories told while flour is scattered across a kitchen counter.

Each time an old recipe is prepared and shared, another generation becomes part of its history.

Cullman's German heritage can be seen in its architecture, celebrations, churches, family names and community traditions.

It can also be tasted in the dishes families continue to prepare and pass along.

May these recipes inspire new memories while honoring the people and traditions that brought them to our tables.

Guten Appetit!

Editor's source note
The recipes in "From Cullman's German Kitchens" were developed and modernized using historic German culinary references, previously published Community Matters and Cullman Tribune food coverage and traditional preparation methods.

Historic preparations were adjusted for contemporary American measurements, commonly available ingredients, modern kitchen equipment and current food-safety guidance.

"The Art of German Cooking and Baking" by Lina Meier, published in 1922, served as the principal historic reference.

The original work is in the public domain in the United States.

The 2024 Community Matters Oktoberfest edition provided continuity for several featured dishes, including schnitzel, spätzle and Bremer butterkuchen.

Sacred Heart's traditional Oktoberfest dinner menu provided additional local context for dishes including bratwurst, German potato salad and sauerkraut.

Dinner (from Front)

Chasady Woos
chasady@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – On Wednesday, Sept. 30, the Sacred Heart Altar Society served a traditional German dinner in the church's Family Life Center.

Altar Society member Pat Arentz told The Tribune, "This started in the 1970s by the women of the parish. It's a German dinner and we use the same recipes they used."

The meal consisted of bratwurst from Brickyard Meats, served with sauerkraut, German potato salad, green beans, applesauce, bread and a selection of homemade desserts.

"This is the largest fundraiser of the year," said Arentz. "What we love about it is the people that come together to help. We have youth, the men assisting with the meat and also with traffic."

She explained that planning typically starts in June to ensure everything is orderly.



LAJUAN TALLO, SACRED HEART ALTAR SOCIETY

Cullman's 2026 Burgermeister Edgar Veigl, center, wife Beth and daughter Lily Beth were welcomed to Sacred Heart's German Dinner by Altar Society member Pat Arentz (left) and Pastor Fr. Linus Klusarits, OSB. The annual event, which features a traditional German menu, is sponsored by the Sacred Heart Altar Society and headed up by Arentz each year.

The main focus of the meal is to celebrate Cullman's German heritage, though she emphasized the community built from sitting with family and friends or strangers and sharing a meal. "It's kind of like a parish picnic. People sit and stay for a while. It's social! It's a way to sit and meet someone again or for the first time," Arentz said.

After the food was blessed, German polka music played in the background.



Senior Day (from Front)

Krystal Corley
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CULLMAN, Ala. – Day two of Cullman Oktoberfest belonged to the community's seniors, as Senior Day filled the Community Biergarten at Depot Park with music, dancing, games and the crowning of the 2026 Miss Senior Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct. 2.

Senior Day ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Seniors gathered at long tables beneath the covered biergarten, many dressed in lederhosen, dirndls and Oktoberfest hats, while Good Bellows kept the music going throughout the morning. Tables from the Cullman County Commission on Aging and the Active Adult Center were set up near the stage, along with a prize drum for drawings.

Cullman County Commission on Aging Director Stephanie Lawson said they handed out all 500 tickets and had a great time with their German-inspired games and activities.

The morning offered plenty of entertainment. Volunteers, including a uniformed law enforcement officer, were invited on stage to try their hand at the alphorn, the long wooden horn traditionally played in the Alps, and a group of women in dirndls danced for the crowd. Across the grounds, a white Volkswagen Beetle decked out with flowers, Bavarian checks, a German flag and the Cullman Oktoberfest logo drew visitors snapping photos.

"We've had such a great time with our seniors and for the first time, we didn't offer bingo," Lawson said. "Instead, we did several competitions, German games and did a ton of giveaways. We had a free lunch for the seniors provided by Walmart Transportation, Good Bellows band are our live entertainment, and Premier Bank was our main sponsor."

Lawson said this year, they made history with the first Miss Senior Oktoberfest.

Miss Senior Oktoberfest

The highlight of the morning came shortly after noon, when contestants for Miss Senior Oktoberfest lined up in front of the stage, each wearing a dirndl and a crown of fresh flowers. One contestant decorated her walker with pink streamers to match the occasion.

Contestants were greeted on stage and presented with treats before the winner was announced. The new Miss Senior Oktoberfest was presented a blue "Miss Senior Oktoberfest 2026" sash, flowers and a certificate as the crowd and her fellow contestants cheered her on.

"Our very first Miss Senior Oktoberfest was Beverly Turner from West Point," Lawson said. "Elizabeth Smith, who was crowned Miss Oktoberfest last night, was here to help crown our Miss Senior Oktoberfest."

More Oktoberfest ahead

Friday's festivities continued until 11 p.m., with a yodeling contest, an alphorn demonstration and competition, polka lessons from Ballet South, a brat-eating contest, stein hoisting and a late-evening headlining performance by Manuela Horn.

Oktoberfest runs through Sunday, Oct. 4, at Depot Park, 309 First Ave. NE. Hours are 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday and noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

For the full schedule of events, visit www.cullmanoktoberfestival.com or download the official Cullman Oktoberfest app.



KRYSTAL CORLEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

2026 Miss Senior Oktoberfest Beverly Turner receives her sash during Senior Day at Cullman Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026.

Pageant (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Eight women have been introduced as contestants for Ms. Senior Cullman County. Organizers are preparing for the pageant, which will take place Saturday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. in the Fairview High School auditorium.

Contestants are Angie Carter, Dianne Johnson, Nancy Moore, Belinda Bagwell, Bonnie Sawyer, Becky Bussey, Debbie Roberts and Carol Cline.

The event continues the local pageant's return following its revival in 2025. A new board brought the competition back last year after the previous local pageant was held in 2019.

Pageant Director Gidget Gregory, now in her second season leading the event, previously told The Tribune that the competition offers two divisions: Ms. Senior Cullman County for women aged 60-69 and Ms. Super Senior Cullman County for women 70 and older.

This year's scoring includes interview, worth 30%; fun fashion, active wear and evening wear, each worth 20%; and an onstage question, worth 10%.

Audience participation will also help support local causes. Gregory said in The Tribune's August preview that portions of the People's Choice proceeds will benefit LEAD and First Source for Women.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FELISHA WATSON SMITH

Bottom row, left to right, are Angie Carter, Dianne Johnson, Nancy Moore and Belinda Bagwell. Top row, left to right, are Bonnie Sawyer, Becky Bussey, Debbie Roberts and Carol Cline.

"Every dollar donated towards a delegate counts as a vote," Gregory said.

The pageant's roots reach back to the late Betty Leeth Haynes, who founded the local event after earning the Ms. Senior Alabama title in 1997. Her goal, Gregory previously told The Tribune, was to give other Cullman County women a similar opportunity.

Cullman County representatives have since earned several state titles.

The Ms. Senior Alabama organization's records list Elaine Willingham as its 2016 winner, Donna Harris as its 2018 winner and Phyllis Hain as its 2019 winner.

Mary Ellen Hartness became the first Ms. Super Senior Alabama in 2020.

The 2025 local titleholders, Ms. Senior Cullman County Sheri Rasco and Ms. Super Senior Cullman County Mazzie Twilley, also brought home honors from the June 2026 state pageant.

Rasco received the Most Community Support award in her division, while Twilley received People's Choice in hers.

For more information about the Nov. 7 event, visit the Ms. Senior Cullman County Pageant Facebook page, call 256-507-1687 or email msccp2025@gmail.com.